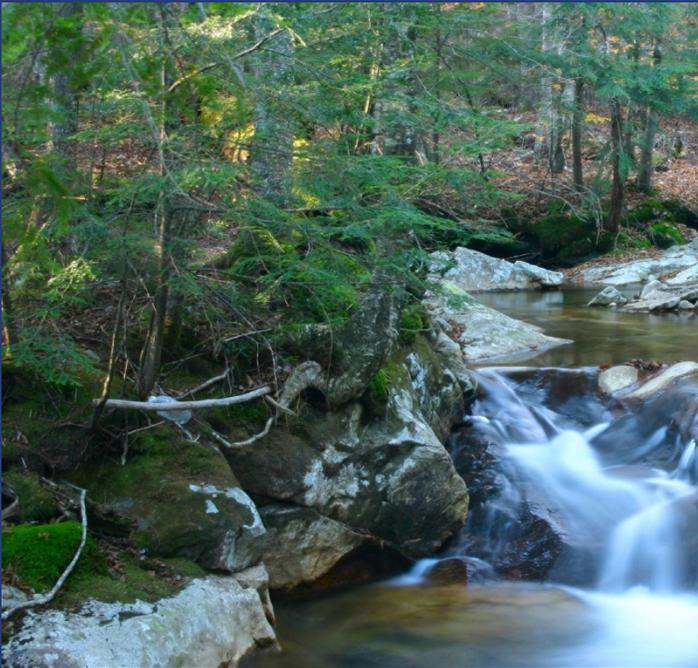




United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Justification



Forest  
Service

March 2014

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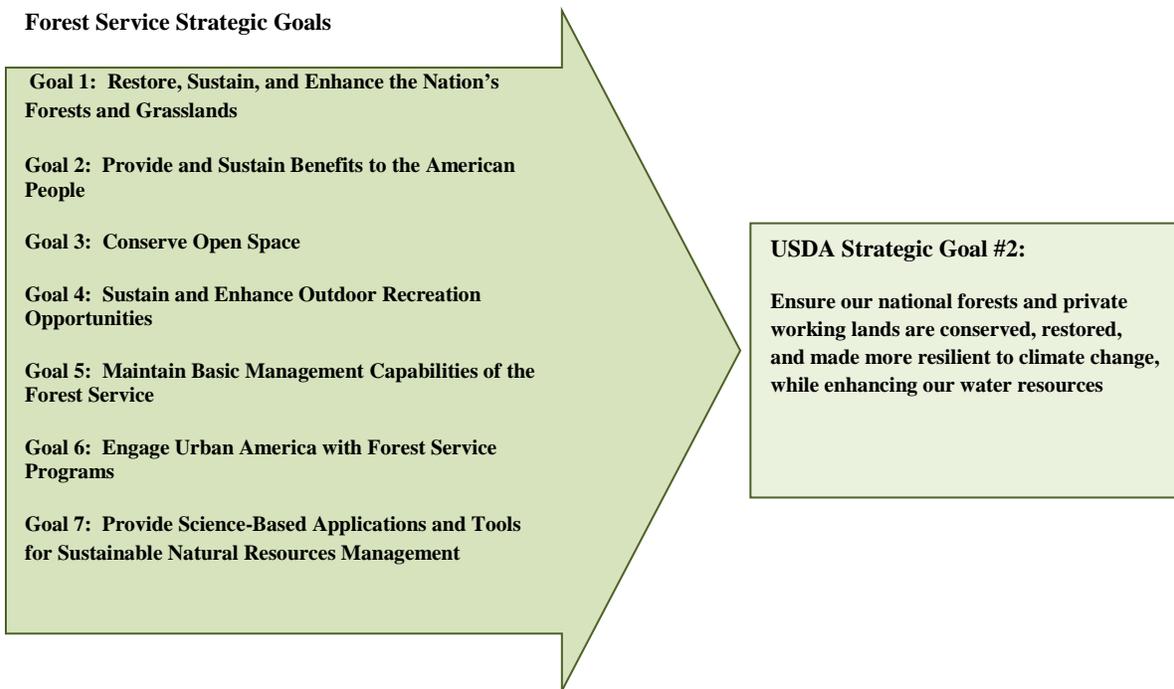
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**Introduction**

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 2013 were focused on enhancing water resources, responding to climate change effects, community-based stewardship, and jobs to support rural communities. 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.

This chapter presents the Forest Service’s performance information within the framework of the Forest Service’s 2007 - 2012 strategic plan and, as such, presents seven goals, each of their objectives, and the performance measures chosen to represent the agency’s progress toward those goals and objectives. The Forest Service’s accomplishments also inform progress toward goal #2 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) 2010-2015 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*. 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 this goal are listed on the next page.



**Forest Service Contributions to USDA Strategic Goal Objectives and Measures:**

	Performance Measure	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target <sup>1</sup>
1.1.5 <sup>2</sup>	Annual economic contribution of recreation on National Forests and Grasslands (number of jobs)	237,800	237,800	237,800	237,800	retired <sup>3</sup>	retired
2.1.1	Annual acres of public and private forest lands restored or enhanced	4,924,904	4,424,845	4,322,384	4,703,857	retired	retired
2.1.3	Percentage of non-Federal and USDA-managed grazing lands with conservation or management applied to improve or sustain productivity and ecological health	28.7%	32.4%	20.1%	31.4%	29.1%	20.1%
2.1.4	Total acres of agriculture and forest landscapes 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	2,791,950	2,676,392	2,994,061	2,860,000
2.1.5	Number of communities with urban and community forestry programs resulting from Forest Service assistance	7,172	7,499	7,200	7,292	7,150	7,639
2.2.3	Percent of National Forests in compliance with the Forest Service climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy	16%	36%	40%	49%	50%	100%
2.3.1	Acres of National Forest system watersheds at or near natural condition	102,735,767	102,429,088	102,749,436	102,474,428	retired	retired
2.3.1	Percentage of national forest and grassland watersheds in properly functioning condition (class 1 watersheds)				52%	52%	52%
2.3.4 <sup>4</sup>	Acres on which high impact targeted (HIT) practices are implemented on National Forest and private working lands in priority landscapes to accelerate the protection of clean, abundant water resources	304,565	321,203	300,000	363,445	retired	retired
2.4.1	Number of communities with reduced risk from catastrophic wildfire	3,902	3,973	7,980	2,581	retired	retired
2.4.2	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	60,568,200	59,784,485	61,047,000	61,500,000
2.4.3	Percentage of acres treated in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) that have been identified in community wildfire protection plans or equivalent plans	60.8%	93%	75%	85%	90%	90%

<sup>1</sup> FY2015 targets reflect published targets—or Forest Service contribution to multi-agency targets—in the USDA Strategic Plan. These targets were established in 2010 when the USDA Strategic Plan was published.

<sup>2</sup> Progress on measure 1.1.5 is not updated annually. The Forest Service calculates the impact of our national forests and grasslands on rural economies every four years, so we have identified one target for the entire strategic plan period. The next update will occur in 2014. Throughout this time, we will continue to support rural prosperity by conserving working forests, providing service contracts for a variety of activities, emphasizing the use of stewardship contracts, providing technical training to youth at our 125 Job Corps centers, and maintaining the recreational value of national forests and grasslands.

<sup>3</sup> The use of “retired” in this table indicates that the measure will no longer be used to support progress toward USDA Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. The measures will continue to inform programs implemented by the Forest Service.

<sup>4</sup> Multiple agencies within USDA contribute to measure 2.3.4 to implement practices that have a high impact on water resources in targeted landscapes. In 2010, USDA identified landscapes of national importance including national forests and private working lands in the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Upper/Lower Mississippi, and California Bay Delta, and updated the contribution each agency will make to the goal in the immediate future. Agencies continue working together to achieve the 2015 goal of nine million acres for the entire Department

This Annual Performance Report is required by the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act. To attain the desired outcomes in USDA Strategic Goal #2, the agency focuses on achieving our strategic plan goals and objectives. In turn, these objectives drive efforts on the ground as well as the annual targets and performance goals we set for ourselves. To provide a framework for reporting, we present results by Forest Service strategic plan goals. The general means and strategies we follow to achieve results in each goal are listed in the Strategic Plan.

The discussion for each Forest Service strategic plan goal includes: (1) performance data for FY 2010 through FY 2013, (2) an analysis of the most recent year's results, and (3) challenges for the future. The Annual Performance Report is one of three reports issued by the Forest Service to describe financial and performance results. The other two reports include the Annual Financial Report and a Summary of Performance and Financial Information issued following the release of the FY 2015 President's Budget Request. All three reports are available on the Forest Service website.

The agency is in the process of finalizing a 2014 – 2019 Strategic Plan and will be reporting FY 2014 progress towards this new strategic framework in the next President's budget request in February, 2015.

### **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. It 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, or as part of the direction issued to the Regions, Stations, and Area (generally referred to as the field). Targets are set nationally for most measures by the Deputy Area. 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, the Performance Accountability System (PAS). Once in PAS, these accomplishments represent the collective work of:

- 155 forests and 20 National grasslands that contain more than 600 ranger districts,
- nine regional offices,
- Northeastern Area for State and Private Forestry,
- seven research stations including Forest Products Laboratory and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry, and
- three Centralized Business Services Units.

The official accomplishments are reported to USDA, Office of Management and Budget, the 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 regions conduct self-reviews on a select number of performance measures each year to identify any discrepancies between reported and actual results. 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.

The Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability Performance (SPBA) staff manages the national accomplishment reporting database, PAS, which includes the Metrics Management system that serves as the official source for national measures and definitions.

As part of the controls for this system, SPBA staff conducts yearly regional performance oversight reviews to ensure appropriate procedures are followed during the year. In addition, the PAS system and associated controls framework provides a structured process for monitoring and measuring our goals, as well as ensuring consistency in data collection and data quality.

## **Forest Service Contribution to USDA Agency Priority Goal**

One of USDA's priority goals for FY 2013 focused on accelerating the protection of clean, abundant water resources by implementing high impact targeted (HIT) practices on national forests and private working lands in priority watersheds. The Forest Service implements specific activities and treatments to protect watersheds and water resources including establishing forest vegetation, improving rangeland vegetation, restoring lake and stream habitat, and maintaining or decommissioning roads. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency also implement unique programs to protect water resources under this goal. The Forest Service' goal for these efforts last fiscal year was 300,000 acres. By emphasizing this work, despite a challenging fire season, the agency was able to implement treatments on over 363,000 acres, exceeding our goal by about 20 percent.

## **Strategic Goal 1: Restore, sustain, and enhance the Nation's forests and grasslands**

The health of our Nation depends, in many ways, on the vitality of our Nation's forests and grasslands. These natural resources contribute a variety of essential elements to our well-being, including clean air and water. Stewardship of this land involves a complex integration of programs that foster recreation, energy, forest products, and resource sustainability. Following Secretary Vilsack's vision of an All Lands approach, the Forest Service is focusing on improving the health of forest and grassland watersheds, restoring ecosystem function, and increasing forest resilience.

Many challenges continue to test the resilience of the Nation's forests and grasslands. Population growth and expanding urban centers raise demand for goods, services, and amenities from the Nation's private and public forests and rangelands. Management problems caused by wildfires,

changing rain patterns, and expanding forest insect infestations have been driven, in part, by climate change and future impacts are projected to be more severe.

The threats that face forests and grasslands can sometimes be a natural part of the ecosystem cycle. Fire, for instance, when strategically managed, can help forests grow stronger, healthier, and more resilient. On the other hand, natural threats such as invasive and native pests, including certain insects, diseases, and plants, pose a long-term risk to forest and rangeland health. Recent trends such as over-crowded forest stands and drought conditions have increased the extent and frequency of insect-such as mountain pine beetle and gypsy moth-and disease outbreaks, which reduce the stands' resilience to fire and increase the likelihood that fires will be catastrophic. In response, Forest Service programs prevent, detect, monitor, evaluate, and suppress insects and disease to restore and protect Federal forestlands and lands owned by States, local governments, private organizations, and individual land owners.

### **Principal Programs to Achieve Goal 1**

The largest investment for maintaining forest and rangeland health, productivity, diversity, and resistance to disturbance is supported from the Wildland Fire Management budget. Other programs that contribute to this goal are also discussed below.

Wildland Fire Management 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. Prior-year investments in fire management planning have been used to develop a full range of fire management tactics in response to naturally occurring fires. Such responses may include managing fires less aggressively when it is beneficial to the ecosystem and do not pose significant risk to communities.

Within Wildland Fire Management, the Hazardous Fuels program plays an important role in restoring forest health and reducing wildfire risks. Hazardous fuels reduction (through prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, and other methods) reduces the quantity or changes the arrangement of living and dead vegetation in forests and grasslands.

To provide needed information, the Wildland Fire and Fuels Research and Development (R&D) program provides managers and policymakers essential knowledge and tools for making cost-effective and environmentally-sound fire management decisions. Products from R&D ensure that the best science is available to sustain and enhance resources and public benefits and to minimize negative impacts of fire.

Within State and Private Forestry, Goal 1 activities are supported by the Forest Health Programs for Federal and Cooperative lands. The Forest Health Management Program provides insect, disease, and invasive plant surveying and monitoring information on forest health conditions for Federal forestlands and other land owners. Forest Health Management uses science, active land management, and technology transfer expertise to restore and sustain forest landscapes across urban, private, State, Tribal, and Federal forests.

Through many programs, including the Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) program, the agency facilitates a holistic approach to landscape management on National Forest System (NFS) lands. This includes actions to restore or sustain water quality and watershed processes; resilient and disturbance-tolerant landscapes; soil condition, stability and productivity; vegetative composition and condition; fish and wildlife habitat and populations; and aquatic ecosystems connectivity. The program directly funds landscape-scale restoration projects and leverages accomplishment of additional restoration objectives through program integration and partnerships. These investments will help sustain and restore the core components of functioning ecosystems, enhance watershed resilience in the face of climate change, and help meet the increasing demand for water resources.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 1: Wildland Fire Management**

*Objective 1.1 – Reduce the risk to communities and natural resources from wildfire*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Number and percentage of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems (1) Moved toward desired conditions <i>Number (acres)</i> 799,215 <i>Percentage</i> 27%		693,957 24%	787,478 35%	measure retired	measure retired	measure retired
(2) Maintained in desired conditions <i>Number (acres)</i> 1,146,720 <i>Percentage</i> 38%		1,231,800 42%	1,028,611 45%	measure retired	measure retired	measure retired
Acres of hazardous fuels treated in the wildland urban interface (WUI)	1,955,057	1,611,991	1,867,202	1,100,000	1,736,927	158%
Acres covered by stewardship contracts/agreements	152,834	100,577	134,258	300,000	171,767	57%

*Objective 1.2 – Suppress wildfires efficiently and effectively*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of fires not contained in initial attack that exceed a stratified cost index	39.7%	20.8%	24%	18%	36%	78%

*Objective 1.3 – Build community capacity to suppress and reduce losses from wildfires*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of acres treated in the wildland urban interface that have been identified in community wildfire protection plans or equivalent plans	44.8%	60.8%	93%	75%	85.4%	114%

**Analysis of Results for Wildland Fire Management**

In FY 2013, the Forest Service retired the measures that broke out the hazardous fuels acres treated to “move toward desired conditions” and to “maintain an area in desired conditions.” There are a suite of factors that affected these measures, resulting in fluctuations in annual performance that didn’t reflect the agency’s recent focus on treating hazardous fuels in high priority areas near communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI). The agency continues to emphasize WUI treatments even where those acres are more expensive to operate in or require mechanical treatment. This emphasis was demonstrated last year by achieving well over 1.5 million acres of WUI fuels treated—a result we have matched for each of the past 5 years.

FY 2013 saw another sizable increase in the total use of stewardship contracting over the previous year. The agency and its partners have focused on the use of stewardship contracts as a tool for restoration and have made steady progress over the past few years, increasing the total acres under stewardship contracts from 88,000 in FY 2009 to the current total of 171,767 acres. The 300,000 acre target for FY 2013 was established in FY 2011 and represented a doubling of the original Strategic Plan goal of 150,000 acres by FY 2012. In retrospect, this was too aggressive a target and the agency was not able to achieve these gains. However, improved economic conditions and expanded markets for products have contributed to the expanded use of this tool. A better understanding of how to best use the tool has also led to the increased the size of projects. FY 2013 also saw the addition of acres to long-term, large-scale stewardship contracts, including the Four Forests Restoration Initiative in Arizona.

The Forest Service suppression performance measures are program outcome and efficiency measures that focus on reducing fire risk. To help analyze suppression costs the agency uses an efficiency measure that compares actual to expected suppression costs via a stratified cost index (SCI). SCI is a set of predictive models based on spatially explicit historical large fire data from 1995 to 2004. SCI determines expected suppression costs for each fire utilizing several factors found to influence suppression costs. Fires with costs more than one standard deviation higher or lower than expected are considered outside the range of expected SCI costs. In real time, the SCI provides a comparison of a fire’s expenditures to historical fires with similar characteristics (including fuel type, slope, elevation, and total housing value), increasing cost awareness and providing a basis for fire incident budgeting.

The percentage of incidents not contained in initial attack that exceeded the SCI in FY 2013 was 36 percent—an increase from 24 percent in FY 2012. The 2013 fire season was a very active one, and while we did not achieve our planned accomplishment of 18 percent, we did perform

relatively consistently in 2013 to all years FY 2009 thru 2012. The FY 2013 target was based on those established during the development of the Forest Service Strategic Plan in FY 2006, when this calculation methodology was very new with little historical data. Since then, more historical data sets have been added, as well as fire data from the fire seasons since 2004. Based on this additional information, and subsequent refinements to the model, we have learned that a target of 18 percent is unattainable. From FY 2006 through FY 2012, performance has fallen within the 18.2 to 39.7 percent range which is representative of no significant statistical change in performance.

Two of the main factors that may influence cost outcomes in the management of wildfire are long-term ecological and changing climatic conditions which are not modelled within SCI. These factors can cause our management strategies to change for a fire of similar characteristics that occurs in a different year since the potential outcomes can be drastically different. Because of this, 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.

The agency continued its strong focus on treating hazardous fuels in the WUI that are identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or equivalent plans including working with partner communities to provide technical assistance in developing CWPPs. Each of the past two years our goal has been for 75 percent of the acres we treat to be identified in a CWPP and we have surpassed that both years. We expect to continue this work with communities to develop and implement plans that help us target treatments and reduce the risk of wildfire.

### **Challenges for the Future**

The Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are committed to restoring the resilience and diversity of fire-adapted ecosystems on the landscape, consistent with public safety needs. Wildfires continue to be 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 WUI. The agency will continue to emphasize the importance of CWPPs or equivalent plans by prioritizing hazardous fuels treatments in the WUI that are identified in these plans.

The Forest Service recognizes the costs of WUI suppression activities and will continue to aggressively pursue cost-mitigation measures. We will also continue to implement risk management and fiscal accountability initiatives that will ensure we have an appropriate, risk informed, and effective response to all wildland fires. Our challenge is to consistently drive agency performance to the low end of the 18.2 to 39.7 percent SCI range and continue to refine targets appropriately. We are refining the methodology used to calculate the SCI as we obtain more data and improve computational ability. We will also continue to develop new performance measures and improve the SCI calculation enabling us to more thoroughly analyze how our wildland fire management response decisions affect response outcomes.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 1: Invasive Species**

*Objective 1.4 - Reduce adverse impacts from invasive species, pests, and diseases.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of priority acres restored and/or protected from invasive species on Federal and Cooperative lands						
<i>NFS Lands</i>	78.6%	75.2%	78.4%	90%	78.5%	87%
<i>Other Federal and Cooperative Program lands (S&amp;PF)</i>	20%	19%	17.1%	20%	13.9%	70%

**Analysis of Results for Invasive Species**

This performance measure evaluates the effectiveness of the Forest Service’s invasive species program of reducing the impact of invasive species on priority Federal and non-Federal lands. Treatments are prioritized based on risk, efficacy and cost. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species management includes activities for prevention, early detection, and rapid response for eradication, control and containment, and restoration and rehabilitation. In FY 2013, National Forest System (NFS) program activities treated 347,906 acres of priority aquatic and terrestrial invasive species infestations, of which 252,269 acres targeted high risk invasive plants/noxious weeds and 95,637 acres were treated against other invasive taxa on NFS lands. Program activities achieved a successful treatment efficacy which improved slightly on last year’s accomplishment, and resulted in restoration of 78.5 percent of priority acres identified on NFS lands and waters.

State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs provided support to State and Federal partners in FY 2013 to treat 130,141 acres for invasive species on other Federal lands, and 426,865 acres against invasive species on Cooperative lands. Overall, S&PF programs accomplished about ninety-three percent of their targeted levels for acres treated on both Federal and cooperative lands. The percentage of priority acres achieved dropped this year in part due to greater emphasis on outreach and awareness efforts by State Forestry agencies and State and local weed councils. Outreach efforts are a key part of combating invasive plants, and invasive plant funds are used by State partners both for treatments on the landscape and for outreach and awareness effort; however, those outreach efforts are not direct treatments. In addition, there were some impacts to the program due to the need to transfer funds for fire suppression during the height of the field season.

**Challenges for the Future**

Invasive species are among the most significant environmental and economic threats facing our Nation’s forest, grassland, and aquatic ecosystems. They endanger native species and threaten ecosystem services and resources, including clean water, recreational opportunities, sustained production of wood products, wildlife and grazing habitat, and human health and safety. The

impacts of invasive species on our forests and grasslands are likely to continue to grow in the future. We live in a globally connected world and pests from other countries often easily cross our borders in crates and on airplanes and boats, infesting areas and impacting species that have no resistance to them.

As the climate continues to change, models predict shorter winters and less snowfall, meaning these species have longer times to colonize and grow in new areas. We expect the workload of priority acres to grow, increasing our challenge and the response required. The agency will continue to use the best available science-based methods to prevent and reduce the unacceptable impacts caused by invasive species by working together across all focus areas in the agency - State and Private Forestry, Research and Development and the National Forest System – in a comprehensive, integrated approach.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 1: Healthy Watersheds and Diverse Habitats**

*Objective 1.5 – Restore and maintain healthy watersheds and diverse habitats.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of watersheds in class 1 condition	26%	52%	52%	52%	52%	100%
Acres and miles of terrestrial and aquatic habitat restored consistent with forest plan direction:						
<i>Acres of terrestrial habitat</i>	2,037,110	2,629,746	2,714,456	1,980,000	2,703,699	138%
<i>Miles of stream habitat</i>	3,577	3,878	3,704	2,750	4,168	152%
<i>Acres of lake habitat</i>	27,779	26,832	32,369	24,000	33,732	141%
Percentage of acres needing reforestation or timber stand improvement that were treated	23%	16%	14%	16%	13.5%	84%

**Analysis of Results for Healthy Watersheds and Diverse Habitats**

The Forest Service continued to meet our planned level for the percentage of watersheds in class one condition. Condition class is assessed using the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) – a set of 12 indicators that, as a whole, inform decision-making on the types of watershed improvements that can be planned and undertaken. With the implementation of the WCF, the agency also implemented a new outcome-focused performance measure to gauge our success in moving watersheds to an improved condition class. In FY 2013, the agency planned improvement for ten watersheds and was able to move twelve watersheds to an improved condition class. We were able to achieve this success by focusing restoration efforts on areas identified in the watershed restoration action plans that stem from the WCF implementation. These plans are multi-year, multi-disciplinary approaches that guide our restoration efforts. Fully half of the watersheds that were improved were in the IRR pilot regions and this outcome is the culmination of integrated work that requires a sustained focus to achieve.

In FY 2013, the agency exceeded its targets for the restoration of terrestrial, stream and lake habitat restored due to contributions from partners. Partnerships have increased our capacity to conduct restoration through sizeable contributions of matching funds and in-kind support. Such a

large increase in partner contributions was not anticipated in the past, but has been factored into the FY 2014 and FY 2015 performance targets.

While the agency exceeded its target for forest vegetation improved, or timber stand improvement, the agency fell short of the target for treating acres in need of reforestation. This was due in part to some areas not being ready for planting within the normal planting season. These are areas that lacked site preparation treatments or where harvesting was not completed in time to successfully finish the work within the necessary timeframe. These two factors contributed in some measure to a decrease in forest vegetation established. The agency continues its emphasis on planting to address areas lacking forest vegetation due to catastrophic wildfires.

### **Challenges for the Future**

The agency continues to shift our focus from traditional outputs and place more emphasis on outcomes associated with improving watershed conditions. With this shift in focus, outputs may drop as our field units work on tasks that may be more expensive to implement but more effective in “moving the needle” and making a difference on the landscape. With the maturing of the Watershed Condition Framework and the fourth year of implementation of the watershed restoration action plans, we expect to see increased outcomes, rising to an estimated 75 watersheds improved each year by FY 2016.

The agency will continue to raise awareness and place emphasis on the hazardous fuels treatment, planting and revegetation, and road improvement components of these action plans which make up over 60 percent of the key restoration efforts. As field units continue to shift more emphasis to restoration work on these priority areas, we expect additional accomplishments—and associated outputs—in those resource areas that are critical to improving watershed conditions.

### **Strategic Goal 2: Provide and Sustain Benefits to the American People**

This Strategic Goal focuses on sustaining the productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet present and future needs. The NFS provides essential goods and services that help meet the American people’s need for water, wood fiber, protein, energy, and other benefits. The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of NFS lands; assists States, Tribes, and private landowners via technical and financial assistance; provides international technical assistance; and develops and disseminates science and technology to improve the health and use of the Nation’s forests and grasslands. Sustainable management of these resources ensures that the availability of goods and services and land productivity is maintained for both current and future generations.

### **Principal Programs to Achieve Goal 2**

In support of the Secretary’s all-lands vision, the agency actively manages forest vegetation, supports ecosystem and watershed restoration objectives, and focuses on landscape restoration and integrated activities that promote watershed resilience. This landscape scale approach allows the agency to address many of the resource challenges facing NFS lands, such as the

bark-beetle epidemic, the decline of longleaf pine 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 climate variability, while protecting the overall resiliency of forests and grasslands.

The Grazing Management program also contributes to this goal by managing the diverse rangeland resources to maintain a sustainable supply of forage for livestock and wildlife. The program seeks to maintain open space and 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. Managing grazing allotments provides for the administration and monitoring of grazing permits and activities. This includes issuance of grazing permits, processing permit transfers, preparation and processing of bills for collection, and the development of annual operating instructions.

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. Renewable energy is a valuable benefit to the American public that the Forest Service provides through efforts such as the Woody Biomass Utilization Strategy. Other renewable activities include hydropower licensing, wind energy development, and geothermal operations on NFS lands.

Forest Service R&D provides science, management, and technology services to forest and rangeland owners, managers, policy makers, scientists, and the public so they can manage and use forest and rangeland resources to improve the standard of living and quality of life for current and future generations.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 2**

*Objective 2.1 Provide a reliable supply of forest products over time that is consistent with achieving desired conditions on NFS lands and helps maintain or create processing capacity and infrastructure in local communities.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Amount of wood fiber provided each year to help meet the Nation’s demand for forest products in an environmentally sustainable manner <i>MMBF</i>	2,592	2,533	2,644	2,475	2,610	105%
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	3,306,138	2,954,842	2,813,403	3,000,000	2,912,486	97%

*Objective 2.2 Provide a reliable supply of rangeland products over time that is consistent with achieving desired conditions on NFS lands and helps support ranching in local communities.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Acres of national forests and grasslands under grazing permit that are sustainably managed for all rangeland products	76,153,782	75,387,241	75,067,407	72,283,747	75,634,041	105%

*Objective 2.3 Help meet energy resource needs.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of land Special Use Permit applications for energy related facilities that are completed within prescribed timeframes	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of energy-mineral applications that are processed within prescribed timeframes	4%	44%	34%	40%	86%	214%

*Objective 2.4 Promote market-based conservation and stewardship of ecosystem services.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Number of States that have agreements with the Forest Service to help private forest landowners market ecosystem services	20	23	29	21	33	157%

**Goal 2 - Analysis of Results**

The Forest Service met or exceeded all of the performance targets to provide and sustain benefits to the American public. Timber harvest is an important tool to meet multiple resource objectives, and the strategy to accelerate restoration has had a positive effect on agency results. Nationwide, plans for timber sales are detailed at the start of the year and set a clear course for execution on the field. By focusing on this important objective in the IRR pilot regions and across the agency we reached 105 percent of our forest products goal in a year with many challenges—including a very difficult fire season. We were also successful meeting the goal for the number of green tons and/or volume of woody biomass from hazardous fuel treatments at 97 percent of the planned level. Providing a consistent supply of biomass material is important to support private sector bioenergy infrastructure and jobs.

The Grazing Management program also met its goal for sustainably managed acres for all rangeland products with a slight increase in performance compared to last year. Benefits from this work include: a sustainable supply of forage for livestock and wildlife, economic

opportunities for rural communities, improved 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. The Minerals program also continued their success in completing land Special Use Permit applications for energy related activities and energy-mineral applications within prescribed timeframes. The exceedance of the target for the latter measure is attributable to the Forest Service focusing resources on the pilot joint BLM/FS offices established under the Energy Policy Act. This resulted in our ability to streamline and more efficiently process more energy applications in FY 2013 than anticipated.

With help from our partners, the Forest Service reached the point in FY 2013 where two-thirds of the States have agreements with the agency to help private forest landowners' market ecosystem services. The significant emphasis on partnerships for accelerating the pace and scale of ecosystem services-based work for the past few years has helped the agency nearly double the number of States with agreements from 17 in FY 2009 to 33 in FY 2013. While the number of States may increase slightly in the coming years, the focus in the future will be to capture the effectiveness of the agreements and not whether the number of agreements is increasing. As such, a new measure will be developed by the program and the current measure of "Number of States that have agreements with the Forest Service to help private forest landowners market ecosystem services" will be retired.

In addition, the Forest Service continues to provide groundbreaking research on ecosystem services through R&D, which helps move the field forward, solve problems, and provide tools - like the *Forests to Faucets* tool - an online interactive map that provides information on important forest areas for surface drinking water, and *i-Tree* - a tool used to quantify the ecosystem services benefits of urban trees.

### **Challenges for the Future**

The Forest Service plays a vital role in providing public benefits and services such as clean air, clean water, minerals and energy, and fertile soils for supporting timber, carbon storage, habitat, and recreation opportunities. Our multiple-use mission hasn't changed, but we must continue to respond to public expectations for the full range of benefits and values from our forests and grasslands. We will continue to emphasize partnerships and collaboration to achieve our restoration goals and the expectation for benefits and services. In doing so, we will continue to balance longer term ecological goals and shorter term resource challenges. Our strategies and the means we employ to achieve them, must be flexible and responsive to both.

### **Strategic Goal 3: Conserve Open Space**

Undeveloped forests and grasslands (including working farms, ranches, and timber lands) help protect water quality, conserve native wildlife, and provide renewable timber and non-timber products, recreation opportunities, and scenic beauty. Conservation of these open spaces is essential to maintain the multitude of public benefits, ecosystem services, and products we all need and enjoy. Cooperation across boundaries, including Federal, State, private, and Tribal lands, is essential to address large-scale conservation issues such as conservation of water

resources and drinking water supply, reduction of wildfire risk, and protection of at-risk species while providing for job creation.

Under this goal, the Forest Service works with States and private landowners and Tribes to conserve environmentally important forests, ensuring their value and use for current and future generations. We also provide cutting-edge technology to identify critical private forest landscape areas where conservation threats and opportunities converge. The Forest Service and State Foresters are working to target planning and technical assistance where it will maximize ecosystem service returns for both the public and individual landowners.

Consistent with the goals of the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, land acquisition and exchange programs conserve the integrity of undeveloped lands and prevent their conversion to incompatible uses. The Forest Service acquires lands, waters, and related interests through purchase, donation, or exchange within the NFS for such purposes as outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat conservation, water quality, invasive species control, fire suppression, watershed protection and enhancement, and resource management.

### **Principal Programs to Achieve Goal 3**

S&PF's Forest Stewardship program works to maintain the benefits of forests and grasslands by partnering with State agencies and other entities to sustain and improve our Nation's private forest landscapes. A primary focus of the program is the development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners (at a landscape scale) with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services. The program accomplishes that goal by delivering assistance through a national network of forestry technical assistance providers and programs. Because of this unique role, and since the majority of America's forests are privately owned, the Forest Stewardship program is central to fulfilling the Secretary's vision for managing for healthy forests across All Lands.

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP), administered by S&PF in cooperation with State partners, protects environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to development and other non-forest uses. Land trusts and other conservation organizations play a critical role in identifying and completing projects. The FLP projects are selected through a two-step nationally competitive process, and focus on the conservation of working forests that provide forest products, water, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

The Land Acquisition program funds the acquisition and donation of lands, waters, and related interests within the NFS to enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation and public access, to conserve habitat for wildlife including threatened and endangered species, and to protect water quality and quantity. The primary goal of land acquisition is to consolidate fragmented lands within NFS borders and specially designated areas, in order to support effective land management and improve stewardship functions like habitat restoration, fuels reduction, public access, and costs associated with boundary line management and trespass encroachments.

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) complements the FLP and the Urban and Community Forestry Program, but is not duplicative of either program. CFP and FLP each engage unique partners and utilize different tools for land protection. The CFP is

focused on creating community forests through land acquisition and FLP protects at-risk forests through conservation easements and land purchase.

Within Forest Service R&D, the Forest Inventory and Analysis program tracks a nationwide system of forest inventory plots in a statistically sound lands inventory matrix. This data provides detailed information on stand characteristics and complements the more broad-based Natural Resource Inventory carried out on non-Federal lands by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 3**

*Objective 3.1 Protect forests and grasslands from conversion to other uses.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Acres of environmentally important forests and grasslands protected from conversion (number of acres added annually)						
<i>Annual</i>	136,960	149,911	52,999	128,000	87,927	69%
<i>Cumulative</i>	2,056,107	2,210,563	2,275,320	2,403,320	2,363,247	98%

*Objective 3.2 Help private landowners and communities maintain and manage their land as sustainable forests and grasslands.*<sup>5</sup>

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Acres of nonindustrial private forest land that are being managed sustainably under forest stewardship management plans						
<i>Annual</i>	1,805,353	1,531,858	1,652,087	1,500,000	2,178,735	145%
<i>Cumulative</i>	19,592,387	21,124,245	21,045,039	22,000,000	20,687,275	94%

**Goal 3 - Analysis of Results**

Through the FLP program, in FY 2013, 87,927 acres of environmentally important forests and grasslands were protected from conversion, achieving 69 percent our goal. In addition to the unpredictable nature of real estate transactions, FLP projects typically take about two years to close, resulting in a time lag between annual funding and the accomplishments. Two projects also failed this year when the landowners chose to withdraw from the program. The first project was Preparation Canyon in Iowa. The project was funded in 2010, but in FY 2013 the property owners (a Boy Scout Council) changed Board members and they decided not to proceed with the conveyance of a conservation easement. The second project was the North Idaho Timber Communities project. The project was funded in 2011. In FY 2013 the landowner decided he no longer wanted to convey an interest in his property. Since the program operates on a willing buyer-willing seller basis, these types of situations arise periodically. They are difficult to

<sup>5</sup> Includes acres managed under current Forest Stewardship Plans only.

predict and increase the variability we see in annual acres closed. In part because of the newly protected acres, the agency met 98 percent of the target for cumulative acres of forests and grasslands protected from conversion.

Through cooperative forestry programs, nationwide, almost 21 million acres of non-industrial private forest lands were managed according to ongoing, active Forest Stewardship Plans, with nearly 2.2 million acres being added in FY 2013—a 38 percent increase over the number of acres the program was able to bring under plan last year. The cumulative number of acres managed under Forest Stewardship Plans was lower than planned because more plans became inactive than anticipated and because State agencies continue to reorganize and adapt programs to target landscapes and priorities that were established in State Forest Action Plans. These adaptations continue to draw resources from individual landowner management plan development. The agency has begun to work jointly with the States to implement the recently adopted Landscape Stewardship Approach which includes the development of multi-landowner, landscape scale Forest Stewardship Plans. We believe that will help improve program outcomes in the future.

### **Challenges for the Future**

Acquisition of land and interests in land is complicated and projecting timing of acquisitions is difficult. In the FLP we develop the targets looking at costs over a four-year average and then use that number to project forward. This method has utility in that we can provide projections rooted in past performance. However, past performance is not always an accurate predictor of future performance and cannot account for the vagaries of landowner preferences and changes in those preferences. This program is also different than many others in the agency in that an accomplishment in one year may be the result of funding in a prior year.

Predicting actual land acquisitions that will be finalized in any one year will continue to be a challenge. In FY 2013, the agency began evaluating other potential means to more accurately predict outcomes in a given fiscal year. Though making projections has challenges, we recognize the importance they hold for decision makers when evaluating potential impacts of their decisions. We will continue our efforts to fine-tune our performance projections so that they will more accurately predict future performance.

### **Strategic Goal 4: Sustain and Enhance Outdoor Recreation Opportunities**

The Forest Service is challenged with sustaining adequate high-quality outdoor recreational experiences to meet the Nation's needs while maintaining the ecological integrity of national forests and grasslands. Over the past few years, the national forests and grasslands hosted on about 160 million visits per year, with increasingly diverse visitors engaging in activities such as camping, picnicking, skiing, snowboarding, hunting, fishing, hiking, driving for pleasure, wildlife viewing, scenic driving, and visiting cultural sites and visitor centers. Population growth and increasingly limited public access to privately-owned land contribute to high demand for quality recreation opportunities on NFS lands.

The agency is also committed to engaging communities across the Nation to reconnect with the outdoors, expand recreation benefits and the economic opportunities they represent. With America's population projected to increase by nearly 50 percent by the middle of this century,

increasing population demands and declining public access to privately-owned forestland place significant pressure on public lands to provide recreational opportunities.

**Principal Programs to Achieve Goal 4**

The recreation, heritage, and wilderness programs manage and administer nearly 20,000 recreation sites, over 23,500 recreation special use authorizations, 25 major visitor centers, 22 National Historic Landmarks, over 345,000 heritage assets, 136 national scenic byways, 439 designated wilderness areas, and 122 wild and scenic rivers.

To support this infrastructure and provide public access, the agency maintains a large road and trail network. The trails program ensures 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. Out of a total of over 158,000 miles of trails, about 32,000 miles of trails are inside designated wilderness areas.

As well as maintaining many miles of passenger car roads, the Legacy Roads and Trails Program focuses on urgently needed road and trail decommissioning, long-term road storage, repair, and maintenance and associated activities. Road and trail repairs required due to storm disturbances in local communities that are urgently needed to protect community water resources is also an important function of this program.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 4**

*Objective 4.1 Improve the quality and availability of outdoor recreation experiences.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of recreation sites maintained to standard	68%	71%	73%	70%	73%	104%
Percentage of total recreation capacity at developed recreation sites that meets accessibility standards	19%	23%	24%	25%	24%	98%
Percentage of trails that meet national quality standards	41%	25%	26%	30%	22%	73%
Percentage of customers who are satisfied with recreational facilities, services, and settings	94%	94%	94%	90%	94%	104%
Percentage of road system intended for passenger car use that is suitable for passenger car use	90%	90%	90%	88%	90%	102%

*Objective 4.2 Secure legal entry to national forest lands and waters.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of high priority access rights-of-way acquired	106%	15%	90%	85%	15%	18%

*Objective 4.3 Improve the management of off-highway vehicle use.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of NFS lands covered by new motor vehicle use maps reflecting a designated-use system of roads, trails, and areas	67%	77%	79%	100%	82%	82%

**Goal 4 - Analysis of Results**

In FY 2013, the agency continued its focus on improving the quality and availability of outdoor recreation experiences supporting these efforts, the Forest Service achieved 104 percent of target in maintaining recreation sites to standard. For a site to be considered maintained to standard, a comprehensive set of criteria/measures must be met and address a site’s health and cleanliness, safety and security, condition of the facilities, and the responsiveness of Forest Service personnel to visitors. This important work directly affects how visitors perceive our forests and recreation sites, and the agency has been able to increase our performance in this area from 67 percent in FY 2010 to 73 percent both in FY 2012 and FY 2013.

The Forest Service also improved slightly over last year’s results for accessibility at developed recreation sites at 98 percent of target. The agency has made good progress since FY 2010 in increasing the percentage of sites that meet the accessibility standards. To provide accessibility and to maintain the wide range of recreational opportunities from which all people can choose, the Forest Service incorporates universal design into the agency’s recreation program. Universal design involves integrating accessibility into the design of recreational facilities to the extent appropriate to the natural setting, rather than constructing separate facilities for people with disabilities.

The agency did see a fall however from 26 percent to 22 percent of trails that meet national quality standards, partly due to reduced capacity within the available funding as well as some trail damage associated with wildfires. Satisfaction with facilities, services, and settings among recreation users remained high at 94 percent--a trend we have maintained for the last four years after achieving a 91percent level in FY 2009. Finally, the goal for the measure which tracks the suitability of passenger car roads was achieved again this year and demonstrates the agency’s continued efforts to make our road system safe for the public.

To enhance access to National Forest lands and waters, and ensure legal entry, the Forest Service pursues the acquisition of high priority access rights-of-way to provide more access points for the public. The low (18 percent) percentage achieved of our planned FY 2013 target is not

reflective of the actual performance, however. Recurring reporting challenges and interpretation of available data have made this measure an unreliable indicator of agency efforts on rights-of-way. The program will reassess its measurement approach and develop a better indicator of progress for this important work.

The Forest Service's travel management policy requires each national forest and grassland to identify and designate those roads, trails and areas that are open to motor vehicle use and complete new motor vehicle use maps (MVUMs). As of the end of FY 2013 approximately 82 percent of NFS administrative units had completed route and area designations for motor vehicle use. Completing MVUMs has taken longer than anticipated due to the need for more public involvement and collaboration, which has helped reduce appeals and litigation. However, some MVUMs have been challenged which has affected our rate of completion.

### **Challenges for the Future**

Recreation, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing activities together account for more jobs than any other activity on the National Forest System—about 205,000 jobs annually, contributing about \$13.6 billion to the Nation's gross domestic product each year. While customer satisfaction with the recreation experience has remained high, the agency will continue to be challenged to provide the facilities, service, and settings that the public expects. An example of this is our work to maintain our large trail system. One of the positive trends we are seeing is more partners contributing to trail maintenance tasks, which has helped boost our capabilities. We also expect a greater focus on trail work now that travel management implementation efforts are progressing.

The agency will continue to involve the public in decision making and work collaboratively to ensure the public's concerns are addressed to the fullest extent prior to finalizing MVUMs. We will continue our efforts to complete all remaining NVUMs in FY 2014. The agency will also continue to develop other means to track progress on access-related work.

### **Strategic Goal 5: Maintain Basic Management Capabilities of the Forest Service**

Natural resources and public lands are affected by a wide range of forces, including natural events, public use, and various management activities. To restore forests, grasslands, and watersheds, strengthen communities, and reduce wildfire risk, the Forest Service maintains a workforce with the skills and capabilities to deal with the impacts of these events and assist other countries in managing their natural resources. Effectively managing its natural resources and ensuring the safety of the land and its users requires many things, including accurate data, land management plans, law enforcement officials, and facility maintenance.

The Forest Service released its final planning rule for NFS land management planning in April, 2012 resulting in one of the most collaborative rulemaking efforts in agency history. Land management plans, required of each unit in the NFS, facilitate the implementation of governing laws and regulations. Collaboration with the public ensures that Forest Service units continually address changing conditions and public needs. Inventory and monitoring activities provide verifiable data and spatial resource information to support land management planning,

assessments, and other program management needs. International Forestry maintains expertise to promote sustainable forestry management and address climate change affects issues globally. The Forest Service also maintains and manages dams, fire and administrative facilities, and supporting infrastructure critical to achieving resource management goals and objectives.

**Principal Programs to Achieve Goal 5**

**Inventory and Monitoring** - The agency funds and conducts inventory, monitoring, and assessment activities that are designed and integrated to meet land management planning and other business requirements through the Inventory and Monitoring program. This 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.

**Capital Improvement and Maintenance: Facilities** - The Facilities program administers facilities and sites used for recreation, research, and fire, administrative and other purposes. Facilities include fire facilities, such as airtanker 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), and service and storage buildings; and other facilities, such as telecommunication facilities, towers, dams, and recreation visitor centers. This program includes carrying out maintenance, capital improvement, and management on recreation sites and research, recreation, and other administrative buildings.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 5**

*Objective 5.1 Improve accountability through effective strategic and land management planning and efficient use of data and technology in resource management.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved <sup>6</sup>
Percentage of selected data in information systems that is current to standard	77%	77%	85%	80%	82%	103%

*Objective 5.2 Improve the administration of national forest lands and facilities in support of the agency’s mission.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Percentage of administrative facilities that are being maintained to standard	64%	63%	58%	63%	57.1%	91%

<sup>6</sup> Percent achieved is a comparison of the actual performance (82%) to the target performance (80%), not an indication that 103% of selected data was current to standard.

**Goal 5 - Analysis of Results**

In FY 2013, the agency continued its emphasis on information systems data quality exceeding our internal target again this year. Over the past five years, we've made tremendous progress in these efforts, moving from a 54 percent level in FY 2009 to the current benchmark of 82 percent. An important foundation to these activities has been the efforts to create a new national Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment System (IM&A) to improve land management, policy and investment decisions. The vision for these activities is to transform our current IM&A efforts into a fully integrated approach to provide easy access to information in a cost-effective and transparent manner to address all lands issues. Building on efforts to provide a comprehensive information quality assurance and control program including Standard Data Management and the Enterprise Data Warehouse, work continued in FY 2013 to implement the IM&A strategy and high-priority actions. The agency expects further implementation of the strategy in FY 2014 and FY 2015.

The agency nearly equaled the FY 2012 results for maintenance of administrative facilities to standard with a less than one percent difference in the FY 2013 performance level. We have been successful with recent efforts to reduce the total number of buildings. From 2004 through 2012, the agency reduced its total number of buildings from 41,296 to 40,126 and the total square footage of its facilities by nearly 1.4 million square feet and continues to make significant progress in reducing its facilities footprint. An additional factor affecting performance in FY 2013 was the deferral of some projects due to the transfer of capital improvement and maintenance funds to fire suppression efforts during fire season.

**Challenges for the Future**

The agency work to transform our IM&A system will continue to be at the forefront of our data system efforts for the next several years. With a large and complex organization, one of the challenges is to bring together programs and existing systems and build a more efficient, user-friendly system that is cost effective and flexible enough to meet multiple needs. A part of that task is also examining the data we gather and what we really use and making system decisions attuned to those realities.

A similar challenge faces us in the facilities arena. With recent decreases in capital funding along with an aging infrastructure, we will continue to focus on right sizing our facilities portfolio through consolidation, demolition, and conveyance. We will continue to face decisions about funding the highest priority maintenance and facility improvement work and will do so with an eye towards supporting mission critical activities, addressing health and safety concerns, and increasing energy efficiency. We are also working hard to increase the energy efficiency of our facilities where we can.

**Strategic Goal 6: Engage Urban America with Forest Service Programs**

The Forest Service promotes understanding and professional management of the Nation's forests, including its nearly 100 million acres of urban and community forests. S&PF, Forest Service R&D, and the NFS all contribute to an integrated approach for natural resources

stewardship to better connect urban residents to the value of well-managed public and private forests and to improve quality of life. This stewardship is particularly important because currently, approximately 83 percent of the Nation's population lives in an urban area.

One of the goals of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative is to empower citizens, community groups, and local governments to share the responsibility for protecting natural areas and leaving a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations yet to come. The Forest Service uses its institutional capacity, expertise and extensive partnerships to engage and benefit urban America by:

- providing all Americans broader access to the benefits trees and urban and community forests provide, such as: clean air, reduced energy costs, improved urban air quality, recreation, and jobs'
- providing conservation education and meaningful outdoor experiences—particularly for children,
- developing future natural resource leaders and providing outdoor recreational opportunities, and
- providing urban residents increased opportunities to participate in natural resources stewardship and management-including green jobs-and enhancing sustainable management of urban natural resources for the benefit and well-being of all.

### **Principal Programs to Achieve Goal 6**

The Urban and Community Forestry program assists cities, suburbs, and towns across the country in improving the condition and extent of community trees and forests. With 83 percent of the Nation's population in urban areas, there are strong environmental, social, and economic opportunities to revitalize cities and towns. There are 100 million acres of urban forest lands in the U.S. providing a multitude of services that a well-planned and managed urban tree canopy provides, including improved human health and well-being, green jobs, energy conservation, improved air and water quality, carbon sequestration, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

Conservation Education helps people of all ages understand and appreciate our country's natural resources -- and learn how to conserve those resources for future generations. Through structured educational experiences and activities targeted to varying age groups and populations, conservation education enables people to realize how natural resources and ecosystems affect each other and how resources can be used wisely.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 6**

*Objective 6.1 Promote conservation education to increase environmental literacy through partnerships with groups that benefit and educate urban populations.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Number of people who annually participate in Forest Service environmental literacy programs and activities	5,244,401	5,183,467	6,878,710	4,200,000	4,562,348	109%

*Objective 6.2 Improve the management of urban and community forests to provide a wide range of public benefits.*

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Number of communities with developing or established urban and community forestry programs resulting from Forest Service Assistance	7,102	7,172	7,499	7,200	7,292	101%

**Goal 6 - Analysis of Results**

In FY 2013, the Forest Service continued the trend of the last five years of engaging well over 4 million people annually in Forest Service environmental literacy program and activities. By focusing on communities and kids, we have been able to connect more people to the outdoors in support of the President’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative. Discover the Forest is an example of a conservation education program that supports these efforts. Discover the Forest aims to inspire children aged 8-12 and their parents to re-connect with nature, experiencing it first-hand. The campaign brings to life the joy and excitement kids have when they discover the wonders of nature, helping create interest in their environment and a lifelong relationship with it. By forging strong partnerships, programs such as the Natural Inquirer (<http://www.naturalinquirer.org/>), a middle school science education journal, and NatureWatch (<http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/>) provide both web-based resources and tools and local opportunities for kids to interact with their environment. The *World’s Forests Second Edition* is an example of one of the latest publications of the Natural Inquirer, available via the web.

Engaging urban communities in protecting and restoring America’s 100 million acres of urban and community forests, the Urban and Community Forestry program provided assistance to 7,292 communities across the nation. Working closely with State and local organizations, we have been able to build that number from about 6,850 communities four years ago to well over 7,000 today. Tools such as the *i-Tree* program, a state-of-the-art software tool designed to help communities of all sizes to strengthen their urban forest management and advocacy efforts, have helped contribute to that success. As a result of U&CF assistance, in FY 2013 over 31 percent of people in the U.S. are living in communities that are developing programs to protect and

maintain their urban forests. The nation's burgeoning metropolitan population will increasingly rely on urban forests for multiple benefits in the future. More information about those many benefits and the partners we work with can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/treesforpeople.html>.

### **Challenges for the Future**

The Forest Service has been successful in reaching the performance measures for Goal 6, primarily through the programs and partnerships within the Urban and Community Forestry and Conservation Education Programs. However, the agency and its partners will be challenged in the future to continue to successfully connect to urban and rural Americans, especially urban youth. Our youth are increasingly disconnected from nature. While children have historically spent a great deal of their childhoods outdoors, their environments have become increasingly urbanized in recent decades. Over the past three decades childhood obesity rates have increased and today's youth spend 50 percent less time in natural areas than they did 20 years ago. In addition, urban Americans are often not aware of how easily they can access natural areas and do not take advantage of the educational and recreational opportunities these resources provide.

To address these challenges, the Forest Service will continue to coordinate and expand efforts to engage urban America between all business units, including State and Private Forestry, Research and Development and the National Forest System, that provide services to constituents in urban and urbanizing areas. We will focus on: 1) expanding recreational access for diverse, urban audiences on National Forests and Grasslands and on state, private, and municipal lands; 2) providing additional financial, technical and educational assistance to support green job creation and training programs in urban areas; and 3) putting Forest Service Research and tools into the hands of policy makers, managers, and practitioners to promote the value of urban forests in improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities. We will also continue to develop new and expanded partnerships with private sector and non-governmental organizations, such as the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition, to leverage resources and increase the program effectiveness.

### **Strategic Goal 7: Provide Science-Based Applications and Tools for Sustainable Natural Resources Management**

The Forest Service provides science and technology solutions that are used internally and by clients and partners to sustainably manage forests and grasslands. To accomplish this goal, Forest Service R&D and Technology and Development Centers provide new knowledge and tools in areas such as invasive species, watersheds, fire, silviculture, inventory and monitoring, social sciences, and economics. This research is applied to pressing issues such as fire management; response to forest disturbance; watershed management; sustainable cities; and energy development. To maximize use and application of new research, R&D develops innovative syntheses of the best available science to support key management decisions; transforms science and technology into usable technologies and decision support tools; and creates and disseminates science applications to users through workshops, webinars, and other science delivery mechanisms. Partnerships with educational institutions and others are critical to program success and effectiveness.

**Principal Programs to Achieve Goal 7**

Forest Service R&D provides science, technology, and applications in support of sound policies and management decision making. It also develops and conducts high quality research to address emerging and future challenges. For example, the Inventory and Monitoring strategic program area provides the data and tools needed to identify trends, project future conditions, and develop management options related to fire, insects, disease, and other natural processes.

The Forest Service builds on history of groundbreaking scientific research with a focus on seven priority research areas: forest disturbances, forest inventory and analysis, watershed management and restoration, bioenergy and bio-based products, urban natural resources stewardship, nanotechnology, and localized research needs. The priority research areas are structured around Forest Service R&D’s Strategic Program Areas that reflect the scope of Forest Service research capabilities.

**Key Performance Measures for Goal 7**

*Objective 7.1 Increase the use of applications and tools developed by Forest Service Research & Development and Technology & Development Centers.*<sup>7</sup>

Performance Measure	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013		
				Target	Actual	Percent Achieved
Customer satisfaction with R&D products and services (ACSI score)	75	75	79	79	79	100%
Number of patent applications filed, based on station and center discoveries, developments, and applications	6	13	8	6	12	200%

**Goal 7 - Analysis of Results**

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 and tools to forest managers and users who implement 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. Over the course of the past five years, Forest Service R&D worked hard to improve its effectiveness in delivering tools and science products that make a difference for its very diverse partner base.

<sup>7</sup> The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) assesses the satisfaction of private and other external customers with the relevance, usefulness, and accessibility of R&D products and services.

Customer satisfaction with R&D products and service, as determined by the American Customer Satisfaction Index, remained high in FY 2013 at a benchmark level of 79, matching last year's result. This accomplishment is a full 10 points above the federal government benchmark of 69 for all federal agencies.<sup>8</sup> By focusing on developing the best available science-based knowledge and tools, the agency has driven performance on this measure from a benchmark level of 72 in FY 2007 to 75 in FY 2010, and on to the current level of 79 for two consecutive years. This is a sustained and significant improvement.

The ASCI survey reaches private and public users of Forest Service R&D products, including Forest Service managers, customers from other State, local and Federal agencies, universities, businesses, commercial, and non-profit organizations. In addition to assessing overall performance, results of the survey help identify and address customer needs such as increasing the online accessibility of tools and publication, and increasing overall technology transfer efforts.

Examples of these tools included publication (in collaboration with Oregon State University) of the Mapping Multiple Forest Threats in the Northwestern United States, which offers managers a tool to help identify regions exposed to multiple forest threats. The tool uses a novel 15-mile radius neighborhood analysis to highlight locations where threats are more concentrated relative to other areas, and identifies where multiple threats may intersect.

A new model called the Physical Fire Frequency Model is another example of an applied research output produced in FY 2013. The model predicts fire frequency for the continental United States. The Model will help restore fire-dependent ecosystems and assess effects of climate changes. To support efforts to understand the loss of bats to White Nose Syndrome, Forest Service R&D has also identified key fungal species that help explain the mysteries of this devastating disease. These fungi live in bat hibernation sites and even directly on bats, but do not cause the disease that has killed millions of bats in the Eastern United States. Researchers are examining these fungi—in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—to understand why one fungus can be deadly to bats while its close relatives are benign.

The agency also exceeded its target for patent applications this year. This was an unexpected success as the timing and number of patent applications on an annual basis is highly unpredictable because of the long lead time and variability in filing patents. To address the unpredictability and variability, in FY 2014, the Forest Service will begin to report patents filed on a three year rolling average.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the lead USDA agency for patenting and licensing per USDA Departmental Regulation. The Forest Service follows ARS guidance when reporting fiscal year totals. Patent applications may be submitted for work done exclusively by agency researchers and also by university and industrial cooperators working collaboratively with Forest Service scientists on jointly owned technologies.

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<sup>8</sup> Source: The ASCI website at:  
[http://www.theacsi.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=362&Itemid=789](http://www.theacsi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=362&Itemid=789)

## Challenges for the Future

The Nation's forests and grasslands are facing significant risks—drought, invasive species, severe wildfires, and outbreaks of insects and disease are all affecting forests and grasslands on an unprecedented scale. Forest Service R&D will continue to play a vital role providing scientific information and new technologies to help restore healthy, resilient forests and grasslands, to protect people from wildfire, and to support conservation by communities.

While patents and publications are an important result of such a wide portfolio of work, the tools and technology that our research staff continues to put in the hands of agency land managers and partners will be vital to achieving our objectives. Pushing forward our knowledge and tools, and continuing to anticipate new threats and needs while developing responses to existing ones, will challenge R&D to build on their outstanding record of delivering results that matter.

## Evidence and Evaluation

### Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR)—Third Party Monitoring Implemented in FY 2013

The central focus of national forest management today is promoting landscape restoration and ecological resilience. These goals are highlighted in the Forest Service's 2012 land management planning regulations, which emphasize the importance of forest planning for promoting integrated forest restoration, climate resilience, watershed and wildlife protection, and economic opportunities for local communities. Accomplishing this requires institutional and programmatic changes to successfully meet these objectives. Programs such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and tools such as the Watershed Condition Framework and stewardship contracting authority, are key components of the Forest Service's strategy for accelerating forest and watershed restoration. They are designed to support integrated restoration work across functional areas. To effectively implement integrated restoration projects, the President's budget proposal for FY 2011 introduced the IRR line item, collapsing multiple line items into a single funding stream to support integrated work across resource areas. For FY 2012, Congress approved the IRR budget line item on a pilot basis for three years in Regions 1, 3, and 4 of the National Forest System.

The IRR budgeting tool is intended to provide the Forest Service with flexibility to conduct integrated restoration and represents one of the most significant changes in the budgeting system of the Forest Service in decades. Critical to the success of the IRR pilot will be to identify and communicate early on the impacts the IRR is having on increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of integrated restoration. A third-party evaluation of the IRR and its effects is currently being conducted to provide information to the Forest Service, Congress, and stakeholders on effectiveness, efficiencies, and areas of improvement. The third party evaluation will focus on three sets of questions:

1. To what extent is IRR fostering increased integration, efficiency, and effectiveness of restoration work on national forests? How are different forests and regions utilizing IRR? What strategic decision-making principles are being utilized by Forest Service leadership to allocate IRR funding?

2. What are internal agency perceptions of the effects of IRR on efficiency, flexibility, integration, and prioritization? What is the level of internal support for the program, what are staff concerns, and what are the perceived opportunities?
3. How well or accurately do the performance measures reflect outcomes for IRR? What changes could be made as the pilot moves towards national implementation?

#### Wildland Fire Management Efficiency Assessment Program (MEAP)

Since 2006, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior have been jointly conducting Management Efficiency Assessments of various aspects of wildland fire management. The results of these assessments outline findings and present recommendations for the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's Wildland Fire Management Officers to make changes to improve program management. Since the inception of this program seven years ago, it has produced an estimated annual cost avoidance of \$50 to \$90 million (varies by season intensity) through implementation of the evidence based findings and recommendations. The MEAP has had a total outlay of \$5 million over this period in support costs. Examples of how the program has used evidence and innovation to improve agency performance include:

- In the aviation program, one of the most costly areas of firefighting, changes were made in the way large airtankers and helicopters were contracted to allow strategic funding of the industry by the private sector. Creating a national helicopter incident management position eliminated the local overuse of "call when needed" medium and large helicopters—40+ aircraft costing over \$20,000 each hour—and replacing them with much lower cost exclusive use aircraft on fire incidents.
- Optimization and consolidation of dispatch centers, as demonstrated in our Pilot Program, will result in the reduction of 16 centers to five over the next two years in the Southwest.
- Smaller efficiencies have been implemented across the programs including: 1) joint DOI and Forest Service Information Technology (IT) systems and the development of a joint fire IT data warehouse to serve both agencies, 2) consolidation of seven regional positions into a single national position for standardization and airman checks, and 3) improved interagency human resources coordination including more robust workforce and succession planning based on data that considers current positions, retirement programs, incident management qualifications, and other factors to support management decisions for future hiring.

Nationally, over the next two budget cycles (FY 2014 and FY 2015) the Forest Service will continue to implement evidence-based recommendations regarding the 120 dispatch centers currently managed at each local unit. Evidence and analysis from the MEAP project shows that standardization, joint national directives, office optimization, new approaches to IT contracting under OMB Circular A-11 Part 7, and development of uniform standards for governance and staffing will produce efficiencies and savings. The MEAP will use these changes as a template for examination of the 200 aviation support centers to develop evidence for optimization and consolidation. Upon completion of the dispatch and aviation programs, the MEAP will reexamine the first assessments, completed in 2006 to 2010, to develop evidence displaying continuing successes, failures and to identify new efficiencies and savings.

At the field level, many other of the evidence based findings and associated recommendations are still being vetted which should produce additional management efficiency gains, cost avoidance, or improved safety systems.

### National Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

In 2012, the Forest Service initiated the National Best Management Practices (BMPs) Program to advance the agency's compliance with management of nonpoint source pollution at local, regional, and national scales and to address the new planning rule requirement for national BMPs (36 CFR 219.8(a)(4)). The intent of putting a system of national BMPs in place is to improve consistency, comparability, and accountability of implementation and effectiveness of BMPs across all national forests and grasslands. Prior to development of this Program, the Forest Service did not have a method to document or report on our actions to protect water quality during implementation of ground disturbing activities.

The National BMP Program consists of four main components: 1) the National Core BMP Technical Guide (Volume 1, FS-990a, April 2012); 2) the National Core BMP Monitoring Technical Guide (Volume 2, FS-990b, in prep); 3) revised national direction; and 4) a national data management and reporting system. The National BMP Program allows the Forest Service to use a nationally standardized program that applies an adaptive management strategy of BMP implementation and monitoring to address nonpoint source pollution control and water quality protection. These BMPs and monitoring protocols were extensively tested across the Agency before the Program was released. To develop a program that applies nationally, the BMPs are written in broad, non-prescriptive terms, focusing on "what to do", not "how to do it". Applicable State and local requirements and BMP programs, Forest Service regional guidance, and unit Land Management Plans are expected to provide evidence-based criteria for site-specific BMP prescriptions. This approach recognizes the importance of existing State and Tribal BMPs and provides for the integration of the national program with those existing BMPs. The National Core BMP monitoring protocols are designed to determine whether the BMPs are being implemented as planned and whether they are effective in protecting water quality. An interim BMP monitoring database will be used to manage the data until a corporate data management and reporting system can be developed. This allows the agency to assess and report at all scales, develop adaptive management responses at all scales, and document the results of our actions implemented to protect water quality.

### ForWarn

ForWarn was launched in March 2012 and is a satellite-based forest disturbance (such as insects, fire or climate change) monitoring system for the conterminous United States. It was developed collaboratively by Forest Service R&D with university and Federal partners and delivers a new suite of maps and materials every eight days and provides tools for attributing abnormalities to insects, disease, wildfire, storms, human development or unusual weather. This technology supports a broader cooperative forest management initiative known as the National Early Warning System (EWS). The EWS network brings together various organizations involved in mapping disturbances, climate stress, aerial and ground monitoring, and predictive efforts to achieve more efficient forest planning and management across jurisdictions. This tool is

important because identifying forest disturbances sooner rather than later provides managers with initial information about whether a response is needed and to assess the potential impacts of the disturbance if left unmitigated. Early and frequent information inherently improves the efficiency and effectiveness of forest management work regardless of jurisdiction.

#### Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options (TACCIMO)

Many of the effects of climate change are region specific and require specialized approaches. The Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options (TACCIMO) was jointly developed by Forest Service National Forest System, Research and Development, and non-government organizations, and provides a publically accessible, web-based tool, which allows land managers and planners to quickly search the scientific literature for potential climate change impacts to their field and location of interest.

The TACCIMO tool is used in forest planning documents on National Forest land to indicate potential conflicts between desired future conditions, and climate change stress impacts. Within minutes, reports of impacts, management options, and scientific rationale for those optional management decisions, are generated and available for immediate use by forest planners. The report generation, which now takes minutes, could take a forest planner up to three months to complete. The use of TACCIMO continues to expand even as a broader version (Forest Adaptive Management Online User System) of TACCIMO for use in all stress assessment (not just climate change), is under development.

**External Audits and Reviews**

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

OIG Open Audits

Audit Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Audit Status
08601-0055-SF	FS Administration of Special Use Permits	6/16/11	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress
08601-0001-CH	Evaluation of FS's Processes to Obtain & Grant Rights-of-Way & Easements	3/15/12	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress
08703-0004-SF	ARRA – FS Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects – Trail Maintenance & Decommissioning	7/3/12	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress
08703-0001-AT	ARRA – FS's Use of ARRA Funds for Wildland Fire Management on Federal Lands	9/28/12	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress
08401-0002-11	FY 2012 Financial Statements	11/9/12	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress
08601-0001-21	Management of Oil and Gas Resources on NFS Land	3/12/13	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress
08703-0005-SF	ARRA – Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Projects on Non-Federal Lands	3/28/13	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress

OIG Audits Officially Closed in FY 2013

Audit Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Closure Date
08601-0054-SF	FS Firefighting Succession Planning	3/31/10	2/13/13
08601-0056-SF	Forest Legacy Program	4/20/11	3/14/13
08703-0001-HY	ARRA - FS Oversight and Control of Forest Service ARRA Activities	9/30/11	1/15/13
08401-0001-11	FY 2011 Financial Statements	11/10/11	5/15/13

Audit Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Closure Date
08703-0003-SF	ARRA – FS Capital Improvement & Maintenance Projects - Roads, Bridges, & Related Watersheds	3/12/12	5/6/13
08703-0006-SF	ARRA – FS Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects - Abandoned Mine Remediation	5/3/12	5/16/13
08703-0001-SF	ARRA – FS Wildland Fire Management – Wood-to-Energy Projects	6/15/12	6/19/13
08703-0002-SF	ARRA – FS Capital Improvement & Maintenance Projects – Facility Improvement, Maintenance & Rehabilitation	7/3/12	7/9/13

Summary of OIG Audits

FY 2013 Beginning Inventory	12
Audits added	3
Subtotals	15
Audits closed	8
FY 2013 Ending Inventory	7

**FY 2013 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Audits**

Audit Report Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Audit Status
GAO-13-45R	<b>Mineral Resources:</b> Mineral Volume, Value, and Revenue	11/15/12	Informational report. No further action required.
GAO-13-189	<b>Renewable Energy:</b> Agencies Have Taken Steps Aimed at Improving the Permitting Process for Development on Federal Lands	1/18/13	No recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-13-221	<b>Pipeline Permitting:</b> Interstate and Intrastate Natural Gas Permitting Processes Include Multiple Steps, and Time Frames Vary	2/15/13	No recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-13-250R	<b>FEMA Reservists:</b> Training Could Benefit from Examination of Practices at	3/22/13	Informational report. No further actions required.

Audit Report Number	Audit Title	Report Issue Date	Audit Status
	Other Agencies		
GAO-13-253	<b>Climate Change:</b> Various Adaptation Efforts Are Under Way at Key Natural Resource Management Agencies	5/31/13	No recommendations. No further actions required.
GAO-13-618	<b>Forest Service Trails:</b> Long- and Short-Term Improvements Could Reduce Maintenance Backlog and Enhance System Sustainability	6/27/13	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress.
GAO-13-684	<b>Wildland Fire Management:</b> Improvements Needed in Information, Collaboration, and Planning to Enhance Federal Fire Aviation Program Success	8/20/13	Implementation of corrective actions is in progress.
GAO-13-597	<b>Geostationary Weather Satellites:</b> Progress Made, but Weaknesses in Scheduling, Contingency Planning, and Communicating with Users Need to Be Addressed	9/9/13	No recommendations. No further actions required.

**Management Challenges**

The OIG’s annual report to the Secretary on USDA Management Challenges was issued on August 13, 2013. The report included one challenge specific to the Forest Service: “**Action Needed to Improve Natural Resources Stewardship (Challenge 6).**” The challenge was related to two audits conducted on the agency in FY 2013: 1) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Projects on Non-Federal Lands and 2) Management of Oil and Gas on National Forest System Land. The Forest Service implemented some of the corrective actions needed to address the OIG reports; however, several audit recommendations remain open. A summary of the actions planned for completion in FY 2014 for the two audits follow.

**FY 2014 Actions Planned:**

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Projects on Non-Federal Lands – OIG Audit Report No. 08703-0005-SF

To continue to address ARRA related inquiries as well as to improve overall Forest Service grant administration, the agency will conduct and/or implement various actions throughout the year. The Forest Service will improve grant recipients' use of funds by enhancing pre-award and post-award controls and by continuing to increase training for Forest Service staffs and grant recipients. The Forest Service will conduct various reviews to determine whether recipients charged Forest Service Recovery Act and Non-Recovery Act grants appropriately; if any funds were charged erroneously, the agency will recover the funds. The Forest Service will establish controls to address processes that resulted in inadequate accounting, unsupported salaries, non-competitive procurements, and unauthorized indirect costs.

Management of Oil and Gas on National Forest System Land - OIG Audit Report No. 08601-0001-21

To continue to improve management of the Forest Service Oil and Gas program in FY 2014, the agency will continue to improve its efforts working with the Bureau of Land Management to assess how well agency cooperative efforts are reducing leasing and permitting backlogs, improving processing timeframes, and ensuring surface compliance. The Forest Service will make it a priority to update the existing regional mineral leasing file databases to generate a report that will: identify the number of requests (lease offers and expressions of interest) for leasing NFS lands; the acreage associated with each request; and track critical dates associated with individual nominations. To improve the time it takes the agency to accomplish key program activities, the Forest Service will track leasing and permit processing times in the various program databases and use average processing times as a managerial tool for monitoring processing efficiency from year to year.

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## Appropriations Language Changes

### TITLE III RELATED AGENCIES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Appropriations Language uses the 2014 Appropriations Act as the baseline. Material proposed for deletion is enclosed in brackets; new language is in italics.

#### FOREST SERVICE

##### FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, [\$292,805,000,] \$275,315,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$66,805,000 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, [\$229,980,000,] \$229,485,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized by law; of which [\$50,965,000] \$53,000,000 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, [\$1,496,330,000,]

1. \$1,640,484,000 to remain available until expended, *and in addition, \$5,000,000 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 \$1.00 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 restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f):
2. *Provided further*, That [of the funds provided, \$339,130,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided*
3. further, That of the funds provided, up to \$81,000,000 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 \$53,000,000 may be transferred to support the Integrated Resource
4. Restoration pilot program in the preceding proviso.] *funds provided under this heading may be used 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):* *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading shall be available for
5. *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 roads that are not part of the transportation system.*

*Note 1: Proposes a new grazing fee program.*

*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 2015.*

*Note 4: Incorporates authorization for the Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses into the National Forest System appropriation.*

*Note 5: Incorporates authorization for the Legacy Roads & Trails and decommissioning of roads into the National Forest System with the Integrated Resource Restoration program.*

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

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [\$350,000,000,] \$306,280,000, 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. 532–538 and 23 U.S.C.
2. 101 and 205: Provided, That [\$35,000,000 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 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
3. the funds are appropriated[: Provided further, That of the funds provided for decommissioning of roads, up to \$12,000,000 may be transferred to the “National Forest System” to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program].

*Note 1: All funds for road decommissioning are proposed under the National Forest System appropriation.*

*Note 2: 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 & Trails 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

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 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, [\$43,525,000] \$51,000,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

*Note: No language changes are proposed.*

**ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS**

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, [\$912,000,] \$950,000, to be derived from forest receipts.

*Note: No language changes are proposed.*

**ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES**

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 (U.S.C. 4601-516-617a, 555a; Public Law 96-586; Public Law 76-589, 76-591; and Public Law 78-310).

*Note: No language changes are proposed.*

**RANGE BETTERMENT FUND**

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: No language changes are proposed.*

**GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH**

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), [\$40,000] \$45,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

*Note: 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, to remain available until expended.]

*Note 1: Responsibility for the Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses is proposed within the National Forest System.*

**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 reduction on or adjacent to such lands, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, and for State and volunteer fire assistance, [\$2,162,302,000,] \$2,265,113,000 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 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 reduction activities, support to Federal emergency response, and wildfire suppression activities of the Forest Service: Provided further, That of the funds provided, [\$306,500,000] \$358,564,000 is for hazardous fuels reduction activities, \$19,795,000 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 is for State fire assistance, and [\$13,025,000] \$13,000,000 is for volunteer fire assistance under section 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2106): *Provided further, That of the funds provided, \$708,000,000 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 \$954,000,000 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 restoration: 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 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 reduction and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels reduction activities on 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 notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 1856d, sums received by the Forest Service for fire protection rendered pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1856 et seq. may be credited to this appropriation, and are available without fiscal year limitation:] Provided further, That of the funds provided for hazardous fuels reduction, not to exceed [\$10,000,000] \$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 wildfire suppression, including funds transferred from the “FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund”, shall be assessed for cost pools on the same basis as such assessments are calculated against other agency programs[: Provided further, That of the funds for hazardous fuels reduction, up to \$24,000,000 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. Deletes phrase to increase agency flexibility.*

*Note 3. Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) provided permanent authority for this provision.*

*Note 4. 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, \$315,000,000, 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: Budget cap adjustment for fire suppression proposal replaces this fund.*

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 [from excess sources] 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).
- 1.

*Note 1: Provision limits agency flexibility.*

- 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 [headings] heading “Wildland Fire Management” [and “FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund”] will be obligated within
- 1.
  2. 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.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

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

*Note 1: Provision 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. Nothing in this paragraph shall limit the Forest Service portion of implementation costs to be paid to the Department of Agriculture for the [Financial Management Modernization Initiative] *International Technology Service*.

*Note 1: Delete reference to exclude Financial Management Modernization Initiative costs because the implementation period for USDA has ended. Add exclusion for International Technology Service costs for negotiated agreements for requested services provided USDA-wide.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

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: 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 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]:
1. *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2014 and thereafter, the National Forest Foundation may hold Federal funds made available but not immediately disbursed and may use any interest or other investment income earned (before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act) on Federal funds to carry out of the purposes of Public Law 101—593: *Provided further*, That such investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States].

*Note 1: Provisions removed because they are permanent.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

Funds available to the Forest Service, not to exceed \$55,000,000, 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: No language changes are proposed.*

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: No language changes are proposed.*

An eligible individual who is employed in any project funded under title V of the Older American 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: No language changes are proposed.*

[The 19th unnumbered paragraph under heading “Administrative Provisions, Forest Service” in title III of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109–54, as amended, is amended by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).*

#### **Title IV GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### [LIMITATION ON CONSULTING SERVICES]

1. [SEC. 401. In fiscal year 2014 and thereafter, the expenditure of any appropriation under this Act or any subsequent Act appropriation funds for departments and agencies funded in this Act, for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.]

*Note 1: Proposed deletion of language.*

**[RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS]**

1. [SEC. 402. 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 deletion of language.*

**OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

1. SEC. [403]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: Changes section number.*

**DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

1. SEC. [404]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
2. annual budget justifications [and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes]. *Advance notice of changes* to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations [for approval].

*Note 1: Changes section number.*

*Note 2: Language deleted because it limits agency flexibility.*

**MINING APPLICATIONS**

1. SEC. [405]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. (c) **REPORT.**—On September 30, 2015, 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: Changes section number.*

#### CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

1. SEC. [406]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.

*Note 1: Changes section number.*

1. SEC. 405. 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.
2. SEC. 406. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year 2015 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 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 judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.

*Note 1: New provision proposed by Department of the Interior. Not applicable to the Forest Service.*

*Note 2: New provision proposed by Department of the Interior. Not applicable to the Forest Service*

#### FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. 407. 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: No language changes as proposed.*

#### PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS

SEC. 408. 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: No language changes as proposed.*

#### LIMITATION ON TAKINGS

SEC. 409. Unless otherwise provided herein, no funds appropriated in this Act for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands may be expended for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints

1. 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: Proposed language provides notification of Congress if agency using authorities.*

#### [TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS]

1. [SEC. 410. 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.*

#### LIVESTOCK GRAZING ADMINISTRATION

1. SEC. 410. Beginning on March 1, 2015, and only to the extent and in the amount
2. 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 \$1.00 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.*

*In fiscal year 2015, beginning on March 1, 2015, 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 \$1.00 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: Inserts section.*

*Note 2: Established new grazing fee program.*

#### [EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS]

SEC. 411. Section 415 of division E of Public Law 112–74 is amended by striking “and 2013” and inserting “through 2015”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).*

#### PROHIBITION ON NO-BID CONTRACTS

1. SEC. [412]411. 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]412. (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]413. 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.*

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. SEC. [415]414. (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.*

[NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT AWARDS TO STATES]

1. [SEC. 416. Section 5(g)(4) of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 954(g)(4)), is amended—
  - (1) in subparagraph (A) by adding at the end the following: “Whenever a State agency requests that the Chairperson exercise such discretion, the Chairperson shall—
    - “(i) give consideration to the various circumstances the State is encountering at the time of such request; and
    - “(ii) ensure that such discretion is not exercised with respect to such State in perpetuity.”; and
  - (2) in subparagraph (C) by adding at the end the following: “The non-Federal funds required by subparagraph (A) to pay 50 percent of the cost of a program or production shall be provided from funds directly controlled and appropriated by the State involved and directly managed by the State agency of such State.”.]

*Note 1: Proposed deletion of language.*

[EXPANSION AND EXTENSION OF GOOD NEIGHBOR COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY]

- [SEC. 417. Section 331 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–291; 114 Stat. 996), as amended by section 336 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–447; 118 Stat. 3102) and section 422 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (division A of Public Law 111–88; 123 Stat. 2961), is further amended—
- (1) in the section heading, by striking “IN COLORADO”;
  - (2) in subsection (a)—
    - (A) in the subsection heading, by striking “COLORADO”;
    - (B) by striking “may permit the Colorado State Forest Service” and inserting “may permit the head of a State agency with jurisdiction over State forestry programs in a State containing National Forest System land (in this section referred to as a ‘State Forester’)”; and
    - (C) by striking “of Colorado”;
  - (3) in subsection (b)—
    - (A) in the first sentence, by striking “of Colorado”; and
    - (B) in the second sentence, by striking “the Colorado State Forest Service” and inserting “a State Forester”;
  - (4) in subsection (c)—
    - (A) by striking “the Colorado State Forest Service” the first place it appears and inserting “a State Forester”;
    - (B) by striking “of Colorado”; and
    - (C) by striking “the Colorado State Forest Service” the second place it appears and inserting “the State”;
  - (5) in subsection (d)—
    - (A) in the subsection heading, by striking “COLORADO”; and
    - (B) by striking “the State of Colorado” and inserting “a State”; and

(6) in subsection (e), by striking “September 30, 2013” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed since Good Neighbor authority was permanently reauthorized under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79).*

#### [STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS]

[SEC. 418. 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: 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. 419. Not later than 120 days after the date on which the President’s fiscal year 2013 budget request is submitted to Congress, the President shall submit a comprehensive report to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate describing in detail all Federal agency funding, domestic and international, for climate change programs, projects and activities in fiscal year 2011, 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 measures.*

#### [PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS]

1. [SEC. 420. 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: Proposed deletion of language.*

#### [GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RESTRICTIONS]

1. [SEC. 421. 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: Proposed deletion of language.*

#### FUNDING PROHIBITION

1. SEC. [422]415. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless [the] a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and [has] made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.
- 2.

*Note 1: Changes section number.*

*Note 2: Clarifies Federal agency.*

#### LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO DELINQUENT TAX DEBTS

1. SEC. [423]416. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless [the] a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and [has] made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

*Note 1: Changes section number.*

*Note 2: Clarifies Federal agency.*

#### [ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL HEALTH ENTITIES]

1. [SEC. 424. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and until October 1, 2018, the Indian Health Service may not disburse funds for the provision of health care services pursuant to Public Law 93–638 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) to any Alaska Native village or Alaska Native village corporation that is located within the area served by an Alaska Native regional health entity. (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the disbursal of funds to any Alaska Native village or Alaska Native village corporation under any contract or compact entered into prior to May 1, 2006, or to prohibit the renewal of any such agreement. (c) For the purpose of this section, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc., the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, and the Native Village of Eyak shall be treated as Alaska Native regional health entities to which funds may be disbursed under this section.]

*Note 1: Proposed deletion of language.*

#### [FOREST SERVICE ENHANCING FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND LAND USE]

[SEC. 425. 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) is amended—

- (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection:  
“(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—For fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a program for the purpose of enhancing Forest Service administration of rights-of-way and other land uses.”; and
- (2) in subsection (b), by striking “during fiscal years 2000 through 2012” and inserting “each fiscal year”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).*

## [FOREST SERVICE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS]

[SEC. 426. (a) AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into an agreement under section 1 of Public Law 94–148 (16 U.S.C. 565a–1) with a Federal, tribal, State, or local government or a nonprofit entity for the following additional purposes:

(1) To develop, produce, publish, distribute, or sell educational and interpretive materials and products.

(2) To develop, conduct, or sell educational and interpretive programs and services.

(3) To construct, maintain, or improve facilities not under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Administrator of General Services on or in the vicinity of National Forest System lands for the sale or distribution of educational and interpretive materials, products, programs, and services.

(4) To operate facilities (including providing the services of Forest Service employees to staff facilities) in any public or private building or on land not under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Administrator of General Services for the sale or distribution of educational and interpretive materials, products, programs, and services, pertaining to National Forest System lands, private lands, and lands administered by other public entities.

(5) To sell health and safety products, visitor convenience items, or other similar items (as determined by the Secretary) in facilities not under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Administrator of General Services on or in the vicinity of National Forest System lands.

(6) To collect funds on behalf of cooperators from the sale of materials, products, programs, and services, as authorized by a preceding paragraph, when the collection of such funds is incidental to other duties of Forest Service employees.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS.—The Forest Service may consider the value of services performed by persons 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.

(c) DURATION.—The authority provided by subsections (a) and (b) expires September 30, 2019.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).*

## [CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES]

[SEC. 427. Section 412 of Division E of Public Law 112–74 is amended by striking “fiscal year 2013,” and inserting “fiscal year 2015,”.]

*Note: Proposed deletion of language.*

## [CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE]

[SEC. 428. Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; P.L. 105–312) is amended by striking "2013" and inserting "2015".]

*Note: Proposed deletion of language.*

## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANTS

1. SEC. [429]417. Section 7301(c)(6) of P.L. 111–11 is amended by striking [ "2013"] "2014" and
2. inserting [ "2014"] "2015".

*Note 1: Changes section number.*

## RECREATION FEE

1. SEC. 418. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking "10 years after December 8, 2004" and inserting "on September 30, 2016".

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

## [ACTION AND SHARING OF RESOURCES BY SECRETARIES OF THE INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE (SERVICE FIRST INITIATIVE)]

[SEC. 430. Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–291; 43 U.S.C. 1703) is amended—

- (1) in the first sentence, by striking “programs involving the land management agencies referred to in this section” and inserting “programs”;
- (2) in the first sentence, by striking “and promulgate” and inserting “and may promulgate”; and
- (3) in the third sentence, by inserting after “Forest Service” the following: “or matters under the purview of other bureaus or offices of either Department”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).*

## [SEPARATE FOREST SERVICE DECISION MAKING AND APPEALS PROCESS]

[SEC. 431. Section 322 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102–381; 16 U.S.C. 1612 note) and Section 428 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74; 125 Stat. 1046; 16 U.S.C. 515 note) shall not apply to any project or activity implementing a land and resource management plan developed under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604) that is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).’]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76) and Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L.113-79).*

## [EXTENSION OF FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS AUTHORITIES]

[SEC. 432. 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) is amended by striking “until September 30, 2014” and inserting “through fiscal year 2019”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).*

## [SHASTA TRINITY MARINA FEES]

[SEC. 433. Section 422, Div. F, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161; 121 Stat. 2149), as amended, is further amended by striking “and subsequent fiscal years through fiscal year 2014” and inserting “and subsequent fiscal years through fiscal year 2019”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed as it was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).*

## [STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING PROJECTS]

[SEC. 434. Section 347(a) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 2104 note; Public Law 105-277, as amended) is amended by striking “September 30, 2014,” and inserting “Until September 30, 2014.”.]

*Note: Provision no longer needed since stewardship contracting was permanently reauthorized under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79).*

## [MINING ACCESS]

1. [SEC. 435. In Region 10, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall allow reasonable access for the orderly development of mining claims located inside areas subject to mineral lands use designations in the relevant Forest Plan.]

*Note: Proposed for deletion because it is unnecessary.*

*COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM-AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS*

*SEC. 419. Sec. 4003(f)(6) of Public Law 111-11 (123 Stat. 1146) is amended by striking*

1. *“\$40,000,000” and inserting “\$80,000,000”.*

*Note 1: Expands program to \$80 million authorization.*

## [USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL]

1. [SEC. 436. (a)(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) or made available by a drinking water treatment revolving loan 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: Proposed language of deletion.*

#### MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES

1. SEC. [437]420. (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, 2013” and
2. inserting “September 30, [2014]2017”.
3. [(b) For fiscal year 2014, 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.*

*Note 2: Extends this authority.*

*Note 3: Proposed language of deletion.*

**Forest and Rangeland Research**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
Forest and Rangeland Research					
Annual Appropriations	\$279,854	\$292,805	\$275,315	-\$17,490	-6%
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research Total</b>	<b>279,854</b>	<b>292,805</b>	<b>275,315</b>	<b>-17,490</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1,817	1,903	1,789	-114	-6%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>-114</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Forest and Rangeland Research					
Wildland Fire & Fuels R&D	21,467	22,160	20,445	-1,715	-8%
Invasive Species R&D	34,010	35,106	32,389	-2,717	-8%
Recreation R&D	4,713	4,423	4,081	-342	-8%
Resource Management & Use	90,041	93,382	86,155	-7,227	-8%
Water, Air & Soil R&D	34,284	35,389	32,650	-2,739	-8%
Wildlife & Fish R&D	26,281	27,128	25,029	-2,099	-8%
Inventory & Monitoring R&D	69,058	75,217	74,566	-651	-1%

	<b>FY 2011 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2012 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>						
Customer satisfaction index score for R&D	75	79	79	79	79	79
Number of patent applications filed (3-year average)	13	8	6	12	8	8
Percent of Nation with accessible FIA data	96.0%	92.0%	94.0%	96.0%	96.0%	98.0%
Quality Science Index - peer-reviewed fire science publications per scientist year on a 3-year rolling average	3.5	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.5	3.0
Output Efficiency Index - total fire science products per scientist year on a 3-year rolling average	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.5
Invasive species tools developed, delivered and used on a 5-year rolling average	163	169	163	193	168	173

**Forest and Rangeland Research Overview**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$275,315,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research, a decrease of \$17,490,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funding supports key research associated with the Priority Research Areas and Strategic Program Areas. The request provides \$66,805,000 for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, the same level as the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The Administration has worked this year to analyze and develop a strategy to address catastrophic fire risk. There are three main challenges which 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. This budget makes hard choices to support important activities while maximizing the Forest Service's ability to address the three main challenges with wildland fire noted above. This resulted in reductions in some programs to increase or maintain funding in others.

The Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation provides funds to develop and deliver knowledge and innovative technology to 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.

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, forest products, wildlife protection, outdoor recreation opportunities, and other benefits, across all U.S. territories and States (including both Federal and non-Federal lands) benefiting rural and urban communities. The fruits of this research benefit the American public by improving the health and quality of life of communities, both rural and urban, by providing protection from fire, improving water and air quality, and a variety of other ecosystem services.

#### Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative

In December 2013, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA) was enacted which replaced reductions in FY 2013 from sequestration with longer-term reforms. The President's Budget adheres to the BBA's discretionary funding levels for 2015. In addition, the President's FY 2015 Budget Request includes a separate \$56 billion Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative (OGS Initiative) that is offset with spending reductions and tax reforms. In FY 2015, the OGS Initiative is designed to spur economic progress, promote opportunity, and strengthen national security through additional discretionary investments.

In addition to the research addressing current pressing questions and issues important to the nation, the FY 2015 President's Budget proposes to devote \$18,000,000 from the OGS Initiative to research that invests in the Nation's future at regional and national levels. These investments will be in the areas of energy security and regional and national economic stability while simultaneously addressing conservation and restoration goals. Research will be focused on forest management approaches, including those for urban forests, which improve the nation's environmental health. Research efforts will also be directed at expanding existing and

developing new markets for the full range of forest based products including timber, low-value wood, and non-traditional timber products (e.g. food and medicinal products). This research will generate jobs, increase the value of underutilized forest resources and create value for landowners while simultaneously reducing the cost of forest management and restoration activities and help forest owners maintain economically viable working forests. To evaluate the economic implications of this research, the Forest Service will focus and coordinate the collective economics expertise of Forest Service R&D scientists toward nationally significant policy and management questions. Public land managers, policymakers, industrial and nonindustrial private landowners, communities, and the forest products industry all utilize timely and usable science-based information to make informed decisions about natural resource policy, management, and investment. Maintaining the effectiveness and competitiveness of the Forest Service R&D organization in meeting these demands will require a blend of multiple approaches that leverage current research capacity in new and creative ways.

### 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 climate change. Recent events have reinforced our knowledge that our communities and economy remain vulnerable to extreme weather and natural hazards. For that reason, the President's 2015 Budget will include a new \$1 billion Climate Resilience Fund. Through this fund, the President proposes that we:

- Invest in research and unlock data and information to better understand the projected impacts of climate change and how we can better prepare our communities and infrastructure. The Forest Service R&D will play an important role in climate resiliency research.
- Help communities plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change and encourage local measures to reduce future risk.
- Fund breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure that will make us more resilient in the face of changing climate.

### **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 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 Priority Research Areas are: Forest Inventory and Analysis; Forest Disturbances; 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.

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

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes \$20,445,000 for wildland fire and fuels research, a decrease of \$1,715,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

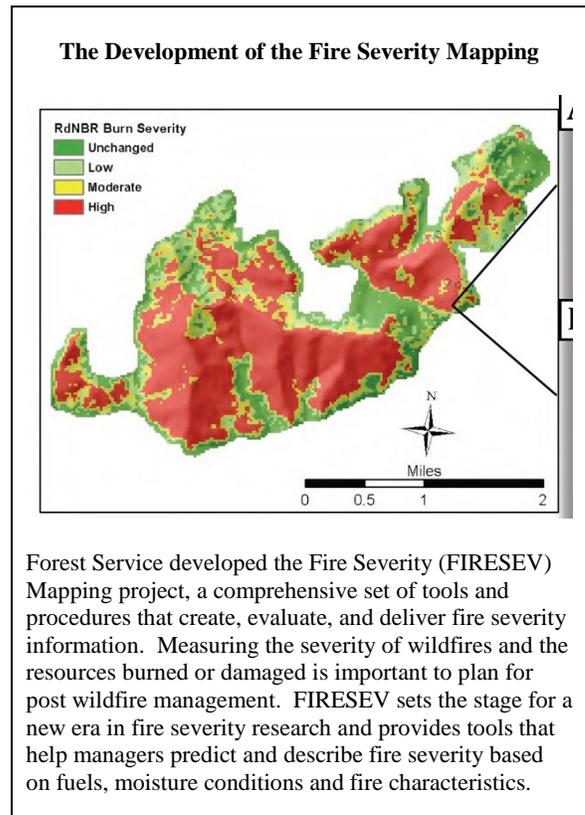
Wildland Fire and fuels research will focus on priority research areas including identifying the factors affecting fire regimes, fire impacts on forested ecosystems, improving the understanding and tools related to fire emissions, smoke management, and real-time reporting. Traditional fuels characterization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

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, Forest Service scientists, in collaboration with universities and other agencies, developed methods to provide near real time fire mapping and measurement information based on satellite data. This data has also been incorporated in a simulation model that includes weather forecasts to provide short-term predictions of fire spread and activity. These advances will greatly enhance the ability of fire-fighting agencies to identify and respond to wildland fires quickly, as well as to plan for upcoming fire seasons.

Forest Service scientists, in collaboration with West Virginia University, studied the effects of different forest practices, especially varied fire regimes, on both the Fernow Experimental Forest and the greater Monongahela National Forest. They found greater abundance of ground nesting bird species in burned sites where shrub cover was greater. These findings suggest that the higher heterogeneity of burned vegetative communities may drive the structure of avian communities, helping managers assess the likely impact of various forest restoration activities.

Forest Service R&D surveyed residents living within wildland-urban interface areas of Colorado to better understand both individual and community actions that homeowners take to protect their home or property. The survey is aimed to identify the barriers that impede homeowners from completing recommended and effective FIREWISE treatments. Community FIREWISE programs encourage the public to take actions, such as creating defensible space or making structural improvements to homes and other buildings that can reduce the likelihood of wildfire damage or injury.



## 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 benefit of this research includes improved ability to manage fire-impacted natural resources to protect lives, homes, and infrastructure, while sustaining carbon storage, forest and grassland health, and ecosystems.

## Invasive Species R&D

### FY 2015 Program Changes

The FY 2015 President's Budget includes \$32,389,000 for invasive species research, a decrease of \$2,717,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. At the proposed level, Forest Service R&D will maintain capacity to address priority research areas, including the introduction and spread of non-native species, by eliminating some research on established indigenous species.

### Past Performance

In FY 2013, Forest Service R&D developed 193 tools used by public and private land managers, academia, and local and national policy makers. Forest Service R&D improved its research efficiency and exceeded its target of 163 tools through increased partnerships and enhanced reporting. FY 2013 was the first year that the Research Information Tracking System (RITS) was used to report on invasive species tools. Using RITS proved effective in reporting on both a greater number and greater diversity of the types of invasive species tools used this year. Forest Service scientists developed a new highly effective lure in response to the threat posed by the walnut twig beetle, which spreads thousand cankers disease in walnut trees. This beetle is a threat to international walnut cultures as well as timber production. This lure, which is a synthetic form of a pheromone created by the male beetles, allows for much faster detection and mapping of this invasive insect.

**Researchers control invasive leafy spurge using an insect**



Riparian ecosystems are especially sensitive areas that can be threatened by nonnative species. Researchers developed an innovative biological control method, which releases large numbers of a species of flea beetle—a natural predator of leafy spurge. Their efforts resulted in a 60 to 80 percent reduction in leafy spurge in one year. The success of this technique has reaped substantial benefits for the “Hold the Line” program, a collaboration of county, state, and federal agencies as well as school districts and nonprofit organizations that has united to control leafy spurge.

Forest Service scientists developed best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the spread of invasive plants, such as cheatgrass which is especially invasive in sagebrush, steppe and bunchgrass regions in the Great Basin, Columbia Basin, and Snake River Plains in Nevada, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The BMPs are user friendly, relatively inexpensive, and effective. The report, “Proposed BMPs for Invasive Plant Mitigation during Timber Harvesting Operations,” explains how timber harvesting processes can spread seeds, roots, and other parts of invasive plants; addresses the opportunity costs involved; and describes voluntary BMPs for mitigating invasive plant spread, thereby avoiding the ecosystem disruption that invasive plants can cause.

The emerald ash borer continues to sweep across the North American landscape, leaving dead and dying ash trees in its wake. Forest Service scientists released multiple species of parasitic wasp from Asia into emerald ash borer-infested forests of the United States to reduce populations of the beetle. The natural enemies are tiny beneficial insects that eat emerald ash borer eggs and larvae. Researchers found that these natural enemies have been establishing and spreading to new areas during the last five years, working to help slow the spread of the emerald ash borer invasion in our forests.

### **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 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes \$4,081,000 for recreation research, a decrease of \$342,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Priority recreation science will be maintained in support of resilient ecosystems and thriving communities.

#### **Past Performance**

In FY 2013, Forest Service scientists developed a new computer simulation model that predicts campsite occupancy for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on the Superior National Forest in Minnesota. The model accounts for the unique travel patterns of the 11,000 groups that visit the wilderness area each summer, who enters from 61 different points and traverse through 95 backcountry zones. Recreation managers are now able to make accurate and informed

decisions about entrance point quotas and can use the model to better understand the influence of natural disturbance or management policies on travel patterns.

Forest Service researchers prepared trial applications for statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans in the States of Idaho and Georgia. Data analysis and report protocols were developed to provide state level trends that are consistent with national and regional recreation trend assessments. Providing county level recreation and protected land trends and projections is vital to public land planning by Federal land managers (e.g., a particular National Park or National Forest) and to State park and natural resource agencies.

### **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 U.S. 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 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President's Budget includes \$86,155,000 for Resource Management and Use research, a decrease of \$7,227,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funding will be redirected 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. Research on pinyon-juniper restoration, recycling urban wood waste, cellulosic ethanol, and selected hardwood tree improvement and regeneration research will be de-emphasized, resulting in a reduction in research operational costs.

#### **Past Performance**

In FY 2013, Forest Service R&D cooperated with the National Association of Home Builders to develop the National Green Building Standard. The National Green Building Standard promotes the use of green building materials and provides incentives for architects and builders to specify and use non-residential wood in green construction. Robust markets for green building materials provide substantial environmental benefits, incentives for private landowners to maintain forested land, and a critical source of jobs in rural America.

Forest Service scientists studied the ability of verbenone (a chemical pheromone) to protect lodgepole pine over long-term bark beetle outbreaks, and found that it reduced infestation under certain conditions. This work is instrumental in mitigating mountain pine beetle attacks on national forests in the northern Rocky Mountains, as well as in Colorado and California. Verbenone is also being used extensively in the private sector by homeowners who are attempting to deter beetle attacks in the trees immediately surrounding their homes.

Forest Service scientists completed an analysis of urban tree cover nationally that revealed it is declining at a rate of about 20,000 acres or about four million trees per year. Understanding changes and trends in urban forests is helping cities and towns across the U.S. develop urban forest management plans and sustainability strategies that improve environmental health and community well-being into the future.

Recently published research by Forest Service scientists in partnership with Virginia Tech University and the American Herbal Products Association demonstrated that co-managing eastern hardwood forests for both timber and American ginseng benefits local economies while conserving biodiversity. Ginseng has been harvested from temperate hardwood forests for hundreds of years, with harvesters taking in more than \$27 million each year.

Forest Service scientists identified opportunities where biomass energy and other renewable sources could play an integral role in Sitka, Alaska’s energy planning. For example, utilization of hydroelectric power could be expanded and displace fossil fuels for current residential heating and future transportation needs. In southeast Alaska, energy issues are at the heart of the economic viability and sustainability of many communities. With increasing fossil fuel prices, interest in renewable energy and energy conservation has never been greater.

**Program Overview**

The Resource Management and Use Strategic Program Area provide the scientific and technological base to sustainably manage and use forest resources and forest fiber-based products. The use of forest products for timber, medicinal, and food products contributes to local

**Cellulose Nanocellulose Pilot Plant**



In August 2012, the Forest Products Lab unveiled a production facility for renewable, forest-based nanomaterials. This facility is the first of its kind in the U.S. The facility will support an emerging market for wood-derived renewable nanomaterials, helping spur forest-based job growth. Wood-based nanomaterials are expected to contribute an estimated \$42 billion to the American economy by 2020. Development and commercialization of new lightweight, high-performance, wood-derived products may help reduce fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while increasing the potential for rural manufacturing opportunities, including the creation of many new high-paying jobs. Utilization of forest biomass for production of high-value nanocellulose materials may accelerate forest restoration activities by offsetting the cost of removing hazardous fuels.

economies while the management of these forests provides an assortment of ecosystem services including clean air and water. Critical 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 U.S. energy security, economic opportunity, environmental quality, and global competitiveness.

### **Water, Air, and Soil R&D**

#### **FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President's Budget includes \$32,650,000 for water, air, and soil research, a decrease of \$2,739,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. 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. Forest Service is committed to producing the science and delivery to support high quality water, air, and soil resources.

#### **Past Performance**

To help provide a better understanding of how vegetation production will respond to altered climate conditions and resulting in changes in precipitation patterns, in FY 2013 Forest Service R&D collaborated with USDA Agricultural Research Service and others on research that found a common range of water-use efficiency values across timescales and locations. The research found that the increased frequency of dry years this century is not yet compromising the response to lower water-use efficiency in wetter years. Increased understanding of these relationships is important when making decisions about food production and resource management.

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 (sagebrush) 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, which directly assists with smoke management planning and regulation.

#### **Reforestation along Rivers and Streams in Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Reduces Sediment Runoff**



A recent study, by Forest Service scientists, in collaboration with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and Forest Service State and Private Forestry, shows that reforesting the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley can significantly reduce runoff from agricultural lands and the amount of sediment entering the area's rivers, streams, and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico. Results of this study were published in the journal *Ecological Engineering*. The Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley is one of the largest coastal and river basins in the world, most affected by floods, erosion, and sediment deposition as a result of more than a century of converting bottomland hardwood forests to agricultural lands.

Forest Service scientists partnered with Earth Systems Institute to develop NetMap, a platform for rapidly conducting cost-effective watershed analysis. This tool supports climate smart restoration and management by identifying areas of watersheds that are most likely to warm, are vulnerable to erosion and mass wasting from wildfires and floods, and are most productive for fish. NetMap is available to forest managers in the northwest and is being expanded to cover other western regions.

Forest Service scientists developed a new approach to prioritizing watershed restoration needs that does not require expensive water sampling. Scientists used novel information derived from the Landsat data archive that describes forest canopy cover change along with forest inventory data and existing land cover data to predict total phosphorus and turbidity in streams draining into Lakes Superior and Michigan. This approach will contribute to effective management of the Great Lakes watershed and result in efficient use of restoration funds and will ultimately contribute to improve near-shore water quality.

**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. It pays 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 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes \$25,029,000 for Wildlife and Fish research, a decrease of \$2,099,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. This 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

**Detecting White Nose Syndrome Fungus on Bats**



White Nose Syndrome (WNS) fungus has decimated North American bat populations in recent years. In a given night, bats can eat millions of nocturnal insects, including many crop and forest pests. The impact of decreasing bat populations on agricultural crops is estimated at more than \$3.7 billion per year making control of the WNS fungus critical. To this end, Forest Service scientists created the most accurate and sensitive DNA technique for detecting the fungus on bats in almost any kind of sample. This test set the new standard and is now being used by a team from the Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and University of Wisconsin-Madison to survey soil samples from across eastern North America. This test is 100-fold more sensitive than prior tests and facilitates detection of the fungus on bats before the clinical disease is observed.

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. Capacity for research and partnerships will continue at a reduced level in some regions.

### **Past Performance**

In FY 2013, Forest Service scientists and partners developed habitat relationship models to calculate the bird habitat potential of urban forests by linking those models with the Forest Service urban forest assessment tool, i-Tree. Scientists are studying the conditions under which songbirds and native pollinators flourish in yards and urban forests, monitoring the fates of color-banded birds and nests in yards to help understand the features of yards that support viable populations, and encouraging delayed lawn mowing or, preferably, planting native pollinator plants to support native pollinators and other beneficial insects. This information provides homeowners and municipalities with information to guide their practices and policies to promote biodiversity from the scale of individual yards to larger forest conservation areas.

Forest Service scientists in the northeast developed tools to identify road stream crossings that pose the highest risk to the movement of aquatic species. They are also looking at culverts that are most likely to fail, and developing prioritization protocols that can help determine culvert replacements that will have the greatest benefits to both road infrastructure stability and fish population persistence. This information will inform management decisions that increase ecosystem and infrastructure resilience in northeastern communities in the face of future extreme weather events.

### **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 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President's Budget includes \$74,566,000 for inventory and monitoring research, a decrease of \$651,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Inventory and Monitoring is comprised of Resource Data and Analysis and Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA). The FY 2015 President's Budget includes \$7,761,000 for Resource Data and Analysis, a

decrease of \$651,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act level and \$66,805,000 for the FIA program, consistent with the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

At the FY 2015 budget levels, 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 (except interior Alaska), the affiliated Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The re-measurement cycle will remain at a national 10-year level.

Consistent with FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act, the FY 2015 President's Budget consolidates funding for the Forest Resources and Information Analysis BLI under the State and Private Deputy Area. This funding (\$4,660,000 in FY 2013) was historically utilized to develop partnerships with State agencies to achieve program goals. Leveraging funds with State agencies will continue at a reduced level. Forest Service R&D will continue to work closely with State Forestry agencies and other partners to achieve the FIA mission

### **Past Performance**

In FY 2013, Forest Service R&D implemented FIA annual forest sampling in all 50 states. Current and accessible FIA data were available for 48 states (96 percent), exceeding the 2013 target. In excess of 42,000 field plots were measured that represent 14 percent of the FIA national plot system. Current data defined number of U.S. States for which FIA data is 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 is not yet posted.

Forest Service scientists developed a mapping methodology that will amplify the usefulness of the data collected for the climate change report. By combining FIA plot data with auxiliary sources of information, such as satellite imagery, scientists are able to aggregate national estimates into finer scales, allowing strategic forest management and monitoring activities that focus on various ecosystem services, such as carbon storage enhancement.

An Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center scientist developed protocols that use the most current National Land Cover Database dataset, 2001 to 2006, to assess forest fragmentation and the loss of forest interior conditions within the United States. Combined with additional field plot data from the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, the resulting information expands the comparative assessment of forest fragmentation to 125 major forest types. Current information about landscape patterns and forest fragmentation will be included in the 2015 Resources Planning Act Assessment update and help policy makers and the general public make informed resource management decisions.

### **Program Overview**

The Inventory and Monitoring Strategic Program Area provides 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, thereby enhancing the use and value of

our Nation's forests and grasslands. 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.

### **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 U.S. 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 80 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	\$272	\$185	-	\$14,349	\$1,875	\$2,938	\$5,020	\$24,639
Forest Inventory and Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,805	66,805
Watershed Mgmt and Restoration	1,716	1,115	-	2,766	9,047	5,577	849	21,071
Bioenergy and Biobased Products	227	90	-	10,650	227	-	317	11,511
Urban Natural Resource Stewardship	429	-	1,937	1,016	1,287	-	858	5,526
Nanotechnology	-	-	-	4,247	-	-	-	4,247
Localized Needs Research	17,801	30,998	2,144	53,127	20,215	16,514	717	141,517
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,445</b>	<b>\$32,389</b>	<b>\$4,081</b>	<b>\$86,155</b>	<b>\$32,650</b>	<b>\$25,029</b>	<b>\$74,566</b>	<b>\$275,315</b>

**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 Resource Conservation Service, and Agricultural Research Service), Forest Service R&D is taking the lead to establish seven Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change. The Hubs will provide coordinated technical support to supplement USDA agriculture and land management program delivery, especially to underserved and vulnerable communities, Tribes, and individuals. They will be responsive to the information and technical needs of public and private forest landowners.

Forest Inventory and Analysis - \$66,805,000

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. This data is 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:

- BMPs 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 supply a significant portion of U.S. 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 - \$5,526,000

Over 80 percent of the U.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 BMPs. 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 U.S.

#### 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 - \$141,518,000

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](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. In order 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 (NFS), 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 NFS, 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 2013, partners contributed over \$10.1 million to FIA 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 ten years all States have contributed to the FIA program.

In FY 2013, Forest Service R&D partnered with the Intertribal Timber Council and other partners to understand the role of Tribal lands and resources in providing ecosystem services to tribal communities and the Nation as a whole, build capacity in tribal communities to conduct research on issues of concern, and leverage traditional knowledge and expertise of Native Americans to address natural resource issues of mutual concern. By enhancing the agency's relationships with tribal communities, there will be enhanced ability to deliver critical science information to these communities, as well as opportunities to better leverage local and traditional knowledge into our research and development programs.

**Land Area, Forest Area, FIA Federal Grants, and Partner Funds  
by State in FY 2013**

<b>Region and State</b>	<b>All Land (acres in thousands)</b>	<b>Forestland (acres in thousands)</b>	<b>Federal FIA Grants</b>	<b>Partner Funds</b>
Alaska, Coast	39,041	13,718	\$521,327	\$140,000
Alaska, Interior	326,000	113,151		
Alabama	32,481	22,815	450,000	53,405
Arkansas	33,328	18,720	425,328	107,016
Arizona	72,732	18,711		
California	99,824	32,946		76,400
Connecticut	3,101	1,687		500
Colorado	66,387	22,966	890,469	256,522
Delaware	1,251	341		20,489
District of Columbia			168,000	-
Florida	34,520	17,323	444,581	145,673
Georgia	37,068	24,785	694,294	215,658
Hawaii	4,111	1,748	243,000	65,201
Iowa	35,760	3,026	58,025	17,645
Idaho	52,960	21,390		103,600
Illinois	35,580	4,861	58,280	23,359
Indiana	22,957	4,775	159,440	236,900
Kansas	52,367	2,279	135,592	34,938
Kentucky	25,428	12,411	331,440	501,472
Louisiana	27,883	14,412		
Massachusetts	5,016	3,015	125,986	40,451
Maryland	6,295	2,454		12,300
Maine	19,753	17,665	689,547	502,064
Michigan	36,359	20,003	109,986	58,950
Minnesota	50,955	17,291	503,560	728,529
Missouri	44,095	15,494	158,750	110,406
Mississippi	30,025	19,572		126,625
Montana	93,157	25,591	795,785	188,377
North Carolina	31,180	18,596	443,161	117,402
North Dakota	44,156	772	24,917	7,200
Nebraska	49,201	1,520	71,708	5,853
New Hampshire	5,740	4,826	45,000	31,650
New Jersey	4,748	1,985		1,667
New Mexico	77,674	16,687	352,414	1,126,187
Nevada	70,276	11,169	1,196,505	122,100
New York	30,223	18,964	85,745	29,890
Ohio	26,210	8,021		11,345
Oklahoma	43,955	12,612	309,810	57,804
Oregon	61,442	30,056	452,760	724,571

**Land Area, Forest Area, FIA Federal Grants, and Partner Funds  
by State in FY 2013**

<b>Region and State</b>	<b>All Land (acres in thousands)</b>	<b>Forestland (acres in thousands)</b>	<b>Federal FIA Grants</b>	<b>Partner Funds</b>
Pennsylvania	28,685	16,764	1,400	335,074
Puerto Rico			42,175	100,000
Rhode Island	668	352		3,069
South Carolina	19,272	13,101	370,119	106,526
South Dakota	48,574	1,883	62,000	22,752
Tennessee	26,381	13,955	469,776	162,744
Texas	167,626	63,300	634,600	194,113
Utah	52,587	18,277	391,543	1,480,117
Virginia	25,343	15,868	493,856	154,339
Vermont	5,920	4,580		8,600
Washington	42,612	22,379	123,000	-
Wisconsin	34,761	16,872	40,000	1,495,847
West Virginia	15,415	12,081	37,525	49,300
Wyoming	62,147	11,448		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,263,230</b>	<b>809,220</b>	<b>\$12,611,405</b>	<b>\$10,114,630</b>

## State and Private Forestry

Appropriation	State and Private Forestry				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
<b>State and Private Forestry</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$239,696	\$229,980	\$229,485	-\$495	-0%
<b>State and Private Forestry Total</b>	<b>239,696</b>	<b>229,980</b>	<b>229,485</b>	<b>-495</b>	<b>-0%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	565	594	568	-26	-4%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>State and Private Forestry</b>					
Landscape Scale Restoration	0	14,000	23,513	9,513	68%
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	44,944	58,922	58,922	0	0%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	36,894	45,655	45,655	0	0%
State Fire Assistance	25,759	0	0	0	0%
Volunteer Fire Assistance	6,320	0	0	0	0%
Forest Stewardship	30,441	22,398	23,036	638	3%
Forest Legacy Program	50,515	50,965	53,000	2,035	4%
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation	1,892	2,000	1,683	-317	-16%
Urban and Community Forestry	30,701	28,040	23,676	-4,364	-16%
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	4,660	0	0	0	0%
International Forestry	7,570	8,000	0	-8,000	-100%

## State and Private Forestry Overview

The FY 2014 President's Budget proposes \$229,485,000 for State and Private Forestry (S&PF), a decrease of \$495,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

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 of our 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*). 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, Forest Service programs assisted over two million landowners through education programs or other related services during this same timeframe.

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. S&PF programs help Americans reconnect to the outdoors and are engines of job creation in rural communities. 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 manages the impacts of wildland fires on communities and the environment.

### Landscape Scale Restoration

The new Landscape Scale Restoration program will focus and prioritize 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 will fund 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 investment. The 2014 Farm Bill continues the effort begun under the 2008 Farm Bill that tasked all States and Territories with crafting assessments of the forests within their boundaries and developing strategies to address threats and improve forest health. The resulting Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies, or State Forest Action Plans (<http://www.forestationplans.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.

#### **S&PF Program Leverages \$13.3 Million in FY 2013**

In FY 2013, S&PF competitively allocated \$13.3 million to State Foresters, supporting 69 projects in 31 States and Territories. These allocations enabled the Forest Service to leverage over \$14 million in partner funds and in-kind contributions.

Cooperation and coordination across jurisdictional boundaries is needed to deal with the complex issues revealed in the State Forest Action Plans, most of which can only be meaningfully addressed at a landscape level and 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 critical conservation actions. These Plans will 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. By focusing on priority outcomes that address landscape-scale issues, the State Forest Action Plans guide investments to conserve, protect, and enhance our forests.

Prior to the Landscape Scale Restoration program, S&PF provided approximately \$20 million in funding annually through S&PF Redesign, initiated in FY 2008, for competitive projects focusing on issues and landscapes of national importance and on activities that promise meaningful outcomes on the ground. As required by Congressional Direction (House Report 111-180, p. 127), the following table displays the allocation of funding to S&PF Redesign in FY 2013. These funds supported 69 projects many of which were regional or multi-State in nature including a cross-state partnership to transfer successful stewardship models between Michigan and New Hampshire. The projects address opportunities and barriers to improve forest management and utilization of wood in interface and urban areas in Virginia and North Carolina; a multi-state and multi-region project to help partners engage private landowners in New England, the Midwest, and the Southeast and the restoration of critical riparian habitat on public and private lands in Utah. Other projects supported by this funding included mobile application development, watershed restoration, urban forest inventory, and landowner outreach and management planning.

**S&PF Redesign and Landscape Scale Restoration**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted*</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Bud</b>
S&PF	Landscape Scale Restoration	-	\$14,000	\$9,513	\$23,513
S&PF	FHM Cooperative Lands	\$1,539	-	-	0
WFM	FHM Cooperative Lands	0	-	-	0
S&PF	State Fire Assistance	0	-	-	0
WFM	State Fire Assistance	3,343	-	-	0
S&PF	Forest Stewardship	4,992	-	-	0
S&PF	Urban and Community Forestry	3,390	-	-	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,264</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$9,513</b>	<b>\$23,513</b>

\*In FY 2013 Redesign funds were reduced as a result of sequestration.

**Landscape Scale Restoration**

Budget Line Item	Landscape Scale Restoration				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Landscape Scale Restoration					
Annual Appropriations	0	\$14,000	\$23,513	\$9,513	68%
<b>Landscape Scale Restoration Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>23,513</b>	<b>9,513</b>	<b>68%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Landscape Scale Restoration</b>						
Total value of resources (expressed as a ratio) leveraged through partnerships with states and other partners	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$23,513,000 for Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR), an increase of \$9,513,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

In FY 2015, this program will fund competitive projects that focus on addressing priorities and needs identified in States’ Forest Action Plans. Landscape Scale Restoration is a new program implemented in FY 2014 that replaced S&PF Redesign. Prior to this program, State and Private Forestry (S&PF) provided \$13 to \$20 million in funding annually through S&PF Redesign. Similar to the new LSR program, S&PF Redesign funding was used for competitive projects focusing on issues and landscapes of national importance and on activities that promise meaningful outcomes on the ground. The Redesign process yielded numerous successful projects and leveraged over \$125 million of partner funds and in-kind contributions since 2008. 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 (see performance measure table above). The LSR program will only help increase the pace and scale of these investments. Landscape Scale Restoration work is critical to ensuring the continued health and resilience of our Nation’s forested landscapes.

## Past Performance

Because LSR is a new program there is no prior year performance measure data to report. However, this program builds on the Redesign process, so the results of the Redesign process provide a useful context for past performance. Through the Redesign process in FY 2013, S&PF competitively allocated \$13.3 million to State Foresters, supporting 69 projects in 31 States and Territories. These allocations enabled the Forest Service to leverage over \$14 million in partner dollars and in-kind contributions. Further information on the Redesign process is provided in the S&PF Overview section.

## 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 more than 50 percent of the Nation’s water supply; and support imperiled wildlife and fish species. The LSR program will help ensure our Nation’s non-Federal forestlands can 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.

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 will be focused on restoring healthy and resilient landscapes and communities in priority areas that States identify. This will offer States the opportunity to develop targeted, creative projects that most effectively leverage the agency dollar—spanning a wide spectrum to meet priority needs from aquifer protection in the Southwest, to hazardous fuels treatment in the Intermountain West, to conservation of working forests in the East. 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 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 Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool.

### Allocation and Integration

Funds will be allocated on a competitive basis focusing on cross-boundary projects, guided by the priorities outlined in State Forest Action Plans. Projects will be focused in priority areas also identified in the State Forest Action Plans. The projects will be required to address nationally and regionally significant issues or landscapes and will 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 may be developed, as in the past with Redesign projects. Projects will involve diverse collaboration and partnerships in planning and implementation and will coordinate with complementary State and Federal programs when possible.

#### Partnerships

The development and implementation of these projects will be coordinated through close collaboration with State and Territorial forestry agency partners. All projects will be leveraged by non-Federal contributions on at least a 1:1 basis. 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
<b>Forest Health Management</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$81,838	\$104,577	\$104,577	0	0%
<b>Forest Health Management Total</b>	<b>81,838</b>	<b>104,577</b>	<b>104,577</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	336	442	447	5	1%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Forest Health Management</b>					
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	44,944	58,922	58,922	0	0%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	36,894	45,655	45,655	0	0%

**Forest Health Management Overview**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$104,577,000 for Forest Health Management (FHM), at the same level from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The FY 2015 President’s Budget continues the consolidation of FHM under State and Private Forestry as approved in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The combination of funding into single budget line items improves program management and performance in addition to reducing administrative complexity. The table below shows a comparison of all FHM funding from FY 2013 to FY 2015.

**FHM Consolidated Budget Line Items**

(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	Change	FY 2015 Pres. Bud
S&PF	FHM Federal Lands	\$44,944	\$58,922	0	\$58,922
WFM	FHM Federal Lands	15,151	0	0	0
S&PF	FHM Cooperative Lands	36,894	45,655	0	45,655
WFM	FHM Cooperative Lands	7,931	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$104,921</b>	<b>\$104,577</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$104,577</b>

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, and Tribal governments. 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

Recently completed State Forest Action Plans have, in many cases, identified forest health as a key State 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 more water, provide key wildlife habitat, 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 and diseases, and invasive plants. In addition, FHM works on facilitating assisted tree migration efforts and gene conservation that involve reforestation and afforestation (to establish a forest or stand of trees in an area where there was no forest) in those areas where species have been identified as vulnerable to effects of changing resource conditions.

The FHM program will continue to treat prioritized areas, based on risk, 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 upon level of risk as identified in the National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM), current pest locations and abundances, and other factors including 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.

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 the West. In FY 2015, 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 response 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 are monitored every year by extensive nationally standardized aerial and ground surveys conducted on over 400 million acres of forestlands. Surveys are conducted in conjunction with State agencies and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). 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 to for example address the growing bark beetle infestation in the West; monitor the rate of spread and activity of the gypsy moth in the East; and track 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, the hemlock woolly adelgid, the Asian longhorned beetle, and sudden oak death.

The NIDRM identifies acres at risk from more than 50 different pests, and highlights acres where mortality from these agents is projected to exceed 25 percent over the next 15 years.

### Current and Emerging Threats

To assist in the assessment and evaluation of the areas needing restoration, field 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 also works collaboratively with other agencies, especially with 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, control actions, methods development (including biocontrol development), and education and outreach with the public.

The following table displays funding levels for selected insects, diseases and invasive plants for FY 2013 to FY 2015. The funding strategy is based in large part on the findings from the NIDRM, current surveys of pest conditions, and priorities in the State Forest Action Plans.

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

<b>R&amp;D (Research Appropriation) S&amp;PF (S&amp;PF and WFM Appropriations)</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Bud</b>
<b>Asian Longhorned Beetle (Total)</b>	<b>\$170</b>	<b>\$170</b>	<b>\$158</b>
R&D	120	120	108
S&PF	50	50	50
<b>Douglas-fir Tussock Moth (Total)</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>\$102</b>
R&D	76	76	68
S&PF	34	34	34
<b>Emerald Ash Borer (Total)</b>	<b>\$1,795</b>	<b>\$1,797</b>	<b>\$1,668</b>
R&D	1,295	1,297	1,168
S&PF	500	500	500
<b>Gold Spotted Oak Borer, Thousand Canker Disease, Laurel Wilt (Total)</b>	<b>\$1,086</b>	<b>\$1,089</b>	<b>\$1,079</b>
R&D	506	509	499
S&PF	580	580	580
<b>Gypsy Moth (Total)</b>	<b>\$9,756</b>	<b>\$10,089</b>	<b>\$9,990</b>
R&D	987	987	888
S&PF	8,769	9,102	9,102
Slow-the-spread	7,750	8,750	8,750
Suppression	995	270	270
Eradication	24	82	0
<b>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Total)</b>	<b>\$3,721</b>	<b>\$3,792</b>	<b>\$3,682</b>
R&D	1,821	1,892	1,782
S&PF	1,900	1,900	1,900
<b>Invasive Plants (Total)</b>	<b>\$3,370</b>	<b>\$3,803</b>	<b>\$3,682</b>
R&D	1,970	2,003	1,882
S&PF	1,400	1,800	1,800
<b>Oak Wilt (Total)</b>	<b>\$474</b>	<b>\$574</b>	<b>\$574</b>
R&D	74	74	74
S&PF	400	500	500
<b>Port Orford Cedar Root Disease - S&amp;PF (Total)</b>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>\$175</b>
<b>Sirex Woodwasp (Total)</b>	<b>\$520</b>	<b>\$370</b>	<b>\$364</b>
R&D	120	120	114
S&PF	400	250	250
<b>Southern Pine Beetle (Total)</b>	<b>\$3,918</b>	<b>\$4,318</b>	<b>\$4,318</b>
R&D	918	918	918
S&PF	3,000	3,400	3,400
<b>Subterranean Termites - R&amp;D (Total)</b>	<b>\$293</b>	<b>\$323</b>	<b>\$267</b>
<b>Sudden Oak Death (Total)</b>	<b>\$1,594</b>	<b>\$1,620</b>	<b>\$1,569</b>
R&D	244	270	219

<b>R&amp;D (Research Appropriation) S&amp;PF (S&amp;PF and WFM Appropriations)</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Bud</b>
S&PF	1,350	1,350	1,350
<b>Western Bark Beetles (Total)</b>	<b>\$5,442</b>	<b>\$5,875</b>	<b>\$5,779</b>
R&D	1,442	1,475	1,379
S&PF	4,000	4,400	4,400
<b>Whitebark Pine Pests - (Total)</b>	<b>\$149</b>	<b>\$125</b>	<b>\$125</b>
R&D	24	0	0
S&PF	125	125	125
<b>White Pine Blister Rust (Total)</b>	<b>\$611</b>	<b>\$621</b>	<b>\$652</b>
R&D	286	296	327
S&PF	325	325	325
<b>Sub-Totals</b>			
R&D	\$10,176	\$10,360	\$9,693
S&PF	\$23,008	\$24,491	\$24,491
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,184</b>	<b>\$34,851</b>	<b>\$34,184</b>

**Forest Health Management - Federal Lands**

Budget Line Item	Forest Health Management - Federal Lands				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands					
Annual Appropriations	\$44,944	\$58,922	\$58,922	0	0%
<b>Forest Health Management - Federal Lands Total</b>	<b>44,944</b>	<b>58,922</b>	<b>58,922</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	264	347	352	5	1%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Forest Health Management - Federal Lands</b>						
Federal acres treated - Invasives	157,507	104,037	137,351	126,460	146,338	146,338
Federal acres treated - Native pests	258,454	223,618	133,490	159,191	179,832	179,832

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$58,922,000 for Forest Health Management (FHM) Federal Lands, at the same level from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act approved consolidating the FHM Federal Lands program into one budget line item under State and Private Forestry (S&PF). The table below illustrates a comparison of overall program funding from FY 2013 to FY 2015.

**FHM Federal Lands Consolidated Budget Line Items**  
(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	Change	FY 2015 Pres. Bud
S&PF	FHM Federal Lands	\$44,944	\$58,922	0	\$58,922
WFM	FHM Federal Lands	15,151	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,095</b>	<b>\$58,922</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$58,922</b>

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 to monitor forest health on all Federal lands including those of the Departments of Defense and the Interior, and the Army Corps of Engineers. A partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continues to leverage funds to combat several damaging

invasive pests. Addressing these threats demonstrates an all-lands 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
- Thousand cankers disease
- 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 2015, 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<sup>9</sup>. See the Special Exhibit on Bark Beetles for more detailed information.

### **Past Performance**

The Forest Service partnered with other Federal agencies in FY 2013 to treat non-native invasive pests on 126,460 acres using funds from the S&PF appropriation and 3,681 acres from the Wildland Fire Management appropriation. This equals a total of 130,141 acres, as illustrated in the following table, under achieving by 6.6 percent the FY 2013 target of 139,269 acres.

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<sup>9</sup> Christopher J. Fettig, et. al. "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 (2007) 24–53

**FHM Federal Lands Consolidated Invasives Pests Performance FY 2013 through FY 2015**

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
S&PF	Federal acres treated - Invasives	137,351	126,460	146,338	146,338
WFM	Federal acres treated under National Fire Plan - Invasives	1,918	3,681	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>139,269</b>	<b>130,141</b>	<b>146,338</b>	<b>146,338</b>

For non-native invasive pests, priority treatments focused on slowing the advance of the gypsy moth infestation along a management zone stretching from North Carolina to Minnesota. The program also continued to protect critical forest ecosystems from established non-native insects and diseases, such as sudden oak death, white pine blister rust, and hemlock woolly adelgid. The program also addressed the threats of relatively new non-native invasive pests such as emerald ash borer, thousand cankers disease, and gold-spotted oak borer. The methodology for calculating out-year targets using average unit costs over the past five years allows the agency to set realistic accomplishment targets.

The Forest Service, with partners, also treated native pest species on 159,191 acres in FY 2013, through the S&PF appropriation and native pests on an additional 17,012 acres, through the WFM appropriation. Treatment areas for native pests, such as the southern pine beetle and western bark beetle focused on high priority landscapes, targeting high risk watersheds. This equals a total of 176,203 acres, as illustrated in the following table, exceeding the target of 141,806 acres. Treating more acres for western bark beetles resulted in a significant overall increase in acres treated for native pests, particularly from those projects planned in an integrated fashion with other Forest Service programs like hazardous fuels treatment, vegetation management, and wildlife and fisheries habitat management.

**FHM Federal Lands Consolidated Native Pests Performance FY 2013 through FY 2015**

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
S&PF	Federal acres treated - Native Pests	133,490	159,191	179,832	179,832
WFM	Federal acres treated under National Fire Plan - Native Pests	8,316	17,012	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>141,806</b>	<b>176,203</b>	<b>179,832</b>	<b>179,832</b>

Targets are based on the average unit costs over the past five years, current year funding, and the relative risk to forests. The program allocates funds based on pests posing the greatest risks (e.g. mountain pine beetle, southern pine beetle, gypsy moth, and other invasive pests). In FY 2013, the significant increase in acres accomplished over the planned target for native species is attributed to more funding being allocated to address the bark beetle epidemic, resulting in a greater number of acres treated than originally anticipated. In addition, changes in pest conditions, treatment methods, and unit costs contributed to this higher than planned result.

## 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 and diseases 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. FHM Federal Lands program investments provide for prevention, detection, monitoring, evaluation, and suppression of forest insects and diseases to protect forestlands 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, 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 to make the most efficient use of funding.

**Southern Pine Beetle (SPB)**



In 2012, SPB populations unexpectedly erupted on the National Forests of Mississippi, particularly on the Homochitto National Forest. The SPB Prevention Program, which won the Secretary of Agriculture's Honor Award in 2012, supported thinnings to reduce beetle risk on the National Forests. Only two of the more than 900 SPB infestations on the Homochitto were in thinned stands. This proactive treatment, along with aggressive treatments of infestations, resulted in very few active infestations in 2013.

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 (Centers) are supported by S&PF, National Forest System, and Forest Service Research and Development (R&D and

provide information on how multiple threats interact with pests, focusing on the effects of a changing climate.

A brief synopsis of pest management strategies of the highest priority pests follows:

- 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 in 18 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 and is currently developing a national Emerald ash borer management strategy, expected to be completed in FY 2015. 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.
- Southern 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. FHM continues to support suppression efforts in the Great Lakes and Texas, including root graft disruption, spore tree removal, and threat-to-the-line tactics. Threat-to-the-line tactics is a strategy to treat oak wilt disease. It entails two aspects; treating by trenching around those visibly infected oak trees to sever the roots (core area) and then going beyond the core area and treating additional trees that do not show symptoms of being infected with oak wilt (buffer).
- 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 develop guidelines and a 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 to reduce 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.

### 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 pine beetle, 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 health 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 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, all-lands approach, and partnership. 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.

**Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands**

Budget Line Item	Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands					
Annual Appropriations	\$36,894	\$45,655	\$45,655	0	0%
<b>Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands Total</b>	<b>36,894</b>	<b>45,655</b>	<b>45,655</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	72	95	95	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands</b>						
Cooperative lands acres treated - Invasives	475,150	546,025	423,145	410,371	468,993	468,993
Cooperative lands acres treated - Native pests	151,564	33,483	43,330	34,203	49,032	49,032

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$45,655,000 for Forest Health Management (FHM) Cooperative Lands, at the same level from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act approved consolidating the FHM Cooperative Lands program into one budget line item under State and Private Forestry (S&PF). The table below illustrates a comparison of overall program funding from FY 2013 to FY 2015.

**FHM Cooperative Lands Consolidated Budget Line Items**

(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	Change	FY 2015 Pres. Bud
S&PF	FHM Cooperative Lands	\$36,894	\$45,655	\$0	\$45,655
WFM	FHM Cooperative Lands	7,931	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,825</b>	<b>\$45,655</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$45,655</b>

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 2015, the Forest Service will adjust monitoring and treatments based on allocations for some

efforts such as the Slow-the-Spread program for gypsy moth and for work on southern pine beetle and hemlock woolly adelgid.

The program funds the highest priority prevention and suppression needs associated with western bark beetles, hemlock woolly adelgid, oak wilt, and southern pine beetle; and fund slowing the spread, eradication of new outbreaks, and suppression of gypsy moth on non-Federal lands. These pests are mentioned in State Forest Action Plans as high-priority pests. Other pests 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 and thousand cankers disease. We 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 2015, 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<sup>10</sup>. See the Special Exhibit on Bark Beetles for more detailed information.

### Past Performance

The Forest Service partnered with States and other non-Federal partners in FY 2013 to treat non-native invasive pests on 410,371 acres of State and private lands using funds from the S&PF appropriation. Non-native invasive pests were also treated on 16,494 acres using funds provided by the WFM appropriation under the National Fire Plan (NFP). This equals a total of 426,865 acres, as illustrated in the following table, underachieving the target of 458,140 acres by 6.8 percent.

#### Gypsy Moth Slow-the-Spread Program

The Slow-the-Spread 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, and has delayed the need for increased expenditures by Federal, State, and local governments as well as landowners. In 2012, Slow-the-Spread treated more than 526,000 acres in eight States. Without Slow-the-Spread about 50 million more acres would be infested. In 2013, Slow-the-Spread treated approximately 400,000 acres in eight States.



<sup>10</sup>Christopher J. Fettig, et. al. 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 (2007) 24–53

**FHM Cooperative Lands Consolidated Invasives Performance FY 2013 through FY 2015**

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
S&PF	Cooperative lands acres treated – Invasives	423,145	410,371	468,993	468,993
WFM	Acres treated on cooperative lands under NFP - Invasives	34,995	16,494	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>458,140</b>	<b>426,865</b>	<b>468,993</b>	<b>468,993</b>

Priority treatments for non-native invasive pests focused on slowing the advancing front of gypsy moth on State and private lands from North Carolina to Minnesota. Priority treatments for invasive plants are focused on biocontrol, developed through the agency's unique expertise. Additionally, the FHM program continued to protect critical forest ecosystems from established insects and diseases, such as white pine blister rust and hemlock woolly adelgid. These funds also continued to mitigate the threats of non-native invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer, sudden oak death, and thousand cankers disease. In addition to treating acres, invasive plant funds are used for outreach and awareness, primarily through State forestry agencies and State and local weed councils. For FY 2013, State Foresters chose to put more focus on outreach and awareness. In addition, there were some impacts to this program due to the need to transfer funds for fire suppression. As a result fewer acres were treated to control invasive plants; therefore, underachieving the target by 31,275 acres.

In FY 2013, the Forest Service treated native pest species on 34,203 acres, through the S&PF appropriation, and 14,555 acres through the WFM appropriation. This equals a total of 48,758 acres, as illustrated in the following table, exceeding the target of 47,626 acres. Treatment areas for native pests, such as the southern pine beetle and western bark beetles focused on the highest priority landscapes, targeting high risk watersheds.

**FHM Cooperative Lands Consolidated Native Pests Performance  
FY 2013 through FY 2015**

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
S&PF	Cooperative lands acres treated - Native pests	43,330	34,203	49,032	49,032
WFM	Acres treated on cooperative lands under NFP - Native pests	4,296	14,555	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47,626</b>	<b>48,758</b>	<b>49,032</b>	<b>49,032</b>

**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<sup>11</sup>. The support the Forest Service provides to its non-Federal partners is essential to protecting America's forested lands from insects and diseases. 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<sup>12</sup>. The agency investment in the FHM Cooperative Lands program helps reduce these negative impacts. For example, the Forest Service gypsy moth Slow-the-Spread of 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 dollar invested in the gypsy moth Slow-the-Spread program, 3 dollars are saved in future suppression costs. Without Slow-the-Spread, about 50 million more acres would be infested, resulting in the need for larger and more costly treatment needs in the future.

Funds support three objectives: conducting pest surveys and providing technical assistance; conducting prevention, suppression, restoration, and 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

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 align more closely identified risk with allocation, using an all-lands approach.

The program works with the FHM Federal Lands program to identify priority lands and manage forest insects and diseases across the landscape.

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<sup>11</sup>Rabaglia, Robert , Donald Duerr, Robert Acciavatti, and Iral Ragenovich. Early Detection and Rapid Response for Non-Native Bark and Ambrosia Beetles (2008) USDA Forest Service.

<sup>12</sup>Aukema JE, Leung B, Kovacs K, Chivers C, Britton KO, et al. (2011) Economic Impacts of Non-Native Forest Insects in the Continental United States. PLoS ONE 6(9): e24587. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0024587.

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 2013, almost \$31 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 thousand cankers disease.

The gypsy moth Slow-the-Spread program is a strong partnership with State forestry and agriculture agencies, which is successfully slowing the spread of gypsy moth by over 60 percent.

**Cooperative Fire Protection**

**Cooperative Fire Protection**

(dollars in thousands)

	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>Cooperative Fire Protection</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$32,079	0	0	0	0%
<b>Cooperative Fire Protection Total</b>	<b>32,079</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	48	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Cooperative Fire Protection</b>					
State Fire Assistance	25,759	0	0	0	0%
Volunteer Fire Assistance	6,320	0	0	0	0%

	<b>FY 2011 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2012 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
<b>State Fire Assistance</b>						
Communities assisted (number)	3,843	6,631	5,416	3,986	0	0

	<b>FY 2011 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2012 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
<b>Volunteer Fire Assistance</b>						
Volunteer fire departments assisted (number)	4,177	4,080	3,512	4,172	0	0

**Cooperative Fire Protection Overview**

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act approved the consolidation of the State Fire Assistance program and the Volunteer Fire Assistance program under the Wildland Fire Management appropriation. The FY 2015 President’s Budget continues this consolidation. Information about this program is within the Wildland Fire Management Chapter, State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance Sections.

**Past Performance**

For more information on Performance Metrics, as illustrated in the table above, see the Wildland Fire Management Chapter.

**Cooperative Forestry**

**Cooperative Forestry**

(dollars in thousands)

	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>Cooperative Forestry</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$118,209	\$103,403	\$101,395	-\$2,008	-2%
<b>Cooperative Forestry Total</b>	<b>118,209</b>	<b>103,403</b>	<b>101,395</b>	<b>-2,008</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	151	122	121	-1	-1%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Cooperative Forestry</b>					
Forest Stewardship	30,441	22,398	23,036	638	3%
Forest Legacy Program	50,515	50,965	53,000	2,035	4%
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation	1,892	2,000	1,683	-317	-16%
Urban and Community Forestry	30,701	28,040	23,676	-4,364	-16%
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	4,660	0	0	0	0%

**Cooperative Forestry Overview**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$101,395,000 for Cooperative Forestry, a decrease of \$2,008,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

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 Program, Forest Legacy Program, Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program, and the Urban and Community Forestry program.

The Forest Resources Information and Analysis program is shifted to the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation.

**Forest Stewardship Program**

Budget Line Item	Forest Stewardship				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Stewardship					
Annual Appropriations	\$30,441	\$22,398	\$23,036	\$638	3%
<b>Forest Stewardship Total</b>	<b>30,441</b>	<b>22,398</b>	<b>23,036</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>3%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	60	54	54	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Forest Stewardship</b>						
Percentage of nonindustrial private forest acres in important forest resource areas being managed sustainably, as defined by a current Forest Stewardship Plan	2.8%	2.8%	5.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.5%
Acres of nonindustrial private forest land that are being managed sustainably under forest stewardship management plans. (Annual)	1,531,858	1,652,087	1,500,000	2,178,735	1,500,000	1,500,000
Acres of nonindustrial private forest land that are being managed sustainably under forest stewardship management plans. (Cumulative)	21,124,245	21,045,039	22,000,000	20,687,289	20,000,000	21,000,000

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$23,036,000 for the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP), an increase of \$638,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

This program’s focus and impact have been significantly enhanced by the implementation of the completed State Forest Action Plans, better coordination with program delivery partners, landowner peer-to-peer networks, and information technology advances. 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. In addition, State Forest Action Plans help States identify and address opportunities resulting from emerging ecosystem service and biomass energy markets, and focus program assistance to conserve a “green infrastructure” of interconnected, viable forested landscape areas. Efforts will continue to focus program delivery in priority landscape areas, further leverage existing partnerships, and further develop tools for reaching more landowners with limited resources.

The program also extends 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.

**The Landscape Stewardship Approach**



The Landscape Stewardship Approach 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 is also implementing recommendations as a result of 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 used both quantitative and qualitative research methods to evaluate the program including summaries of 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. Recommendations being implemented by the FSP include adopting new performance measures and revising FSP’s National Standards and Guidelines to promote educational and technical assistance activities that were identified in the evaluation as being effective. The FSP plans to continue performing program evaluations to strengthen program effectiveness and find more creative ways to continue reaching forest landowners.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, nationwide, nearly 21 million acres of non-industrial private forest lands were managed according to ongoing, active Forest Stewardship Plans, with nearly 2.2 million acres being added in FY 2013, exceeding FY 2013 targets. Of this total, 12 million acres are within high priority landscape areas identified in State Forest Action Plans, which is an increase of 1.3 million acres over FY 2012. SMART enables us to spatially track program accomplishments with respect to these priority areas and continue progress with State Forest Action Plan implementation. States monitor the implementation of Forest Stewardship Plans using a statistically reliable, nationally consistent, field monitoring program. In FY 2013, monitoring results confirmed that 90 percent of the acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans are being managed as recommended.

The actual number of acres (20,687,279) managed under Forest Stewardship Plans was lower than targeted (22,000,000) because more plans became inactive than was anticipated and State agencies continue to reorganize and adapt programs to target landscapes and priorities that were established with State Forest Action Plans. These adaptations continue to draw resources from individual landowner management plan development. Also, many program focus areas include

different, and perhaps more diverse landowner demographics that require new and innovative outreach and educational tools. In addition, many State programs have been impacted by austerity measures to address budget deficits. 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 together 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 principal 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 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 financial (cost-share program) assistance. The program is focused on process improvements, as demonstrated by the recently adopted Landscape Stewardship approach, 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. The Forest Service will continue its longstanding partnerships with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, 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 a web-based management plan and spatial accomplishment tracking tool, SMART, and the development of a national geodatabase for relating program accomplishments to a variety of landscape management objectives. Because of this unique role, and since the majority of America's forests are privately owned, the FSP is central to fulfilling the Secretary's vision for managing for healthy forests across all-lands.

The FSP helps landowners achieve their forest management objectives. 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 or skills to manage them. Actively managed forests provide timber, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, 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 FSP helps protect these forests and provide support to keep working forests intact. Forest Stewardship Plans 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 and mitigate the risk of wildfire—healthy private forests equal healthier National Forest Systems.

As such, the FSP plays a fundamental role in “keeping forests as forests,” providing places where Americans can reconnect to the outdoors. The program also helps create jobs in rural communities by sustaining local forest products markets and increasing demand for qualified private forestry consultants and State agency field foresters. Additionally, the program helps prepare forest landowners for ecosystem services markets and other incentive programs.

All 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.

#### Allocation and Integration

Program funding 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. Priority landscape areas 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, 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 forest agency partners; thus, the program leverages 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. In FY 2013, the Forest Stewardship Program funded nearly \$24 million in grants to States and other partners that were matched on average, 2:1 by funding and in-kind contributions.

Through the FSP, the Forest Service works regularly with a variety of forest and resource conservation partners including the American Forest Foundation, the Resources First Foundation, the National Woodland Owner Association, and The Nature Conservancy. In one such partnership, the Forest Service is working with the American Forest Foundation in areas

such as the Piney Woods of Wisconsin and the Driftless Area of Wisconsin 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 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 improve 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 implementation of riparian forest buffers to protect water quality, and provides educational, and technical assistance to partners at all levels.

The FSP also provides funding to partner with the National Resources Conservation Service 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 Department of Agriculture (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.

**The National Agroforestry Center**

The National Agroforestry Center (NAC) accelerates the application of agroforestry through a national network of partners. For example, in 2013 NAC developed a series of YouTube videos on forest farming with ramps and mushrooms, in partnership with Virginia Tech University and the Forest Service Southern Research Station. These videos have been incorporated into the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Extension Forest Farming Community of Practice Web site.

Through its Rural Forestry Assistance component, the FSP also supports the Reforestation Nurseries and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Center and Team. RNGR provides assistance to Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and private nurseries, supplying them with the latest technical information, thereby supporting an extensive network for seedling production. RNGR is delivered in close coordination with USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service's Plant Material Centers and is focused 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.

**Forest Legacy Program**

Budget Line Item	Forest Legacy Program				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Legacy Program					
Annual Appropriations	\$50,515	\$50,965	\$53,000	\$2,035	4%
<b>Forest Legacy Program Total</b>	<b>50,515</b>	<b>50,965</b>	<b>53,000</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>4%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	24	24	24	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Forest Legacy Program</b>						
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion (Annual accomplishment for Discretionary funds)	149,911	52,999	128,000	87,927	85,000	90,000
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion (Annual accomplishment for Mandatory funds)	0	0	0	0	0	80,000
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion (Cumulative)	2,210,563	2,275,320	2,410,320	2,362,577	2,447,577	2,617,577
Parcelization of forests avoided (number of parcels prevented) (Discretionary funds)	3,822	2,361	5,203	2,854	2,872	2,846
Parcelization of forests avoided (number of parcels prevented) (Mandatory funds)	0	0	0	0	0	5,535

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$53,000,000 in discretionary funds, an increase of \$2,035,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. In addition, the request includes \$47,000,000 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 fiscal year 2015. Starting in 2016, \$900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding, comprised of \$550 million in permanent and \$350 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

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, FLP helps to create and maintain rural jobs and ensure a robust forest infrastructure.

The increased funding for Forest Legacy 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.

In planning for FY 2015, 32 States submitted 56 proposed projects, totaling more than \$156 million, to the Forest Service for funding consideration by the national selection panel. 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 2015, 44 projects are proposed for funding. Refer to the *FY 2015 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects* at the end of this section. The FY 2015 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 the FLP program was authorized, a total of 2.36 million acres has been protected across the country. These acres include approximately 175,000 acres of bodies of water and 3,100 miles of streams. In FY 2013, FLP completed 14 conservation easements and 10 fee simple tract purchases, leveraging \$42,470,000 of Federal funds with \$26,100,000 of partner funds to protect a total of 87,927 acres. Completed acres in FY 2013 are lower than the FY 2013 target of 128,000 acres due to the unpredictable nature of real estate negotiations, often lengthening the project completion timeline. In addition to the unpredictable nature of real estate transactions, FLP projects typically take about two years to close, resulting in a time lag between annual funding and the accomplishments. In addition to the normal challenges faced for any project, two projects failed when the landowners chose to withdraw from the program. The first project was Preparation Canyon in Iowa. The project was funded in 2010 and totaled 1,678 acres, but in FY 2013 the property owners (a Boy Scout Council) changed Board members and they decided not to proceed with the conveyance of a conservation easement. The second project was the North Idaho Timber Communities project. The project was funded in 2011 and was 1,415 acres. In FY 2013, the landowner decided he no longer wanted to convey an interest in his property. Since the program operates on a willing buyer-willing seller basis, these types of situations arise periodically. They are difficult to predict and thus affect target achievement. The agency will continue to work to match program goals and targets as closely as possible with expected project completions.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

Through FLP, the Forest Service partners with the State lead agency, private landowners, and other conservation partners such as The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund and other local and regional conservation organizations to protect environmentally critical forests threatened by land conversion through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases, thereby protecting vital forest resources and keeping working forests intact. Projects are evaluated by a panel in order to fund the highest priority land conservation areas. Funds for the FLP are provided through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

More than 50 percent (over 420 million acres) of our Nation's forests are privately owned. Family forest owners and timber companies are facing increasing pressure to sell, subdivide, and develop their land. Protection of private forests through the FLP helps provide them 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, which increases 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, ecosystem services, and products that forests provide. 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 key to ensuring resiliency to impacts of a changing climate on resource conditions.

### Allocation and Integration

FLP projects are nominated through a two-stage competitive process (State-level identification and approval, and a national review and ranking), resulting in high-quality projects supported both locally and nationally. Each project is ranked using three 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—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

To date, 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 2015 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects**

Priority Rank	State	Project Name	Request
Administrative Funds			\$6,400,000
1	MT	Haskill Basin Watershed Project	7,000,000
2	ID	Hall Mountain	2,700,000
3	TX	Bobcat Ridge	2,370,000
4	AZ	Turkey Creek Canyon	2,400,000
5	OH	Little Smokies	1,285,000
6	ID	Clagstone Meadows	5,500,000
7	VT	Dowsville Headwaters	2,500,000
8	GA	Paulding County Land Area	3,000,000
9	NC	East Fork of French Broad Headwater Phase II	3,500,000
10	ME	Gulf Hagas Whitecap	1,700,000
11	UT	Zion-Orderville Gulch	2,500,000
12	WI	Wild Waters Working Forest	2,500,000
13	CA	Ryan Creek Conservation Easement	1,200,000
14	OR	Hood River Forest and Fish Conservation	3,000,000
15	WA	South Puget Sound Coastal Forest	4,000,000
16	VA	Upper Rappahannock River Valley	1,085,000
17	CT	Whip-Poor-Will Woods	360,000
<b>Subtotal, Discretionary</b>			<b>53,000,000</b>
18	CT	Whip-Poor-Will Woods-remainder of total recommended funding	2,145,000
19	CO	Sawtooth Mountain	3,000,000
20	CA	P-2 McCloud Working Forest Easement	2,300,000
21	SC	Liberty Hill Phase II	2,000,000
22	VT	Groton Forest Legacy Initiative	2,500,000
23	CA	Rainbow Ridge Wherit Conservation Easement	650,000
24	TN	Sherwood Forest	3,000,000
25	TN	Carter Mountain Project	1,520,000
26	UT	Zion North Fork	1,000,000
27	WA	Pysht Coastal Forest Phase 2	2,000,000
28	HI	Helemano Wilderness Area	3,000,000
29	NY	Rensselaer Plateau Working Forest Phase I	755,000
30	HI	Hoomau Ranch	1,800,000
31	FL	Silver Springs Watershed	3,250,000
32	ME	Big Six Forest	3,500,000
33	MA	Connecticut to Quabbin Reservoir	1,800,000
34	VT	Windham Region Working Forest	1,500,000

**FY 2015 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects**

<b>Priority Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Request</b>
35	OR	West Klamath Lake Forest	2,900,000
36	MT	Clear Creek Conservation Project	595,000
37	NH	Oliverian Valley	510,000
38	PA	The Northeast Connection	1,500,000
39	NC	Poison Fork Forest	750,000
40	AR	Wye Mountain Headwaters	1,900,000
41	MI	Pilgrim River Forest	700,000
42	FL	Ocala National Forest Wildlife Corridor	1,200,000
43	NC	Chesson Longleaf Forest	225,000
44	MN	Lake Alexander	1,000,000
		<b>Subtotal, Mandatory</b>	<b>47,000,000</b>
		<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$100,000,000</b>

**Community Forest and Open Space Conservation**

Budget Line Item	Community Forest and Open Space Conservation				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation					
Annual Appropriations	\$1,892	\$2,000	\$1,683	-\$317	-16%
<b>Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Total</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>-317</b>	<b>-16%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1	1	1	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 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 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

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 Forest Service will use the FY 2015 funds to monitor previously funded projects and fund additional community forest projects. These funds will also ensure the agency has capacity to continue implementation of this program.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2012, the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) issued its first request for applications, received applications, and selected 10 CFP projects from across the country, awarding \$3.5 million in grants. In FY 2013, three new project grants were awarded, totaling \$1.05 million. Grants are awarded for an initial two-year period. As such, there may be a time delay before projects close and accomplishments can be reported. To date, six projects have been completed, totaling almost 2,000 acres in community forests that have been protected throughout the country.

The CFP program was authorized in 2008 and has received funding each year from FY 2010 through FY 2014. Funding from all of these years was used to fund 13 projects selected to-date.

The final implementation regulations were issued October 14, 2011. These regulations outlined application requirements as well as the standard selection criteria used by the Forest Service to manage the national competitive process to prioritize and fund CFP projects.

**Program Description**

Program Overview

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, related jobs, and clean drinking water, (2) environmental benefits, including clean water and wildlife habitat, (3) educational benefits from forest-based programs, including vocational education programs in forestry, (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. It plays a key role in the President’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative by 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.

**Barre Town Forest**

In 2013, the Town of Barre in Vermont was able to acquire the Barre Town Forest as a result of the CFP. The Barre Town Forest is a popular attraction well-known for its trail network by locals and out of town visitors. A University of Vermont report estimates that in 2015 the Town Forest will be visited by 10,500 visitors from out of the area and who are estimated to spend \$640,000 locally for goods and services, supporting 20 jobs. The CFP contributed \$400,000 for this project and leveraged nearly twice that amount from a variety of other public and private sources for a total of \$1.37 million. The Trust for Public Land facilitated the Town’s acquisition of the land from the Rock of Ages Corp. and other private owners and played a key role in project development and successful completion.

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.

The CFP complements but 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, 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

Project ranking and selection criteria include: 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. The current Request for Applications requires applications to be submitted to the Forest Service by February 17, 2014. Projects will then be selected through a competitive process and grants will be issued to selected recipients.

### 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 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Urban and Community Forestry					
Annual Appropriations	\$30,701	\$28,040	\$23,676	-\$4,364	-16%
<b>Urban and Community Forestry Total</b>	<b>30,701</b>	<b>28,040</b>	<b>23,676</b>	<b>-4,364</b>	<b>-16%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	44	43	42	-1	-2%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-2%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Urban and Community Forestry</b>						
Percentage of people living in communities managing programs to plant, protect, and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	44.0%	46.2%	43.0%	47.0%	46.0%	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.	33.0%	31.0%	34.0%	31.2%	31.0%	31.0%

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$23,676,000 for the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program, a decrease of \$4,364,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

With the proposed FY 2015 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. U&CF will work to optimize the social, economic, 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 place special emphasis on landscape scale demonstration projects that have regional and national significance for urban and community forest management across landscapes.

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 climate change. Recent events have reinforced our knowledge

that our communities and economy remain vulnerable to extreme weather and natural hazards. For that reason, the President’s 2015 Budget includes a new \$1 billion Climate Resilience Fund. Through this Fund, the President proposes that we:

- Invest in research and unlock data and information to better understand the projected impacts of climate change and how we can better prepare our communities and infrastructure.
- Help communities plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change and encourage local measures to reduce future risk.
- Fund breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure that will make us more resilient in the face of changing climate. The Urban and Community Forestry program is part of this effort as improving community trees and forests helps remove carbon from the air, reduce the need for stormwater treatment, mitigate flooding and provide other ecosystem services.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, U&CF provided assistance to 7,292 communities, exceeding the USDA Strategic Plan target of 7,200 communities. Through these efforts, the program reached a total of 198 million people, over 60 percent of the population of the U.S. This assistance helped communities develop and maintain urban forestry programs, which protect their urban trees and forests. As a result of assistance provided by this program, in FY 2013, 47 percent of people in the U.S. are living in communities that are managing programs to protect and maintain their urban forests, exceeding the target of 43 percent. Additionally, in FY 2013 over 31 percent of people in the U.S. are living in communities that are developing programs to protect and maintain their urban forests, which is three percentage points below the target of 34 percent. This decrease can be attributed to more communities transitioning from developing urban and community forestry programs to managing urban and community forestry programs.

This program has also helped to ensure that people in the U.S. are living in communities that are healthier and more livable. The U&CF program continued to work with State forestry agencies and other partners to assist communities in developing and advancing their urban forestry programs. Funding is provided to the highest priority activities that can demonstrate results in a transparent manner.

**Program Description**

Program Overview

U&CF assists cities, suburbs, and towns across the country in improving the condition of community trees and forests. U&CF program investments are critical to reaching a majority of Americans, including minority and underserved

**Strategic Tree Planting for Energy Conservation**



U&CF is partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation to deliver this national cost-share grant program to support tree planting for energy conservation and carbon sequestration. This program leverages support from electric utility companies to fund the strategic planting of trees and promotes public-private partnerships between utilities and community organizations. Currently there are nine electric utility companies participating in the program with nearly 17,000 trees planted in the fall of 2013.

communities, in order to connect them to their natural heritage and ensure that our Nation's public and private forests remain relevant to the next generation—over 80 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 quality of life. For example, Forest Service research has found that street trees in Minneapolis, Minnesota, save \$9.1 million in stormwater treatments annually<sup>13</sup>. 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<sup>14</sup>. The U&CF leverages State and other partner resources to ensure that communities across the country continue to protect and their urban forests and the economic and health benefits they provide.

Research has shown that the presence of healthy trees encourages outdoor activity among children and adults, improving physical health and lowering stress. Our youth are increasingly disconnected from nature. While children have historically spent a great deal of their childhoods outdoors, their environments have become increasingly urbanized in recent decades. The single most important factor in developing personal concern for the environment was positive experiences in the outdoors during childhood according to recent scientific research<sup>15</sup>. Investments in the U&CF program that connect youth to the outdoors are critical to our Nation's future. Over the past three decades childhood obesity rates have tripled and today's more urbanized youth spend 50 percent less time outdoors than they did 20 years ago. A shift toward a sedentary lifestyle is a major contributor to the decline in children's health. Creating opportunities for youth to engage with nature also has been shown to have other positive benefits, including an improvement in advanced motor fitness; an improvement in the ability to concentrate for children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and improved powers of observation and creativity.

### 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.

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.

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<sup>13</sup> 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](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/rb/rb_nrs47.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> "City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Municipal Tree Resource Analysis." Center for Urban Forest Research, USDA Forest Service, Pacifica Southwest Research Station, June 2005. Web.

<sup>15</sup> Palmer, J. (1993) Development of Concern for the Environment and Formative Experience of Educators. *Journal of Environmental Education* 24:26-30.

U&CF works with Forest Service Research & Development to develop, disseminate, and support i-Tree, an urban and community forest benefits assessment and management software. The i-Tree is a state-of-the-art software tool designed to help communities of all sizes to 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 has had over 12,000 unique users across all 50 States and 100 different countries. 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

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, 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 includes 14 Federal agencies, including USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Interior, and the 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.

**Forest Resources Information and Analysis**

Budget Line Item	Forest Resources Information and Analysis				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Resources Information and Analysis					
Annual Appropriations	\$4,660	0	0	0	0%
<b>Forest Resources Information and Analysis Total</b>	<b>4,660</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	22	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget continues the consolidation of the Forest Resources Information and Analysis program within the Forest and Rangeland Research (Forest Service R&D) appropriation, as approved in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funding to support implementation of Forest Inventory and Analysis activities will be provided entirely within Forest Service R&D.

**Program Description**

For more information on Program Changes, Program Description, and Past Performance, refer to the Forest and Rangeland Research Chapter.

**International Forestry**

Budget Line Item	International Forestry				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
International Forestry					
Annual Appropriations	\$7,570	\$8,000	0	-\$8,000	-100%
<b>International Forestry Total</b>	<b>7,570</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-8,000</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	30	30	0	-30	-100%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-100%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget does not propose a budget line for the International Forestry program. 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, economic growth, preventing illegal logging, and national security. Also, the program addresses several critical domestic natural resource conservation issues, including protecting the Nation from non-native invasive species as well as conserving habitat for U.S. migratory species of high importance.

The Forest Service, through its International Forestry programs, acts as an advocate for U.S. interests abroad and engages with countless governmental and nongovernmental partners to share best practices. As the Nation continues to be one of the world’s largest traders in forest products and a leader in sustainable forest management, active engagement abroad is a smart policy to safeguard national interests.

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, 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**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>National Forest System</b>				
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>				
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$1,455,341	\$1,496,330	\$1,640,484	\$144,154	10%
<b>National Forest System Total</b>	<b>1,455,341</b>	<b>1,496,330</b>	<b>1,640,484</b>	<b>144,154</b>	<b>10%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	11,097	11,169	11,247	78	1%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>11,097</b>	<b>11,169</b>	<b>11,247</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>					
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	820,000	820,000	0%
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	37,885	40,000	60,000	20,000	50%
Restoration Partnerships	0	2,000	0	-2,000	-100%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	183,928	183,928	0%
Land Management Planning	37,203	37,754	0	-37,754	-100%
Inventory and Monitoring	150,652	151,019	0	-151,019	-100%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	261,932	261,719	259,090	-2,629	-1%
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	130,887	140,466	0	-140,466	-100%
Grazing Management	51,568	55,356	49,600	-5,756	-10%
Forest Products	318,280	339,130	0	-339,130	-100%
Vegetation & Watershed Management	172,173	184,716	0	-184,716	-100%
Minerals and Geology Management	77,716	76,423	70,566	-5,857	-8%
Landownership Management	79,869	77,730	71,440	-6,290	-8%
Law Enforcement Operations	133,984	126,653	125,860	-793	-1%
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,192	3,364	0	-3,364	-100%

**National Forest System Overview**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$1,640,484,000 for the National Forest System (NFS), an increase of \$144,154,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The Administration has worked this year to analyze and develop a strategy to address catastrophic fire risk. There are three main challenges which 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. This budget makes hard choices to support important activities while maximizing the Forest Service’s ability to address the three main challenges with wildland fire noted above. This resulted in reductions in some programs to increase or maintain funding in others.

The NFS appropriation provides funds for the stewardship and management of over 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. The FY 2015 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 ecological restoration through collaborative approaches to address fire and fuels, invasive species, and watershed degradation; engage communities to help Americans reconnect to the outdoors, expand on recreation benefits, and create a wide range of opportunities for economic expansion to retain and create jobs; and to partner with communities and fellow 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, driving for pleasure, 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 NFS lands. 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 NFS lands requires 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.

### Climate Resilience Fund

The President believes that we must do more to help communities across the country become more resilient to the effects of climate change. Recent events have reinforced our knowledge that our communities and economy remain vulnerable to extreme weather and natural hazards. For that reason, the FY 2015 President's Budget will include a new \$1 billion Climate Resilience Fund. Through this Fund, the President proposes that we:

- invest in research and unlock data and information to better understand the projected impacts of climate change and how we can better prepare our communities and infrastructure,
- help communities plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change and encourage local measures to reduce future risk, and

- fund breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure that will make us more resilient in the face of changing climate.

Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) and the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CLFRP) are important programs for creating healthier forests that will make communities, landscapes and watersheds more resilient to climate change.

Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR)

The FY 2015 President’s Budget continues to emphasize IRR as the leading approach to accomplish on-the-ground restoration. In FY 2015, IRR is expanded beyond the pilot to full implementation to meet the 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.

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 2015 President’s Budget proposed funding level to previous years as if IRR was previously approved, by adding the amounts of the legacy BLIs.

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

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Comparable Basis	FY 2014 Comparable Basis	Change	FY 2015 Pres. Bud
NFS	Integrated Resource Restoration (max total to IRR) <sup>1,2</sup>	[\$138,041]	[\$170,000] <sup>3</sup>	\$820,000	\$820,000
NFS	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Mgmt.	130,887	140,466	(140,466)	-
NFS	Forest Products	318,280	\$339,130	(339,130)	-
NFS	Vegetation and Watershed Management	172,173	\$184,716	(184,716)	-
CIM	Legacy Roads and Trails	39,814	\$35,000	(35,000)	-
WFM	Hazardous Fuels non-Wildland Urban Interface <sup>4</sup>	75,264	76,625	(76,625)	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$756,324</b>	<b>\$775,937</b>	<b>\$44,063</b>	<b>\$820,000</b>

1. Integrated Resource Restoration in FY 2012 to FY 2014 is a pilot program in Regions 1, 3, and 4.  
 2. The FY 2013 Continuing Resolution and the 2014 Appropriations Act allowed the Forest Service to transfer “up to” these amounts to the IRR Pilot Program.  
 3. FY 2014 amount includes cost pool expenses calculated with the actual Direct Labor Hours charged in the previous year.  
 4. Figures calculated as 25% of total Hazardous Fuels BLI.

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring

The President’s Budget proposes a consolidated budget line item (BLI) to facilitate an integrated approach to landscape management. We propose to merge the current BLIs of 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 BLI 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, which 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 affected by, or influencing, 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 BLI.

The proposed budget structure improves accountability within the activities funded and facilitates a more complete alignment with other BLIs that fund agency information management activities by reducing the complexity of agency budgeting and accounting structures. Accountability is improved through 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)*

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Bud</b>
NFS	Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring	-	-	\$183,928	\$183,928
NFS	Land Management Planning	37,203	37,754	(37,754)	-
NFS	Inventory and Monitoring	150,652	151,019	(151,019)	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$187,855</b>	<b>\$188,773</b>	<b>(\$4,845)</b>	<b>\$183,928</b>

**Integrated Resource Restoration**

Budget Line Item	Integrated Resource Restoration				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Integrated Resource Restoration					
Annual Appropriations	0	0	\$820,000	\$820,000	0%
<b>Integrated Resource Restoration Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>820,000</b>	<b>820,000</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	0	5,473	5,473	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,473</b>	<b>5,473</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Integrated Resource Restoration</b>						
Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class	0	9	10	12	15	26
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	2,624,016	2,569,617	2,288,000	2,533,121	2,700,000	2,700,000
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	3,878	3,704	2,750	4,168	3,262	3,262
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	2,533	2,644	2,475	2,610	2,800	3,100
Miles of roads decommissioned	1,540	2,103	1,936	1,490	1,200	2,000

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

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget continues to emphasize Integrated Resource Restoration (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 toolbox to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, improve water quality and quantity and increase carbon sequestration.

The IRR budget line item (BLI) 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 BLI and Legacy Roads and Trails, and the road decommissioning activity from the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Appropriation.

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$820,000,000 for IRR as a single BLI. National authority to consolidate these BLIs was not provided in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act; however, the agency was provided with continuing limited authority under a pilot program.

The FY 2014 pilot authority includes Regions 1, 3, and 4, and funding transfer authority up to \$170,000,000 from the traditional BLIs. IRR includes activities accomplished through previous BLIs 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 has provided preliminary validation of the benefits that would be derived from nation-wide IRR authority including:

- increased ability to achieve integrated outcomes at the landscape scale,
- a reduced administrative burden within IRR regions, and
- previously separate programs working better together to achieve shared restoration goals.

**Integrated Resource Restoration Consolidated Budget Line Items**

*(dollars in thousands)*

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2013 Pilot*</b>	<b>FY 2014 Pilot**</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>FY 2015 President's Budget</b>
NFS	Integrated Resource Restoration	-	-	\$820,000	\$820,000
NFS	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Mgmt.	24,198	31,000	(31,000)	-
NFS	Forest Products	42,227	53,000	(53,000)	-
NFS	Vegetation and Watershed Management	40,206	50,000	(50,000)	-
CIM	Legacy Roads and Trails	11,502	12,000	(12,000)	-
WFM	Hazardous Fuels Non-Wildland Urban Interface	19,907	24,000	(24,000)	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$138,040</b>	<b>\$170,000</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>\$820,000</b>

*Note: Integrated Resource Restoration in FY 2012 to FY 2014 is a pilot program in Regions 1, 3, and 4.  
 \*The FY 2013 pilot amounts are the amounts authorized for transfer in the FY 2013 Operating Plan.  
 \*\*The FY 2014 Appropriations Act allows the Forest Service to transfer "up to" these amounts to the IRR Pilot Program. The actual amounts to be transferred still need to be determined. / FY 2014 amount includes cost pool expenses calculated with the actual Direct Labor Hours charged in the previous year.*

Investing in IRR in FY 2015 is expected to result in 2,700,000 watershed acres treated, 3.1 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. An estimated 26 watersheds will be restored to a higher condition class in FY 2015. An additional 76 watersheds are expected to be improved in FY 2016, up significantly from the four watersheds improved in FY 2011, the first year of this new outcome performance measure. This trend in additional watersheds improved represents the refocusing of restoration efforts towards the most important areas within the priority watersheds as well as the further maturation of the watershed restoration action plan components of the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF).

The FY 2015 President's Budget does not propose a separate funding level for the Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses account. The Forest Service will continue to meet its responsibilities under the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Critical subsistence management related components will be achieved through other National Forest System funds, including IRR, that complement the objectives of the subsistence program. This approach will continue to provide vital employment in isolated rural communities where opportunities are severely limited, as local residents are typically hired to monitor fish and wildlife populations.

## **Using Evidence and Evaluation**

### *IRR—Third Party Monitoring Implementation*

The IRR budgeting tool is intended to provide the Forest Service with flexibility to conduct integrated restoration and represents one of the most significant changes in the budgeting system of the Forest Service in decades. Critical to the success of the IRR pilot is the identification and communication of the impacts that IRR is having on increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of integrated restoration. A third-party evaluation of the IRR tool and its effects is currently being conducted to provide information to the Forest Service, Congress, and stakeholders on effectiveness, efficiencies, and areas of improvement.

### *National Best Management Practices (BMP) Program*

In 2012, the Forest Service initiated the National BMP Program to advance the Agency's compliance with management of nonpoint source pollution at local, regional, and national scales, and to address the new planning rule requirement for national BMPs (36 CFR 219.8(a)(4)). The intent of putting a system of national BMPs in place is to use a nationally standardized program that applies an adaptive management strategy in order to improve consistency, comparability, and accountability of implementation and effectiveness of BMPs across all national forests and grasslands. Prior to development of this program, the Forest Service did not have a method to document or report on our actions to protect water quality during implementation of ground disturbing activities.

The National BMP Program consists of four main components: 1) the National Core BMP Technical Guide; 2) the National Core BMP Monitoring Technical Guide; 3) revised national direction; and 4) a national data management and reporting system. To develop a program that applies nationally, the BMPs are written in broad, non-prescriptive terms, focusing on "what to do," not "how to do it." Applicable state and local requirements and BMP programs, Forest Service regional guidance, and unit Land Management Plans are expected to provide evidence based criteria for site specific BMP prescriptions. This approach recognizes the importance of existing State and Tribal BMPs and provides for the integration of the national program with those existing BMPs. The National Core BMP monitoring protocols are designed to determine whether the BMPs are being implemented as planned and whether they are effective in protecting water quality. An interim BMP monitoring database will be used to manage the data until a corporate data management and reporting system can be developed. This allows the

agency to assess and report at all scales, develop adaptive management responses at all scales, and document the results of our actions implemented to protect water quality.

### **Past Performance**

In FY 2012, the Forest Service received authorization to pilot the Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) Program for a period of three years (FY 2012 through FY 2014). Forest Service Regions 1, 3, and 4 were selected for the pilot program which facilitates and supports an integrated approach to land management that maintains, enhances, or restores watersheds at the landscape level to improve their resilience.

The primary outcome measure associated with IRR is the number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class. There are 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. Not only are the output indicators representative of the type of work conducted but these measures were also chosen because the public recognizes them and has been interested in the Forest Service's progress toward meeting historical targets in these outputs. IRR works toward this outcome and associated outputs, in part, by consolidating funding previously in several other BLIs (e.g., wildlife and fisheries habitat management, forest products, vegetation and watershed management, non-WUI hazardous fuels, and legacy roads and trails, including road decommissioning activity) to implement treatments deemed most necessary within a landscape. The Forest Service evaluated the operational efficiencies of IRR in FY 2012 and will again be preparing a summary of FY 2013 operations. Regions 1, 3, and 4 have and will continue to evaluate operational efficiencies of IRR through FY 2014 in part through:

- three to five case studies showcasing accomplishments, successes, and challenges of implementing IRR,
- examples of combining focus and funding with CFLRP projects to advance on-the-ground restoration through community-based collaboration,
- descriptions of how consolidation of multiple BLIs affected programs/activities/project selection, and
- advantages and disadvantages of a consolidated BLI.

The evaluations will be used to summarize each region's accomplishments. The information will also be used to evaluate and improve the application of IRR and will be communicated to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in the IRR Pilot Program Accountability report.

Nationally, all units used the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) to assess the condition class of the 15,000 watersheds containing significant portions of National Forest System (NFS) lands. Almost 6,000 of these watersheds are located within the IRR pilot regions. As of FY 2013, a total of 300 watersheds were selected as priorities for restoration with 259 currently having established watershed restoration action plans. The watersheds will continue to be assessed using the WCF, and the number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class will be reported annually. The next complete assessment is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2015. At that time, we anticipate that the terrestrial condition assessment process will also be implemented to more completely assess terrestrial conditions as part of the evaluation process.

The overall FY 2013 accomplishments for IRR are listed below for:

- number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class,
- acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience,
- miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced,
- volume of timber sold, and
- miles of road decommissioned.

Number of watersheds moved to an improved condition class (120 percent of the target accomplished). In FY 2013 the agency moved 12 watersheds to an improved condition which represents a significant accomplishment toward the outcome of healthy and resilient watersheds. As an outcome measure, the annual accomplishment 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. These are blueprints for the work that needs to be implemented in order for conditions to improve. They vary in complexity, but all are multi-year plans that require a focused approach to complete. In FY 2013, half of the watersheds moved to an improved condition class were in designated IRR regions. This was three more watersheds improved than were improved in FY 2012. This trend in additional watersheds improved represented the refocusing of restoration efforts towards the most important areas within the

**Watershed Condition Framework**

The Forest Service has established a framework to guide the improvement of watershed health on national forests and grasslands. The WCF is 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.

Watersheds were classified using a core set of 12 indicators. These indicators identify elements to be addressed to maintain a watershed's condition class or move it to an improved condition class, and track changed watershed condition aspects over time.

The classification of 15,000 sub-watersheds and the identification of over 200 priority watersheds were completed in FY 2011. The initial assessment determined that 52 percent (7,882) of watersheds were Class 1 – Good, 45 percent (6,751) were Class 2 - Fair, and 3 percent (431) were Class 3 - Poor. In FY 2012, Step C, the development of the watershed action plans designed to move priority watersheds to an improved condition class, focused on the high priority watersheds. Integrated project implementation began in FY 2012 and will continue through FY 2015 and beyond. As implementation has proceeded, the number of priority watersheds has grown to 300 watersheds in FY 2013. More information is available on the internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed>

priority watersheds as well as the further maturation of the watershed restoration action plan components of the WCF.

Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience (111 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013 the agency treated 2,533,121 acres but, more importantly, the agency is seeing continual performance improvements over the past couple years which are attributable to integrated budgeting. Further, Forest Service programs which would have historically pursued programmatic goals have improved their level of collaboration to achieve over-arching watershed-based goals outlined in the watershed restoration action plans. These two programmatic aspects are clearly demonstrating the successes of a collaborative and integrated approach and the necessity of doing so to sustain an accelerated pace of watershed restoration.



Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced (152 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013 the agency restored 4,168 miles of stream habitat. This was 464 more stream miles than in FY 2012 and reflects the advantages of integrated planning and the effective use of partnerships to increase the pace of restoration. This accomplishment enhanced critical 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.

The cumulative accomplishments associated with this measure are a critical component of our threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) aquatic species restoration. Expanding the available habitat is making TES less susceptible to impacts associated with catastrophic events such as climate change, wildfire, or flood damage. In FY 2013 there were 273 stream crossings improved to provide for fish passage, this was similar to the 275 improved in FY 2012. The removal of aquatic organism passage barriers significantly expands the potential range available to these TES species, which may be limited to isolated, short segments of streams, often limited to as little as a half-mile of a stream or less, making them highly vulnerable to increasing temperatures or catastrophic impacts of climate change related factors such as wildfires or flood damage that can significantly alter habitat.

Other work accomplished that was particularly beneficial to aquatic TES habitat includes the reconstruction of stream channels and the enhancement of riparian habitat. Target accomplishments continue to be on an upward trend that reflects integrated restoration and effective partnerships. This work has also been important to recreational fishing which provides angling opportunities to over 15 million users annually on NFS lands. These anglers spent over \$2.2 billion, supporting 57,700 jobs and \$264 million in federal income tax revenues.

The restoration efforts of the IRR program are critical in maintaining strong fish and wildlife populations important to the American public. Across the U.S., hunters, anglers and wildlife viewers combined spent \$7.7 billion for their activities and equipment used for Forest Service related recreation on NFS lands. These expenditures supported 189,000 jobs and \$878 million in federal income tax receipts (Report prepared by American Sportfishing Association for the Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Staff, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, January 3, 2007, pg. 8).

**Tongass National Forest Watersheds Economic Contribution to Local Economies**



Alaska's commercial salmon harvest had another banner year in 2013, with a record harvest of 219 million pink salmon, providing significant contributions to local economies. Almost half of the pink salmon harvested originate from the temperate rain forest streams of the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. The State's sustainable commercial fishing regulations and the Tongass National Forest's largely healthy watersheds and stream habitat contribute to the production of these prolific wild pink salmon populations. A 2011 economic study valued Southeast Alaskan salmon at \$986 million, a figure expected to be surpassed with the 2013 record-breaking salmon harvest, including the combined commercial, recreational, and unique subsistence fishery in Alaska.

Volume of timber sold (*107 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, the agency prepared and sold 2.61 billion board feet using IRR funding, forest products appropriations and permanent and trust funds. The estimated target for volume of timber sold in FY 2013 was 2.47 billion board feet. This figure differs from the planned FY 2013 President's Budget Justification estimated target level of 2.8 billion board feet due to the reduction in funding appropriated in FY 2013.

Actual accomplishments can be attributed to the wide range of variables that are included in estimated volume of timber sold, such as unforeseen incidents and other unpredictable events (e.g. fires, floods, windfall, and litigation). The Forest Service to a degree is also becoming more efficient through an all-lands restoration approach and collaboration with partners, Federal, state, and local agencies, and Tribes in achieving restoration and maintenance activities.

Timber harvest also makes important contributions to rural economies; each year forest products from NFS lands contribute approximately 42,000 jobs and \$2.7 billion to the national economy.

Miles of road decommissioned (*77 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013 the agency decommissioned a total of 1,490 miles of roads, 45 percent of which were funded through IRR or Legacy Roads and Trails funding. The overall accomplishment for this measure is closely tied to the extent of travel management plan implementation in the field. That is, where travel management plans are being implemented, there is a clear plan and support for the decommissioning of roads and the work is being accomplished. Since travel management plans continue to be implemented, there is a clear path for improvement over the coming years.

Additionally, the agency also maintained 928 miles of roads, improved 176 miles of roads, repaired or replaced three bridges or major culverts, maintained 365 miles of trails, and improved 48 miles of trails with IRR and Legacy Roads and Trails funding. All of these accomplishments, including the road decommissioning work, make key contributions to our restoration goals by addressing the environmental impacts from our transportation systems. Work was targeted to mitigate conditions that were causing water quality issues adversely affecting threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or impacting community water systems. These accomplishments also contribute directly to achieving resource restoration goals.

## **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, vegetation management, timber 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 is all traditional work activities associated with investments, management, and services that occurred under the previous individual BLIs 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 national forests and grasslands is critically necessary to address threats to health and safety of America's forest-dependent communities and watersheds. 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-wildland-urban interface (non-WUI) areas, road decommissioning, and activities previously accomplished under the Legacy Roads and Trails, and Rehabilitation and Restoration programs.

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 TES. 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 WCF. The WCF is used interactively to identify where 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 travel management analysis and to reduce the impact of unneeded systems by putting roads into long term storage for future use to protect water quality and other resources such as wildlife, fish, and plant communities.

By combining the budget authority of multiple land management programs into one BLI, we gain administrative efficiency by reducing accounting codes for a given project, and flexibility to schedule multiple resource management activities at one time, 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 a critically 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. 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 TES 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.

As regions compile and analyze data from Watershed Restoration Action Plans we estimate that regional allocations to implement these Action Plans will amount to 20 percent or more of total IRR funding. 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, the National Fish and Wildlife

Foundation (NFWF), the National Forest Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wildlife Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

In FY 2013 external partners helped the agency complete over 6,600 fish and wildlife projects on national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service investment of \$16.5 million of NFWF related funds was matched with the dollar and in-kind value of partner contributions totaling nearly \$181 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 support landscape restoration that supports ecosystem services such as clean water provided by NFS lands, which provide the drinking water supply for approximately one-fifth of U.S. communities. 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).

The Forest Service has also entered into partnership agreements with several organizations; including American Forests, the National Arbor Day Foundation, the National Forest Foundation, and the National Garden Clubs, and businesses to increase the amount of NFS lands receiving reforestation treatments following wildfires and other natural events.

**Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration**

Budget Line Item	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration					
Annual Appropriations	\$37,885	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$20,000	50%
<b>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Total</b>	<b>37,885</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>50%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	238	238	238	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration</b>						
Acres of forest vegetation established	5,537	20,906	5,700	15,539	19,400	24,250
Acres of forest vegetation improved	20,561	34,591	95,000	67,511	173,200	167,500
Acres of noxious weeds and invasive plants treated	11,393	19,478	20,900	18,180	24,700	30,875
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	38	298	220	111	222	244
Acres of terrestrial habitat enhanced	167,263	182,046	331,000	398,231	382,000	420,200
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	121.3	216.0	352.0	379.0	420.0	462.0
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	267,890	354,906	797,500	756,882	534,900	601,500
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	77,133	142,661	300,300	277,966	304,500	380,625
Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the Wildland Urban interface to reduce risk of catastrophic fire	45,884	114,758	164,600	141,912	197,300	246,625
Miles of roads decommissioned	50	169	350	152	555	243
Miles of passenger car system road reconstruction and capital improvement	25	89	425	120	229	229
Miles of high clearance system road reconstruction and capital improvement	40	56	212	137	87	120

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

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$60,000,000 for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), an increase of \$20,000,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service’s toolbox to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, improve water quality and quantity and increase carbon sequestration.

The FY 2015 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 2015. As the new projects are selected and begin to implement treatments on the ground, we expect outputs to increase; primarily in FY 2016 and beyond.

This additional capacity will also allow the Agency to continue to encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability and re-establish natural fire regimes that reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires. 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.

Project activities 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 2015 existing projects and emphasis areas are listed in the following table and described below.

**FY 2015 CFLRP Projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Forest(s)</b>
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 and Valles Caldera National Preserve
Zuni Mountain CFLRP	3	Cibola NF
Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters CFLRP	4	Payette NF
Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project	5	Sierra NF

Project Name	Region	Forest(s)
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 2015 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 project will treat hazardous fuels near communities to enhance safety, and generate forest products to support local economies. The project team will also begin planning for future year restoration treatments.

Selway-Middle Fork

The Selway-Middle Fork project, located on the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Bitterroot National Forests, will significantly improve watershed health through the decommissioning of roads and maintenance of trails. In addition, restoration thinning activities will enhance habitat for terrestrial species as well as generate forest products such as timber and biomass to support local communities.

Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative

This project, located on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, will include a diverse work portfolio, and will have a large impact on landscape scale ecosystem health. Projects implemented this year will include prescribed burning, habitat improvement, fuels reduction, invasive plant management, culvert upgrades, fish passage/culvert replacement, road decommissioning, road maintenance, pre-commercial thinning, reforestation, trail reconstruction, in-stream fisheries improvement, trail bridge replacement, riparian area improvements, and trail

maintenance. Restoration activities will generate both commercial timber and biomass to support local communities.

#### Uncompahgre Plateau

The focus of the Uncompahgre Plateau Project, located on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, will be to restore structure and function of priority ecosystems across broad landscapes. This goal will be achieved through the use of prescribed fire, mechanical treatments using stewardship contracting, and commercial timber sales. Restoration treatments will enhance habitat for terrestrial species, and protect communities from uncharacteristic wildfire.

#### Front Range

This project, located on the Pike, San Isabel, Arapaho, and Roosevelt National Forests, will continue to emphasize restoring ponderosa pine ecosystems and protecting communities through hazardous fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface. Treatments will generate timber to support local economies, and will enhance community safety in the face of wildfire.

#### Four Forest Restoration Initiative

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) is located on the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests. Implementation of the 4FRI Integrated Resource Stewardship Contract will increase to approximately 30,000 acres annually and will include timber sales that support local businesses. Treatments on the east side of the project will restore watershed function and resilience through road decommissioning and maintenance, enhance habitat for terrestrial species, and protect soil resources.

#### Southwest Jemez Mountains

This project straddles the Santa Fe National Forest and Valles Caldera National Preserve. Implementation will focus on forest thinning through stewardship contracts and innovative partnerships, as well as prescribed burning to reduce hazardous fuels. The project will also enhance watershed resilience and function through road closure, trail restoration, and riparian restoration activities.

#### Zuni Mountain

The Zuni project, located on the Cibola National Forest, will build on mechanical treatments completed in previous years by increasing implementation in prescribed burning. Local businesses will likely gain momentum from prior year supplies of forest products, leading to a decreased cost of treatment and an increase in overall restored acres in the project landscape. Treatments will enhance terrestrial habitat, improve rangelands, and enhance watershed function

#### Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters

This project is located on the Payette National Forest. It will focus on restoring watersheds through road and trail maintenance, enhancing habitat for terrestrial species, and treating hazardous fuels near communities and beyond. Through these restoration treatments, the project will generate commercial timber and biomass to support robust local economies.

Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project

This project is located on the Sierra National Forest, and will support youth employment, funding youth to work on the project. Additionally, mechanical treatments will reduce hazardous fuels and generate timber to support local economies. Noxious weeds will be treated to protect native ecosystems, and local meadows will be restored through stewardship contracts.

Burney-Hat Creek Basin

This project is located on the Lassen National Forest. The project will focus on implementing active and adaptive management to establish and improve forest vegetation, enhance terrestrial habitat, and treat hazardous fuels. Restoration treatments will generate timber to support local economies, as well as enhance soil and water resources in the project area.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Cornerstone

This project, located on the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests, will implement treatments to improve forest health and resiliency. Projects planned will improve forest health and resiliency with commercial/pre-commercial thinning, removing biomass, and masticating brush. Road work will reduce sedimentation and improve soil stabilization through road reconstruction, maintenance, realignment and decommissioning. The Forest Service will prepare and implement stewardship contracts to accomplish restoration objectives within the project area to balance local environment, community, and economy for an all-land result.

Tapash

This project is located on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Restoration treatments will improve watershed health throughout the project area through the maintenance and the decommissioning of roads and the mitigation of stream crossings. Mechanical thinning will decrease the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire near communities.

Deschutes

This project, located on the Deschutes National Forest, will continue to implement forest vegetation improvements and hazardous fuels reductions through stewardship contracts. In addition, the project will improve soil and water conditions and terrestrial habitat by treating noxious weeds within the project landscape. Watershed health and local recreationists will both benefit from trail maintenance activities.

Lakeview Stewardship CFLR

This project is located on the Fremont-Winema National Forests. Restoration projects will include thinning, hazardous fuels reduction, prescribed fire, and wildlife and aquatic habitat enhancement. Restoration activities will protect soil and water resources, support local economies, and enhance watershed function and resilience.

Southern Blues Restoration Coalition

This project is located on the Malheur National Forest. With the threat of the loss of local wood products infrastructure in the project area, the project team is working with local elected officials to more than double the annual outputs from restoration activities. Restoration treatments that reduce hazardous fuels, enhance terrestrial habitat, and protect soil and water resources will generate commercial timber byproducts to help the project and forest achieve this goal.

Northeast Washington Forest Vision 2020

This project is located on the Colville National Forest. The project will continue to work under the guidance of the original project proposal, establishing and improving forest vegetation, treating priority acres for invasive species, using mechanical treatments to thin overly dense stands, and enhancing stream habitat for aquatic species. Community security will be enhanced through the removal of hazardous fuels, and the generation of forest products will help to support local economies.

Accelerating Longleaf Restoration

This project, located on the Florida-Osceola National Forest, will continue to enhance terrestrial habitat and treat hazardous fuels. Mechanical treatments will generate commercial timber, and road decommissioning will protect and enhance watershed function. The project will establish forest vegetation and thin existing stands to create habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Shortleaf Bluestem Community

This project, located on the Ouachita National Forest, will tackle a diverse portfolio of restoration activities. Prescribed burning and commercial thinning will enhance terrestrial habitat, improve watershed function, and protect local communities. The project will also complete herbicide treatment of invasive species, road decommissioning, trail maintenance, stream crossing improvements, re-establishment of milkweed and other native plant species, and environmental education. Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat improvement work will consist of providing artificial inserts for nesting and roosting, improving nesting and foraging habitat by commercially thinning stands and accomplishing mid-story removal through contracts and stewardship work, and removing flying squirrels from cavities for this endangered species.

Grandfather Restoration Project

This project is located on the Pisgah National Forest. The project team will continue to treat invasive species in key drainages across the project area. In addition, they will restore and enhance early successional wildlife habitat through both mechanical and herbicide treatments, maintain roads to reduce sedimentation into streams, use prescribed fire to restore fire adapted ecosystems, and improve and establish forest vegetation.

Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration Project

This project is located on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. Trail maintenance and improvement will continue in areas worked on in previous years, wildlife habitat improvement will create early successional habitat for a variety of species, and shore lake dredging will continue to improve the aquatic habitat and recreational opportunities. Treatments for invasive species will be conducted on highest priority acres throughout the project.

Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration & Hazardous Fuels Reduction

This project, located on the National Forest of Mississippi, De Soto National Forest, continues to implement high priority restoration and hazardous fuels activities. Project activities will include longleaf pine restoration, pitcher plant bog restoration, invasive cogongrass treatments, road decommissioning, trail maintenance, road maintenance, and watershed restoration.

### Missouri Pine-Oak Woodlands

This project is located on the Mark Twain National Forest. Project implementation will include awarding timber sale contracts, stewardship contracts, and understory thinning contracts. These contracts will help to establish and enhance forest vegetation, protect soil and water resources, generate commercial timber and biomass, enhance habitat, and reduce hazardous fuels.

### **Past Performance**

In FY 2013, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) projects implemented treatments to restore ecosystem resilience and reduce the risk of wildland fire, while also building collaborative, restoration, and infrastructure capacity in local communities. National targets established for CFLRP, including for FY 2013, are only estimates because decisions on how to allocate project resources are made locally.

CFLRP project accomplishments are a subset of unit and regional accomplishments. CFLRP accomplishments will continue to reflect local decision making, in accordance with the Forest Landscape Restoration Act (FLRA, Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2011, P.L. 111-11). While annual accomplishment estimates will continue to improve over the 10-year life of CFLRP projects, those projects will continue to focus on the strength of local decision making to achieve the outcomes of the Act, as opposed to simply striving to accomplish an estimated national target.

For example, CFLRP projects achieved the following results in FY 2013\*:

- 398,231 acres of terrestrial habitat were enhanced (120 percent of FY 2013 estimate),
- 15,539 acres of forest vegetation were established (269 percent of FY 2013 estimate),
- 379 million board feet (MMBF) of timber was sold (105 percent of FY 2013 estimate),
- 277,966 acres of forest were treated to reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI (92 percent of FY 2013 estimate),
- 756,882 green tons of woody biomass were made available for bioenergy production (94 percent of FY 2013 estimate), and
- 1,757 miles of passenger roads received maintenance (152 percent of FY 2013 estimate).

\* FY 2013 estimates were adjusted upward from those previously published to reflect the additional accomplishments expected from the projects added to the program in FY 2012.

In 2013, CFLRP projects created or maintained approximately 5,307 jobs, generating an estimated \$195,907,524 in labor income.

CFLRP is a unique program in that it funds projects with a 10-year life span. Ten of 23 projects in the program have been implementing and monitoring treatments since FY 2010, an additional 10 were added in FY 2012, and an additional three were added in FY 2013. Between FY 2010 and FY 2013, projects funded through the CFLRP have:

- treated fuels in the wildland-urban interface on 588,461 acres,
- generated 814 MMBF of timber,
- made 1,914,866 green tons of biomass available for bioenergy production, and

- enhanced habitat on 474 miles of streams.

Together, the entire portfolio of accomplishments from FY 2010 to present are working toward the common goal of restoring ecosystem resilience and reducing the risk of wildland fire.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

The CFLRP encourages collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The CFLRP was authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. 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 aim of recovering resilience and adaptive capacity of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.

CFLRP is unique in that projects are selected based on proposals collaboratively developed with diverse partner communities. These collaborative groups continue to be involved in projects, providing feedback and input through the 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 can 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.

Investing in CFLRP advances on-the-ground restoration through community-based collaboration, implementation, and monitoring. All CFLRP projects must be developed and implemented through a transparent and collaborative process that involves multiple, diverse interests. 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. Furthermore, it 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.

### Allocation and Integration

The CFLRP Advisory Panel, a 15 member Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) committee, reviewed CFLRP project proposals in 2010 and 2011 and made recommendations for 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.

The CFLRP funds can 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 (BLIs), funds contributed through partnership agreements, partner in-kind contributions, or service work accomplished through goods-for-services funding with a stewardship contract. Matching BLIs are interdisciplinary, and must be consistent with the CFLRP project description and landscape restoration strategy. Determination for qualification of a BLI as appropriate for matching the CFLRP BLI is based upon the purpose for which a BLI is appropriated and definition as a treatment activity necessary to implement a landscape restoration treatment in the context of the project restoration strategy.

### Partnerships

At the national level, the Forest Service works with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) to provide support to the field units in implementing CFLRP projects. The NFF 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, and multi-party monitoring. 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 CFLR Coalition, a partner group spearheaded by five non-governmental organizations, is taking on the collaboration indicator independently. The Forest Service also partnered with the CFLR 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 (Deschutes Collaborative and Uncompahgre Plateau) of how public and non-governmental organizations are working together to prioritize and accomplish forest landscape restoration.

### 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. Programs and tools 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 (DNF) exemplifies this shift. The DNF 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 DNF said that through the collaborative effort, he has “gone from horrified to pretty darn optimistic about the future of this forest.” In addition, innovative leadership on the part of the DNF has allowed this group to gain momentum. “The Forest Service has created space for a meaningful role for the collaborative,” one collaborator stated.



The collaborative effort has allowed the forests to pursue innovative techniques for getting work done. DNF 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.

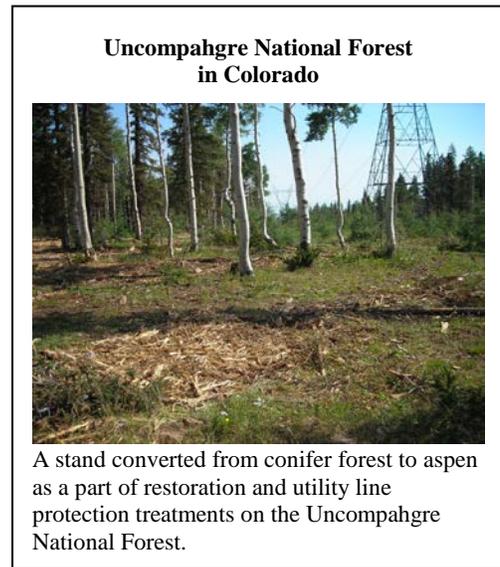
The success of the collaborative project is allowing the CFLRP project to make measurable impacts on the ground. DNF is currently working on a project that will encompass 25,000 acres, 80 percent of which will be treated, a stark increase from the previous average of about 40 percent treatment. In addition, the growing trust between collaborative members is accelerating the pace of restoration. The project expanded their CFLRP boundary in FY 2013, allowing for more work to get done on the ground through the program.

### Uncompahgre National Forest: Effective Collaboration and Treatment in Energy Corridors

Electric transmission lines are vulnerable to wildfire threats across the United States. Traditional approaches to address the issue include management of vegetation utilizing Lands Special Uses Permits, but these permits typically address only the right-of-way corridor and management of hazard trees, leaving overstocked forests that are a clear threat to the transmission lines and general forest health. The Uncompahgre National Forest, a part of the Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP project, worked closely with vegetation managers from Western Area Power

Administration (WAPA) and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State) to develop and implement an innovative treatment plan for forest restoration and fuels reduction that reached far beyond the limits of the right-of-way, leading to treatments on over 2,000 acres of NFS lands.

The projects were proposed in a collaborative manner; and local stakeholder groups, environmentalists, industry, livestock permittees, other agency personnel, and interested citizens were all included in the initial discussions. The National Environmental Policy Act documentation was put together by an interdisciplinary team led by the district silviculturist, including assistance from a fuels planner and wildlife biologist. Industry representatives from the electricity companies were critically important providing technical advice and experience to assist in both planning and implementation. This collaborative process generated community support for the projects, and none were appealed or litigated.



The projects include wildlife habitat improvement prescriptions, regeneration cuts to convert high elevation conifer forests to aspen, long-term treatments to protect the utility lines, and prescribed burning units. Treatments were carried out utilizing standard timber sale, stewardship and service contracts, and were jointly funded by the Forest Service, WAPA, and Tri-State. In addition, grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation was utilized to complete the projects.

Last fall, approximately 100 Vegetation Management Specialists from electric companies across the United States visited the projects as part of a workshop hosted by Tri-State Electric Company in Montrose, Colorado.

**Restoration Partnerships**

Budget Line Item	Restoration Partnerships				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Restoration Partnerships					
Annual Appropriations	0	\$2,000	0	-\$2,000	-100%
<b>Restoration Partnerships Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,000</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	6	0	-6	-100%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-100%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Restoration Partnerships</b>						
Total value of resources (expressed as a ratio) leveraged through partnerships with states and other partners	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$0 for Restoration Partnerships, a decrease of \$2,000,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. 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.

**Program Description**

Restoration Partnership 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”. In FY 2014, this program will focus on expanding public-private partnerships and serve as a catalyst to stimulate a number of high profile partnerships ready for development. Developing innovative partnerships involving more diverse people and organizations is an essential mechanism for achieving social, economic, and ecological goals associated with public lands and dependent local municipalities. 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 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 assuring that the National

Forests and Grasslands continue to offer the myriad of benefits the American public has come to expect from them.

In FY 2014, this budget line item will support the agency's objectives as outlined in the agency's initiative to accelerate landscape restoration to:

- save time and money,
- make better use of available resources through leveraging,
- engage youth and underserved communities through public land corps involvement ,
- increase delivery of goods and services,
- broaden public and stakeholder support for mission delivery through the use of partnerships ,
- increase leadership alignment, both within the agency and with federal partners in order to facilitate comprehensive discussion/engagement across the agency, and
- more effectively and efficiently implement national policy and programs.

#### Allocation and Integration

In FY 2014, funding for both Restoration Partnership activities will be competed among the regions using project criteria and selection determined by the Chief of the Forest Service.

Funding will be allocated to a cost-share program and to partnership development.

**Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring**

Budget Line Item	Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Annual Appropriations					
Inventory and Monitoring	\$150,652	\$151,019	0	-\$151,019	-100%
Land Management Planning	37,203	37,754	0	-37,754	-100%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	\$183,928	183,928	0%
<b>Land Management Planning, Assessment &amp; Monitoring Total</b>	<b>187,855</b>	<b>188,773</b>	<b>183,928</b>	<b>-4,845</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs					
Inventory and Monitoring	969	971	0	-971	-100%
Land Management Planning	263	265	0	-265	-100%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	1,234	1,234	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Land Management Planning, Assessment &amp; Monitoring</b>						
Number of land management plan amendments underway	33	38	26	28	20	20
Number of land management plan revisions or creations underway	19	23	20	31	16	24
Acres of inventory data collected and acquired	44,871,472	30,489,750	15,215,000	45,675,608	16,650,000	16,200,000
Number of annual monitoring requirements completed	1,464	1,542	1,059	1,330	1,158	1,130
Number of land management plan assessments completed	58	49	27	35	21	20

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$183,928,000 for the Land Management Planning, Assessments, and Monitoring Program, a net program decrease of \$4,845,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes consolidating the Land Management Planning and Inventory and Monitoring programs into one budget line item. The net amount was calculated using the combined totals from FY 2014 Enacted level as illustrated in the table below.

**Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring  
Consolidated Budget Line Items**

(dollars in thousands)

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres Bud</b>
NFS	Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring	-	-	\$183,928	\$183,928
NFS	Land Management Planning	37,203	37,754	(37,754)	-
NFS	Inventory and Monitoring	150,652	151,019	(151,019)	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$187,855</b>	<b>\$188,773</b>	<b>(\$4,845)</b>	<b>\$183,928</b>

The consolidation was first proposed in the FY 2012 President's Budget. 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 include an increased focus on agency assessment and monitoring activities. Under the proposed BLI, critical work would not be constrained by insufficient funds in one activity that would otherwise prevent 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 BLI. 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 2015 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 (NFMA). These funds will allow continued work on 24 revisions under way and 6 units conducting pre-revision assessments. Seven of these 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 2015 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 resides 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. The agency will complete 20 assessments in FY 2015.

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 in order to assess plan direction and identify resource issues.

### **Past Performance**

Number of land management plan amendments underway (108 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, NFS units had 28 plan amendments underway. Additional amendments were initiated to address the effects of large-scale disturbances such as fires and floods as well as the sage grouse habitat issue in Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. The agency continues to expect that the number of major amendments underway and completed during the next two to three years will stabilize as the agency transitions to the requirements under the 2012 Planning Rule.

Number of land management plan creations or revisions underway (140 percent of target accomplished). In total, 31 units were revising plans or engaged in pre-revision activities in FY 2013. Seventeen units had revisions underway using the 1982 procedures under the 2000 Planning Rule. The other 11 units are implementing the 2012 Planning Rule. Initial assessment activities were started on eight Early Adopter units in FY 2012 and in another three units in FY 2013. The pre-revision assessment work begun on these 11 units is also reflected in the target accomplishment for the Assessments Completed performance measure. Plan revision work on the 17 units using the 1982 procedures resulted in one revision completed in FY 2013 with another nine units expected to be completed in FY 2014 under the 2000 Rule.

Acres of inventory data collected and acquired (300 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013 the agency inventoried over 45 million acres. This was over 15 million acres more or 155 percent of the more than 30 million acres collected/acquired in FY 2012. Additional acreage was accomplished on several units due to an increase in the migration of legacy data from digital or hardcopy sources into corporate applications and the purchase or acquisition of remote sensing data from external sources. Inventory data supported 17 plan revisions, 28 amendments, 11 forest-wide assessments in advance of plan revisions, and other agency priorities.

Number of land management plan assessments completed (130 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, the agency completed 35 plan assessments, some of which reflected the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. Several units conducted multiple unique social, economic, and ecological assessments to meet the 2012 Planning Rule requirements in FY 2013. 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. They are also used to identify opportunities for implementing land management plans.

### Program Overview

The Land Management Planning, Assessments and Monitoring program funds the inventory, monitoring, and assessment activities that are integral to the development, maintenance, and revision of LMPs. The program funds the acquisition, analysis, and storage of data that support planning and other critical programs, initiatives, and projects such as restoration activities, climate change impact evaluations, travel management, watershed condition assessments, strategies for addressing needs for specific wildlife species and roadless area evaluations.

The Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring program is foundational for allowing all of the economic benefits that are derived from National Forest System (NFS) lands including the economic benefits derived from timber, grazing, and many types of outdoor recreation. Without adequate planning and monitoring, restoration treatments, recreation and special use permitting, and other economic activities cannot occur on NFS lands. 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.

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. Collaboration with the public and partners results in plans that address a wide variety of programs and issues. Goals and objectives may include adapting to changing climate conditions, ensuring abundant clean water, providing recreation opportunities, restoring and maintaining forest and rangeland ecosystems, and improving priority watersheds across larger landscapes.

The National Forest Management Act requires that each unit of the NFS have a LMP that is formally revised every 10 to 15 years to address changing conditions and new information related to natural resources, management goals, and public use. The Forest Service has developed 125 LMPs to guide the management of 155 national forests, 20 grasslands, and other

unique units of the NFS. Since the late 1980s, the agency has revised 58 LMPs, about 46 percent of the total.

Examples of data collected through inventory and monitoring activities, analyzed in assessments, and used for planning and restoration purposes include: vegetation conditions; wildlife habitat; social and economic conditions and impacts; air, water and soil quality; recreation visitor use; and potential impacts to climate. Inventories help establish baseline information that is used to identify, prioritize, and frame objectives to achieve desired conditions through restoration programs and activities. Assessments consider and evaluate social, economic and ecological conditions, trends and future management opportunities for the unit. Monitoring provides information for evaluating progress towards achieving objectives.

Specific program objectives needing information resource support include:

- planning for the management of land and other resources;
- enhancing scientific understanding of ecosystems;
- fulfilling agreements for conducting inventory and monitoring activities with partners;
- providing data, information, and analyses to decision makers in response to current management needs and emerging issues;
- providing information necessary to assess efficacy and responsiveness of Forest Service programs; and
- supporting cost-effective program delivery.

This 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 (FACA Committee) presented to the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service recommendations for revisions to the proposed directives. The FACA 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 FACA Committee's recommendations, along with public comment, as it revises the directives for final publication in spring 2014.

### Land Management Plan Revision Schedule

#### **Creations and 1<sup>st</sup> Time Revisions Completed prior to FY 2014** (Total = 60)

R-1 Beaverhead-Deerlodge	R-5 Cleveland	R-8 Uwharrie
R-1 Dakota Prairie NG	R-5 Los Padres	R-9 Allegheny
R-2 Arapaho-Roosevelt	R-5 San Bernardino	R-9 Chequamegon-Nicolet
R-2 Black Hills	R-5 Sequoia NM	R-9 Chippewa
R-2 Bighorn	R-8 Chattahoochee-Oconee	R-9 Finger Lakes
R-2 Medicine Bow	R-8 Cherokee	R-9 Green Mountain
R-2 Nebraska	R-8 Croatan	R-9 Hiawatha
R-2 Rio Grande	R-8 Daniel Boone	R-9 Hoosier
R-2 Routt	R-8 Francis Marion	R-9 Huron-Manistee
R-2 Thunder Basin NG	R-8 Jefferson	R-9 Mark Twain
R-2 White River	R-8 Kisatchie	R-9 Midewin National
R-2 San Juan	R-8 El Yunque	Tallgrass Prairie (new plan)
R-3 Cibola NG	R-8 Land Between the	R-9 Monongahela
R-4 Boise	Lakes NRA (new plan)	R-9 Ottawa
R-4 Caribou	R-8 NFs in Alabama	R-9 Shawnee
R-4 Payette	R-8 NFs in Florida	R-9 Superior
R-4 Sawtooth	R-8 NFs in Texas	R-9 Wayne
R-4 Targhee	R-8 Ouachita	R-9 White Mountain
R-4 Uinta	R-8 Ozark-St. Francis	R-10 Chugach
R-4 Wasatch-Cache	R-8 Sumter	R-10 Tongass
R-5 Angeles	R-8 George Washington	

#### **Revisions (27) and Pre-Revision Assessments (6) Underway in FY 2014** (Total = 33)

R-1 Idaho-Panhandle <sup>1</sup>	R-3 Coconino <sup>2</sup>	R-6 Colville <sup>2</sup>
R-1 Kootenai <sup>1</sup>	R-3 Coronado <sup>2</sup>	R-6 Malheur <sup>2</sup>
R-1 Clearwater <sup>3</sup>	R-3 Kaibab <sup>1</sup>	R-6 Okanogan-Wenatchee <sup>2</sup>
R-1 NezPerce <sup>3</sup>	R-3 Prescott <sup>1</sup>	R-6 Umatilla <sup>2</sup>
R-1 Flathead <sup>3</sup>	R-3 Carson <sup>4</sup>	R-6 Wallowa-Whitman <sup>2</sup>
R-1 Helena <sup>4</sup>	R-3 Santa Fe <sup>4</sup>	R-8 El Yunque (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>
R-1 Lewis & Clark <sup>4</sup>	R-3 Tonto <sup>4</sup>	R-8 George Washington (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <sup>1</sup>
R-2 Shoshone <sup>1</sup>	R-5 Lake Tahoe Basin <sup>1</sup>	R-8 NFs in Mississippi <sup>1</sup>
R-2 Rio Grande(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <sup>4</sup>	R-5 Sequoia NF <sup>3</sup>	R-8 Francis Marion (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>
R-3 Apache-Sitgreaves <sup>1</sup>	R-5 Sierra <sup>3</sup>	R-8 Nantahala-Pisgah <sup>3</sup>
R-3 Cibola NF <sup>3</sup>	R-5 Inyo <sup>3</sup>	R-10 Chugach (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>

1. Expected completions under the 2000 Planning Rule (1982 procedures) in FY 2014 (9)

2. Expected completions under the 2000 Planning Rule (1982 Procedures) in FY 2015 (7)

3. Notice of Intent to Revise LMP under 2012 Planning Rule expected in FY 2014 (11)

4. Conducting assessments; Notice of Intent to Revise LMP under 2012 Planning Rule expected in FY 2015 (6)

2<sup>nd</sup> = Second Revision for Plan (5)

**Future First Time Revisions - FY 2015 and Beyond** (Total = 40)

R-1 Bitterroot	R-4 Humboldt-Toiyabe	R-6 Fremont-Winema
R-1 Custer	R-4 Manti-La Sal	R-6 Gifford Pinchot
R-1 Gallatin	R-4 Salmon-Challis	R-6 Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
R-1 Lolo	R-5 Eldorado	R-6 Mt. Hood
R-2 Cimarron-Comanche NG	R-5 Klamath	R-6 Ochoco
R-2 Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison	R-5 Lassen	R-6 Olympic
R-2 Pike-San Isabel	R-5 Mendocino	R-6 Rogue River
R-3 Gila	R-5 Modoc	R-6 Siskiyou
R-3 Lincoln	R-5 Plumas	R-6 Siuslaw
R-4 Ashley	R-5 Shasta-Trinity	R-6 Umpqua
R-4 Bridger-Teton	R-5 Six Rivers	R-6 Willamette
R-4 Dixie	R-5 Stanislaus	R-8 Land Between the Lakes NRA
R-4 Fishlake	R-5 Tahoe	R-9 Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
	R-6 Deschutes	

There will be 27 LMP revisions underway (Notice of Intent published) in FY 2014. Sixteen of these are using the 1982 procedures under the 2000 Planning Rule. Eleven units began assessment work in FY 2012 and 2013 and will be initiating revisions in FY 2014 under the 2012 Planning Rule. Six additional units have begun assessment work in FY 2014 in advance of initiating revisions in FY 2015.

**Units Implementing Revision Requirements under the 2012 Planning Rule**

Assessment Initiated	Revision Initiated	Region	Unit	State
2012	2014	1	Clearwater NF	Idaho
2012	2014	1	Nez Perce NF	Idaho
2012	2014	5	Inyo NF	California
2012	2014	5	Sequoia NF	California
2012	2014	5	Sierra NF	California
2012	2014	3	Cibola NF	New Mexico
2012	2014	8	El Yunque NF	Puerto Rico
2012	2014	10	Chugach NF	Alaska
<b>2013</b>				
2013	2014	1	Flathead NF	Idaho
2013	2014	8	Francis Marion NF	South Carolina
2013	2014	8	Nantahala-Pisgah NF	North Carolina
<b>2014</b>				
2014	2015	1	Helena NF	Montana
2014	2015	1	Lewis & Clark NF	Montana
2014	2015	2	Rio Grande NF	Colorado
2014	2015	3	Carson NF	New Mexico
2014	2015	3	Santa Fe NF	New Mexico
2014	2015	3	Tonto NF	Arizona

**Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness**

Budget Line Item	Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness					
Annual Appropriations	\$261,932	\$261,719	\$259,090	-\$2,629	-1%
<b>Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Total</b>	<b>261,932</b>	<b>261,719</b>	<b>259,090</b>	<b>-2,629</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	2,075	2,074	2,074	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness					
Manage Recreation Operations	151,920	151,797	150,272	-1,525	-1%
Administer Recreation Special Use Authorizations	39,290	39,258	41,454	2,196	6%
Manage Heritage Resources	28,813	28,789	28,500	-289	-1%
Manage Wilderness & Wild & Scenic Rivers	41,909	41,875	38,864	-3,011	-7%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness</b>						
Number of recreation site capacity (PAOT days) operated to standard	86,575,330	83,127,395	70,658,286	71,371,135	74,080,790	71,000,000
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	76.8%	79.0%	100.0%	85.5%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of recreation special use authorizations administered to standard	13,308	13,784	11,258	17,506	12,279	12,800
Number of wilderness areas managed to minimum stewardship level	220	307	309	356	365	365
Number of wild and scenic river areas meeting statutory requirements	42	53	55	55	57	57
Number of heritage programs managed to standard	0	77	57	81	61	75
Heritage program score	0	5,108	3,870	5,231	4,130	5,000
Customer satisfaction with value for fee paid	83.0%	83.0%	80.0%	84.0%	80.0%	80.0%

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$259,090,000 for the Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness program, a decrease of \$2,629,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

These programs work to strengthen communities and connect people to the outdoors by continuing to align activities with the Framework for Sustainable Recreation and the Forest Service Strategic Plan. We continue to support the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, the stewardship of our natural, cultural and historic resources, and youth and volunteer

engagement. In FY 2015, Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs will focus on enhancing privately provided services through the administration of special use permits; continued enhancement of information delivery and customer service through contemporary tools like Recreation.gov; implementing the Travel Management Rule; connecting with younger generations through urban and youth conservation corps; and implementing the National Travel and Tourism Strategy.

Promoting America’s Great Outdoors

In support of the AGO Initiative, we will work to expand recreation opportunities for youth and diverse populations, support job creation through youth engagement and employment programs, and pursue opportunities to enhance guest services while sustaining and expanding business opportunities for permit holders. As a charter member and 2014 chair of the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), we aim to improve coordination and collaboration among the Federal land and water agencies, increasing efficiencies and providing more seamless visitor experiences.

**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

We will continue to engage a diverse group of recreation stakeholders, encouraging their ongoing input to more sustainably and cooperatively manage our recreation programs. We will increase public, open access to recreation information, and support improvements to our public-facing websites and Recreation.gov. These improvements will enhance our visitors’ ability to plan their trips, and better align the program with the National Travel and Tourism Strategy and AGO goals. We will continue working with others to identify gaps in visitor information and leverage resources for conducting market research.

By greening our operations, we reduce our environmental footprint while maintaining a comparable level of service to the public and helping to protect recreation opportunities for generations to come.

We will continue to steward our wilderness areas and perpetuate the gains achieved by the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge (10YWSC). We will work to forge stronger connections between communities and Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers using assistance from partner groups. For example, the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and its members (the Society for Wilderness Stewardship, WILD50, among others) are helping us engage the public and implement the Wilderness Character Monitoring protocol. The Arthur Carhart Interagency Wilderness Training Center and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute continue their efforts to provide education and research that directly supports ecosystem health, resilience, and restoration of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Volunteers, Youth & Veterans Engagement

The 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) program will continue to be a high priority in FY 2015. The Forest Service will expand our emphasis on outreach to relevant stakeholders to promote new partnerships with 21CSC member organizations that will enhance the agency’s ability to support employment opportunities for youth and veterans for appropriate AGO activities.

Providing training to program staff will further enhance our ability to develop high quality conservation projects with partners that will accomplish essential work while also developing a new source of conservation stewards to preserve and protect public lands

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

Manage Recreation Operations - The FY 2015 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 23,700 recreation sites to millions of visitors.

The Framework for Sustainable Recreation 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. For the first time, all Forest Service recreation sites will be presented on the Interactive Visitor Map, which will be launching, alongside a new agency website, in 2014. In FY 2015, 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

**Zipline at Heavenly:  
Implementing Year-Round Activities at Ski Resorts**



Heavenly Mountain Resort in South Lake Tahoe, CA is one of the first ski resorts to implement year-round activities as authorized by the Ski Area Resort Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011. In Lake Tahoe, we are working closely with the resort and local communities as well as engaging staff from landscape architecture, engineering, and trails staffs to help set the national standard for quality and experience for year-round activities. The expansion has created an additional 70 jobs in the community so far and is contributing to the recovery of tourism in South Lake Tahoe, CA and Stateline, NV.

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 2015, we will fully implement the Forest Service’s Route and Area Designation Implementation Guide. Implementation centers management of designated routes and areas around four activities: education, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation. Completing MVUMs has taken longer than anticipated due to the need for more public involvement and collaboration. Public controversy, appeals, and litigation has delayed producing some MVUMs. We will continue our efforts to complete all remaining MVUMs by FY 2015.

We engage stakeholders, youth, and volunteers as we implement the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, the 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 2015 President’s Budget provides funds for Recreation Special Use Authorizations, supporting approximately 5,000 outfitters and guides 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.

In response to an OIG audit of the Special Uses program (No:08601-55-SF, issued June 2011), we have established criteria to prioritize monitoring and inspections to allow focus of our staffing resources on situations where, if noncompliance occurs, it is more likely to have adverse impacts on natural resources or on health and safety. In FY 2014, field units will identify inspection requirements for all ongoing and new authorizations. At the same time we will correct data errors in our SUP database to improve reporting accuracy for ongoing authorizations. Once required inspections have been identified and data errors corrected, we will realign targets for administration to standard for FY 2015. The revised inspection system will improve monitoring of health and safety in the

**War Veterans Historic Preservation Training Program, Eastern and Southern Regions**



The Forest Service partnered with HistoriCorps and the Student Conservation Association and provided eight veterans three months of service training in historic preservation. Veterans restored five historic buildings at three sites and received a stipend and the opportunity for college credit. Following the season, one participant was hired as a historic preservationist.

delivery of public facilities and services to National Forest System visitors.

Special use authorizations are an important tool for delivering services on the national forests and grasslands. In FY 2014, we will be taking notice and comment on the proposed directive to implement the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011 (SAROE), and in FY 2015, we anticipate an increase in requests for amendments to existing authorizations in response to SAROE. This authority is intended to allow ski resorts on NFS land to offer recreational activities year round. The year-long recreation season could sustain up to 600 extra jobs and could raise up to an additional \$40 million for local communities in direct spending, annually (projections based on Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring data).

Manage Heritage Resources – The FY 2015 President’s Budget provides funding for the stewardship of our heritage and cultural resources, including investments into partnership initiatives such as HistoricCorps and Passport in Time. 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. In FY 2013, HistoriCorps implemented a program to train young war veterans in historic preservation, and the Intermountain and Pacific Northwest Regions were recognized for a ten-year initiative linking Chinese Americans to their ancestral history on national forests through the Passport in Time Program. By implementing the Preserve America Executive Order 13287, 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.

In FY 2015, we will make plans to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, taking place in 2016. Examples of the many activities and products highlighting the Forest Service’s contributions to American history include the restoration of up to 16 fire lookouts by 2016. This initiative is partially funded and supported by HistoriCorps, the Forest Fire Lookout Association, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

At the requested funding level, we will manage less than 65 percent of our 115 forest and grassland unit programs to standard (114 of the 155 forests and 20 grasslands have heritage assets or programs). Heritage program managers will use information from an advanced corporate database to facilitate monitoring the condition of over 360,000 historic properties, the most of any Federal agency. We monitor program sustainability through a set of criteria established in 2012. In FY 2013, 70 percent of all programs reported that their historic properties were maintained to agency-set standards. By FY 2015, we expect to implement new operating procedures to help us increase program sustainability through increased support from our information systems, partnerships and efficient regulatory procedures.

Manage Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers - The FY 2015 President’s Budget provides funding for the planning and operation of America’s Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. These funds allow us to make progress on two important wilderness program priorities following the successful completion of the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge in FY 2014: (1) revising the national protocol for monitoring wilderness character and (2) implementing a new performance measure to evaluate the effectiveness of our wilderness stewardship program.

With the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act (the Act) in 2014, we have begun to implement a new nationwide wilderness character monitoring program to gauge our effectiveness at “preserving wilderness character,” the key mandate from the Act. To support this management shift, in FY 2015 we will implement a new performance measure, “number of wildernesses meeting baseline performance for preserving wilderness character.” This measure will help us more effectively measure our program capacity and our stewardship actions to preserve wilderness character. To implement this management change, we will provide individual units the flexibility to select locally-relevant elements within a consistent national framework. Elements will include actions taken to improve water quality, restore native plant communities, and engage partners and volunteers to accomplish crucial stewardship work.

As we look forward to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 2018, we anticipate that a total of 59 out of a total of 119 wild and scenic rivers managed by the Forest Service will meet statutory requirements under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. We continue to ensure that wilderness and wild and scenic rivers values are addressed as part of agency efforts in response to the President’s America 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.

**FY 2015 Hurdygurdy Creek LWCF Project:  
Last Large Inholding of Wild & Scenic Smith River**



The Smith River Alliance (SRA) secured a purchase agreement for the last large inholding (5,400 acres) within the Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA). The property includes over 4,000 acres along Hurdygurdy Creek, which is one of the best salmon spawning and rearing streams in the NRA, supporting many forms of recreation. SRA launched a campaign to purchase these properties and transfer them to the NRA for long-term management and restoration.

## Past Performance

Number of Recreation Special Uses Administered to Standard (*176 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, we reported as “administered to standard” 17,506 recreation special use authorizations, compared to a target of 9,948. The increase in accomplishment is attributable to a change in policy regarding special use permit administration, as recommended by Office of Inspector General Audit 08601-55-SF. The minimum inspection frequency of special uses permits has been reduced from annually, biannually, and triennially, depending on the use code, to once every five years. Additionally, only permits which run five years or longer automatically require an on-site inspection. In addition to the reduced inspection frequency, it is likely that in FY 2013 national forests and grasslands counted all temporary or less than five-year permits as “administered to standard,” which dramatically increased the number of permits counted as “administered to standard.” There is an inherent lag time between changing a measure and executing its implementation Nationwide, so we will continue to experience atypical reporting of “administration to standard” in FY 2014. By FY 2015, the targets will be aligned with the policy.

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 (*85 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, we demonstrated improvement toward achieving our target, however completing motor vehicle use maps (MVUMs) has taken longer than anticipated due to the need for more public involvement and collaboration. This approach has been helpful in minimizing public controversy, appeals, and litigation which have all delayed producing some MVUMs. Out of 114 units producing MVUMs, 98 have completed MVUMs to date. We will continue our efforts to complete all remaining MVUMs in FY 2014.

Number of Heritage Programs managed to standard (*142 percent of target accomplished*). There are 115 heritage program reporting units within the agency representing all lands within the NFS. Of these, 81 (70 percent) are managed to standard. A Heritage Program is considered managed to standard when the cumulative total of seven stewardship indicators reaches a minimal score of 45. These indicator scores reflect the health and performance of Forest Service unit programs in meeting manual direction to preserve America’s heritage through responsible stewardship activities that recognize, protect, enhance, and use cultural resources for the greatest public benefit. The FY 2013 level of performance may be artificially high because the rating system is new and the parameters for meeting managed to standard will become more rigorous. This evolution of the standards is in keeping with the agency’s commitment to heritage resources and the importance they hold locally and nationally.

Number of wilderness areas managed to a minimum stewardship level (*115 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, we managed to a minimum stewardship level a total of 356 wilderness areas, exceeding the target by 15 percent and the prior year total of 307. This greater than anticipated gain towards the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge is attributable to focused national support of on-the-ground management activities and regional strike teams, as well as partnerships leveraged through the National Forest Foundation's Wilderness Stewardship Grants program. The most notable gain was in the Southwestern Region, improving by 17 wildernesses to standard compared to the previous year, an improvement of 33 percent.

Number of wild and scenic river areas meeting statutory requirements (100 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, we achieved a total of 55 wild and scenic river areas meeting statutory requirements. This is an increase from the FY 2012 accomplishment of 53 rivers meeting standard.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs on the NFS offer some of the greatest diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities in the world and produce significant social and economic benefits for the Nation, including employment in rural and urban communities. Aspects of the Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs also restore and maintaining landscape character, settings and sense of place, including the landscapes visitors recreate within, the trail corridors they hike, and the viewsheds they value. High-value recreation settings and scenery also 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.

Outdoor recreation is the most popular use of the NFS. Recreational pursuits, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, sustain more jobs than any other activity on NFS lands, supporting about 205,000 jobs and contributing about \$13.6 billion to the communities surrounding national forests and grasslands. The benefits to rural communities from visitors to NFS lands grow 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 cultural heritage.

Over the past few years, NFS lands have hosted more than 160 million visits annually, with visitors engaging in activities such as camping, picnicking, skiing, snowboarding, hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, scenic driving, and visiting cultural sites and visitor centers. Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs manage and administer 23,700 recreation sites, over 23,500 recreation special use authorizations, 25 major visitor centers, 22 National Historic Landmarks, over 345,000 heritage assets, 136 national scenic byways, 439 designated wildernesses (over 36 million acres), and 122 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, and 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 Lands programs; 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 & scenic river volunteers and with the WILD Foundation on international skill exchanges.

In FY 2013, more than 101,000 volunteers and service participants contributed 3,855,000 service hours valued at \$85 million. This represented an eight percent decrease below FY 2012 levels. Their hourly contributions were equal to 2,141 fulltime equivalents.

**Grazing Management**

Budget Line Item	Grazing Management				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Grazing Management					
Annual Appropriations	\$51,568	\$55,356	\$49,600	-\$5,756	-10%
<b>Grazing Management Total</b>	<b>51,568</b>	<b>55,356</b>	<b>49,600</b>	<b>-5,756</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	420	420	420	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Grazing Management					
Manage Grazing Allotments	22,780	24,453	21,911	-2,542	-10%
Prepare Grazing Allotment NEPA	28,788	30,903	27,689	-3,214	-10%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Grazing Management</b>						
Allotment acres administered to 100% of Forest Plan standards	27,132,200	30,396,997	27,000,000	29,268,333	27,000,000	27,000,000
Number of grazing allotments with signed decision notices	194	111	125	123	125	110

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$49,600,000 for Grazing Management, a program decrease of \$5,756,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

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 2015 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 2013 was the end of a three-year cycle, and a new national summary of allotments scheduled for NEPA will be published once all the data has been gathered to produce a new summary. The reduced rate of completion of NEPA will necessitate extending the scheduling timeframe for all needed NEPA analyses. FY 2014 begins a new 12 year national summary of allotments needing NEPA analyses that are broken up into four three-year periods.

We propose to assess an administrative fee of \$1.00 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 \$5 million in administrative fees that could be used to offset costs associated with grazing permit administration.

Benefits from the FY 2015 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 reduced levels compared to the FY 2014 enacted levels.

Specific priorities within each activity include:

Manage Grazing Allotments - The FY 2015 President's Budget includes administration of 27,000,000 acres of grazing allotments to 100 percent of Forest 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 2015 President's Budget provides funding to complete grazing NEPA analysis and decisions for 110 grazing allotments, a reduction of 15 from the target of 125 allotments for FY 2014. The planned accomplishment level reflects an accurate capacity assessment based on a number of factors including a lower fund request 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 decision 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

Allotment acres administrated to 100 percent of forest plan standards (108 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013 the agency administered 29,268,333 acres to 100 percent of Forest Plan Standard. We emphasized the on-the-ground administration and monitoring in FY 2013 to help ensure we were moving towards attaining forest plan standards per the allotment management plans. This measure was designed so that we would know how close we are to having all allotment plans fully implemented and monitored with the objective of meeting all the forest plan standards, which are developed in part through a public involvement process. By meeting the forest plan standards, we ensure that grazing is managed to sustain healthy rangelands which has a direct relationship to the quality and quantity of water flowing from or through rangelands.

Number of grazing allotments with signed decision notices (98 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, the agency completed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis for 123 allotments. Signed decisions 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. A signed decision signifies to the permit holder that their allotment has a NEPA sufficient plan and that there is a path forward to maintain, restore, and rehabilitate the lands so that they have a stable grazing environment. If there is no NEPA-sufficient decision for an allotment, then the permit is issued with the same terms and conditions as the expired one. If those terms are not sufficient to protect the environment, incremental decisions would need to be made to prevent excess use or environmental degradation.

Completing scheduled NEPA work has been a challenge due to realigning priorities and resources to manage all-risk activities such as wildfires, increased complexity of analysis, 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 way we achieved efficiencies in FY 2013 is that approximately 30 allotments were combined together in one large decision; however, these combined decisions can only occur on national grasslands where the sites are very similar across many acres. This approach cannot be repeated consistently across the entire National Forest System (NFS).

## 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 90 million acres of NFS lands. The program seeks to maintain healthy rangelands but also 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. Each year livestock grazing on NFS lands contributes approximately 19,500 jobs and almost \$900 million to the Nation's economy.

Properly managed rangelands use benefits ecosystems that provides for a secure food source, sustains the water resources, and provides 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. Through the Grazing Management program, national forests and grasslands meet the management standards for grazing established in their land management plans and the allotment specific NEPA-based decisions that maintain ecosystem sustainability. By administering grazing permits in compliance with these standards, the agency ensures that grazing on NFS lands provides for a secure food source and supports local economies while being managed to restore and maintain health rangelands and sustain the quality and quantity of water resources associated with grazing allotments.

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. It 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 approved pilot and would continue to be integrated with the proposed national Integrated Resource Restoration program. 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 Integrated Resource Restoration program also provides the funding for construction of range improvements needed to implement allotment management plans if determined necessary in the NEPA decisions.

In each fiscal year, FY 2014 and FY 2015 the agency estimates that we will transfer \$1,250,000 to the BLM 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Minerals and Geology Management					
Annual Appropriations	\$77,716	\$76,423	\$70,566	-\$5,857	-8%
<b>Minerals and Geology Management Total</b>	<b>77,716</b>	<b>76,423</b>	<b>70,566</b>	<b>-5,857</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	517	511	492	-19	-4%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Minerals and Geology Management					
Administer Minerals Operations	27,752	27,290	20,580	-6,710	-25%
Process Minerals Applications	20,217	19,880	19,015	-865	-4%
Manage Geologic Resources & Hazards	6,106	6,005	5,470	-535	-9%
AML Safety Risk Mitigated	7,321	7,199	6,109	-1,090	-15%
Manage Environmental Compliance	1,883	1,852	995	-857	-46%
Manage Environmental Restoration	14,437	14,197	18,397	4,200	30%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Minerals and Geology Management</b>						
Number of mineral operations administered	12,441	9,985	10,521	10,019	10,000	8,000
Number of mineral applications processed	8,350	6,953	7,260	5,865	7,000	7,000
Number of leasable energy minerals actions processed.	0	0	0	144	240	270
Number of AML safety risk features mitigated to "no further action"	418	374	448	604	430	486
Number of administrative units where audits were conducted	26	22	15	18	20	17
Number of contaminated sites mitigated	73	51	36	42	40	42
Number of geologic hazards managed	276	282	240	340	190	300
Number of geologic resources managed	633	642	550	662	565	600

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$70,566,000 for Minerals and Geology Management, a program decrease of \$5,857,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Priority will be given to programs 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 2015 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.

Process Mineral Applications - The FY 2015 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 2015 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 (AML) - Safety Risk Features Mitigated - The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposal funds the mitigation of an estimated 486 abandoned mine sites. The AML 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.

Manage Environmental Compliance - The FY 2015 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 2015 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.

## Past Performance

Number of Mineral Operations Administered (*95 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, the agency administered 10,019 mineral operations to standard. Mineral operations include activities for locatable and salable minerals; non-energy leasable minerals activities; and approved oil, gas, coal, and geothermal operations. Administering an operation includes Forest Service actions taken to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of all previously approved permits or authorizations, such as a mineral material permit, acceptance of a Notice of Intent, an approved Plan of Operation, or prospecting permits.

Number of Mineral Applications Processed (*81 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, the agency processed 5,865 mineral applications. The shortfall in our anticipated FY 2013 accomplishment for mineral applications processed was due, in part, to NEPA-related court decisions which require full notice, comment, and appeal opportunities for actions that were once typically categorically excluded and added new permitting requirements. Recent updates in our locatable mineral regulations at 36 CFR 228 Subpart A, consistent with a 2012 court ruling, allow the operator to decide whether to submit a Notice of Intent if they feel the activity will not require a proposed Plan of Operation. Therefore, fewer notices are being submitted to Ranger Districts and the number of mineral applications processed (which includes Notices of Intent) has dropped.

The shortfall is also due to field inspections delayed because of wildfires and the fact that applications for locatable minerals are often based on walk-in proposals. Walk-in proposals are usually not planned, but instead are brought in by a proponent and are subject to the availability of specialists and other resources. Some proposals are not processed until the following year.

Number of Geologic Hazards Managed (*142 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, the agency took management action on 340 identified geologic hazards. The larger than expected accomplishment was due, in part, to the fact that many of these actions were relatively simple and of short duration; however, this is an anomaly that cannot be depended on. Also, because of the sudden and unexpected nature of certain types of geologic hazards, field units are obligated to take action on them even though they may not have been accounted for in targets.

Number of Geologic Resources Managed (*120 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, the agency took management action on 662 geologic resources, including paleontological sites, caves, and other specially managed geologic features. The larger than expected accomplishment was due, in part, to the fact that many of these actions were simple and of short duration, allowing additional geologic resources to be addressed. 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 of public lands.

Number of Administrative Units where Audits were Conducted (120 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, the agency completed 18 external environmental compliance audits of our facilities. We were able to complete additional audits on units in close proximity for little additional cost thus ensuring compliance with our mandate of auditing 20 percent of our administrative units annually.

Number of Abandoned Mine Land Safety Risk Features Mitigated: (134 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, the agency mitigated 604 hazardous mine features including open adits (horizontal mine openings) and shafts (vertical mine openings) at abandoned mines resulting in a safer environment for visitors and employees on NFS lands. The accomplishment of additional targets in FY 2013 was due in part to completion of projects scheduled but not completed in FY 2012.

Number of Contaminated Sites Mitigated (117 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, the agency mitigated 42 contaminated hazardous material sites. The increased accomplishment is due primarily to the identification of previously unknown contaminated sites located within ongoing cleanup of project areas. These unanticipated cleanups of sites such as oil spills, marijuana farms, and methamphetamine labs were able to be added cost effectively to existing projects' scopes of work. Additionally, partnerships and responsible party settlements contributed to our ability to accomplish more work on the ground.

**Barren Fork Coal Mine Portal Safety Closures, Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky**



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

These pictures of the Barren Fork Coal Mine provide an example of a permanent closure constructed at the opening of an abandoned coal mine to improve public safety, protect bat habitat and minimize vandalism to historic structures. This Kentucky coal mine was in operation in the late 1800s to 1930s by the Barren Fork Coal Company. Today, mine openings, or portals, associated with this mine are located adjacent to the Sheltoewe Trace National Recreation Trail. "Extreme explorers" view these abandoned mines as challenging and dangerous adventures. Such hazardous environments can become deadly due to toxic gases, low oxygen levels and subsidence or collapses. Safety closures over mine portals are completed every year providing a safer environment for visitors and employees on NFS lands.

## Program Description

### Program Overview

The Minerals and Geology Management (MGM) program provides significant contributions to meeting the Nation's energy and mineral needs while providing jobs and protecting NFS watersheds and resources. The MGM program provides the technical foundation and direction for management of geologic hazards and management and protection of geologic resources. Additionally, the MGM program mitigates the effects of abandoned mines and other contaminated sites on NFS lands and conducts environmental compliance audits to assure our operations are in agreement with environmental laws and requirements to protect human health and safety and the environment.

### *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 receipts from lease rentals, royalties, bonus bids, and mineral material sales returned to the Treasury, States, and counties, 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.

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 federal 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 2012, the 8 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 2012, 2.9 million short tons, at a value exceeding \$3.2 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 \$2.2 million in revenue.

### *Geologic Resources and Hazards on NFS lands*

Geologic resources include sites and areas with scientific, aesthetic, cultural, educational, recreational, and other values based on geology; paleontological resources; cave systems; and groundwater resources and associated groundwater-dependent ecosystems. NFS lands have over 1,000 designated special geologic sites and areas, with potentially thousands more undesignated sites that provide a variety of benefits to the public. In many cases, geologic resources, especially those with statutory protection, such as paleontological resources, significant caves, and water, require specialized expertise and strategies for management and conservation. Geologic hazards are geologic 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, property, or other natural resources. Hundreds of sites, especially those 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 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, provides for necessary work to make lands available for leasing by the Department of the Interior.

Mitigate Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) 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, AML work minimizes or mitigates adverse effects on dependent wildlife and AML-associated cultural and historic resources.

Manage Geologic Resources and Hazards - Provides assessments of geologic settings and processes for land management planning, 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 ground water-dependent ecosystems for protection, study, and appropriate use. Activities also include identification, assessment, and management of potential risks to public health and safety from geologic hazards such as landslides, debris flows, karst collapse features, and naturally occurring hazardous minerals and gases (e.g., asbestos and radon).

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 AML and non-AML 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 include projected workload in response to new and ongoing mineral exploration, development,

production and reclamation activities; number of AML 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; 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 protection of threatened and endangered species.

### Partnerships

The Forest Service works in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage the Federal minerals on NFS lands. The Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, 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 BLM, 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 hydrologic 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 ground 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.

Agency emphasis within the environmental compliance and protection and AML 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Landownership Management					
Annual Appropriations	\$79,869	\$77,730	\$71,440	-\$6,290	-8%
<b>Landownership Management Total</b>	<b>79,869</b>	<b>77,730</b>	<b>71,440</b>	<b>-6,290</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	603	593	592	-1	-0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-0%</b>
Landownership Management					
Adjust Land Ownership	14,376	14,769	13,574	-1,195	-8%
Protect Land Ownership Title	5,592	7,773	7,144	-629	-8%
Locate Land Boundaries	19,967	22,542	20,718	-1,824	-8%
Administer Energy, Communication and Land Use					
Authorizations	25,957	21,764	20,003	-1,761	-8%
Process Land Use Proposals	13,977	10,882	10,001	-881	-8%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Landownership Management</b>						
Acres of land adjustments to conserve the integrity of undeveloped lands and habitat quality	156,081	26,330	19,697	23,566	22,860	21,030
Number of land use authorizations administered to standard	17,271	17,735	11,573	28,887	12,500	14,700
Number of land use proposals and applications processed	4,505	4,339	3,507	4,047	3,500	3,600
Miles of landownership boundary line marked/maintained to standard	3,823	3,862	1,895	2,322	2,707	2,070

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The President’s FY 2015 Budget includes \$71,440,000 for Landownership Management, a decrease of \$6,290,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

In FY 2015, these funds provide for basic land management or real estate activities necessary to support all National Forest System (NFS) programs, in addition to those of special emphasis, including ecosystem restoration and the Administration’s emphasis on renewable energy, communications and energy transmission. The Landownership Management program will lay the foundation for all natural resource management activities, including: providing for the survey and location of public lands, maintaining all records associated with the public’s ownership, and granting authorizations for use and development of NFS lands, such as communication sites, energy transmission corridors, water developments, as well as roads and highways. This program will also provide land exchanges and other ownership adjustments, critical to protecting

sensitive lands while maintaining stable tax bases and providing for community development and protection.

Within the broad spectrum of Landownership Management, the following activities are critical to meeting public needs and expectations: Adjust Land Ownership; Protect Land Ownership Title; Locate Land Boundaries; and Administer Energy, Communication and Land Use Authorizations; and Process Land Use Proposals. Agency priorities for FY 2015 within each of those activities are as follows:

Adjust Land Ownership - The FY 2015 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 the 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.

**Eagle Valley Land Exchange Supports Conservation and Community Resources**

With Five Eagle County Colorado entities, one state agency, and a local private landowner, in FY 2013 the Forest Service completed a complex land exchange that will permanently protect 1,549 acres of open space in the communities of Avon and Edwards. The project included the conveyance of 758 acres of isolated Forest Service lands to local governments for open space programs, water supply systems, and roads and trails in exchange for 828 acres of high resource lands. The exchange represents one of the most significant conservation legacy acts in Eagle Valley and a significant investment in those communities.

Protect Land Ownership Title - The FY 2015 President's Budget proposal includes funds to resolve 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 U.S. and bona fide claimants. We also identify and process critical changes in land classifications such as wilderness, roadless, research natural areas, and assist in processing mineral withdrawals to protect these designated areas. We anticipate reducing overall costs to resolve title cases by implementing the new Title Claims and Encroachment Management System (TCEMS) database. TCEMS will help us focus law enforcement and other management efforts where the largest number and most significant encroachments are located and evaluate long-term management challenges which will help us to identify lands which could be conveyed or acquired in order to reduce management costs.

Locate Land Boundaries - The FY 2015 President's Budget proposal includes funds to mark and maintain NFS property line 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 help secure investments in natural 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.

Administer Energy, Communication and Other Land Use Authorizations, Process Land Use Proposals - The FY 2015 President's Budget provides funds for the administration of special use permits on NFS lands, of which there are 180 different categories of land uses. This 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 an OIG Audit of the Special Uses program, we have established criteria to prioritize monitoring and inspections to focus staffing resources on situations where, if noncompliance occurs, it is more likely to have adverse impacts on natural resources and/or on health and safety. The revised inspection system will improve monitoring of health and safety in the delivery of public facilities and services to visitors of the NFS.

**Castle Butte – Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

Castle Butte is a Forest Service lookout with two-way radio antennas, for private mobile radio service. Users include the Forest Service and State of Idaho (Police, Transportation, Fish & Game, etc.). The solar array is used to charge the batteries, which in turn runs the equipment, as there is no power to this remote site. Castle Butte is one example of a local government co-locating on our facilities to meet communication and public safety needs.

Key services provided by Lands special uses are energy development, transmission, and communications, all of which are essential to community infrastructure. We will continue to permit approximately 15,000 miles of power lines, 6,600 miles of pipelines, 1,500 communications sites, 14,000 recreation residences, and 2,000 domestic water impoundments (reservoirs) in FY 2015. We will prioritize reducing the expired authorization backlog to meet reductions outlined in regional action plans developed in response to Office of Inspector General Audit report 08601-55-SF.

In FY 2015, we will implement the newly released vegetation management desk guide and the soon to be completed Memorandum of Understanding with industry regarding vegetation management in utility corridors. In addition, we will inspect and monitor existing utility corridor authorizations. Lastly, we will begin to implement the recommendations from the Forest Service's energy team for protecting the resource, and enhancing capabilities and streamlining processes on NFS lands.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) 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 2015, we anticipate participating in currently planned FERC administered license proceedings and responding to new proposals sufficient to meet all FERC regulated deadlines. The Forest Service develops

and submits Federal Power Act Section 4 (e) conditions that include appropriate mitigation of project effects. Mitigations include fish protection upstream and downstream, integrated management of campgrounds along project reservoirs, providing for recreational flow releases, and protecting cultural resources potentially affected by project operations.

**Past Performance**

Acres of land adjustments to conserve the integrity of undeveloped lands and habitat quality (120 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, we acquired 23,566 acres, nearly 4,000 above the target of 19,697 acres. Land adjustment targets are estimated based on funding levels and historic averages, and not necessarily the workload that a region is able to complete in that fiscal year. Land adjustment, primarily conducted through exchanges, is one of many tools we have to support other resource objectives, and is often a multi-year process.

Number of land use proposals and applications processed (115 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, we processed 4,047 proposals and applications for new land use authorizations on the NFS. In any given year, the number of land use applications we process is based on the number we receive, and we set targets based on historic averages. We have no control over the number of proposals we receive nor the complexity of the requests, which can vary from a mailbox to a major power line. Further, some national forests and grasslands have issued moratoria on the acceptance of new applications due to staffing limitations.

Miles of NFS boundary line marked/maintained to standard (123 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, we marked and maintained 2,322 miles of NFS boundary line, 426 miles above our target, due in part to more cost effective surveys, cooperative efforts with adjoining landowners and other Federal agencies, unplanned projects supporting other resource areas, and adjoining development on non-NFS lands, all requiring boundary management support.

Number of land use authorizations administered to standard (250 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, we reported as “administered to standard” 28,887 out of approximately 45,000 total authorizations for non-recreation land uses on the NFS, exceeding our target of 11,573. While the FY 2013 accomplishment may suggest that we performed significantly above our target, this would be a misleading conclusion. In the middle of FY 2013,

**Mountain Top Communications Site**

The Forest Service administers approximately 4,200 authorizations at more than 1,500 communication sites, to help meet America’s communication and public safety needs. These uses annually generate approximately \$10 million in revenue to the United States Treasury.

we changed our reporting and monitoring standards in response to a report by the USDA Office of the Inspector General, and as a result, in FY 2013 many of our simpler permits were counted as “administered to standard.” The new standards will help

field staff focus inspections on the more complex permits, such as those for communications sites and electric transmission lines, enabling us to better address health and safety needs and potential impacts to ecological resources.

In FY 2014, we will update the definition of the measure and reset targets to continue aligning accomplishments with new reporting requirements.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

The Landownership Management program enables us to secure and protect approximately 193 million acres of lands and interests within the NFS and ensures that we return economically valuable public services and benefits from those lands. Through this program, we support the public interest both as a Federal landowner and as a neighbor and member of local communities across the Nation. Landownership Management supports restoration activities on cross-boundary landscapes by providing legal clarity on federal land boundaries; allows the agency to work with communities to implement optimal ownership patterns of Federal and private land; and allows the agency to administer activities that directly support thousands of private sector jobs through special use activities on NFS lands.

Landownership Management is a critical component 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 access and consolidate aquatic and terrestrial habitats and fire buffers, management of 14,000 cabin lots, 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.

The agency marks and maintains NFS property lines and protects forest resources in support of other land and resource management priorities. 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 hydroelectric projects protect critical resources riparian areas on a national forest or grassland,
- exchanging and conveying lands to achieve a desired NFS landownership pattern that supports forest land and resource goals and objectives,
- conveying administrative sites to allow us to realign and enhance our asset portfolio;
- surveying national forest boundaries to identify and protect private and public lands;
- determining the market value of lands purchased, exchanged, or conveyed,
- authorizing road access across NFS land 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:

Adjust Land Ownership - This activity supports landscape scale management by consolidating ownership patterns, creating more contiguous habitat, and managing benefits to the public and wildlife. 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 33,000 miles (12 percent) are currently marked to Forest Service standards.

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, 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.

#### 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 each fiscal year, FY 2014 and FY 2015 the agency estimates that we will transfer up to \$500,000 to the BLM for federal authority cadastral surveys on NFS lands.

#### Partnerships

The agency cooperates with 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Law Enforcement Operations					
Annual Appropriations	\$133,984	\$126,653	\$125,860	-\$793	-1%
<b>Law Enforcement Operations Total</b>	<b>133,984</b>	<b>126,653</b>	<b>125,860</b>	<b>-793</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	855	729	724	-5	-1%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Law Enforcement Operations					
Enforce Laws & Regulations	88,429	83,591	83,066	-525	-1%
Investigate Crime	45,555	43,062	42,794	-268	-1%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Law Enforcement Operations</b>						
Percent of cases referred for adjudication	7.5%	7.7%	6.7%	8.1%	7.3%	7.0%
Number of documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s budget proposes \$125,860,000 for Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI), a decrease of \$793,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. LEI will continue to prioritize response to emergency and life-threatening situations. This includes placing emphasis on combating the illegal activities of Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) 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 Sherriff’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 2015 President’s Budget request of \$83,066,000 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 2015 President’s Budget request of \$42,794,000 will fund criminal and civil investigations for arson, drug possession, theft and assaults. Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) have been identified as the key producer of marijuana on NFS lands. DTO activities have been confirmed on 68 national forests in 20 States.

In FY 2015, LEI estimates 7.0 percent of cases will be referred for adjudication and there will be approximately 6.0 documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits.

### **Past Performance**

In FY 2013, there were 6.3 documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits, compared to a target of 6.4. 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 2013, 8.1 percent of all criminal cases were referred for adjudication compared to a target of 6.7 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. In FY 2013, Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) staffing levels were at reduced levels due to hiring difficulties and concerns with projected budgets. Although visitation and activity levels have increased and personnel levels have decreased, LEI has maintained performance consistent with previous years.

### **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 staff also frequently responds 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 FEMA Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13- Public Safety and Security.

Approximately 80 percent of marijuana grown on Federal public lands is grown on NFS lands. The LEI is the lead agency 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 (DTOs) 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. The DTO activities have been confirmed on 68 national forests and in all regions except Region 10. Of the marijuana grown on Federal public land, 80 percent is on NFS lands. Illegal ground importation and trafficking on or near national forest 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 plain clothes officers carry concealed firearms and other defensive equipment, make arrests, carry out complex criminal investigations, 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; 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Valles Caldera National Preserve					
Annual Appropriations	\$3,192	\$3,364	0	-\$3,364	-100%
<b>Valles Caldera National Preserve Total</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>3,364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,364</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1	1	0	-1	-100%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Valles Caldera National Preserve					
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,192	3,364	0	-3,364	-100%

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget does not propose a separate funding level for management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve). This program will be funded at \$2,586,000 in FY 2015 from a variety of budget lines that are directly relevant to the work being completed. Funds will support the integrated program management objectives of the Preserve.

This proposal also allows the Valles Caldera Trust (Trust) to maintain Preserve operations, and continue progress toward meeting the goal of becoming financially self-sustaining by the end of FY 2015. Continued investment in the Preserve allows the agency and the Trust to protect and preserve for future generations the scientific, scenic, historical, and natural values of this unique land area. Continued investment also allows the Trust to fully implement the aspiration of managing public land in a transparent and financially self-sustaining manner.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, the Trust’s goals continued to focus on public access use, restoration, and enhancement of the Preserve’s rich natural, cultural and historic resources for sustainable use and enjoyment and the financial sustainability to support the preservation, enhancement, and operation of the Preserve. The planned year-round access which was scheduled to offer additional recreation and education programs and provide for increased public visitation fell short due to a major wildfire on the Preserve. The Thompson Ridge Fire, which burned approximately 25,000 acres of the Preserve, impacted much of the Trust’s public programs, including hunting, fishing, hiking, van tours, environmental education, and special events. The Trust, which was staffed to also offer an ecological and economical livestock program that contributed revenues towards the management of the Preserve’s resources, was altered due to the fire. Total revenue generated from these recreation programs totaled \$692,000. Appropriated dollars were used for rehabilitation of its road infrastructure, due to the post-fire flooding events caused by the 2011 Las Conchas Wildfire and the 2013 Thompson Ridge Wildfire. A total of 55,000 acres of the Preserve’s 89,000 acres have sustained impacts from these two wildfires.

The Preserve's entire potable water system has been compromised by the Thompson Ridge Fire and as of yet repairs have not been initiated.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve Public Access and Use Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Plan and Record of Decision were completed in FY 2013, along with the completion of the Draft EIS for the Valles Caldera National Preserve Landscape Restoration and Management Plan. The Final EIS along with the Record of Decision is scheduled for completion the first quarter of FY 2015. Due to the Las Conchas Fire of 2011 and the Thompson Ridge Fire in 2013, the analyses on both plans were delayed because of impacts to the Preserve.

## **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 provides 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 requires the tract to continue to be managed as an operating ranch.

The Act requires management of the Preserve by the Trust, a government corporation subject to the Government Corporation Control Act. A nine-member Board is responsible for the protection and development of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Seven of its members are appointed by the President of the United States. In addition, the current Superintendent of nearby Bandelier National Monument and the Forest Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest also serve on the Board. All Board decisions are made at public meetings. In August of 2002, the management authority for the Preserve was transferred to the Trust.

Funding for the Trust contributes to the management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve's resources to protect grasslands, watersheds, and forest vegetation through the practice of sound range, watershed, and forest management. The Valles Caldera National Preserve program also supports recreation opportunities as well as protecting and interpreting cultural and historic resources.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve program is 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 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 is to encourage scientific activities on the Preserve. Indicators for science community interest in studying the Valles Caldera National 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. In FY 2013, funding from outside (non-Valles Caldera Trust) sources came from 38 different project sources, and exceeded \$4.8 million. 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.

**Capital Improvement and Maintenance**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>				
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>				
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$358,510	\$350,000	\$306,280	-\$43,720	-12%
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance Total</b>	<b>358,510</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>306,280</b>	<b>-43,720</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	2,164	2,157	2,031	-126	-6%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>-126</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>					
Facilities	70,572	71,000	71,600	600	1%
Roads	165,959	166,000	154,000	-12,000	-7%
Trails	74,999	75,000	77,530	2,530	3%
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement	2,986	3,000	3,150	150	5%
Legacy Roads and Trails	39,814	35,000	0	-35,000	-100%
Supplemental, Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-2)	4,180	0	0	0	0%

**Capital Improvement and Maintenance Overview**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$306,280,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance a decrease of \$43,720,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. In addition, \$61,000,000 is requested through the new Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative to repair and maintain trails and facilities across the National Forest System (NFS).

The Administration has worked this year to analyze and develop a strategy to address catastrophic fire risk. There are three main challenges which 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. This budget makes hard choices to support important activities while maximizing the Forest Service’s ability to address the three main challenges with wildland fire noted above. This resulted in reductions in some programs to increase or maintain funding in others.

This proposal shifts activities previously conducted under the Roads program and the Legacy Roads and Trails program to the Integrated Resource Restoration program under the 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 insure 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. It 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.

In an effort to manage Forest Service lands in a manner consistent with the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, a portion of the Forest Service roads funding will be used to cost-effectively address the transportation system maintenance backlog. 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. The 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 receive public use and are critical to supporting agency mission and operations.

**Facilities**

Budget Line Item	Facilities				
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Facilities					
Annual Appropriations	\$70,572	\$71,000	\$71,600	\$600	1%
<b>Facilities Total</b>	<b>70,572</b>	<b>71,000</b>	<b>71,600</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	394	395	382	-13	-3%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Facilities					
Maintain Facilities	58,363	59,000	55,369	-3,631	-6%
Improve Facilities	12,209	12,000	16,231	4,231	35%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Facilities</b>						
Facilities condition index*	85.0%	84.0%	83.0%	88.0%	82.0%	82.0%
Percent of administrative facilities with "Good" or "Fair" condition rating	62.7%	58.0%	63.0%	57.0%	58.0%	57.0%
Percentage of recreation facilities with a "Good" or "Fair" condition rating	71.0%	73.0%	70.0%	73.0%	69.0%	68.0%

\* *Facilities Condition Index (FCI) is a general measure of the constructed asset's condition. FCI is one minus the ratio of repair needs to the facility current replacement value, expressed as a percentage. A higher FCI represents a better asset condition. The following assets are included in the measure: ALL buildings, Water & Wastewater systems and Dams.*

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President's Budget proposes \$71,600,000 for Facilities, an increase of \$600,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. An additional \$50,500,000 is also requested through the new Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to repair and maintain facilities.

The agency's program priorities for FY 2015 will be to support the safety and health of all users of our infrastructure. We will place emphasis on facilities that receive public use and are critical to supporting agency operations. These facilities include buildings, water and wastewater systems, dams, air tanker bases, telecommunication facilities, towers, and recreation sites. The table at the end of this section provides a list of major projects costing more than \$500,000.

One of the priorities of the FY 2015 President's Budget is to emphasize reduction of the agency footprint through consolidation and elimination of underutilized facilities. These opportunities for footprint reduction are identified through asset management planning and updating of Facility Master Plans (FMPs) that incorporate an appropriate level of financial analysis. We will use the

FMP process and Value Analysis to analyze the minimum level of assets needed to meet the agency mission. We will use the results to prioritize acquisition, maintenance and decommissioning.

Another priority is to reduce critical deferred maintenance work items on agency high priority assets. The agency is making this work a priority over the next five years, beginning with agency owned high hazard dams.

Specific priorities within each activity include:

Maintain Facilities - The FY 2015 President’s Budget funds the maintenance of fire, administrative, and other facilities (FA&O), along with recreation facilities and sites. Our agency priority is to provide safe and healthful environments for users in compliance with all applicable regulations and codes. We will concentrate first on facilities that house employees for extended periods of time, store mission-critical equipment, and provide unique recreation experiences. Other priorities the agency will address when possible include reducing deferred maintenance and making our facilities more sustainable.

Improve Facilities - The FY 2015 President’s Budget funds the improvement of facilities. Our agency priorities include replacing or renovating facilities and recreation sites that are critical to the agency mission, receive the highest use by the public and agency personnel, and are in the worst physical condition. New building construction projects for regional offices, supervisor’s offices, district offices, visitor centers, and research offices or laboratories where the building is 10,000 gross square feet or greater in size must be registered and certified using either the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system (minimum Silver certification), Green Globes (minimum Two Green Globes certification) or another third-party certification system. All other buildings, whether new or major renovations, must be designed to incorporate sustainable principles into the systems and components



appropriate to the building type and project scope. This requirement applies to buildings on an individual basis, and the most recently issued version of the third-party certification system must be used. We encourage construction projects to be designed and constructed with domestically harvested wood products ideally locally sourced and from National Forest System lands, whenever practicable and feasible.

In FY 2015, 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.

### **Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative**

In December 2013, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA) was enacted which replaced reductions in FY 2013 from sequestration with longer-term reforms. The President’s Budget adheres to the BBA’s discretionary funding levels for 2015. In addition, the President’s FY 2015 Budget Request includes a separate \$56 billion Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative (OGS Initiative) that is offset with spending reductions and tax reforms. In FY 2015, the OGS Initiative is designed to spur economic progress, promote opportunity, and strengthen national security through additional discretionary investments.

Under this initiative, \$50,500,000 to provide overdue maintenance and repairs on approximately 5,000 Forest Service facilities across the Nation. This new fund will complement the Department of the Interior’s Centennial Initiative and provide essential infrastructure maintenance and repair to sustain the benefits of existing infrastructure.

The investment funds will focus on correcting critical deferred maintenance at approximately 5,000 facility assets. Critical deferred maintenance represents the highest priority component of the deferred maintenance backlog, which addresses serious threats to public health or safety, a natural resource, or the ability to carry out the mission of the organization. Correcting these maintenance deficiencies will be a significant step in addressing the overall \$159.5 million of critical deferred maintenance backlog that currently exists.

Work will include repairing maintenance items on buildings, water/wastewater systems, dams, air tanker base tarmacs, campgrounds and other related facility infrastructure. The cost to repair an asset can range from as little as a few thousand to more than several hundred thousand dollars. The majority of this work will be done by contracts supporting jobs in our rural communities.

Investments in facilities infrastructure are essential to create sustainable public access and support a wide range of economic opportunities provided by National Forest System (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 from NFS lands. 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.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *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.*

**Past Performance**

Number of outdoor recreation facilities maintained to standard (149 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, 12,260 recreation sites were “maintained to standard.” Personnel worked diligently to maintain recreation sites to meet public demand with FY 2013 funds and, between FY 2009 and FY 2011, the agency spent permanent appropriation funds (remaining from the Recreation Fee Demo program) and Economic Recovery funds to address a significant amount of deferred maintenance. This use of funds contributed to the increased number of sites we are able to maintain to standard.



Number of FA&O facilities maintained to standard (93 percent of target accomplished). The agency maintained 9,425 out of 16,512 administrative facilities to standard. In FY 2013, maintenance activities were focused on the most critical health and safety needs such as ensuring water systems are delivering safe potable water; ensuring wastewater systems are not posing unacceptable risks from contact, contamination of potable water, or damage to the environment; and bringing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and electrical systems up to current codes while achieving increased energy efficiencies. The agency focused work on those facilities where employees are housed and where the public interacts. Deferred Maintenance, Operations and Maintenance of Quarters, Conveyance of Administrative Sties, and the Facilities Assessment also contribute to this measure’s accomplishments. Fewer facilities were maintained to standard than expected because some contract awards were delayed as a result of fire transfer.

From 2004 through 2013, the agency reduced its total number of buildings from 41,296 to 40,268. We continue to make significant progress in reducing our facilities footprint. The condition of administrative facilities ranges from poor to good, with approximately 42 percent needing major repairs or renovation, approximately 13 percent in fair condition, and 45 percent of the facilities in good condition.

**Corvallis Research Lab & Siuslaw National Forest Headquarters Collocation, OR**



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

This FY 2013 project replaced a 46 year old, 17,000 square foot (SF), energy inefficient and seismically deficient East Wing of the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab with a new 9,700 SF energy efficient building. The project also improves building security and accessibility; saves \$10 million over 30 years in operations and maintenance costs; and eliminates \$4.8 million of deferred maintenance. It collocates the Siuslaw National Forest and Pacific Northwest National Resource Inventory System with the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab eliminating a high cost lease for the National Forest and provides for savings realized from combining multiple agency operations.

**Program Description**

Program Overview

The facilities program is integral to supporting the agency themes of restoration, communities, and wildland fire management and emergency response efforts. The facility program on each National Forest is similar in nature to the facility infrastructure in a county, providing office space, emergency protection, and recreation opportunities.

The agency’s Facilities program supports agency mission activities by administering facilities and sites used for recreation, research, and FA&O purposes. FA&O facilities include fire facilities, such as airtanker 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), and service and storage buildings; and other facilities, such as telecommunication facilities, towers, dams, and recreation visitor centers. This program includes carrying out maintenance and capital improvement on approximately 23,700 recreation sites, and approximately 23,500 recreation, research, and other administrative buildings.

A major part of the Facilities program is to provide the recreation infrastructure for the 166 million visits that occur annually on NFS Lands. The infrastructure includes 25 major visitor centers, campgrounds, trailheads, and day-use sites.

Flexibility to consider a full range of engineering tools is essential to continue to efficiently and cost-effectively modernize services the Forest Service provides to the American public, in part

by responsibly reducing the agency’s facilities footprint. When planning major facility projects, we include both new construction and maintenance in our list of major facilities projects based on our facility master plans and the most effective use of taxpayer dollars. The facility staff are demonstrating leadership in environmental sustainability and increasing workforce efficiency by providing effective delivery of services to protect human safety, providing cost-effective work plans for facilities, modernizing recreational facilities, and eliminating excessively high leases.

The Facilities program consists of two activities, Maintain Facilities and Improve Facilities.

Maintain Facilities - Maintenance is defined as the act of keeping fixed assets in usable condition. It includes repairs, preventive maintenance, and replacement of parts and structural components. Maintenance projects for recreation developed 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, compliance with codes, standards and regulations, to reduce energy and water consumption across the agency, and to create a sustainable network of facilities that meet Forest Service needs while reducing their environmental impact.



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.



An emphasis for this program is the Forest Service Energy Reduction Plan. One key action to address inefficiencies in our energy and water utility bills is to identify the top energy consuming facilities. Utility bill clean-up efforts will result in significant cost reductions by eliminating unintended waste. Additionally, we are identifying candidate facilities for installing renewable biomass heating systems and plan to have approximately 80 smart energy meters operational in FY 2014. By 2015, we expect to exceed the requirement in Executive Order 13514 by having more than 15 percent of our buildings over 5,000 gross square feet meeting the Guiding Principles for High Performance Sustainable Buildings.

Sustainability at the Forest Service is being implemented through the sustainable operations program. Sustainability 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 operations including: making our buildings and equipment more energy and water efficient, buying green and recycled materials, reducing our travel by holding more virtual meetings and sharing rides whenever possible, reducing waste whenever possible, and changing behavior such as turning off equipment at night or using less of disposable items.

We will continue to make safety a priority. When safety hazards are identified, we will mitigate these hazards at developed sites to the greatest possible extent to ensure we are providing the safest possible facilities for the recreating public.

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.

Facilities maintenance and improvement activities are also funded by the Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement budget line item. 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 23,000 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: Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**FY 2015 Facilities Major Projects List**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Agency-wide Critical Infrastructure Support</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Total - Recreation Maintenance (Projects Under \$500,000)</b>	<b>\$39,465</b>
FA&O Maintenance (Projects \$250,000 - \$499,000)	1,623
Capital Improvement (Projects Under \$500,000)	2,580
Planning and Design for Future Projects	2,497
Washington Office (Maintenance and Improvement)	3,942
Albuquerque Service Center Business Management (Maintenance and Improvement)	7,089
Project Management and Implementation Support	1,195
<i>Critical Infrastructure Support Subtotal</i>	<i>\$18,926</i>
<b>Total - Critical Infrastructure Support and Recreation Maintenance</b>	<b>\$58,390</b>

**FY 2015 Facilities Major Projects List**  
(dollars in thousands)

Region/ Station/ Area	State	Project Name and Type	Unit	Deferred Maintenance Eliminated	Project Cost
<b>National Priority Projects</b>					
1	MT	Regional Office Rehabilitation at Fort Missoula - Phase 3	Regional Office	\$0	\$1,200
3	AZ	Prescott Aviation Fire Center Improvements	Prescott NF	167	1,000
10	AK	CoLocated Sitka Office Renovation	Sitka Ranger District	474	800
<i>National Priority Subtotal</i>				\$641	\$3,000
<b>Regional Priority Projects</b>					
1	MT	Regional Office Rehabilitation at Fort Missoula - Phase 2	Mountain Region	\$0	\$1,600
2	WY	Cook Lake Dam Repair	Black Hills NF	86	1,225
2	CO	Gunnison Office Renovations (Phase 2)	GMUG	769	600
4	ID	Salmon-Challis NF Seasonal Housing Relocation (Phase 1)	Salmon-Challis NF	314	920
8	GA	Morganton Point Water/Wastewater Replacement	Chattahoochee NF	129	713
9	IN	Deer Creek Dam Rehabilitation	Hoosier NF	1,250	1,500
10	AK	Sitka Energy Retrofit	Tongass NF	95	650
Research	HI	Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest Infrastructure Improvements PH 7	Pacific Southwest Research Station	0	1,000
Research	WI	Forest Products Lab Building 33 Fume Hood Replacement	Forest Products Lab	603	603
Research	WI	Forest Products Lab Building 29 and 34 Fume Hood Replacement	Forest Products Lab	579	579
SDTDC	CA	Replace SDTDC Electrical & Test HVAC Systems	San Dimas T&D Center	820	820
<i>Regional Priority Subtotal</i>				\$4,645	\$10,210
<b>Total - National and Regional Facilities Projects Funding</b>				<b>\$5,286</b>	<b>\$13,210</b>

**Roads**

Budget Line Item	Roads				
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Roads					
Annual Appropriations	\$165,959	\$166,000	\$154,000	-\$12,000	-7%
<b>Roads Total</b>	<b>165,959</b>	<b>166,000</b>	<b>154,000</b>	<b>-12,000</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1,051	1,051	1,051	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Roads					
New Road Construction	6,646	6,018	7,700	-14,846	-66%
Operations & Maintenance	141,066	143,454	129,360	-14,094	-10%
Reconstruction of Existing Roads	18,247	16,528	16,940	16,940	0%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Roads</b>						
Miles of passenger car roads receiving maintenance	37,304	37,437	30,166	34,281	36,000	32,000
Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance	22,170	17,679	17,924	14,111	11,300	9,200
Miles of road reconstruction and capital improvement	2,379	2,512	2,000	2,037	1,900	1,800
Percent of road and trail rights-of-way acquired that provide public access through easement acquisitions or land adjustments	90.0%	20.0%	85.0%	90.0%	85.0%	80.0%

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$154,000,000 for Roads, a decrease of \$12,000,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

In FY 2015, we will focus our roads program on three key outcomes: Access, Restoration, and Safety. We will achieve these outcomes by implementing plans we are currently developing, related to travel management, road management objectives, best management practices, watershed condition assessments, and watershed restoration action plans. Across these efforts, we will comply with legal requirements including the Highway Safety Act for passenger car roads, and inspect our bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). Our focus will be on achieving these outcomes and ensuring our performance measures are aligned with and support these outcomes.

To help monitor progress toward the desired outcomes, we will measure progress in four key areas of the Roads Program, to better align with agency strategic goals. These outcomes include:

Access - This outcome will be measured as the percent of the existing road system in alignment with the minimum road system. Each National Forest is reviewing the existing road system and will publish a report and map by the end of FY 2015 displaying roads likely needed for future use and roads likely not needed for future use. The Forest Service transportation system provides mission critical access for recreational, commercial, resource management, and administrative purposes that support the mission, goals, and priorities of the Forest Service. It also provides access to and between rural and gateway communities, contributing to community vitality and economic development.

Restoration - This outcome will be measured as the percent of watershed restoration action plans (WRAPs) where all identified road work has been completed. Restoration supports a primary goal of the agency, reduces stream sedimentation, restores wildlife habitat and provides jobs for local communities. As culverts are removed, upgraded, and/or replaced, many miles of stream habitat can be re-opened to migratory fish, including listed species. Restoration work also supports the Administration Executive Order to address infrastructure preparedness and resiliency to the impacts of Climate Change.

Road Safety - This outcome will be measured as the percent of passenger car roads with a Safety Condition rating of good or fair. The agency sees public safety as a core element within our mission. We need to provide safe access to ensure passenger vehicle roads and important recreational areas remain accessible and available. This transportation infrastructure will support rural communities and provide jobs.

Bridge Safety - This outcome will be measured as reducing the percent of bridges identified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, and /or with critical deferred maintenance to 10 percent or less of the Agency inventory. The agency will meet NBIS bridge inspection standards for our 6,200 bridges and prioritize inspection deficiency's to ensure that our most critical bridges are maintained in good condition. Having safe bridges supports agency priority's in emergency fire protection as well as supporting thriving communities.



We will continue to track and report on existing targets, but we will also ensure that work is prioritized to help us meet the desired outcomes found in the plans and frameworks mentioned above.

In FY 2015 our focus will continue to be on work related to ensuring public safety and critical access needs. The agency will continue to identify a properly sized road system for each National Forest System (NFS) unit. Our ultimate goal is management and sustainability of a road system that minimizes adverse environmental impacts by assuring roads are in locations only where they are necessary to meet access needs, and can be maintained within budget constraints. The agency will continue to use a science-based approach that considers the ecological, social, and economic impacts of roads to inform future travel-management decisions that move administrative units toward the Minimum Road System. Through Subpart A of the agency's Travel Management Rule, we are reviewing and analyzing the existing road system to determine which roads are needed for future administration, use, and protection of the NFS. Once this analysis is complete, the agency will track implementation of the opportunities identified. These opportunities will be analyzed using site specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning where required.

For FY 2015, the activities previously accomplished with the Legacy Roads and Trails program will be moved to the Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item (BLI). Activities include 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. Activities also include decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system. Decommissioning unneeded roads and structures eliminates the environmental effects of such roads and helps achieve ecological, terrestrial, and aquatic restoration objectives. The work performed on the ground can include removing drainage structures, constructing water bars and scarifying and seeding the road bed. Refer to the Integrated Resource Restoration section in the NFS appropriation for more details.

In FY 2015 for the Roads BLI, specific priorities within each activity include:

Operations and Maintenance - The FY 2015 President's Budget proposes funding for the operations and maintenance of the National Forest Road System (NFRS). The request funds maintenance of an estimated 32,000 miles of passenger car roads and 9,200 miles of high clearance and closed roads. Currently, there are approximately 65,200 miles of passenger car roads, 204,600 miles of roads operated for high clearance vehicle use, and 102,000 miles of closed roads, which are kept in storage to provide options for future management activities.

Operations and maintenance funds maintain the NFRS in its current standard. Priority projects include the maintenance necessary to meet Highway Safety Act requirements, emergency access for first responders, escape routes in the event of wildland fire or other emergency situations, as well as roads identified on a motor vehicle use map. Effective road maintenance ensures that roads open for public and administrative travel comply with safety requirements and environmental protection laws and are available for critical access needs. We will explore innovative technologies that reduce deferred maintenance with cost effective methods. Road maintenance activities reduce sediment deposition into streams, and this maintenance is critical to protect the quality of water originating on NFS lands that provide primary water supplies to

many communities. Properly functioning road drainage makes our roads less susceptible to mass failure, and the resulting water quality impacts, due to severe storms.

Reconstruction of Existing Roads - The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes funding for the reconstruction of existing roads. The funds provide for the reconstruction of an estimated 1,800 miles of existing road, considering all funding sources. Priority reconstruction projects include replacement of deficient bridges and stream crossings, recreation site and administrative site access needs, and engineering support for road reconstruction needed for vehicle and equipment access for timber sale and stewardship contracts. Road reconstruction ensures a transportation system that meets applicable safety laws and standards as well as essential public and critical access needs.

Road Construction - The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes funding for road construction. A limited amount of funds will only be used to build segments of new roads when needed to support critical resource efforts, such as the agency’s bark beetle efforts or to ensure human health and safety.

In FY 2015 we will emphasize passenger car safety on critical access routes and have adjusted our targets to increase passenger car road maintenance. Because this work is more costly than higher clearance road maintenance, we have reduced the high clearance maintenance target slightly.

**Past Performance**

The Forest Service goal in the Roads program is to manage a safe and sustainable road system that meets critical access needs while minimizing adverse environmental impacts with an emphasis on the safety of our passenger car roads. In FY 2013 we maintained 34,281 miles of passenger car roads, 13,671 miles of high clearance roads, and 440 miles of roads in storage.



Roads placed in long term storage are closed to all traffic, including administrative traffic, for a period greater than one year. Many stored roads receive treatment to reduce ecological damage. Treatment levels depend on location, topography, and the expected duration of storage. In addition to road maintenance, road construction and reconstruction are necessary to ensure our transportation system meets applicable safety laws and standards while ensuring essential public and critical access needs are met. In FY 2013, the Forest Service reconstructed 1,041 miles of passenger car roads and 997 miles of high clearance roads meeting our expectations (99 percent of target accomplished) and we constructed 41 miles of new roads that were critical for resource management.

The Forest Service recognizes the need to decommission roads which are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system. In FY 2013, the Forest Service decommissioned 1,491 miles of road, 48 percent of which were non-Forest Service system roads, and improved 272 stream crossings to provide easier passage for aquatic organisms. Forests already implementing Travel Management Plans have seen the most year-to-year improvement in decommissioning roads, therefore we anticipate that as the agency moves toward the goal of 100 percent implementation of travel management, road decommissioning accomplishments are likely to see accelerated progress.

The Forest Service acquired 52 rights-of-way enabling access to the National Forest System where we did not have legal access. These 52 rights-of-way represent 41 miles of road and trail easements.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

The NFRS is essential for the management, protection, and public use and enjoyment of 193 million acres of NFS lands. Virtually all agency and public activities on NFS lands require travel over the system, which consists of approximately 372,000 miles of roads and 6,200 road bridges.

Preserving the investment in the transportation system and maintaining the system to meet safety standards are important areas of program emphasis. The level of effort to ensure 6,200 bridges are inspected on-time and to standard requires significant staff resources. Many of the bridges are now reaching the end of their design life and are in need of replacement. Due to the age of the bridges over 50 percent of the NFS road bridges have inventoried safety related critical deferred maintenance deficiencies.

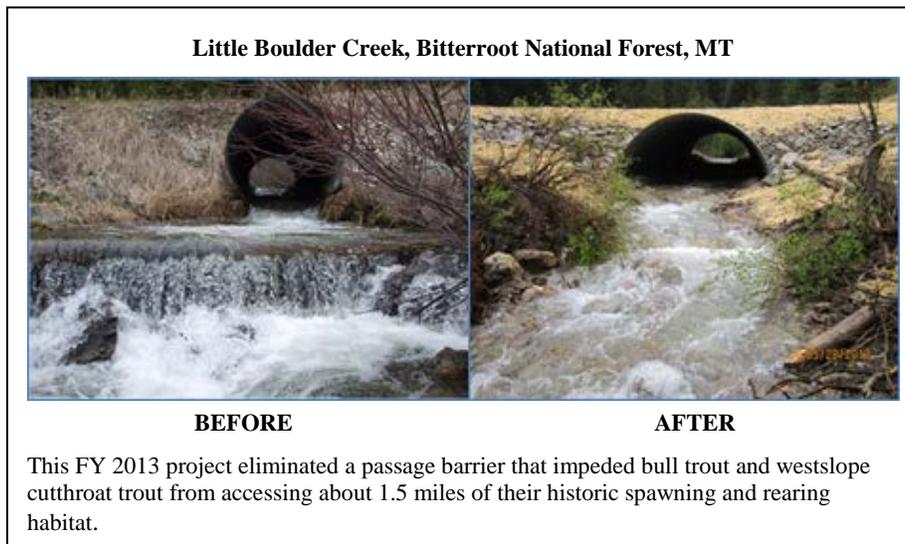
The Roads program supports the staff required to implement restoration activities across the transportation system. These include road decommissioning, storm proofing, implementing best management practices, making recommendations where drainages need to be improved to support aquatic passage, and the required analysis to ensure the transportation system is the “minimum” needed to provide access.

The transportation system on each National Forest 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 and fragmentation of habitats.

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 road 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.

The Forest Service is committed to preventing watershed and habitat degradation associated with off-road vehicle use. We are working to ensure our roads do not block the movement of aquatic organisms through stream crossings. The pictures below illustrate an example of improvements to road/stream crossings to protect water resources.



Over the past ten years, the Forest Service has reduced the total number of road miles by approximately 7,000 miles. During that same period, the number of miles of passenger car road available has gone from approximately 79,800 to 65,200; a reduction of 18 percent. The Forest Service continues 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 economies and communities within 50 miles of national forests and grasslands. The NFRS is the critical component in maintaining access, and supporting local recreation-dependent communities associated with 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."
- In order to maintain, reconstruct, and construct the NFRS, the Forest Service hires contractors that frequently supply good jobs in rural areas. The NFRS provides access to a variety of resources that provide jobs, such as energy and minerals. In 2012, receipts from annual lease rentals, royalties on production, and bonus bids for competitive leases were \$667 million, with \$458 million from coal and \$209 million from oil, gas and other leasable minerals.
- The NFRS provides critically important access for recreational, administrative, and commercial purposes. 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.
- Effective road maintenance is essential to protect the quality of waters provided by 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 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, and transportation planning (travel management). Transportation planning, formally known as 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 support costs for timber sales are included in this activity only for road work that qualifies as maintenance. Engineering support 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; rights-of-way acquisition; changing the function of existing roads to accommodate different users, 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; safety improvements that correct or improve high hazard locations such as replacement of deficient bridges or culverts; and other improvements to meet public and resource management needs. Most of the Forest Service Road System was built in the 1960s and 1970s and the associated road bridges are reaching the end of their 50 year design life. Due to age related deterioration, 13.5 percent of road bridges are now structurally deficient and are being load restricted or closed at an accelerating rate. Reconstruction also includes the engineering support costs for timber sale contracts that include timber purchaser provided reconstruction of existing roads that may be in storage. Engineering support includes 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. New road construction also includes the engineering support costs for timber sale contracts that include timber purchaser provided new road construction. This activity results in a minor addition of miles to the transportation system where none previously existed.

### 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 to be spent for maintenance. When funding is allocated to the field, the agency uses a formula that reflects 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 between 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 NFS Road program supports partnership opportunities such as Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects, cooperative agreements, work with states and counties through the current highway bill (MAP-21), with local counties thru RAC agreements, and with Tribal governments. These partnerships leverage NFS Road 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 cooperative construction and maintenance of road systems. Under this authority, the Forest Service enters into Cooperative Road Construction and Use Agreements (i.e. Cost Share Agreements) with the owners of large tracts of lands intermingled with NFS lands. The Forest Service also enters into Forest Road Agreements with public road authorities, such as states and counties, where NFS access, local residential access, and local commerce needs coincide. Tens of thousands of miles of NFS roads are included in these kinds of agreements.

**Trails**

Budget Line Item	Trails				
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
<b>Trails</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$74,999	\$75,000	\$77,530	\$2,530	3%
<b>Trails Total</b>	<b>74,999</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>77,530</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>3%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	591	591	591	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Trails</b>					
Maintain Trails	58,049	58,000	69,777	11,777	20%
Improve Trails	16,950	17,000	7,753	-9,247	-54%

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Trails</b>						
Miles of system trails maintained	50,305	59,274	29,969	50,915	48,000	49,500
Miles of system trail improved	1,255	1,886	1,173	1,018	1,000	1,100
Percentage of system trails meeting standard	24.7%	26%	30%	22%	24%	25%

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$77,530,000 for Trails, an increase of \$2,530,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. An additional \$10,500,000 is requested through the new Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative to maintain Trails on National Forest System (NFS) lands.

The NFS inventory of approximately 158,000 miles of trails offers a vast range of recreation opportunities to the American public, directly supporting the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative. We continue to designate trails for motor-vehicle use consistent with the Travel Management Rule and to strengthen partnerships in trail stewardship, particularly those that help deliver youth development programs and foster citizen engagement. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps Program will provide additional opportunities to work with partners on trails maintenance. Through the Trails program, we continue to focus on management and protection of the National Scenic and Historic Trails. We will also be responding to the GAO Report: “Forest Service Trails: Long- Short Term Improvements Could Reduce Maintenance Backlog and Enhance System Sustainability” (GAO-13-618). The Secretary of Agriculture has developed a Statement of Action that details actions the Forest Service will take over the next several years to improve maintenance of NFS trails.

In response to GAO-13-618, we will conduct an analysis of the Trails Program in FY 2014 and FY 2015 to evaluate program needs and available resources. We will identify ways to increase capacity for conducting trails maintenance with partners and volunteers. We will also develop criteria for defining a sustainable trail and trails program that will help the agency strategically focus priorities and resources across the National Forest trail system. By calendar year 2016, we will develop a national strategy for a sustainable trails program.

In the FY 2015 President's Budget, we are including a target of 25 percent for "Percent of System Trails Meeting Standard," a performance measure previously included in the 2007-2012 Forest Service Strategic Plan. This measure reflects the percentage of National Forest 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. This performance measure is a key indicator of the condition of each trail and overall condition of the trail system.

Through the combination of trail maintenance and improvement work, Forest Service units, in collaboration with partners and volunteers, we will focus on priority trail work to address key health and safety issues, improve trail conditions and recreation opportunities, and maximize the miles of trails meeting National Quality Standards.

Specific priorities within each activity include:

Maintain Trails - The FY 2015 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-kill from insects and disease, and other natural disasters. At least 20 percent of this work will be accomplished through the use of volunteers and partners. We will continue to validate and improve a basic 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 2015 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.

### **Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative – Trails**

In December 2013, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (BBA) was enacted which replaced reductions in FY 2013 from sequestration with longer-term reforms. The President's Budget

adheres to the BBA’s discretionary funding levels for 2015. In addition, the President’s FY 2015 Budget Request includes a separate \$56 billion Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative (OGS Initiative) that is offset with spending reductions and tax reforms. In FY 2015, the OGS Initiative is designed to spur economic progress, promote opportunity, and strengthen national security through additional discretionary investments.

Under this initiative \$10,500,000 is requested to perform maintenance on approximately 9,000 miles of trails in the NFS. This new fund will complement the Department of the Interior’s Centennial Initiative and provide essential infrastructure maintenance and repair to sustain the benefits of existing infrastructure.

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 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.

**Past Performance**

**North of Rocky Mountain Trail Rehab**



The north side of Rocky Mountain, near Indian Grave Gap in Georgia, featured many steep and heavily eroded areas. In 2012, a Konnarock Volunteer Trail Crew of 15 spent two weeks on this project on the Chatahoochee-Oconee National Forests, hardening the tread with rock and log steps (including one massive staircase of 45 steps), and installing several waterbars to improve drainage. In 2013, the crew came back to finish what was started in 2012, building steps and waterbars to protect every unstable or eroded spot between where the 2012 crew left off and Indian Grave Gap.

Miles of system trails maintained (170 percent of target accomplished). In FY 2013, we conducted maintenance on 50,915 miles of system trails which far surpasses our FY 2013 target of 29,969. Field personnel took advantage of as many opportunities as possible to maintain trails. For example, where travel management planning was complete or near completion, some units had increased capacity to turn their full attention back to core trails work. We also have more partners working with the agency to progress toward common goals and the accomplishments from those relationships were a significant contributor to the program's success in FY 2013. For example, in caring for the Pacific Crest Trail, we continued to grow in strength and depth our collaborative partnership between Backcountry Horseman of California, Oregon, and Washington; Oregon Equestrian Trails; Pacific Crest Trail Association; and the Bureau of Land Management. There, we established two Centers of Excellence to support traditional skills, including mule and horse packing. Through this collaboration, we maintained 2,650 miles of trail for public use, and raised to standard 1,150 miles of trail that were previously had deferred maintenance.

Working with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, we also started a successful new youth program engaging more than 70 students, ages eight to twelve years, who participated in a three-week environmental education program. Through this type of outreach and direct engagement, we aim to enrich students' knowledge and experience with the outdoors as well as grow future stewards of our public lands.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

Through the Trails program we manage an inventory of over 158,000 miles of trails, a portion of which are National Scenic and Historic Trails. 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. About 32,000 miles of trails are located within designated wilderness areas. 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 in recreation gateway communities.

Trails provide primary access to a wide variety of outdoor recreation on NFS lands. Outdoor recreation is by far the single greatest use, dwarfing every other use. Not surprisingly, it also supports the largest number of private sector jobs of any Forest Service program, and it provides the single greatest stimulus for local economies. Recreation, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing together sustain more jobs than any other activity on NFS lands, supporting about 194,000 jobs and contributing nearly \$13 billion to the communities surrounding national forests and grasslands.

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 NFS 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 fifteen 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 Accounting Standards No. 6 (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 upon healthy and effective partner organizations to help carry out a sustainable Recreation and Trails program. 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 NFS 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 2013 2 partners and volunteers contributed approximately 1.2 million hours of trail maintenance work valued at \$26.75 million.

The Trails programs leverage an enormous amount of skill, time, and tangible accomplishments from volunteers and partners. In FY 2013, partners and volunteers contributed approximately 1.2 million hours of trail maintenance work on NFS trails, valued at \$26.7 million. At least 25 percent of the program's accomplishments result directly from work completed under NFS public-private partnerships.

**Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement**

Budget Line Item	Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement				
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement					
Annual Appropriations	\$2,986	\$3,000	\$3,150	\$150	5%
<b>Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement Total</b>	<b>2,986</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>5%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	8	8	7	-1	-12%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-12%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$3,150,000 for Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement, an increase of \$150,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Other appropriations, such as Facilities, Roads, and Trails, contribute to the agency’s efforts to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog. For FY 2015, we developed a national prioritized list of projects from proposals developed by the units. A priority for the agency is to reduce critical deferred maintenance on high priority assets. In line with this priority, projects for FY 2015 were selected that would eliminate critical deferred maintenance items at agency high hazard dams.

**FY 2015 Deferred Maintenance & Infrastructure Improvement Projects**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

Region	State	Forest	Project Name	Allocation	Deferred Maintenance eliminated
3	AZ	Kaibab	Railroad Tank Dam Decommissioning	\$350	\$200
4	WY	Bridger-Teton	Cottonwood Dam Lower Notch	82	210
5	CA	Shasta-Trinity	Hume Lake Dam Repairs	2,120	2,324
8	TX	North Carolina	Houston Dam Decommissioning	438	438
8	NC	North Carolina	Skitty Creek Dam Repairs	160	55
		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,150</b>	<b>\$3,227</b>

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, with funding of \$2.6 million, the agency completed the following major projects, which contributed to the elimination of almost \$2.9 million of deferred maintenance in total.

**FY 2013 Deferred Maintenance Major Projects**  
(dollars in thousands)

State	Region	Forest	Project name	Project Type	Funding	Deferred Maintenance eliminated
ID	1	Nez Perce	Fenn Ranger Station Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems Replacement	FA&O	\$969	\$654
AZ	3	Coronado	Loma Linda Water System Rehabilitation	FA&O / Recreation	767	867
OR	6	Mt Hood	Timberline Lodge Water Piping Replacement	Recreation	740	1,015
TX	8	Sam Houston	Double Lake Lift Station and Force Main Reconstruction	Recreation	443	356
National			Deferred Maintenance Project Management		67	
		<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,986</b>	<b>\$2,892</b>

**Program Description**

Program Overview

The infrastructure required to support the mission of the Forest Service is complex and geographically dispersed. The priority for 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. The Forest Service portfolio includes approximately 40,300 buildings, 4,820 drinking water systems, 4,880 wastewater systems, approximately 23,700 recreation sites, over 158,000 miles of trails, 6,720 trail bridges, 6,220



road bridges, 372,000 miles of roads, 500 jurisdictional dams, and additional infrastructure features. These assets currently have a backlog of over \$5.56 billion dollars in maintenance needs, as of the end of FY 2013. The cost of addressing deferred maintenance varies each year (e.g. changes in building material). Please see the Special Exhibit on Deferred Maintenance for additional information.

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 IRR; 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. 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

This program leverages funds through partnerships with non-profit organizations and volunteers. Additional leveraging is accomplished through concessionaire programs, user maintenance fees, and other partner-based work.

**Land Acquisition**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Land Acquisition</b>				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$49,762	\$43,525	\$51,000	\$7,475	17%
<b>Land Acquisition Total</b>	<b>49,762</b>	<b>43,525</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>7,475</b>	<b>17%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	53	52	53	1	2%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts</b>				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$903	\$912	\$950	\$38	4%
<b>Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts Total</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges</b>				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges</b>					
Annual Appropriations	0	\$217	\$216	-\$1	-0%
<b>Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-0%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

*Note: The Land Facilities Enhancement Fund is covered in the Permanent Funds Chapter under the Conveyance of Administrative Sites and Site-Specific Lands Acts Funds.*

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Land Acquisition (Appropriation)</b>						
Number of acres acquired or donated (Discretionary funds)	20,149	26,330	19,897	62,133	43,378	32,760
Number of acres acquired or donated (Mandatory funds)	0	0	0	0	0	49,336
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)	14,075	20,624	18,750	20,954	34,463	26,208
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	39,468

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

Land Acquisition

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$51,000,000 in discretionary funding for the Land Acquisition budget line item, an increase of \$7,475,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. An additional \$76,673,000 of mandatory funding is proposed to be transferred from the Department of the Interior (DOI) 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 (AGO) Initiative.

*Collaborative Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 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 fiscal year 2015. Starting in 2016, \$900 million annually in permanent funds would be available. During the transition to full permanent funding in 2015, the budget proposes \$900 million in total LWCF funding, comprised of \$550 million in permanent and \$350 million discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

The request includes \$46,603,000 (\$14,715,000 discretionary and \$31,888,000 mandatory portions) to support the projects described in this section under the heading “Collaborative Landscape Planning” (CLP). This CLP endeavor addresses AGO 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. USDA and DOI identified 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 cleaner drinking water, improved recreational opportunities, reduced wildfire risk, protection of habitat for at-risk and game species, and jobs creation on and off forests and grasslands. All proposed land acquisition projects are within National Forest System boundaries and congressionally designated areas. Acquiring them will reduce expenditures associated with boundary management and other land management activities, and with fire suppression for the Forest Service and surrounding communities, and will increase public access to other Federal lands or provide direct access to recreational resources not previously available to the public.

There are ten CLP projects among the discretionary and mandatory requests. Two projects focused on Longleaf Pine restoration are proposed for funding. One project in Florida is proposed for a second round of funding, and one project in South Carolina proposes initial investments. The California Southwest Desert and National Trails System projects also propose initial investments. Each CLP project complements investments by the DOI and reinforces the Administration's commitment to these important landscapes.

#### *Core Forest Service Acquisitions*

The request includes \$63,570,000 for core Forest Service acquisitions (\$26,285,000 discretionary and \$37,285,000 mandatory) focused on acquiring the highest priority lands, which further specific agency goals for forest and grassland restoration, watershed management under the Watershed Condition Framework, and increased public access. Often, acquisition of a single parcel can provide significant large-scale benefits by ensuring that entire watersheds and ecosystems remain intact. They can also be the key to significantly increasing the availability of existing Federal lands to the public.

#### *Recreational Access/Critical Inholdings*

The Forest Service will use \$4,000,000 (\$2,000,000 discretionary and \$2,000,000 mandatory) of FY 2015 LWCF funds to acquire strategically- located parcels that secure or improve access, both motorized and non-motorized, to National Forest System lands where access is currently unavailable or inadequate. These funds will also be used to acquire parcels which provide direct use of important recreation resources such as hunting and fishing opportunities, climbing routes and motorized uses. Specific recreational access projects are identified in the FY 2015 Land Acquisition Projects list displayed at the end of this section. Our goal with recreational access, as recommended in the AGO report, is to invest LWCF funds to better meet recreation and other management needs.

#### Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts; and Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges

The request includes \$950,000 for the Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts and \$216,000 for Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges. These funds acquire lands that protect critical watersheds, address flood damaged areas, and protect forested lands and resources.

### Legislative Proposal

We propose an amendment to the Small Tracts Act (PL 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 collected under the Sisk Act and used for future acquisitions and/or enhancement of existing public lands and facilities. Proposed language will be transmitted to Congress following submittal of this Budget Proposal.

### **Past Performance**

Number of Acres Acquired or Donated (*312 percent of target accomplished*). In FY 2013, we acquired 62,133 acres for the National Forest System due to purchases primarily in Montana, California, the Northeastern and Southern Regions, as well as an unplanned 30,000 acre donation of subsurface mineral interests in Kentucky. This donation resulted from a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, settlement that originated from an effort totally unrelated to land acquisition. Federal law requires that this contaminated site be reclaimed and cleaned up. Several decades of coal mining in the Daniel Boone National Forest have resulted in severe environmental degradation to several sites within the Forest Boundary. With other Federal and State partners, we will manage the clean-up of this site and restore ecological health and resilience to the site. More areas of the forest will eventually be open for recreational activities that previously were unavailable due to contamination from industrial coal mining waste products.

In FY 2013, we were also able to close a number of land acquisition projects using both remaining FY 2012 and FY 2013 funds. We acquired high priority lands to consolidate inholdings and support management needs related to restoration, fire, and watershed management. Significant accomplishments include the completion of the first large-scale acquisition funded by the interagency Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) collaborative initiative. We acquired 11,659 acres of checkerboard lands on the Lolo and Flathead National Forests in Montana, complementing acquisitions by the Department of the Interior (DOI) in the same landscape, to protect both forested and working lands. This is compared to a typical acquisition the previous year of 2,188 acres for the same national forests. The increased pace of acquisition investment afforded by the CLP effort through FY 2015 will allow the Forest Service and DOI partners to complete this globally important project in four years instead of 12 to 15 years.

In FY 2013, we also funded 18 small acquisitions in 16 national forests totaling over 4,000 acres, to facilitate greater public access and forest land consolidation. Other key acquisitions included a critical inholding in the Yolla Bolly Wilderness in California; the remaining half of Wolf Island, a candidate for the National Register of Historic Places in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota; and the second phase of Miranda Canyon, which when finished, will help protect the headwaters of the Rio Grande River and the drinking water of Taos, New Mexico.

## Program Description

### Program Overview

The Land Acquisition program funds the acquisition and donation of lands, waters, and other interests to further agency goals for restoration; outdoor recreation and public access; habitat for wildlife including threatened and endangered species; and for water quality and quantity protection. Land acquisition is best able to further these goals through consolidation and connection of fragmented lands. Potential acquisitions are based on how well they support effective land management and improve stewardship functions such as habitat restoration, fuels reduction, and public access; along with how they reduce costs associated with boundary line management and encroachments, and how important social benefits such as recreational access to hunting and fishing areas and economic support of gateway communities is improved.

Land acquisition can also reduce management costs by consolidating landownership. Fragmented development within forest boundaries can exacerbate fire, insect, and disease management challenges. Forest Service land acquisitions generally have broad support by stakeholders at the local level, partially due to their potential effect on local and regional economies. 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 Forest Service works with a substantial array of partners to identify and acquire lands that will deliver a diversity of benefits to the public. Partnerships are critical to the success of our land acquisition program and are further described in the Partnership section.

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 Land and Water Conservation Fund 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, and California.
- Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges - This program provides for the acquisition of lands with funds collected from the exchange or sale of NFS 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 Land and Water Conservation Fund 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 Priority Recreational Access Parcels and 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.

Partners working with the Forest Service on projects recommended for FY 2015 funding include The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, The Partnership for the National Trails System, Charleston County South Carolina, and The Truckee Donner Land Trust.

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 2013, partners supported due diligence

costs at a ratio of more than 4:1; the Forest Service received more than \$2,950,000 in the form of direct assistance from landowners to help cover transaction costs and donated real estate value while spending approximately \$657,000 in direct costs associated with acquisitions and donations.

### Collaborative Landscape Planning

Land Acquisition in FY 2015 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.

For FY 2015, DOI and USDA are requesting \$240,705,000 for CLP landscapes. Approximately \$194,102,000 is requested among the three DOI bureaus and the remaining \$46,603,000 by the Forest Service. The FY 2015 CLP projects have been evaluated by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) 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.

Through this rigorous evaluation process, the joint DOI-USDA National Selection Committee selected the Florida-Georgia and South Carolina Longleaf Pine landscapes for a second round of funding. Initial investments in the California Southwest Desert and National Trails System are also requested in FY 2015.

Investing now in these ecologically important but 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.

The *Florida-Georgia Longleaf Initiative and South Carolina Longleaf Legacy* projects, target the most critical conservation needs for the Longleaf Pine ecosystems in the Southeast. These projects address the issues of States with growing populations that need to balance the interests of threatened and endangered species with the need to protect water resources and public access. The Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the States of Florida and South Carolina have collaborated over the last 20 years to dramatically grow Threatened Red-Cockaded Woodpecker populations as part of the recovery of the longleaf pine ecosystem as well as to protect and expand critical wildlife and water recharge areas.

The *California Southwest Desert* CLP landscape focuses on a part of Southern California that is less than a day’s drive for 40 million people. This arid landscape is characterized by extensive wildlife corridors including 67 federally-protected species. Forest Service acquisitions in this landscape will protect important inholdings within and adjacent to the San Jacinto Wilderness. These acquisitions will remove six miles of interior boundary line with a cost savings of \$150,000 in boundary management. This project also protects critical segments of the heavily used Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

The *National Trail System* CLP project seeks to address recreational trails as linear landscapes that connect people to the outdoors in both rural and urban environments. With initial funding slated for FY 2015, the Forest Service proposes to fund a diversity of National Historic and Scenic Trails in Washington State, California and Tennessee. The Unicoi Turnpike National Historic Trail, which follows the historic corridor of the Trail of Tears, offers a unique opportunity to protect a rapidly disappearing aspect of American and Native American history and culture.

**FY 2015 Land and Water Conservation Fund Prioritized List**

Administrative Funds				Funding Request
Acquisition Management				\$7,500,000
Priority Recreational Access				\$2,000,000
Cash Equalization				\$500,000
Priority Order	Project Name	State	Unit	Funding Request
1	CLP*: California Southwest Desert	CA	San Bernardino	\$2,100,000
		CA	Pacific Crest NST	\$1,265,000
2	Sierra Nevada Checkerboard; Royal Gorge	CA	Tahoe	\$2,200,000
3	Tenderfoot	MT	Lewis and Clark	\$2,000,000
4	CLP: National Trails System	TN	Appalachian NST	\$330,000
		WA	Pacific Northwest NST	\$2,700,000
		WA	Pacific Crest NST	\$1,320,000
5	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Pisgah	\$2,100,000
6	Wilderness Inholdings	NM	Gila Wilderness	\$500,000
		NM	White Mountain Wilderness	\$100,000
		KY	Beaver Creek Wilderness	\$50,000
		AK	Stikine LeConte Wilderness	\$145,000
		CA	Ventana Wilderness	\$240,000
7	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative	FL	Osceola	\$5,000,000
8	Mid-America's Great Rivers	IL	Shawnee	\$2,200,000
9	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Siuslaw	\$150,000
		WA	Rogue River-Siskiyou	\$350,000
10	Washington Cascades-Yakima River Watershed	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee	\$2,700,000
11	Great Lakes Northwoods	MI	Ottawa	\$650,000
		WI	Chequamegon-Nicolet	\$2,500,000
12	Miranda Canyon	NM	Carson	\$2,600,000
13	CLP: South Carolina's Longleaf Legacy	SC	Francis Marion	\$2,000,000
14	Wasatch Watersheds-Bonneville Shoreline Trail	UT	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache	\$1,500,000

Priority Order	Project Name	State	Unit	Funding Request
15	Hurdygurdy	CA	Six Rivers	\$1,300,000
16	Missouri Ozarks-Current River	MO	Mark Twain	\$1,000,000
17	Montana Legacy	MT	Lolo; Flathead	\$4,000,000
<b>Subtotal Discretionary Funding</b>				<b>\$51,000,000</b>
Acquisition Management				\$5,000,000
Recreational Access				\$2,000,000
Cash Equalization				\$500,000
18	CLP: Upper Rio Grande	CO	Rio Grande	\$4,700,000
19	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Mt. Hood	\$2,300,000
		OR	Umpqua	\$800,000
20	CLP: Grasslands/Prairie Potholes	SD	Black Hills	\$2,856,000
21	Tennessee Mountains Trails and Waters-Rich Mountain Inholding	TN	Cherokee	\$3,700,000
22	Heinrich-Fossil Creek	AZ	Coconino	\$1,000,000
23	Chesapeake Bay Headwaters Protection	VA	George Washington and Jefferson	\$1,545,000
24	CLP: High Divide	ID	Caribou-Targhee	\$1,325,000
		ID	Payette and Salmon Challis	\$4,260,000
		MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	\$200,000
		MT	Gallatin	\$2,000,000
25	Greater Yellowstone Area	WY	Bridger-Teton	\$3,000,000
26	Castle Crags	CA	Shasta-Trinity	\$2,800,000
27	Georgia-Disappearing Wildlands of GA Mountains and Rivers	GA	Chattahoochee-Oconee	\$2,700,000
28	Taconic and Green Mountain Range	VT	White Mountain	\$1,000,000
29	Montana Legacy	MT	Lolo; Flathead	\$4,000,000
30	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Pisgah	\$3,500,000
31	Wilderness Inholdings	GA	Brasstown Wilderness	\$350,000
		VA	Barbours Creek Wilderness	\$200,000
		ID	Frank Church Wilderness	\$1,590,000
		OR	Wild Rogue Wilderness	\$350,000
32	CLP: National Trails System	CA	Pacific Crest NST	\$3,600,000
		WA	Pacific Crest NST	\$1,500,000
		MT	Nez Perce NHT-Holland Ranch	\$1,050,000
		TN	Appalachian NST	\$2,720,000
33	Great Lakes Northwoods	MN	Superior	\$3,000,000
34	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative	FL	Osceola	\$3,677,000
35	CLP: South Carolina's Longleaf Legacy	SC	Francis Marion	\$4,000,000
36	Wasatch Watersheds-Bonneville Shoreline Trail	UT	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache	\$1,500,000
37	Mid-America's Great Rivers	IN	Hoosier	\$950,000
38	Cube Cove	AK	Tongass	\$3,000,000
<b>Subtotal Mandatory Funding</b>				<b>\$76,673,000</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>				<b>\$127,673,000</b>

\*Collaborative Landscape Planning project, part of Interagency Collaborative Land and Water Conservation fund Initiative.

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**Other Appropriations  
Range Betterment Fund**

Appropriation	Range Betterment Fund				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$2,338	\$3,000	\$2,320	-\$680	-23%
<b>Range Betterment Fund Total</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>-680</b>	<b>-23%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	5	6	5	-1	-17%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-17%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>						
Number of range structural improvements	379	350	335	339	250	300

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$2,320,000 for Range Betterment, a decrease of \$680,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

This program emphasizes essential structural and non-structural improvements prescribed in National Environment Policy Act compliant grazing allotment decisions. Treatment of noxious weed species related to permitted livestock use continues to be a significant portion of the non-structural rangeland improvement work. The program will help to address the considerable loss of range improvements over the past two years due to fires, as well as to develop improvements for drought mitigation.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, we constructed or improved a total of 338 structures, which was slightly over the target of 335 structures (*101 percent of target accomplished*). Surpassing the target is attributable to integrating range efforts with other programs’ objectives to meet a landscape goal of improved plant health and reduced fire risk. Of the total accomplishment, 200 structures were constructed or improved using Range Betterment Funds and an additional 138 structures were constructed or improved through other programs. The agency also accomplished 90,690 acres of rangeland vegetation improvement with funding through the Range Betterment Fund appropriation.

The structures constructed or improved through this program can include but are not limited to fences and livestock watering facilities. These structures help manage the movement of animals to provide for proper range management and maintain or improve plant health. 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.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

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. Further, 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$45	\$40	\$45	\$5	12%
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$45,000 for Gifts, Donations, and Bequest for Research, an increase of \$5,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
<b>Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$2,438	\$2,500	0	-\$2,500	-100%
<b>Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses Total</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-2,500</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	13	13	0	-13	-100%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-100%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget does not propose a separate funding level for Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses. This program will be funded at \$2,438,000 in FY 2015 from a variety of budget lines that are directly relevant to the work being completed.

The Forest Service will continue to meet its responsibilities under the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The most critical subsistence management related components will be achieved through other National Forest System (NFS) funds, such as Integrated Resource Restoration, Recreation Management, and Law Enforcement Operation funds that complement the objectives of the subsistence program. This approach will continue to provide vital employment in isolated rural communities where opportunities are severely limited. Local residents are typically hired to monitor fish and wildlife populations which are essential for adjusting harvest regulations and keeping fish and wildlife populations strong.

**Past Performance**

Past performance includes activities 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 2013, the Forest Service completed 33 management analyses to determine current population levels, appropriate harvest levels for fish and wildlife species, and management actions to provide for subsistence uses on the national forests in Alaska. 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 addition, the agency oversaw 10 salmon stock assessments, one comprehensive assessment for the eulachon (a small anadromous fish), two fish use monitoring projects, and five 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.

Law enforcement investigated five incidents specific to subsistence uses, out of 122 fish and wildlife cases. Based on the priorities of the subsistence program, subsistence funding was focused on regulatory actions such as increased user participation and more support of tribal participation in Subsistence Board activities.

## **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. The 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 the 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**

<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>				
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>				
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>Percent of Program Changes</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$1,868,795	\$2,162,302	\$2,265,113	\$102,811	5%
<b>Wildland Fire Management Total</b>	<b>1,868,795</b>	<b>2,162,302</b>	<b>2,265,113</b>	<b>102,811</b>	<b>5%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	11,945	11,765	12,168	403	3%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>11,945</b>	<b>11,765</b>	<b>12,168</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>					
Preparedness	948,651	1,057,580	1,080,840	23,260	2%
Suppression	509,812	680,488	708,000	27,512	4%
Hazardous Fuels	301,056	306,500	358,564	52,064	17%
Research and Development	20,603	19,795	19,795	0	0%
Joint Fire Science Program	6,884	6,914	6,914	0	0%
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	15,151	0	0	0	0%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	7,931	0	0	0	0%
State Fire Assistance	52,672	78,000	78,000	0	0%
Volunteer Fire Assistance	6,035	13,025	13,000	-25	-0%

**Wildland Fire Management Overview**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$2,265,113,000 for Wildland Fire Management (WFM), an increase of \$102,811,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Through WFM programs, the Forest Service protects life, property and natural resources on National Forest System (NFS) land and an additional 20 million acres of adjacent State and private lands through fee or reciprocal protection agreements.

The Budget calls for a fundamental change in how wildfire suppression is funded in order to reduce fire risk, manage landscapes more holistically, and increase resiliency of the Nation’s forests and rangelands and the communities that border them. With the cost of suppression having grown from 13 percent of the agency’s budget just 10 years ago to over 40 percent in 2014, it is clear that the cost of wildland fire suppression is subsuming the agency’s budget and jeopardizing its ability to implement its full mission. Given growth in the number and severity of fires in recent years, and the frequency of catastrophic fires that risk life and property, combined with an ever expanding wildland-urban interface (WUI), suppression costs have exceeded amounts provided in annual appropriations seven times since 2002, 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 future years.

The Budget proposes a new and fiscally responsible funding strategy that recognizes that catastrophic wildland fires should be considered disasters, funded in part by additional budget authority provided through a wildfire suppression cap adjustment. In 2015, the Budget proposes discretionary funding for wildland fire suppression at a level equal to 70 percent of the estimated 10-year average suppression costs, which reflects the level of spending associated with suppression of 99 percent of wildfires. In addition, the Budget includes up to \$954 million to 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 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 to avert and minimize the destruction of future wildfires.

Further, the agency has made great progress in its continued focus on risk-based decision-making when responding to wildfires, and in 2015 will continue this important work to better inform decision makers on the risks and trade-offs associated with wildfire management decisions. The WFM program 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 Budget also furthers efforts to focus hazardous fuels treatments in the WUI in areas that are identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans and are highest priority, with plans to focus hazardous fuels treatments to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire on over 1.4 million WUI acres.

### 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 climate change. Recent events have reinforced our knowledge that our communities and economy remain vulnerable to extreme weather and natural hazards. For that reason, the President's 2015 Budget will include a new \$1 billion Climate Resilience Fund. Through this Fund, the President proposes that we:

- Invest in research and unlock data and information to better understand the projected impacts of climate change and how we can better prepare our communities and infrastructure.
- Help communities plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change and encourage local measures to reduce future risk. The State Fire Assistance program is an important mechanism for assisting State, local and private land owners prepare for and respond to wildfires.
- Fund breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure that will make us more resilient in the face of changing climate. The Hazardous Fuels program plays a critical role in reducing fire risk and making our communities, landscapes and watersheds more resilient to climate change.

**Preparedness**

Budget Line Item	Preparedness				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Preparedness					
Annual Appropriations	\$948,651	\$1,057,580	\$1,080,840	\$23,260	2%
<b>Preparedness Total</b>	<b>948,651</b>	<b>1,057,580</b>	<b>1,080,840</b>	<b>23,260</b>	<b>2%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	6,968	6,749	6,781	32	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>6,968</b>	<b>6,749</b>	<b>6,781</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Preparedness</b>						
Percent change from the 10-year average for the number of wildfires controlled during initial attack.	-0.8%	-1.2%	0.5%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.2%

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President's Budget proposes \$1,080,840,000 for Preparedness, an increase of \$23,260,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. This funding fully reflects the 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 assuring an appropriate, risk informed, and effective response to wildfires that is consistent with land and resource management objectives. Firefighter and public safety are the primary considerations for all operations.

In FY 2015, the agency will continue to emphasize strategies to increase operational efficiency, including:

- predictive services analysis of fire season potential to strategically deploy firefighting resources
- risk-informed, performance-based fire suppression strategies
- web-based wild fire decision support tools
- development, enhancement, and integration of technology applications
- centralized management of aviation assets, and
- modernizing the firefighting air tanker fleet.

**Resource Summary FY 2013 to FY 2015**

Resource	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget
Firefighters (FFTR) – Total is inclusive of categories below	10,000	10,000	10,000
	67 crews	67 crews	
Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (twenty person)	1,340 FFTR	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 <sup>1</sup>	34	Up to 34	Up to 34
Type 2	33	33	33
Type 3 <sup>2</sup>	43	46	46
Airtankers			
Legacy Airtankers <sup>3</sup>	12	Up to 8	Up to 8
Next Generation Airtankers <sup>3</sup>		Up to 9	Up to 21
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	2	Up to 3	Up to 1

1. Only includes agency owned/leased or exclusive use contracted assets.
2. Only includes helicopters whose primary purpose is wildland fire response.
3. Numbers reflect maximum number of aircraft allowed under the contracts.

The FY15 President’s Budget will fund 25 airtankers under exclusive use contracts, which include legacy airtankers, next generation large airtankers, and an agency owned C-130H aircraft. The Forest Service will exercise options under the exclusive use contracts for additional airtankers, if necessary. The agency will also phase out the legacy airtankers as the next generation large airtankers become available, thereby maintaining between 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. The 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 late 2014.

The NDAA provided \$130,000,000 to the U.S. Air Force for retrofitting all seven aircraft and \$5,000,000 each for the installation of the retardant delivery system. The Forest Service will pay for operation and maintenance of the C-130Hs within our requested budget by implementing programmatic efficiencies and identifying firefighter resource allocation changes that will decrease our costs and maintain or increase our operational capability. Programmatic efficiencies include implementation of the optimized dispatching analysis, streamlining of our information technology (IT) investments through the Wildland Fire IT initiative and a decrease in programmatic administrative costs, such as managing aviation assets under national contracts, streamlined hiring processes, centralizing training opportunities, and shared fire leadership positions between administrative units.

## Past Performance

The agency's preparedness performance measure focuses on reduced fire risk to people, communities, infrastructure, and resources. The measure tracks the agency's success in maintaining our ability to control wildfires effectively. The agency's initial attack success rate – the percent of fires that were suppressed before they reached 300 acres in size – was 97.7 percent which is 0.09 percentage points higher than the 10-year average, slightly over achieving the planned amount. The conditions of the landscape and severe drought in some areas of the country created fire conditions and fire behavior that were slightly more severe in those areas. Since the Forest Service was able to deploy firefighting assets that were comparable to previous years, containment of fires within initial attack efforts was slightly higher than anticipated in FY 2013.

## Program Description

### Program Overview

Wildland fire is a natural and necessary component of restoring and maintaining most of the ecosystems managed by the Forest Service. Due to climatic shifts and above normal fuel loads, fire seasons are becoming longer and fires are becoming more severe causing, in some cases unnatural 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. The six worst fire seasons since 1960 have occurred since 2000.

The wildland-urban interface (WUI), where there are higher densities of both people and infrastructure, is of particular concern as nearly sixty-five million acres of WUI are adjacent to or near national forests and grasslands. In order to protect the WUI and sustain the natural landscape in the face of climate change, the need for emergency response as well as the need for 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 has the capability to ensure timely, appropriate, risk informed, and effective response operations to all wildland fires. A robust Preparedness program is also essential to reducing the costs of wildland fire to the American public. The Fire Program Analysis (FPA) strategic management tool has demonstrated that for every \$1.00 that is reduced in Preparedness funding, we can expect an increase of \$1.70 in Suppression costs. Thus we must maintain adequate Preparedness resources through the Preparedness program, or risk substantial increases in firefighting costs and more devastating losses to life, property and the environment.

The Preparedness program provides for 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 in the context laid out in the Cohesive Strategy. Key components of the wildland fire response mission delivery are readiness capability and program leadership necessary to ensure appropriate, risk informed, and effective operations. 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. The Preparedness program is a core component of implementing the National Cohesive Wildland Fire 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
- effectively responding to wildfire.

Federal, State, local, Tribal and nongovernmental partners completed Phase I in 2011, which outlines the national strategy to address wildland fire issues across the Nation. Phase II was completed in 2012 and developed a risk based framework for evaluating local, regional, and national alternatives for wildfire response and preparedness at a mix of different temporal and geographic scales. Phase III will be the final National Cohesive Strategy report, set to be released in spring 2014, which sets broad, strategic and national-level direction as a foundation for implementing actions and activities across the Nation. It prioritizes where activities will be emphasized from a national perspective, based on the premise that planned actions have a greater likelihood of being most effective and efficient in areas where conditions contributing to the issue are most severe. Through use of the best available science, the Cohesive Strategy identifies four high-priority areas to focus resources: (1) vegetation and fuels, (2) homes, communities and values at risk, (3) human-caused ignitions, and (4) effective and efficient wildfire response.

#### 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 resource geographical 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 strategic placement of resources.

The Forest Service continues its strategy to deploy, assess, and improve the FPA system, which was used to support and inform the FY 2015 budget formulation. The FPA was used to assess trade-offs between different potential preparedness and suppression scenarios. The development of this comprehensive interagency fire planning and budget analysis tool began in 2002. The vision was that this tool would replace existing budget planning systems in the federal fire management agencies. The goal was to have a system which could identify the most cost

effective fire management program, irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries, to facilitate long term strategic planning and budget formulation exercises. The FPA system incorporates the highly complex science associated with modeling natural resource variables over an immense and highly variable geographic area. Since FY 2012, the FPA has provided both the Forest Service and Department of the Interior key outputs for budget formulation. The current FPA outputs provide information suitable for national strategic wildland fire management planning.

### Partnerships

The Preparedness program has numerous partnerships with 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 the Department of the Interior 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. MAFFS are portable fire retardant delivery systems that can be 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 the participants strengthens job performance and communication throughout the U.S. emergency response community.

**Suppression**

Budget Line Item	Suppression				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Suppression					
Annual Appropriations	\$509,812	\$680,488	\$708,000	\$27,512	4%
<b>Suppression Total</b>	<b>509,812</b>	<b>680,488</b>	<b>708,000</b>	<b>27,512</b>	<b>4%</b>
Suppression Cap Adjustment	0	0	954,000	954,000	0%
Annual Appropriations FTEs	2,919	3,010	3,069	59	2%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>3,069</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Suppression</b>						
Percent of fires not contained in initial attack that exceed a Stratified Cost Index (SCI)	20.8%	24.0%	18.0%	36.4%	24.0%	24.0%
Three-year average percent of fires not contained in initial attack that exceed a Stratified Cost Index (SCI)	27.5%	28.2%	24.0%	27.1%	26.0%	26.0%

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$708,000,000 for Suppression, within discretionary limits and \$954,000,000 as a budget cap adjustment.

The President’s Budget proposes a cap adjustment as a new approach for budgeting for wildland fire suppression to minimize the risk of fire transfers and provide more stability and certainty of funding to other programs that support critical forest and rangeland management needs. Based on a joint analysis between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior (DOI), one percent of fires represent 30 percent of Suppression costs. The remaining 70 percent of costs represent 99 percent of fires. As such, this request proposes 70 percent of the 10-year average for Suppression, currently calculated at \$1.011 billion (see Table 1) to be funded within the discretionary spending limits. The proposed cap adjustment would fund the remaining 30 percent of the 10-year average and anything above the 10-year average (which is currently funded through fire transfers) equal to the high end of the 90 percent confidence interval predicted by the outyear forecast<sup>17</sup>. For FY 2015, the total proposed cap adjustment is \$954 million (see Table 2).

<sup>17</sup> 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.

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 a Special Exhibit on page 14-69.

**Table 1 – Forest Service Suppression Obligations 2004 – 2013**  
(dollars in thousands)

Year	Net Nominal Suppression Obligations	GDP Inflator [2005=1.00]	GDP Deflator [2013=1.00]	Adjusted Obligations <sup>1</sup> [2013=1.00]	Rolling 10-year Average	Adjusted Rolling 10-year Average (for rebaselining) <sup>2</sup>
2004	\$726,000	0.9685	0.8109	\$895,338	\$869,442	
2005	690,000	1.0000	0.8372	824,136	899,969	
2006	1,501,000	1.0331	0.8650	1,735,354	991,404	
2007	1,374,000	1.0597	0.8872	1,548,651	1,121,176	
2008	1,458,805	1.0976	0.9190	1,587,461	1,237,253	
2009	1,018,329	1.1036	0.9240	1,102,114	1,297,867	
2010	897,686	1.1191	0.9370	958,088	1,249,340	
2011	1,414,379	1.1432	0.9571	1,477,724	1,307,637	
2012	1,436,614	1.1711	0.9805	1,820,197	1,324,364	
2013	1,356,535	1.1944	1.0000	1,711,535	1,366,060	1,011,060

<sup>1</sup>/\$355 million was added to Adjusted Obligations in both FY 2012 and FY 2013 to account for rebaselining (i.e., shifting aviation contract costs and cost pools from Suppression to Preparedness) to ensure FY 2012 and FY 2013 obligations are comparable to prior years when these costs were included in Suppression.

<sup>2</sup>/\$355 million is then subtracted from the Rolling 10-year average to get the Adjusted Rolling 10-year Average, as these costs are now included in Preparedness and not Suppression.

In Table 1 above, the net nominal suppression obligations are inflated to constant 2013 dollars to calculate the rolling 10-year average. To do this, the GDP inflator and the GDP deflator are used together to calculate the factor that is applied to the nominal suppression obligations to adjust them to constant 2013 dollars. The nominal suppression obligations are then divided by the GDP deflator to get the adjusted obligations (i.e., obligations converted to constant 2013 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 ten. Finally, the rolling 10-year average is adjusted for rebaselining by subtracting out the funding for aviation contract costs and cost pools that were previously paid for with Suppression, but have now been shifted to Preparedness. See footnotes for Table 1 for more detail on rebaselining.

**Table 2 – FY 2015 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	FY 2015 Pres. Budget Suppression	FY 2015 Proposed Cap Adjustment
<b>FY 2015</b>	\$1,190,820	\$712,960	\$1,661,640	\$708,000	\$953,640

Funds within the budget cap adjustment will only be accessible for wildland fire suppression operations if one or more of the following criteria are met and a declaration has been issued by the Secretary of Agriculture:

- a fire has required an emergency Federal response based on significant complexity, severity, or threat posed by the fire to human life, property, or resource, or
- the fire covers 1,000 acres or more, or
- the fire is within 10 miles of a major urban area (defined as 50,000 inhabitants or more), or
- the cumulative costs of wildfire 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 be 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). The Forest Service recognizes the costs of WUI suppression activities and 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 the 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 with the application of 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 it appropriate to do so. Phase III of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) developed models that will better inform decision-makers and allow them to understand the risks and trade-offs associated with wildland fire management decisions.

## **Past Performance**

The Forest Service suppression performance measure is a program outcome and efficiency measure. To help analyze suppression costs 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 1995-2004. This data set provides a baseline for comparison. The SCI determines expected suppression costs for each fire utilizing several factors found to be associated with suppression costs. In real time, the SCI provides a comparison of a fire's expenditures to historical fires with similar characteristics (including fuel type, slope, elevation, and total housing value), increasing cost awareness and providing a basis for fire incident budgeting.

The percentage of incidents not contained in initial attack that exceeded the SCI in FY 2013 was 36 percent—an increase from 24 percent in FY 2012. The 2013 fire season was a very active one, and while we did not achieve our planned accomplishment of 18 percent, we did perform relatively consistently in 2013 to all years FY 2009 thru 2012. The FY 2013 target was based on those established during the development of the Forest Service Strategic Plan in FY 2006, at which time this calculation methodology was very new with little historical data. Since then, more historical data sets have been added, as well as fire data from the fire seasons since 2004. Based on this additional information, and subsequent refinements to the model, we have learned that a target of 18 percent is unattainable. From FY 2006 through FY 2012, performance has fallen within the 18.2 to 39.7 percent range which is representative of no significant statistical change in performance. Our challenge is to consistently drive agency performance to the low end of this range and continue to refine targets appropriately. We are refining the methodology used to calculate the SCI as we obtain more data and improve computational ability.

Two of the main factors that may influence cost outcomes in the management of wildfire are long-term ecological and changing climatic conditions which are not modelled within SCI. These factors can cause our management strategies to change for a fire of similar characteristics that occurs in different years since the potential outcomes can be drastically different. As such, 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 measures and improve the SCI calculation enabling us to more thoroughly analyze how our wildland fire management response decisions affect response outcomes.

In FY 2013, we continued to implement risk management and fiscal accountability initiatives to help ensure we have an appropriate, risk informed, and effective response 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 2013, National Incident Management Organization teams 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 2015.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

The Suppression program is the primary source of funding for all 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 by managing 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 Department of the Interior 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 manage 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 document fire-management decisions and long-term operational plans when needed. Managers use WFDSS 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, 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Hazardous Fuels					
Annual Appropriations	\$301,056	\$306,500	\$358,564	\$52,064	17%
<b>Hazardous Fuels Total</b>	<b>301,056</b>	<b>306,500</b>	<b>358,564</b>	<b>52,064</b>	<b>17%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	1,834	1,844	2,335	491	27%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>27%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Hazardous Fuels</b>						
Number of acres restored and maintained per million dollars gross investment.	3,910	3,649	2,800	4,490	3,800	4,000
Acres moved to a better condition class per million dollars gross investment.	1,060	944	1,002	1,018	1,005	1,000
Percent of treated acres identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent plans.	60.8%	93.0%	75.0%	85.4%	90.0%	90.0%
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	1,611,991	1,867,202	1,100,000	1,736,927	1,250,000	1,430,000

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$358,564,000 for Hazardous Fuels, an increase of \$52,064,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. 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 is continuing 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 with prescribed fire. Funding will be used to treat approximately 1.43 million acres of the highest priority areas in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). WUI treatment cost per acre can be up to four times more expensive than treatments 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.

In addition, 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 risk to the communities.

In FY 2015, this program will also support the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. The Forest Service will leverage a small amount of grant funds with USDA Rural Development’s grant and loan programs by providing subject matter expertise and technical assistance in the early stages of project development through Woody Biomass Utilization Grants, so the proponents can successfully compete for Rural Development’s loans and grants. Funding will also support work on 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.

Refer to the Special Exhibit on Biomass and Bioenergy for further details.

**Past Performance**

Acres of WUI high-priority hazardous fuels treatment - The Hazardous Fuels program treated approximately 1.74 million acres on National Forest System (NFS) and adjacent lands in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in FY 2013, exceeding the target of 1.1 million acres of WUI high-priority hazardous fuels treated. In addition, over 886,000 acres were treated outside of the WUI, resulting in a total program accomplishment of over 2.6 million acres. Included in the total Hazardous Fuels program accomplishment are nearly 465,000 WUI/non-WUI acres burned

**Kyle Canyon Fuels Reduction  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**



Fuel treatments played a critical role in the effective response to the Carpenter 1 Fire in the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area near Las Vegas, NV. Areas in and around communities were previously treated to remove excessive vegetation using a combination of hand thinning, mastication (shredding), piling, and prescribed burning. Projects were designed specifically to improve safety, fire management effectiveness, and reduce the threat to surrounding homes from wildfire. While conducted by the Forest Service, these projects were planned in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Fire Safe Council, Clark County Fire Department, and area home owners. Firefighters used the fuel treatments around the Rainbow Subdivision to safely perform burn-out operations, resulting in successful protection of all structures threatened and reduced impacts to the surrounding forest by reducing fire intensity and limiting damage to residual trees.

by naturally ignited wildfires, which were shown through field verification to have benefitted ecosystems by moving them toward specific desired conditions for forests and grasslands based on land management objectives identified in Land and Resource Management Plans or other planning documents. This significant increase in naturally burned acres over last year's total largely contributed to the overachievement of the target in FY 2013. Tools used to determine the effects of the fire include satellite imagery or burn severity mapping, as well as collection of site-specific data. Naturally ignited fires that benefit ecosystems will continue to be an important part of the total Hazardous Fuels program, and the acres treated each year will vary with the activity of the fire season.

Percent of treated acres identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent plans -

The target for "percentage of acres treated in the WUI that have been identified in CWPP) or equivalent plan" is 75 percent. In FY 2013, 85.4 percent of the acres treated in the WUI were identified in areas covered by a CWPP or equivalent plan, exceeding the planned target. 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 these plans.

Biomass Energy - In FY 2013, biomass energy efforts continued to expand as part of the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. Ten biomass grant awards from the Woody Biomass Utilization Grant program, totaling approximately \$2.5 million, were made to small business and community groups across the country. Cooperative agreements totaling \$1.1 million were awarded to five State Wood Energy Teams from the first request for proposals in FY 2013. These state teams support communities in the development of wood energy projects. In addition the Forest Service assisted the Secretary in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with four wood energy organizations to expand development. All of these efforts are components of the Forest Service's focus on bioenergy and biobased products and will result in secure, sustainable, renewable energy sources; strong rural economies; and more acres of hazardous fuels treated with less air pollution. Wood energy and biobased products are newer products that are part of an integrated wood products industry and need to be incorporated synergistically. Since 2005, this program has awarded almost \$42 million to 175 grant recipients, including small businesses, non-profits, tribes, and State agencies, across the country. 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, 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.

Hazardous fuels reduction is reducing the quantity or changing 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, provide an environment where wildland fire can be managed more safely and effectively, and create 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 in order to protect 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,
- providing strategic opportunities to increase our capability to manage wildfire for resource benefits, and
- increasing options for safe and efficient management tactics that reduce spread and impacts of damaging wildfire.

Healthy, resilient landscapes have greater capacity to survive natural disturbances and large scale threats to sustainability, especially under changing and uncertain future environmental conditions, such as those driven by climate change and increasing human use. 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, a fuels treatment effectiveness assessment must be completed for every wildfire that starts in or intersects with a fuels treatment area. These assessments increase the understanding of the effects of hazardous fuels treatments on fire behavior, fire severity, and fire 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 safe 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 can be 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.

### *Biomass*

The Hazardous Fuels program funds biomass grants through the Woody Biomass Utilization Grant program up to \$5 million annually. Since FY 2005, the Hazardous Fuels program has provided funding for this successful grant program to help build capacity for biomass utilization in support of fuels reduction and landscape restoration. These funds are implemented in coordination with USDA Rural Development programs resulting in greater overall investments beyond the Forest Service budget. Biomass utilization provides energy from vegetation that is removed for fuels management. Using this biomass for energy, instead of just burning it in piles, contributes to rural economic vitality, national energy security, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

### *Collaborative Forest Restoration Program*

The Hazardous Fuels program also provides approximately \$5 million per year to fund the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) in New Mexico. 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 the functioning of forest ecosystems. A Federal Advisory Committee evaluates grant proposals and provides funding recommendations to the Forest Service.

### 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 2014 national model incorporates results from the Large Fire Simulation Model to estimate probability of fire occurrence and expected fire severity for all National Forest System lands. This 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 Natural Resources Conservation Service and Department of the Interior agencies; and
- conduct treatments on NFS 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, use of the Good Neighbor Authority in Colorado and Utah allows these States to conduct hazardous fuels treatments on National Forest System land when performing similar activities on adjacent State or private land.

The USDA Wood to Energy Initiative has created partnerships with Rural Development and State agencies (Forestry, Energy, Economic Development), nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector through cooperative agreements to expand the wood energy sector as well as an MOU to expand wood energy development with the Biomass Power Association, the Biomass Thermal Energy Council, the Pellet Fuels Institute, and the Alliance for Green Heat.

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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Research and Development					
Annual Appropriations	\$20,603	\$19,795	\$19,795	0	0%
<b>Research and Development Total</b>	<b>20,603</b>	<b>19,795</b>	<b>19,795</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	103	99	99	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Research and Development</b>						
Customer satisfaction index score for R&D	75	79	79	79	79	79

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes \$19,795,000 for the National Fire Plan Research and Development, the same as the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act level. The proposed budget will support fire research that informs management to reduce the negative impacts of wildland fire on human communities and protect the ecological benefits forests supply including clean water, recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife habitats, and forest products. Continued investments will focus on partnerships that leverage Forest Service funding.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, National Fire Plan Research provided new tools in areas such as fire behavior, smoke production, and movement; fire effects; and decision support systems. A few key products delivered are summarized below.

Forest Service researchers monitored smoke chemistry and found that wildfires in the Interior Mountain West burn at a much lower combustion efficiency than

**Wildfire Prevention Pays Big Dividends**



A team of Forest Service scientists and Federal, State, and Tribal partners analyzed the extent to which wildfire prevention efforts reduce human-caused wildfires. Research showed that for a small investment in prevention of half a million dollars per year in the early 2000s, the State of Florida saved over \$3 million in suppression expenditures and avoided over \$12 million in losses of structures, timber, and economic disruptions. These findings are being used to update existing wildfire management software used by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other agencies.

prescribed fires. This finding means that for a given mass of vegetation burned, wildfires emit more fine particulate matter and more non-methane organic compounds that lead to ozone formation. These results indicate previous estimates of wildfire emissions underestimated the production of these pollutants and the potential of wildfires to degrade local and regional air quality.

Forest Service scientists, in collaboration with university partners, designed the National Fire and Fire Surrogate study to evaluate how alternative fuel reduction treatments influence a multitude of ecological effects in seasonally dry forests for most sites. The treatments modified stand structures and fuel levels to the point where post-treatment stands are expected to be much more resistant to moderate wildfire.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

The National Fire Plan R&D program conducts research to support management of fire-affected ecosystems to sustain forest health and to reduce the risk of damaging wildland fires in the context of changing social and physical environments. It supports vital fire management and fire research activities for the benefit of land managers and policy makers. As a result of this research we develop information, products, and tools to help communities and homeowners mitigate fire risk, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, and to support 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 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 on 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 has implications for many highly important issues of forested landscapes: protection of large-diameter trees; recreation; protection of communities, people, and wildlife in the wildland-urban interface; creation of resilient forests; and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The results of this research influence suppression spending, demonstrate the effectiveness of fuels treatments, inform allocation of fuels management funding, and reveal opportunities to utilize biomass from thinning treatments.

### Allocation and Integration

A Wildland Fire Strategic Program Area (SPA) team 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 Wildland Fire Strategic Program Area and Portfolio teams enhance integration and collaboration across stations on research focused in four major areas: 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Joint Fire Science Program					
Annual Appropriations	\$6,884	\$6,914	\$6,914	0	0%
<b>Joint Fire Science Program Total</b>	<b>6,884</b>	<b>6,914</b>	<b>6,914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	13	13	13	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes \$6,914,000 for the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), the same level as the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. This funding supports the development of important technical and scientific information that is needed to support the large national effort focused on fuel treatment effectiveness, landscape restoration, wildlife, emissions, and demonstration projects. Forest Service Research and Development will continue to work jointly with the Department of the Interior (DOI) in managing the program and setting priorities. This funding will allow continuation of two out of the three lines of research as well as science delivery, and research on emerging management needs.

**Past Performance**

Forest Service Research and Development (Forest Service R&D) formed the Pacific Fire Exchange (PFX) to address the need for a collaborative and regionally specific exchange of information to support effective fire prevention, mitigation, and management in Hawaii and the US Affiliated Pacific Islands. The PFX has delivered multiple fire-themed trainings, newsletters, and webinars; developed a watershed-based wildfire decision support tool for use by communities and organizations; and hosted the first ever fire symposium at the Hawaii Conservation Conference.

**New Tool for Predicting Smoke Dispersion Enhances Safety**



Forest Service scientists and partners developed a new modeling tool to improve predictions of local smoke transport during low-intensity wildland fires in forested environments. The modeling system was tested using meteorological and air-quality data collected during prescribed fires conducted by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. This modeling tool will help fire and forest managers plan prescribed fires so that adverse air-quality effects on residents and firefighters near wildfires are minimized.

Forest Service R&D sponsored an international symposium on fire economics, planning, and policy, which focused on climate change and wildfires. The symposium brought together 125 scientists, academicians, fire and fuel managers, and fire practitioners from agencies with fire protection responsibilities in 18 countries. This was an opportunity for policy makers, natural resource managers, and fire managers and practitioners to exchange ideas and learn from mutual concerns and experiences. Results showed a relationship between more and longer periods of droughts under climate change conditions and increases in wildland fire occurrences. Providing information on current and potential future conditions will help communities be better prepared to respond to these events.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

The JFSP is an interagency fire research and development partnership between the Departments of the Interior 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, the U.S. Geological Survey, 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: fuel inventory and mapping; fuel treatment scheduling and risk assessment; fire effects and fire behavior; monitoring and evaluation; restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems; post-fire stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration; remote sensing; and 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 bureaus. 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 ninety colleges and universities. In all, the JFSP has engaged nearly 200 organizations in its research.

**Forest Health Management - Federal Lands**

Budget Line Item	Forest Health Management - Federal Lands				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands					
Annual Appropriations	\$15,151	0	0	0	0%
<b>Forest Health Management - Federal Lands Total</b>	<b>15,151</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	83	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Forest Health Management - Federal Lands</b>						
Federal acres treated under NFP - Invasives	5,714	2,883	1,918	3,681	0	0
Federal acres treated under NFP - Native pests	28,688	21,108	8,316	17,012	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget continues the consolidation of Forest Health Management Federal Lands into one budget line item in the State and Private Forestry appropriation as approved in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Information about this program is within the State and Private Forestry Chapter, Forest Health Management Federal Lands Section.

**Past Performance**

For more information on Performance Metrics, as illustrated in the table above, see the State and Private Forestry Chapter.

**Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands**

Budget Line Item	Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands					
Annual Appropriations	\$7,931	0	0	0	0%
<b>Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands Total</b>	<b>7,931</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	23	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands</b>						
Acres treated on cooperative lands under NFP - Invasives	131,681	32,058	34,995	16,494	0	0
Acres treated on cooperative lands under NFP - Native pests	7,607	3,862	4,296	14,555	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget continues the consolidation of Forest Health Management Cooperative Lands into one budget line item in the State and Private Forestry appropriation, as approved in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Information about this program is within the State and Private Forestry Chapter, Forest Health Management Cooperative Lands Section.

**Past Performance**

For more information on Performance Metrics, as illustrated in the table above, see the State and Private Forestry Chapter.

**State Fire Assistance**

Budget Line Item	State Fire Assistance				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
State Fire Assistance					
Annual Appropriations	\$52,672	\$78,000	\$78,000	0	0%
<b>State Fire Assistance Total</b>	<b>52,672</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	2	50	50	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>State Fire Assistance</b>						
Communities at risk from wildfire assisted - NFP (number)	10,881	9,946	8,124	7,576	12,180	12,500

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$78,000,000 for the State Fire Assistance (SFA), the same level as the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service’s toolbox to reduce the risk to communities, residents, property and firefighters. State, local and private landowner efforts are key to reducing these risks. Without improved building codes and maintenance of defensible space, federal efforts to address wildland fires will be reduced.

The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act approved consolidating the SFA program into one budget line item under Wildland Fire Management (WFM). The table below illustrates a comparison of overall program funding from FY 2013 to FY 2015.

**State Fire Assistance Consolidated Budget Line Items**

(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	Change	FY 2015 Pres. Bud
WFM	State Fire Assistance	\$52,672	\$78,000	\$0	\$78,000
S&PF	State Fire Assistance	25,759	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$78,431</b>	<b>\$78,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$78,000</b>

The agency will focus funds on assisting communities with hazardous fuel treatments, capacity building, fire prevention education, and preparedness activities to help ensure States and local

governments continue to reduce fire risk in their communities, and to support firefighting capacity within each State. 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, the agency will continue to issue program direction encouraging States to focus program funds on areas with communities that are working to become fire adapted as discussed within 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. 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 2013, the SFA program assisted 11,562 communities in a variety of different activities, with 7,567 communities assisted through the WFM appropriation and 3,986 communities assisted through the S&PF appropriation, achieving about 85 percent of the planned target of 13,540.

**State Fire Assistance Performance FY 2013 to FY 2015**

<b>Approp</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
WFM	Communities at risk from wildfire assisted – NFP*	8,124	7,576	12,180	12,500
S&PF	Communities assisted	5,416	3,986	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,540</b>	<b>11,562</b>	<b>12,180</b>	<b>12,500</b>

\*National Fire Plan.

The SFA program focused on mitigating the risk of wildland fire for communities at risk in FY 2013. Assistance included providing \$5,305,201 of funding to support 2,118 risk assessments and fire management planning projects in 1,410 communities. SFA also provided \$15,596,310 for hazardous fuels treatments in the WUI, directly treating 129,907 acres of hazardous fuels and leveraging treatment of another 119,127 acres. These projects lowered risk in 1,598 communities. Over 7,770 prevention and education programs were conducted in FY 2013, benefitting 6,942 communities. The program supported \$12,205,349 in preparedness activities and \$6,932,869 in suppression operations. In addition, SFA funded the training of 35,815 firefighters and invested \$6,441,854 in the purchase, maintenance, and rehabilitation of needed firefighting equipment for State agencies.

The SFA also provided significant support for the Fire-Adapted Communities program of the Forest Service, which is designed to reduce risks in WUI areas. The SFA funding supported national level partnerships and agreements that further supports Fire Adapted Communities, which is one of the elements of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Examples of these national level partnerships and agreements include:

- the wildfire prevention campaign with the Ad Council,
- the development of Ready, Set, Go! programs with 870 fire departments in 48 States,
- a total of 997 recognized Firewise Communities, and countless other individual homeowners and communities who use Firewise principles without seeking recognition,
- expanding partnerships with national organizations that leverage Federal and State funding and support for fire-adapted communities, including the Nature Conservancy, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of State Forestry, the National Fire Protection Association, Institute for Business and Home Safety, and the Watershed Research and Training Center,
- 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
- continuing support of a national Fire-Adapted Communities public service campaign and the Fire-Adapted Communities website ([www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org)).

**Fire Adapted Communities**



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://fireadapted.org/region/fac-learning-network.aspx>

The total number of communities assisted tends to fluctuate from year-to-year depending on the type and costs of the individual projects that the States choose to implement. For example, if some States' priority projects were relatively expensive then they generally accomplish fewer projects and therefore assist fewer overall communities. However, if the States spread the funds across a larger number of communities to accomplish priority projects that were less expensive, then the total number of communities assisted is greater.

The Forest Service strongly encourages 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. Projects are planned, completed, and entered into the performance database by each State and are not under the direct control of the Forest Service. To help ensure focus on the highest priority projects, the agency issues program direction encouraging the States to focus the 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. The 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. The creation of Fire Adapted Communities is critical to reducing the risk and cost of large wildfires. Helping communities become more fire adapted is critical to reducing the risk and cost of large wildfires. More than 44 million homes in the United States, representing 32 percent of U.S. housing units, are located in fire-prone WUI areas, and this number is expected to continue to climb in coming years. The SFA'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.

The State Foresters report to the Forest Service the number of Communities at Risk (CAR), how many CAR are covered by a CWPP, and the number of communities which have reduced their risk. This was determined to be the best accomplishment measure for SFA given the variety of program needs and uses.

### Allocation and Integration

SFA funding is distributed to the State Foresters to address critical fire adaptation, preparedness, and hazard mitigation needs, enhance initial attack capability, conduct firefighter training, and obtain needed equipment. 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 acres of non-Federal land, population, level of fire protection, vegetative condition class, and communities at risk. 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Volunteer Fire Assistance					
Annual Appropriations	\$6,035	\$13,025	\$13,000	-\$25	-0%
<b>Volunteer Fire Assistance Total</b>	<b>6,035</b>	<b>13,025</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-0%</b>
Annual Appropriations FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Volunteer Fire Assistance</b>						
Number of Volunteer fire departments assisted - NFP (number)	5,605	6,120	5,268	6,427	8,120	8,500

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes \$13,000,000 for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program, a decrease of \$25,000 from the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Funding of this program is a critical part of the Forest Service’s toolbox to reduce the risk to communities, residents, property and firefighters. The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act approved consolidating the VFA program into one budget line item under Wildland Fire Management (WFM). The table below illustrates a comparison of overall program funding from FY 2013 to FY 2015.

**Volunteer Fire Assistance Consolidated Budget Line Items**  
(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	Change	FY 2015 Pres. Bud
WFM	Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$6,035	\$13,025	(\$25)	\$13,000
S&PF	Volunteer Fire Assistance	6,320	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,355</b>	<b>\$13,025</b>	<b>(\$25)</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

The program will provide matching financial assistance to 8,500 rural communities of less than 10,000 people 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**

In FY 2013, the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program assisted volunteer fire departments in 10,429 communities, with 6,427 assisted through the WFM appropriation and 4,172 assisted through the S&PF appropriation, exceeding the target of 8,780 volunteer fire departments assisted. The combined total exceeded the combined target by 1,649.

**Volunteer Fire Assistance Performance FY 2013 to FY 2015**

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>FY 2013 Target</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Target</b>	<b>FY 2015 Target</b>
WFM	Volunteer fire departments assisted – NFP*	5,268	6,427	8,120	8,500
S&PF	Volunteer fire departments assisted	3,512	4,172	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,780</b>	<b>10,429</b>	<b>8,120</b>	<b>8,500</b>

\*National Fire Plan.

The VFA program supported training of 25,389 firefighters, the organization or expansion of 171 fire departments, and the purchase, rehabilitation, and maintenance of \$9,384,847 of equipment.

The VFA program is managed by the States to provide funding to the areas of highest risk and greatest need. Therefore, the Forest Service can only estimate projected accomplishments based on previous years’ performance. The actual number of volunteer fire departments assisted tends to fluctuate from year to year depending on the types and cost of individual projects the States choose to implement. For example, if a State’s priority projects are relatively expensive then they accomplish fewer projects assist fewer overall communities. However, if the State spreads the funds across a larger number of communities to accomplish priority projects that were less expensive, then the total number of communities assisted is greater.

The Forest Service strongly encourages the States to focus their efforts on the objectives of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive 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 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. Volunteer fire departments that protect communities of less than 10,000 inhabitants from wildfire are eligible, 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.

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 them 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 acres protected and the number of volunteer fire departments serving communities with a population of 10,000 or less. 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.

**FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund**

Appropriation	FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>					
Annual Appropriations	\$298,967	\$315,000	0	-\$315,000	-100%
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund Total</b>	<b>298,967</b>	<b>315,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-315,000</b>	<b>-100%</b>
Annual Appropriation FTEs	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

No funding is requested for the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act (FLAME) account in FY 2015. The Wildland Fire Management request provides Suppression funding equal to 70 percent of the ten year average, which reflects the level of spending associated with suppression of 99 percent of wildfires. In addition, the Budget includes up to \$954 million to be available under a disaster funding cap adjustment to meet suppression needs above the base appropriation.

**Past Performance**

The Forest Service received authorization and funding in the FLAME account in FY 2013. The 2013 fire season was severe and is comparable to those in FY 2011 and FY 2010 in terms of duration and intensity. A number of large and complex fires occurred, including historic fires in California. The Secretary of Agriculture signed two declarations, the first covering 31 fires that met the criteria required to be eligible for FLAME account funds in FY 2013. The second declaration did not declare any specific fires but requested the remainder of available funds due to the exhaustion of funds within the Suppression account.

These “FLAME” fires were complex enough to warrant the assignment of a Type I or Type II Incident Management Team – those with the most training and experience in tactical decision making, resource assignment and staffing for large, complex wildland fires. These fires were declared eligible for a transfer of funds from the FLAME account to the Suppression account by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The FY 2013 FLAME fires are listed below by State.

### Fires Declared Eligible for FLAME Funding in FY2013

Name of Incident	State
145 Chisana River	AK
Doce	AZ
Rock Creek	AZ
Soldier Basin	AZ
Carstens	CA
Devore	CA
Grand	CA
Hathaway	CA
Powerhouse	CA
White	CA
Big Meadow	CO
East Fork	CO
Fern Lake	CO
Royal Gorge	CO
Papoose Creek	CO
West Fork Complex	CO

Name of Incident	State
Wild	CO
Wild Rose	CO
Windy Pass	CO
Center Fire	FL
Huckabee	FL
Sweats Complex	MT
Red Lake Buffalo Ranch 156	MN
Red Lake River Road 157	MN
Midnight	NM
Silver	NM
Tres Lagunas	NM
Head	NV
Crowley Creek	OR
Lackey Fan	UT
Skegg Again	VA

The Forest Service will issue an annual report that describes the obligations and expenditures of amounts transferred from the FLAME Fund in FY2013, 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.

**Payments to Communities**

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget assumes a five-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act starting in FY 2014 with \$279 million from mandatory sources. This amount represents the proposal and is not the calculated amount under the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes funding through mandatory appropriations supplemented by funds from the Treasury. The FY 2015 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)*

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>
Mandatory	\$279,000	\$251,000	\$158,000	\$122,000	\$101,000

This proposal titled “Payments to Communities” revises the allocation split 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.

Title I: The School and Roads portion is reduced over the next five-year reauthorization. It would be reduced by 20 percent of the previous authority for the first year (2014), 10 percent in the second year (2015), and 25 percent each year thereafter. Starting in year three, (2016), any State that would receive less than \$10 million in the Payments to Communities payment would no longer be eligible for this Title. Those States would revert to the 25 percent fund payments.

Title II: The Economic Investment & Forest Restoration/Protection portion is doubled from the previous funding level. This funding is for projects that enhance forest ecosystems, restore and improve land health and water quality, and increase economic activity. This portion would be held constant through the five-year reauthorization.

Title III: The Fire Assistance portion is reduced by 50 percent from the previous funding level in year one (2014). This portion is eliminated starting in the second year (2015). Other existing Forest Service programs already fund some of these activities.

**Past Performance**

Six-hundred fifty counties from 41 States and Puerto Rico will receive approximately \$300 million for FY 2013 payments. Of these payments, approximately 85 percent are for Title I, 10 percent are for Title II and 5 percent are for Title III.

**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 at the end of FY 2013 with the last payment being issued in FY 2014.

If the SRS Act is not reauthorized, States will revert 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 five-year reauthorization, starting in 2014, 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 current 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 detail on other payments.

**Permanent Appropriations**

	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted*	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Brush Disposal				
New Budget Authority	\$10,156	\$8,445	\$8,430	-\$15
Program Level	6,589	8,502	8,502	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	53	60	60	0
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research				
New Budget Authority	5	60	72	12
Program Level	44	42	46	4
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Timber Salvage Sales				
New Budget Authority	27,654	19,698	19,618	-80
Program Level	23,236	20,443	19,898	-545
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	219	219	215	-4
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration				
New Budget Authority	6,487	6,480	6,850	370
Program Level	4,105	7,530	7,390	-140
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	28	38	38	0
Forest Botanical Products				
New Budget Authority	1,450	1,565	1,565	0
Program Level	1,661	2,096	2,046	-50
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	19	20	20	0
Stewardship Contracting				
New Budget Authority	12,483	10,856	11,148	292
Program Level	10,073	13,182	13,182	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Recreation Fees, Forest Service				
New Budget Authority	69,484	65,132	65,169	37
Program Level	67,097	79,941	78,898	-1,043
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	571	585	586	1

	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted*	FY 2015 Pres. Budget	Program Changes
<b>Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction</b>				
New Budget Authority	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
Program Level	570	1,350	1,663	313
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters</b>				
New Budget Authority	8,411	8,000	8,000	0
Program Level	6,283	9,467	9,392	-75
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	24	28	28	0
<b>Roads and Trails for States</b>				
New Budget Authority	-19,675	18,000	18,000	0
Program Level	0	0	0	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Land Between the Lakes Management</b>				
New Budget Authority	4,559	4,800	4,800	0
Program Level	4,444	4,800	4,800	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	14	15	15	0
<b>Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fee</b>				
New Budget Authority	2,269	800	800	0
Program Level	570	800	800	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Quinault Special Management Area</b>				
New Budget Authority	1	2	2	0
Program Level	9	10	10	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Valles Caldera Fund</b>				
New Budget Authority	790	800	800	0
Program Level	984	800	800	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Restoration of Forest Lands &amp; Improvements</b>				
New Budget Authority	80,599	10,874	14,432	3,558
Program Level	21,771	39,003	30,679	-8,324
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	73	80	80	0

	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted*</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>
<b>Commercial Filming and Still Photography</b>				
<b>Land Use Fee Retention</b>				
New Budget Authority	673	613	533	-80
Program Level	302	871	744	-127
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	3	4	4	0
<b>Organizational Camps Programs</b>				
New Budget Authority	585	389	361	-28
Program Level	340	707	683	-24
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	4	4	4	0
<b>Cost Recovery (Administration of Rights-of-Way)</b>				
New Budget Authority	5,959	5,633	4,850	-783
Program Level	5,158	7,715	6,614	-1,101
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	48	56	55	-1
<b>Licensee Program Smokey Bear</b>				
New Budget Authority	69	100	100	0
Program Level	2	140	120	-20
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Licensee Program Woodsy Owl</b>				
New Budget Authority	1	7	6	-1
Program Level	3	12	12	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)</b>				
New Budget Authority	50	67	68	1
Program Level	20	59	68	9
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
<b>Conveyance of Administrative Sites</b>				
New Budget Authority	3,849	19,522	18,000	-1,522
Program Level	5,882	25,337	15,000	-10,337
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	6	10	8	-2
<b>Site-Specific Lands Acts</b>				
New Budget Authority	184	15,000	10,000	-5,000
Program Level	1,002	10,790	11,161	371
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	3	4	3	-1

	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted*</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>
Payment to States				
New Budget Authority	283,004	332,634	316,000	-16,634
Program Level	347,486	332,634	316,000	-16,634
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	115	114	113	0
<b>Permanent Funds New Budget Authority</b>	<b>501,047</b>	<b>531,477</b>	<b>511,604</b>	<b>-19,873</b>
<b>Permanent Funds Program Level</b>	<b>507,631</b>	<b>566,231</b>	<b>528,508</b>	<b>-37,723</b>
<b>Permanent Funds Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>-8</b>

\*FY 2014 levels are updated Permanent Fund estimates from those published in the FY 2014 President's Budget.

**Brush Disposal**

Budget Line Item	Brush Disposal			Program Changes
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Brush Disposal				
New Budget Authority	\$10,156	\$8,445	\$8,430	-\$15
Program Level	6,589	8,502	8,502	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	53	60	60	0

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Brush Disposal</b>						
Acres of harvest related woody fuels treated	64,488	51,852	75,000	73,813	73,000	70,000

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$8,502,000 for the Brush Disposal fund, the same level as the FY 2014 estimate. Funding will be used to treat an estimated 70,000 acres of woody debris resulting from timber harvesting on the national forests. The FY 2015 estimate of acres that will be treated is lower than FY 2014 due to increasing costs associated with brush disposal activities to meet environmental constraints and desired objectives as disclosed in National Environmental Policy Act documentation for projects.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, 73,813 acres were treated to remove woody debris associated with timber harvesting on national forests. This accomplishment represents 98 percent of the planned level of 75,000 acres. The ability to dispose of unwanted slash and debris disposal 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. The disposal of unmerchantable material upon completion of timber harvest not only reduces hazards fuel loading but it is necessary for maintaining and improving forest health conditions. In some instances this treatment facilitates site preparation for tree planting or seed dispersal.

**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. Depending upon the amount of logging debris generated, as well as the relative fire hazard created, logging slash can be mechanically treated by scattering, chipping, or crushing down with logging equipment and allowed to decay. 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research				
New Budget Authority	\$5	\$60	\$72	\$12
Program Level	44	42	46	4
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$46,000 for the Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research fund, an increase of \$4,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. A new permit holder is managing the mill operations at the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC), which resulted in an increase in lessee rent payments. Funds will provide for the operation and maintenance of the WERC, which includes an office building, training annex, rough mill, and wood shop.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, \$5,000 was collected from lessee rent. A new special use permit holder began operations at the rough mill and wood shop in August 2013. The mill and shop were vacant for over a year as the cleanup and search for a new renter moved forward. Annual collections for this fund vary for several reasons including escalating monthly payments built into the special use permit, fee adjustments due to market and business conditions, and collection challenges due to lessee/permit holder business shutdown.

**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 WERC 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 WERC 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Timber Salvage Sales				
New Budget Authority	\$27,654	\$19,698	\$19,618	-\$80
Program Level	23,236	20,443	19,898	-545
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	219	219	215	-4

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Timber Salvage Sales</b>						
Volume of salvage timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	322	284*	176	329	250	300

\*FY 2012 actual corrected from previously published accomplishment.

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$19,898,000 for the Timber Salvage Sales fund, a decrease of \$545,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2015 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 2014 and FY 2015.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, the agency sold 329 MMBF from timber salvage sales. The Pacific Southwest and Pacific Northwest regions accounted for most of the salvage sale increase in FY 2013 following fires in FY 2012 and increased mortality from insects.

**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 damage, insect damaged and diseased trees, and aiding in developing health 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, and through the collection of Knutson-Vandenberg Act funds, can 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 having timber processing infrastructure located close to the national forests facilitates salvage timber sales. Without this infrastructure, timber sales may not be economically viable, and no salvage timber volume would be harvested.

**Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration**

Budget Line Item	Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration				
New Budget Authority	\$6,487	\$6,480	\$6,850	\$370
Program Level	4,105	7,530	7,390	-140
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	28	38	38	0

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration Fund</b>						
Volume of pipeline timber prepared (million board feet (MMBF))	290	221	210	242	225	242

\*FY 2012 actual corrected from previously published accomplishment.

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$7,390,000 for the Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration fund, a decrease of \$140,000 from FY 2014. Specific program funding within this request is as follows:

Timber Sale Pipeline Sale Preparation - The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes funding for the timber sales pipeline preparation. About 242 MMBF of timber volume would be added to the pipeline of timber sales prepared as a result of this funding.

Timber Sale Pipeline Recreation Backlog - The FY 2015 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 forest 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 2013, 517,699 CCF (289 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 accomplishes a multitude of 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 water conservation 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 leading to timber sales offered in future years. 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 being

returned to the region for additional timber sales pipeline preparation work, and the remaining 25 percent for the recreation backlog.

In addition to this fund, timber sales are funded through the National Forest System, Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) 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 the IRR budget line item, and the Permanent Appropriation, Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund.

### Partnerships

Effective implementation of this program requires partnership with local timber industries, as having timber infrastructure located close to the national forests facilitates timber sales. Without this infrastructure, timber sales might not be economically viable, and no timber volume would be harvested, and the needed forest health improvement projects 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Forest Botanical Products				
New Budget Authority	\$1,450	\$1,565	\$1,565	0
Program Level	1,661	2,096	2,046	-\$50
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	19	20	20	0

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Forest Botanical Products</b>						
Sold value of forest botanical products (based on FY 2013 collections)	\$1,589,163	\$1,633,714	\$2,300,000	\$1,450,419	\$1,700,000	\$2,046,000

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$2,046,000 for the Forest Botanical Products Program fund, a decrease of \$50,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2013, based on collections, was \$1,450,419. This is a decrease of \$183,295, or 11 percent, compared to FY 2012. Of the total collections during FY 2013, mushrooms (\$541,128), foliage (\$439,296), and grasses (\$236,582) were the predominant contributors - totaling over \$1.2 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).

**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 product” 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 2014 are authorized for expenditure through FY 2015, on the unit where the funds were collected. The Forest Botanical Products fund supplements the National Forest System, Integrated Resource Restoration program for the sale and administration of forest botanical products.

**Stewardship Contracting**

Budget Line Item	Stewardship Contracting			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Stewardship Contracting				
New Budget Authority	\$12,483	\$10,856	\$11,148	\$292
Program Level	10,073	13,182	13,182	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$13,182,000 for the Stewardship Contracting fund, the same as the FY 2014 estimate. The continued use of stewardship contracting supports the agency’s goal of creating jobs while restoring forest and watershed health.

Stewardship contracting funds become available when the sale of forest products exceeds the cost of the service work obtained under an integrated resource contract. In FY 2015, the Stewardship Contracting fund 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 extends stewardship contracting as a permanent authority. This provides the agency flexibility to accomplish collaborative restoration work at a landscape scale.

**Past Performance**

Key accomplishments in FY 2013 utilizing the Stewardship Contracting fund include:

- 3,081 acres of forest vegetation established,
- 23,751 acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) hazardous fuels treated,
- 41,700 acres of non-WUI hazardous fuels treated, and
- 11,007 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.

### **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 by 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. 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Recreation Fees, Forest Service				
New Budget Authority	\$69,484	\$65,132	\$65,169	\$37
Program Level	67,097	79,941	78,898	-1,043
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	571	585	586	1

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$78,898,000 for the Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund, a decrease of \$1,043,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. The President’s Budget proposes permanent authority for fee collections under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act while clarifying its provisions and providing more consistency among agencies. Short-term extension of FLREA is included in this President’s Budget Appropriations Language, with the full legislative proposal to be submitted to Congress following submittal of the President’s Budget.

Specific priorities within each program include:

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Site Specific - The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$56,821,000 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 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$20,435,000 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 (NRRS) for all Federal agencies.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Grey Towers National Historic Site Fees - The FY 2015 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 2015 President's Budget includes a program level of \$1,567,000. 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 2012, the Forest Service collected more than \$480 million in fee revenue under this authority. This total includes fee revenue from outfitters and guides. Annually, the Forest Service collects an average of approximately \$66 million in recreation fees. From 2005 to 2012, the Forest Service has expended over \$465 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 surveys show that most visitors (94 percent) are satisfied with their recreation experience and 84 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 through December 8, 2014 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 extended through December 8, 2015 pursuant to P.L. 113-46, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014.

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 extended through September 30, 2019 in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

**Program Description**

Program Overview

When the 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 (NRRS), part of Recreation.gov, an e-government initiative. The contract, valued at \$120 million to support 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 \$13,000,000 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 (NRA) 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 NRA Boating Safety Program, implementation and administration of NRA 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 intent of NRA’s 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 accumulate over multiple years and can be used to address significant capital improvement projects that benefit the public. 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 (RRACs), which include the Southern, Eastern, and Pacific Northwest Regions, and the States of California and Colorado. In cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency participates in 12 additional RRACs. These committees meet several times a year to review proposed changes to the recreation fee program. Chartering

**Partnering for Youth on the Prescott National Forest in Arizona**



Fee funds supported a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew of ten members and two crew leaders who constructed a retaining wall to correct erosion problems and replaced a staircase at Hilltop Campground.

and sustaining these RRACs, 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			Program Changes
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction				
New Budget Authority	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	0
Program Level	570	1,350	1,663	\$313
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$1,663,000 for the Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction, an increase of \$313,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. Program level and accomplishments in FY 2015 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 timber harvest operations of small business operators.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, 5.4 miles of high clearance roads were reconstructed and 5 miles of high clearance roads were maintained under the Purchaser Election Road Construction fund in support of the Forest Products program. In addition 19 acres of vegetative fuels were treated in the non wildland-urban interface.

**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 Purchaser Election Road Construction program supports 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 to a standard necessary to harvest and remove timber and other forest products. The agency then uses the Purchaser Election 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 resulting from poor road construction and maintenance.

#### *Purchaser Election Vegetative Treatment*

The Purchaser Election Vegetative Treatment funds support the following activities 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters				
New Budget Authority	\$8,411	\$8,000	\$8,000	0
Program Level	6,283	9,467	9,392	-\$75
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	24	28	28	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$9,392,000 for the Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters program, a decrease of \$75,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Roads and Trails for States				
New Budget Authority	-\$19,675	\$18,000	\$18,000	0
Program Level	0	0	0	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget program level is zero. The Forest Service proposes to transfer \$18 million (FY 2015) in unexpended collections under this authority to the General Fund of the Treasury. In the FY 2014 Omnibus appropriation, Congress directed that funds becoming available under the Act of March 4, 1913 be transferred to the Treasury.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, the agency did not have any accomplishments from Road and Trails for States funds. No new funds were available in FY 2013.

**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). Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88, div. A, title III, Oct. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 2940). Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74). Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76). These Acts 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.

FY 2007 was the last fiscal year that the Forest Service was authorized to obligate new collections from the Roads and Trails Fund.

**Land Between the Lakes Management**

Budget Line Item	Land Between the Lakes Management			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Land Between the Lakes Management				
New Budget Authority	\$4,559	\$4,800	\$4,800	0
Program Level	4,444	4,800	4,800	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	14	15	15	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$4,800,000 for the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Management fund, the same as the FY 2014 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 2013 there 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 up by over 3 percent in FY 2013.

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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees				
New Budget Authority	\$2,269	\$800	\$800	0
Program Level	570	800	800	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$800,000 for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees fund, the same level as the FY 2014 estimate. Funds restore and manage prairie and wetland habitats on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP).

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, proceeds from the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees fund were used to conduct 564 acres of invasive plant/noxious weed control on the MNTP.

**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 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.

**Quinault Special Management Area Fund**

Budget Line Item	Quinault Special Management Area			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Quinault Special Management Area				
New Budget Authority	\$1	\$2	\$2	0
Program Level	9	10	10	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$10,000 for the Quinault Special Management Area (QSMA) fund, the same as the FY 2014 estimate. 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.

**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 assigned 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.

**Past Performance**

The Forest 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. Over the last few years we have requested funds generally in the range of \$10,000 to \$13,000. In FY 2013, expenses were \$15,500 and we collected \$924 for management of those lands.

**Program Description**Program Overview

This program and budget line item is unique to the Forest Service for the QSMA. 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 this law. All receipts from use of this land, including timber sales, firewood, botanicals, special use permits, and minerals, are divided into 45 percent for the State of Washington, 45 percent for the Quinault Tribe, and 10 percent for 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 (BIA) and the Tribal Chair, documenting the receipts that will be transferred to BIA for disbursement to the Tribe.

**Valles Caldera**

Budget Line Item	Valles Caldera			Program Changes
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Valles Caldera				
New Budget Authority	\$790	\$800	\$800	0
Program Level	984	800	800	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$800,000 for the management and administration of the Valles Caldera National Preserve (Preserve) by the Valles Caldera Trust (Trust), a government corporation. This is the same program level funding as the FY 2014 estimate. The FY 2015 program level is based on receipts taken in by the Trust and available for use in FY 2015. The retained receipt funds will be used to improve access, enhance recreational opportunities, upgrade infrastructure, purchase branded products for resale, and market programs and activities, along with assisting in the management of the Preserve’s facility rentals for the purpose of providing education programs. The benefits of these programs will be to facilitate the management of the Preserve and to further the statutory obligation of the Trust to become financially self-sufficient.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, the Trust’s focus was on keeping the Preserve opened year round by offering additional recreation and education programs and activities, but because of the Thompson Ridge Fire, which began on May 31, 2013, and which kept the Preserve closed to the public for months, the Trust was faced with major challenges for most of the spring, summer, and fall. Limited public programs included hunting, fishing, hiking, van tours, and environmental education, along with special events. Total revenue generated from these recreation programs in FY 2013 was \$790,229. Special Events, including commercial filming generated \$85,600 of the total revenue.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve Public Access and Use Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Plan and Record of Decision were completed in FY 2013, along with the completion of the Draft EIS for the Valles Caldera National Preserve Landscape Restoration and Stewardship Plan. The Final EIS along with the Record of Decision for the latter plan is scheduled for the first quarter of FY 2015. Due to the Las Conchas Wildfire of 2011 and the Thompson Ridge Fire in 2013, the analysis on both plans was delayed because of impacts to the resources of the Preserve and demands on staff time to manage the fires and emergency rehabilitation.

## **Authorities**

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 authorizes the Valles Caldera Trust to receive and collect funds in support of the management and administration of the Preserve. This includes the authority to assess fees for admission to, and the use and occupancy of the Preserve. In addition, the Trust may 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 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. The Preserve is managed by the Trust, a government corporation that prepares annual budgets with the goal of achieving a financially self-sustaining operation by 2015.

The Act allows 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 exist from private, public, and non-profit organizations. Options include accepting donations from foundations or the private sector through charitable giving; charging fees for use (e.g., grazing, forest products, filming); and assessing admission fees. All monies received are deposited in the Valles Caldera fund, which is an interest bearing account. These receipts are available without further appropriation for the administration, preservation, restoration, operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Preserve and its properties.

### Partnerships

The Act requires management of the Preserve by the Trust, a government corporation subject to the Government Corporation Control Act. A nine-member Board of Trustees is responsible for the protection and development of the Preserve. Seven of its members are appointed by the President of the United States. In addition, the current Superintendent of nearby Bandelier National Monument and the Forest Supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest also serve on the Board. The Board is required to meet in public at least three times per year; all Board decisions are made at public meetings. In August of 2002, management authority was transferred to the Trust.

The Preserve benefits from monetary as well as non-monetary contributions. Non-monetary contributions include time and expertise contributed by our many volunteers. In 2012, the Trust increased volunteer hours from 2011. These volunteers assisted with many of the recreation programs, along with wetland restoration projects, throughout the year.

External funding from outside agencies and organization are invested in projects; mostly research, inventory, and monitoring; and conducted on the Preserve. A continued objective for the Trust is to encourage scientific activities on the Preserve. Indicators for science community interest in studying the Valles Caldera National 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. Current (FY 2013) funding from outside (non-VCT) sources came from 38 different project sources, and exceeded \$4.8 million. While these outside grant funds were not part of the VCT 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 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 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements				
New Budget Authority	\$80,599	\$10,874	\$14,432	\$3,558
Program Level	21,771	39,003	30,679	-8,324
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	73	80	80	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$30,679,000 for the Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements fund, a decrease of \$8,324,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 restoration and rehabilitation activities or infrastructure repair due to contractor damage, negligence, or non-performance. FY 2013 accomplishments included:

- 341 acres of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated,
- 785 acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the WUI to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire,
- 951 acres of forest vegetation established,
- 623 acres of forest vegetation improved,
- 422 acres of noxious weeds/invasive plant treatments,
- 200 acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained, or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions, and
- 30 miles of system trail maintained to standard.

Many but not all of the accomplishments in the above activities were greater in FY 2013 than in FY 2012. These activities vary yearly according to the restoration and rehabilitation activities needed due to contractor damage or non-performance and resulting from forfeiture of their bond or deposit.

**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.

**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, and the Forest Service performs the work itself.

This authority also protects the interests of the American public from present or potential damage to national forest 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 2015 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			Program Changes
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention				
New Budget Authority	\$673	\$613	\$533	-\$80
Program Level	302	871	744	-127
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	3	4	4	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$744,000 for Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention, a decrease of \$127,000 from the FY 2014 estimate.

**Past Performance**

During FY 2013, the Forest Service collected \$673,204 from commercial filming. These collections are retained at the national, regional and forest units. These fees are separate from the fees the agency collects associated with processing film/photo requests. Units use these 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. 4601-6d) (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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Organizational Camps Program				
New Budget Authority	\$585	\$389	\$361	-\$28
Program Level	340	707	683	-24
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	4	4	4	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$683,000 for the administration of the Organizational Camps Program fund, a decrease of \$24,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2013, we collected \$585,478 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.

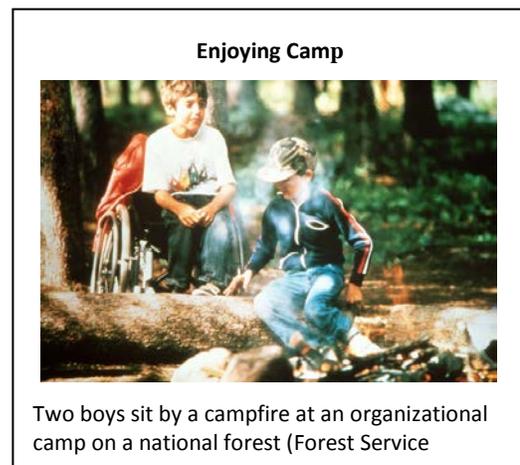
Fees based on other revenue - If permit holders earn revenue from activities other than providing youth services, a fee is assessed based on five percent of revenue.

### 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.

### 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 (Administration of Rights-of-Way)**

Budget Line Item	Cost Recovery (Administration of Rights-of-Way)			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Cost Recovery (Administration of Rights-of-Way)				
New Budget Authority	\$5,959	\$5,633	\$4,850	-\$783
Program Level	5,158	7,715	6,614	-1,101
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	48	56	55	-1

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$6,614,000 for the Cost Recovery program (also known as Administration of Rights-of-Way), a decrease of \$1,101,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2015, the Forest Service expects to continue working in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to update their interagency flat fee schedule relative to applicable special use applications and authorizations. Working cooperatively with the BLM ensures interagency consistency for similar uses and works to assess fees that are appropriate.

**Past Performance**

Our FY 2013 financial records indicate a total of nearly \$6 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 2013. 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.

In FY 2006, when the cost recovery authority was first implemented, the Forest Service had a backlog of over 14,885 expired special use authorizations for uses on NFS land needing to be reissued. In FY 2013, we reduced the backlog of expired authorizations to approximately 9,700 authorizations, representing a 35 percent reduction.

### **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. This authority was extended through January 15, 2014, pursuant to P.L. 113-46, Continuing Appropriations Act of 2014.

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 authorizations each year for the use and occupancy of NFS lands. In FY 2012, we administered nearly 82,000 authorizations for a wide variety of 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 of 1969.
- 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, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Licensee Program Smokey Bear				
New Budget Authority	\$69	\$100	\$100	0
Program Level	2	140	120	-\$20
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$120,000 for the Licensee Program Smokey Bear fund, a decrease of \$20,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. Funds will support special projects regarding Smokey Bear’s 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 fire prevention specialist 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. In FY 2015, the special projects will include Smokey Bear’s 71<sup>st</sup> birthday and preparations for his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday activities.

**Licensee Program Woodsy Owl**

Budget Line Item	Licensee Program Woodsy Owl			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl				
New Budget Authority	\$1	\$7	\$6	-\$1
Program Level	3	12	12	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$12,000 for the Licensee Program Woodsy Owl fund, the same level as the FY 2014 estimate. 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 FY15 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)				
New Budget Authority	\$50	\$67	\$68	\$1
Program Level	20	59	68	9
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President's Budget includes a program level of \$68,000 for the Forest Service Go Green program, an increase of \$1,000 from the FY 2014 estimate.

**Past Performance**

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. In only four years, total collections for this program have grown from \$3,701 in the inaugural year of FY 2009 to \$163,000 as of September 20, 2013.

**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 Service Agency vehicles, which also have disposal/excess rules in place.

**Program Description**Program Overview

The Forest Service promoted the implementation of “Go Green” on Forests 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. This funding enables field units to also accomplish clean-up activities they otherwise might not be able to accomplish due to limited 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 2015, 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Conveyance of Administrative Sites				
New Budget Authority	\$3,849	\$19,522	\$18,000	-\$1,522
Program Level	5,882	25,337	15,000	-10,337
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	6	10	8	-2

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$15,000,000 for the Conveyance of Administrative Sites, a decrease of \$10,337,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2013, the agency collected \$3.85 million through the completion of land and facility conveyances. These conveyances reduced deferred maintenance by approximately \$5.4 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.

**TABLE A**  
**FY 2013 Final Accomplishments Land and Facility Conveyance Projects**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region	State	Cong District	Forest	Project Name	Year Initiated	* Sale Value	Acres Conveyed	Deferred Maint. Eliminated	Gross Square Feet Reduced
2	CO	2	White River	Minturn Equipment Yard	2006	\$2,300	4.39	\$2	412
4	WY	At-large	Ashley	Green River Site	2011	\$368	4.23	\$20	5,724
4	UT	2	Ashley	Roosevelt RD Office/Warehouse	2011	\$277	2.63	\$2	950
6	OR	2	Rogue River-Siskiyou	Butte Falls Ranger House		\$80	3.30	\$45	3,542
6	OR	4	Rogue River-Siskiyou	Old Agnes		\$150	-	\$115	6,067
8	SC	1	Francis Marion	Wambaw Office and Work Center	2006	\$231	6.25	\$2,673	9,980
8	KY	5	Daniel Boone	Baldrock Work Center	2006	\$126	10.74	\$126	9,039
8	TN	1	Cherokee	Watauga Work Center	2007	\$151	2.62	\$721	7,562
8	OK	2	Ouachita	Talihina House	2008	\$40	0.45	\$19	1,392
8	GA	10	Chattahoochee-Oconee	Chattooga Office/WC	2007	\$210	2.38	\$574	10,590
9	NH	2	White Mountain	Ammonusuc Ranger Station		\$165	-	\$914	6,770
9	MI	4	Huron-Manistee	Mio Administrative Site		\$80	-	\$178	7,905
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Wrangell Mission Lots		\$45	0.16	\$0	0
<b>Total, All Forest Service</b>						<b>\$4,223</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$5,389</b>	<b>69,933</b>

*\*Sale amounts may not equal actual collections by September 30.*

**TABLE B**  
**Change in Land and Facility Planned Conveyance Projects for FY 2014**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region	State	Cong 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
<i>The following 11 projects have been added for FY 2014. These are in addition to the projects listed in the FY 2014 Budget Justification.</i>												
1	MT	1	Lolo	Quartz Guard Station	5,010	31	\$109	\$75	\$75	-	\$	2014
5	CA	25	Inyo	Big Pine Admin Site	-	1.3	5	200	200	-	-	2015
6	OR	4	Rogue River Siskiyou	"L" Street	25,054	3.3		275	275	-	-	2015
6	OR	4	Siuslaw	Mapleton	16,611	16	267	10	-	-	-	2014
10	AK	At-large	Chugach	Seward District Office	3,840	0.21	72	130	-	-	105	2014
10	AK	At-large	Chugach	Seward House (700 4th Ave)	2,212	0.23	45	200	-	-	175	2014
10	AK	At-large	Chugach	Seward House (701 5th Ave)	1,824	0.23	40	215	-	-	200	2016
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Petersburg Parking Lot	-	0.93		76	-	-	240	2014
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Scow Bay Warehouse	1,901	0.57	98	250	-	-	225	2014

**TABLE B**  
**Change in Land and Facility Planned Conveyance Projects for FY 2014**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region	State	Cong 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
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Scow Bay Upper Lot	-	1.07	-	18	-	-	17	2016
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Wrangell Ranger House- 316 First Ave	1,594	0.39	36	125	-	-	100	2014
<b>Total</b>					<b>58,046</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$672</b>	<b>\$1,664</b>	<b>\$550</b>		<b>\$1,062</b>	
<i>The two projects below, which were listed in the FY 2014 Budget Justification, are no longer available for conveyance.</i>												
1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Fernan Office	14,874	5	\$89	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$0	2016
1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Dispatch	4,632	-	108	50	-	50	-	2016

**TABLE C**  
**FY 2015 Planned Conveyance Projects**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region / Station	State	Cong 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	Lolo	Bonita Work Center	7,358	30	\$1,220	\$500	\$0	\$450	\$50	2015
1	MT	1	Lolo	Thompson Falls Office site	1,692	3	33	125	-	115	10	2015
1	MT	1	Flathead	SO Shop	8,700	2.07	512	300	100	200	-	2018
1	MT	1	Helena	Helena Ranger Station	25,038	18	3,758	3,500	-	3,500	-	2016
1	MT	1	Helena	Townsend Admin Property	-	25		250	-	250	-	2016
1	MT	1	Kootenai	Eureka Residence 1059	2,841	<.1	113	155	155	NA	NA	2016
1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Troll House	768	0.10	161	60	-	60	-	2016
1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 1	-	40	-	200	-	200	-	2016
1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 2	-	40	-	200	-	200	-	2016
1	ID	1	Idaho Panhandle	Lone Mountain Seed Orchard 3	-	40	-	200	-	200	-	2016
1	MT	1	Bitterroot	Stevensville RS	17,036	5.01	75	1,000	-	1,000	-	2017

**TABLE C**  
**FY 2015 Planned Conveyance Projects**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region / Station	State	Cong 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	Bitterroot	Sula RS	25,408	36.25	355	1,500		1,500	-	2019
1	MT	1	Regional Office	14th and Catlin	80,000	14	1,995	1,360	680	-	680	2019
Subtotal, Region 1					168,841	253	\$8,222	\$9,350	\$935	\$7,675	\$740	
2	CO	3	Grand Mesa, Uncomp., Gunnison	Crested Butte Admin Site	5,528	0.36	\$61	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	2015
2	CO	5	Pike - San Isabel	Woodland Park Work Center (West Sector)	3,774	29.5	206	250	50	200	-	2016
Subtotal, Region 2					9,302	30	\$267	\$1,250	\$1,050	\$200	\$0	
4	UT	2	Ashley	Manila Housing (Ashley Way)	7,483	1.25	\$138	\$350	\$	\$350	\$0	TBD
4	UT	2	Ashley	Stockmore Admin Site - aka Old Stockmore Ranger Station	2,516	19	543	170	170	-	-	TBD
4	NV	2	Humboldt-Toiyabe	Austin Work Center Main St.	3,325	0.81	264	40		40		2015
Subtotal, Region 4					13,324	21	\$945	\$560	\$170	\$390	\$0	

**TABLE C**  
**FY 2015 Planned Conveyance Projects**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region / Station	State	Cong 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
5	CA	4	Lassen	Chester Willhoite Road Parcel	0	0.16	\$	\$13	\$	\$13	\$0	2018
5	CA	2	Lassen	Mineral Work Center	8,414	-	199	1,200	-	1,200	-	2018
5	CA	4	Lassen	Dyer Mountain Parcel	-	0.96	-	350	-	350	-	2018
Subtotal, Region 5					8,414	1	\$199	\$1,563	\$0	\$1,563	\$0	
6	OR	3	Mt Hood NF	Troutdale Air Tanker Base	2,550	9	\$200	\$1,450	\$1,000	\$250	\$200	2018
6	WA	4	Okanogan-Wen.	Conconully Work Center	9,622	1	1,201	400	-	300	100	2015
Subtotal, Region 6					12,172	10	\$1,401	\$1,850	\$1,000	\$550	\$300	
8	AR	1	Ozark-St. Francis	Sylamore - Asst Ranger Dwelling	1,300	0	\$13	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$0	2016
8	AR	4	Ouachita	Glenwood Workcenter	2,880	8.5	7,525	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	2015
8	NC	11	Nantahala	Highlands Work Center	7,013	4	18	1,013	-	1,013	-	2015
8	NC	11	Nantahala	Workcenter Wellhouse	49	-	-	13	-	13	-	2015
8	NC	11	Nantahala	Oil/Paint Storage	576	-	2	156	-	156	-	2015

**TABLE C**  
**FY 2015 Planned Conveyance Projects**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region / Station	State	Cong 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
8	NC	11	Nantahala	Highlands Work Center Shop	2,500	-	11	388	-	388	-	2015
8	NC	11	Nantahala	Highlands Work Center Shed	3,696	-	5	404	-	404	-	2015
8	NC	11	Nantahala	Chemical Storage	192	-	-	52	-	52	-	2015
Subtotal, Region 8					18,206	13	\$7,574	\$2,056	\$0	\$2,026	\$0	
10	AK	At-large	Chugach	Whittier Lot	0	0.3	\$0	\$ 115	\$0	\$ 75	\$0	2016
10	AK	At-large	Chugach	Kenai Lake Work Center, Lot 2, USS 7398	4,486	24.8	88	258	-	240	-	2016
10	AK	At-large	Chugach	Kenai Lake Work Center Lots, USS 3532	-	15.95	-	250	-	215	-	2015
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Sitka Work Center Beach Lots	-	1.29	-	300	-	250	-	2016
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Sitka Work Center Upper Lot 1B	-	1.2	35	129	-	100	-	2016
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Sitka Whitehouse	2,872	0.52	72	250	-	225	-	2017

**TABLE C**  
**FY 2015 Planned Conveyance Projects**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

FS Region / Station	State	Cong 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
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Coffman Cove Heli Lot	6	0.74	-	70	-	50	-	2016
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Thorne Bay Lot	-	15	-	100	-	75	-	2016
10	AK	At-large	Tongass	Craig Lot	-	0.16	-	18	-	10	-	2015
Subtotal, Region 10					7,364	60	\$195	\$1,490	\$0	\$1,240	\$0	
SRS	NC	4	Southern Research Station	RTP Forestry Sciences Laboratory	5,928	26.1	\$1,977	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	2015
Subtotal, Southern Research Station					5,928	26	\$1,977	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	
<b>Total, All Forest Service</b>					<b>243,551</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>\$20,780</b>	<b>\$30,119</b>	<b>\$3,155</b>	<b>\$25,644</b>	<b>\$1,040</b>	

**Site-Specific Lands Act**

Budget Line Item	Site-Specific Lands Acts			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Permanent Funds</b>				
Site-Specific Lands Acts				
New Budget Authority	\$184	\$15,000	\$10,000	-\$5,000
Program Level	1,002	10,790	11,161	371
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	3	4	3	-1

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$11,161,000 for the Site-Specific Lands Acts fund, an increase of \$371,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2013, we collected \$184,150 from the conveyance of NFS land. Funds were used towards Capital Improvement and Maintenance projects and to supplement the Conveyance of Administrative Sites program.

**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**

<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>Payment to States</b>			
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>			
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2015 vs FY 2014</b>
<b>Payment to States Funds</b>				
National Forest Fund Payments to States Available, Title I & III				
New Budget Authority	\$31,774	\$83,678	\$50,850	-\$32,828
Program Level	76,512	83,678	50,850	-32,828
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to States Act of 1908				
New Budget Authority	0	11,240	10,000	-1,240
Program Level	11,240	11,240	10,000	-1,240
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to States Supplemental				
New Budget Authority	207,500	180,000	164,000	-16,000
Program Level	196,918	180,000	164,000	-16,000
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to Minnesota Counties				
New Budget Authority	6,150	6,150	6,150	0
Program Level	5,844	6,150	6,150	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Payments to Counties, Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act				
New Budget Authority	19,377	21,269	21,000	-269
Program Level	25,304	21,269	21,000	-269
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Secure Payments for States (SRS), Title II				
New Budget Authority	15,599	30,166	64,000	33,834
Program Level	29,364	30,166	64,000	33,834
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	113	113	113	0
Secure Payments for States/Repayment per DOT Reauthorization				
New Budget Authority	2,604	131	0	-131
Program Level	2,304	131	0	-131
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	2	1	0	0
<b>Payment to State Funds New Budget Authority</b>	<b>\$283,004</b>	<b>\$332,634</b>	<b>\$316,000</b>	<b>-\$16,634</b>
<b>Payment Funds Program Level</b>	<b>\$347,486</b>	<b>\$332,634</b>	<b>\$316,000</b>	<b>-\$16,634</b>
<b>Payment to States Funds Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0</b>

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

National Forest Fund Payments to States Available, Title I & III

The FY 2015 President's Budget reflects a five-year reauthorization, starting in FY 2014, of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Secure Rural Schools Act).

Under the (Secure Rural Schools Act), the Forest Service deposits all receipts to be used for Title I and Title III payments into an account from which payments are made. The FY 2015 President's Budget projects \$50,850,000 in receipts, a decrease of \$32,828,175 from the FY 2014 estimate.

#### Payment to States Act of 1908

The FY 2015 President's Budget proposes \$10,000,000 for Payments to States under the Act of 1908 (25 percent fund), a decrease of \$1,240,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. This reflects payments under the 1908 Act with the proposed continuation of the Secure Rural Schools Act. Payments under the 25 percent fund 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 2015 President's Budget proposes \$164,000,000 for supplemental funding to continue the payments, a decrease of \$16,000,000 from the FY 2014 estimate.

#### Payments to Minnesota Counties

The FY 2015 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 2015 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 2014 estimate.

#### Secure Payments for States (SRS), Title II

The FY 2015 President's Budget request is \$64,000,000 for Secure Payments for States. This is an increase of \$33,834,462 from what the Forest Service estimates it will pay in Title II funds in FY 2014 under current law.

#### 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 2013 recovered funds are \$2,466,000.

## **Program Overview**

### Secure Rural Schools Act

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.

### 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 Payments for States (SRS), Title II funds projects that enhance forest ecosystems, restore and improve land health and water quality, an increase economic activity. These are the funds that Resource Advisory Committees use for projects on their local national forest.

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**Trust Funds**

<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>Trust Funds</b>			
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>			
	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted*</b>	<b>FY 2015 President's Budget</b>	<b>Program Changes</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>				
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg				
New Budget Authority	\$211,784	\$45,936	\$45,850	-\$86
Program Level	233,704	85,798	85,842	44
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	518	500	500	0
Cooperative Work, Other				
New Budget Authority	32,285	37,966	37,602	-364
Program Level	42,170	86,276	86,396	120
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	209	240	240	0
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Program Level	0	25	250	225
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0
Reforestation Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	30,000	30,000	30,000	0
Program Level	29,127	30,000	30,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	165	168	168	0
<b>Trust Funds New Budget Authority</b>	<b>274,069</b>	<b>113,902</b>	<b>113,452</b>	<b>-450</b>
<b>Trust Funds Program Level</b>	<b>305,001</b>	<b>202,099</b>	<b>202,488</b>	<b>389</b>
<b>Trust Funds Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>0</b>

\*FY 2014 levels are updated Trust Fund estimates from those published in the FY 2014 President's Budget.

**Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg**

Appropriation	Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg			
	(dollars in thousands)			
	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Trust Funds</b>				
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg				
New Budget Authority	\$211,784	\$45,936	\$45,850	-\$86
Program Level	233,704	85,798	85,842	44
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	518	500	500	0

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg</b>						
Acres of forest vegetation established	45,304	40,677	53,000	44,237	67,600	50,000
Acres of forest vegetation improved	24,932	29,161	27,000	18,643	42,000	39,000
Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced with non-Wildlife funds	6	206	300	97	206	100
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	2	7	20	4	350	10
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce risk of catastrophic fire	85,316	67,079	36,000	91,073	30,310	27,500
Miles of high clearance system roads improved	10	2	0	1	7	6
Highest priority acres treated annually for noxious weeds and invasive plants on NFS lands	11,268	9,768	29,800	9,446	39,863	1,000
Acres of rangeland vegetation improved	1,077	581	1,000	491	800	321
Miles of roads decommissioned	10	29	0	12	5	10
Acres of watershed improvement	6,677	2,843	7,200	79	9,200	7,630
Acres of wildlife habitat (terrestrial) (TES and Non-TES) restored or improved with non-Wildlife dollars	67,103	93,929	200,000	72,774	184,600	60,000

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg - Regional Work</b>						
Acres of forest vegetation established	20	61	2,500	124	200	150
Acres of forest vegetation improved	867	504	0	1,714	867	1,000
Forestlands treated to achieve healthier conditions	12,943	7,610	0	3,450	0	
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	0	3	0	0	5	5
Volume of timber sold (hundred cubic feet (CCF))	178,824	123,784	240,000	54,731	240,000	55,000
Miles of landownership boundary line marked/maintained to standard	0	0	0	16	20	15
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	89	64	120	27	120	27
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce risk of catastrophic fire	924	116	0	4,318	200	700
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	851	821	0	2,959	700	500
Highest priority acres treated annually for noxious weeds and invasive plants on NFS lands	841	72	0	15	100	50
Acres of wildlife habitat (terrestrial) (TES and Non-TES) restored or improved with non-Wildlife dollars	0	454	0	750	400	400

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$85,842,000 in the Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) program, an increase of \$44,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. 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 2015.

A total of \$32,725,000 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 240,000 CCF (120 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 2014 and FY 2015.

**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 2013, 3,450 high priority acres were treated to meet forest health objectives. Treatments include, but were not limited to, forest vegetation improved, reforestation, 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 which are used for sale area 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 collection 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Trust Funds</b>				
Cooperative Work, Other				
New Budget Authority	\$32,285	\$37,966	\$37,602	-\$364
Program Level	42,170	86,276	86,396	120
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	209	240	240	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$68,886,000 for the Cooperative Work, Agreement Based program, an increase of \$467,000 from FY 2014 and \$17,510,000 for the Cooperative Work, Non-Agreement Based program, a decrease of \$347,000 from the FY 2014 estimate, for a total of \$86,396,000. This level is consistent with anticipated collections from partners and cooperators. The collections allow the agency to leverage appropriated funds in order 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 is performed each year using funds deposited in advance by partners and cooperators, although no targets are set for these highly diverse activities. These 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 (ACE) 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 burgeoning mountain biker community. The extension was designed and installed with a focus on sustainability in order 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 (RIP) 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. As an example, 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, however, these 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 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Trust Funds</b>				
Reforestation Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	0
Program Level	29,127	30,000	30,000	0
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	165	168	168	0

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
<b>Reforestation Trust Fund</b>						
Acres of forest vegetation established	69,795	108,457	66,810	79,734	96,300	81,250
Acres of forest vegetation improved	28,893	28,078	32,322	33,727	27,300	35,450

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$30,000,000, the same as the FY 2014 estimate. Funds are used to analyze, prepare, and implement reforestation and forest vegetation improvement projects outside of timber sale areas on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The request will fund an estimated 81,250 acres of reforestation work and 35,450 acres of forest vegetation improvement activities. The FY 2015 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 appropriate or Cooperative Work Knutson-Vandenberg (CWKV) funds are not available. Financing reforestation and forest vegetation improvement treatments ensure that appropriate forest vegetation is established on NFS lands within acceptable timeframes. Improvement treatments help to maintain and improve forest health conditions.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, the agency accomplished 79,734 acres of reforestation and 33,727 acres of timber stand improvement. Field examination and certification of acres successfully regenerated to meet specified land management objectives accounted for 56,457 acres or approximately 59 percent of the total establish vegetation accomplishment. 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**

Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Act of 1980, Title III, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1606a(d)) P.L. 96-451.

### **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, reducing the effects of pathogens (ex. white pine blister rust), and improving 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 reported acres of reforestation or timber stand improvement need, which include reforestation needs created by wildfires and other natural events, during the previous three years, and prior year accomplishments. Allocation decisions consider the combined accomplishment 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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 President's Budget	Program Changes
<b>Trust Funds</b>				
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund				
New Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Program Level	0	\$25	\$250	\$225
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	0	0	0	0

**FY 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget includes a program level of \$250,000, an increase of \$225,000 from the FY 2014 estimate. This significant one-year increase is necessary to cover shortages created by a decrease in appropriations normally directed to support the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) environmental education program. The trust fund was specifically created to protect these important programs from unexpected budget shortfalls, ensuring environmental education activities are not negatively impacted during unpredictable budget cycles. The trust fund has generated approximately \$1 million in interest earned since inception; this \$250,000 request will still leave a substantial balance above the initial principal investment amount. The funds will be invested in public education and regional promotion in cooperation with development districts, chambers of commerce, and State and local governments. LBL will use these funds to cover additional program elements of the Respect the Resource environmental education program. The requested increase in funding will support additional environmental education and promotion endeavors that will enhance the long term sustainability of LBL. LBL will work to increase teacher recruitment, especially of new teachers, by including teachers in the programs offered and by helping teachers to cultivate skills that can be used in the classroom.

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, due to a transition in leadership midway through the fiscal year, the Trust Fund was not utilized in FY 2013. In the past, the LBL Trust fund has been used to support a successful school grant program, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LBL promotion, the recycling campaign tied to LBL’s Respect the Resource program, utilizing displays and interpretive signage to educate LBL staff and visitors, as well as other endeavors. The Trust Fund is controlled directly by the Area Supervisor through the LBL Budget Staff.

**Authority**

Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 460lll-31) (P.L. 105-277, div. A, Sec. 101(e) [title V, Sec. 531], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-317). This Act establishes the LBL Trust fund. In accordance with Title V of the Act, responsibility for the LBL National

Recreation Area transferred from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to the Secretary of Agriculture.

## **Program Description**

### Program Overview

The LBL Protection Act called for LBL, an area in western Kentucky and Tennessee, to be managed as a unit of the National Forest System. Section 531 of the Act established a special interest-bearing fund known as the LBL Trust fund, to be available for public education, grants, and internships related to recreation, conservation, and multiple-use land management as well as regional promotion in cooperation with development districts, chambers of commerce, and State and local governments.

In accordance with the terms described in the Act, beginning September 30, 2000, TVA began depositing \$1 million annually into the fund for five consecutive years, for a total of \$5 million. The Forest Service allowed the principal balance to grow and much of the interest to compound, and LBL has now begun to use the interest earned on the fund for the purposes intended by Congress. This includes providing additional funding to further assist in the promotion and support of the successful school grant program for environmental education.

### 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. LBL's volunteers, interns, and apprentices, coordinated through the Friends of LBL partnership, log more than 116,000 hours of volunteer time on LBL projects annually.

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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<sup>18</sup>.

On July 11, 2011, the Forest Service released the five-year Western Bark Beetle Strategy<sup>19</sup>, 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.

<sup>18</sup> USDA Forest Service 2011 Western Bark Beetle Strategy page 4, <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/bark-beetle/bark-beetle-strategy-appendices.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> USDA Forest Service 2011 Western 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 2013, the Forest Service treated 259,712 acres. Of these, 17,582 acres were treated as a subset of the resiliency total with funding from State and Private Forestry. A total of 13,107 acres were treated to improve human safety (safety goal), 23,126 acres were reforested (recovery goal), and 223,477 acres were thinned to improve resiliency (resiliency goal). The Forest Service removed hazard trees along 532 miles of roads and trails.

These treatments resulted in 235 million board feet (MMBF) of timber sold and 50,544 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 2013 Funding and Accomplishments**

In FY 2013, the Forest Service invested \$101.4 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 2013 Accomplishments**

Performance	Safety	Recovery	Resilience	TOTAL
Treated Area (acres)	13,108	23,127	223,477	259,712
Volume Sold (MMBF)	27	28	180	235
Bio-Energy Production (green tons)	1,169	52	49,323	50,544
Road and Trail Maintenance (miles)	517	0	15	532

In FY 2013, Forest Service Research and Development performed critical research leading to the development and delivery of tools needed to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the impact of bark beetles across all landscapes and ownerships. These include:

- A highly effective biochemical lure for the control of mountain pine beetles in lodgepole pine forests. SPLAT® Verb is a new formulation of a pheromone produced by male mountain pine beetles that warns other beetles away from an individual tree. This control mechanism is preferable to either removing whole infested trees or spraying insecticides. SPLAT® Verb was registered as a biopesticide by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use on pines in August 2013.
- Preemptive management strategies for the Eastern United States developed out of studies of the mountain pine beetle expanding its range into jack pine, which examined the interaction with dwarf mistletoe, a native pest that may increase susceptibility to mountain pine beetle.
- A trap lure for the Douglas-fir beetle, *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*, which could be useful in an integrated pest management program to minimize mortality of Douglas-fir, particularly in conjunction with anti-aggregation pheromones.

**FY 2014 and FY 2015 Funding**

The Forest Service plans to invest \$101.5 million in FY 2014 and \$101.5 million in FY 2015 to implement the Western Bark Beetle Strategy. In both FY 2014 and FY 2015, the target is to treat 293,000 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 2015, specific mitigation activities will be funded by the national Integrated Resource Restoration program proposed for FY 2015. The table below represents bark beetle related investments proposed by each region.

**Bark Beetle Proposed Investments by Regions**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Region</b>	<b>FY 2014 &amp; FY 2015 Estimate</b>
Northern Region (R1)	\$24,000
Rocky Mountain Region (R2)	33,000
Southwestern Region (R3)	2,800
Intermountain Region (R4)	9,000
Pacific Southwest Region (R5)	18,400
Pacific Northwest Region (R6)	11,900
Research and Development	2,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101,500</b>

Priority beetle-related work in FY 2014 and FY 2015 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 and Bioenergy

#### Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but is included to report Forest Service accomplishments related to agency work in biomass and bioenergy.

#### Overview

Our Nation’s forests are a strategic asset that can help achieve and enhance U.S. energy security, economic opportunity, environmental quality, and global competitiveness by providing raw material for the renewable bioenergy and biobased products sector. This sector is a growing source of jobs in the U.S. economy that contributes to a sustainable future. Woody biomass is a critical renewable resource, and through commercially available technology, can produce thermal and electrical energy. With additional research, it could also provide liquid/gaseous bioenergy and bioproducts, enabling cost-effective renewable substitutes for fossil fuel-intensive products. Biomass removals for energy and biobased products provide numerous benefits including improved forest health and productivity as well as economic growth opportunities. Sustainable development of a healthy bioenergy/biobased products sector is dependent on rapid and robust research and development.

Creating demand for forest biomass results in new revenue opportunities and also reduces fire risk to communities, restores healthy forested landscapes, and can provide new income streams for forest landowners. The following table shows Forest Service funding for biomass and bioenergy work by budget line item.

**Forest Service Funding for Biomass and Bioenergy**  
(dollars in thousands)

	<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Bud</b>
Biomass Production	Forest Products	\$5,000	\$5,000	-
	Integrated Resource Restoration	-	-	5,000*
Bioenergy & Biobased Products Research	Research and Development	11,926	12,476	11,511
State Wood to Energy Teams	Hazardous Fuels	1,100	1,000	3,000
	Integrated Resource Restoration	-	800	800
Woody Biomass Utilization Grants	Hazardous Fuels	2,500	5,000	6,500**
<i>Biomass Air Quality Improvement***</i>	Hazardous Fuels	-	-	1,000
<i>Geographically Target Wood Utilization***</i>	Hazardous Fuels	-	-	2,500
<i>Expanded Use of Wood in Green Building***</i>	Hazardous Fuels	-	1,000	2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,526</b>	<b>\$24,276 to \$25,276</b>	<b>\$26,811 to \$32,311</b>

\*This includes funding for the national target of 3.1MM 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.

The shaded portion identifies facets of the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. The other participating USDA agencies provide the bulk of the funding for the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. The Forest Service provides primarily subject matter expertise and technical assistance as well as some financial assistance.

## **FY 2015**

Forest Service biomass and bioenergy work encourages market development for woody biomass and also provides high quality data to inform business decisions. In FY 2015, the planned work is primarily structured around the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. We will work to develop sustainable management and utilization options, systems, and practices to effectively integrate biomass production into forest management activities. The following describes the work to be accomplished in each of the items listed in the table above.

### **Biomass Production**

By expanding our capacity to provide a reliable and predictable source of woody biomass from National Forest System (NFS) lands we help provide the supply of wood to bioenergy projects, together with private lands, other Federal and State agencies, and Tribes.

An example of connecting wood supply from national forests to energy projects is the wood fired power plant in Gypsum, Colorado, which uses dead trees from the bark beetle infestation. The \$8.66 million 10 year stewardship contract awarded to West Range Reclamation will remove bark beetle infested material from the White River National Forest to decrease wildfire risk. West Range Reclamation is also the contract supplier for the Eagle Valley Clean Energy power plant. Eagle Valley Clean Energy financed this 11.5 megawatt plant in part through a USDA Rural Utilities Service \$40 million guaranteed loan.

### **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<sup>20</sup> and science and technology for manufacturing chemicals and other co-products from biomass-to-energy conversion.

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<sup>20</sup> Drop-in biofuels are hydrocarbon fuels substantially similar to gasoline, diesel, or jet fuels. These fuels can be made from a variety of biomass feedstocks including woody biomass. ([http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/emerging\\_dropin\\_biofuels.html](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/emerging_dropin_biofuels.html))

**USDA Wood to Energy Initiative**

The USDA Wood to Energy Initiative is an interagency effort with the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Housing Service, and Rural Business Cooperative Service within USDA Rural Development and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). This cooperative effort synergistically facilitates achievement of all the cooperating agencies' goals. It accomplishes the Rural Development's goals of creating new renewable energy while creating a market for what was previously "waste wood," which reduces the cost of forest management. The Forest Service leverages its small amount of grant funds with the Rural Development's grant and loan programs by providing subject matter expertise and technical assistance in the early stages of project development, so the proponents can successfully compete for Rural Development's loans and grants. The Forest Service works in a variety of areas that support the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative, including:

- **State Wood to Energy Teams**

The USDA Wood to Energy Initiative identified State level teams comprised of Federal and State agencies, nonprofits, and private sector experts providing technical, financial, and communication assistance as a critical element in support of expanded project development. Communities and businesses often need support to reach the decision to convert to wood energy. The combination of \$3 million from the Hazardous Fuels program and \$800,000 from the Integrated Resource Restoration program proposed in FY 2015 will target this type of energy development. Cooperative Agreements will provide State, Tribal, and local governments with support to develop wood energy projects through a variety of techniques such as preliminary engineering assessments and workshops on financing, air quality, wood sourcing.

- **Woody Biomass Utilization Grants**

Grants encourage the use of woody biomass removed from forest restoration activities such as hazardous fuels treatments, insect and disease mitigation, forest management pursuant to catastrophic weather events, or thinning overstocked stands. Woody biomass shall be used in a facility that uses commercially proven technologies to produce thermal, electrical, or liquid/gaseous bioenergy. Grant funds will further the planning of such facilities by funding the engineering services necessary for final design, permitting, and cost analysis. Grant amounts are up to \$250,000. They have been effective in leveraging other private and public sector financing for the development of wood energy projects, up to 100:1. The increase is proposed in anticipation of the increased demand as the State Wood to Energy teams are expanded.

- **Biomass Air Quality Improvement**

Wood Energy development is often hampered by existing poor air quality conditions resulting from old woodstove technology. Improving air quality with better combustion technology creates opportunities to expand advanced wood combustion energy use, which can then result in more acres of forest thinning

The EPA has recently reduced the ambient air quality standard for particulate matter, which will result in more communities being classified at nonattainment through the continued use of old woodstove technology. This funding will be used to carry out wood stove replacements in partnership with the EPA through a competitive grant process, if specific needs are identified.

- **Geographically Target Wood Utilization**

This will focus support on wood utilization in conjunction with geographically focused hazardous fuels work with the purpose of reducing the 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 building designs for commercial high rise buildings opens extensive new markets for relatively lower value small dimensional lumber to become higher value structural materials. This new market has significant benefits for climate change, energy conservation and lowers the cost hazardous fuels reduction, forest restoration and other forest treatments. It accomplishes this by storing carbon in long-lived building materials by making “big wood out of small wood”; reducing the energy needed to construct the building which reduces the fossil carbon emissions; the higher value allows for more acres to be treated which makes the forest more resilient to fire, insects and diseases. Funding will be used to work with architects, engineers, developers and others to facilitate increased use and have demonstration projects.

Funding will be used to work with architects, engineers, developers and others to facilitate increased use, conduct Life Cycle Assessment and Environmental Product Declaration work, if specific needs to do so are identified.

## **Past Performance**

The Forest Service has a long history of success in encouraging biomass utilization and research on bioenergy and biobased products. Since the 1970s significant accomplishments have been made in harvesting, genetics, silviculture, and conversion processes related to energy. Selected accomplishments include the following.

- Since 2010, Forest Service Research and Development (Forest Service R&D) scientists have produced in excess of 150 publications advancing science and technology in biomass production and management systems, biofuels and bioproducts, and decision support and policy analysis.
- Forest Service R&D scientists estimated county-level forest-based biomass supply curves. These curves were used in combination with estimates of agricultural biomass supply curves to determine the mix and cost of forest and agricultural biomass supply that would be needed to meet cellulosic biofuels production targets for 2022 set by the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act.

- Forest Service R&D led a study to develop methods to map sites for poplar tree energy crops to enhance productivity and ecosystem services. These methods were used to assess the biomass potential of poplar energy crops in Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- Forest Service R&D scientists provided knowledge to help understand the effects of bioenergy harvesting in southern forests. Forest Service researchers examined the collection efficiency of biomass harvesting operations.
- In FY 2013, State and Private Forestry awarded ten biomass grant awards totaling almost \$2.5 million to small businesses and community groups through Woody Biomass Utilization Grants. There were five State-wide Wood Energy Team grants totaling \$1.1 million. These grants are a component of the Forest Service's focus on bioenergy that will result in secure, sustainable, renewable energy sources, and strong rural economies. Grant funding will help build capacity for woody biomass utilization in support of forest restoration activities. Woody biomass shall be used in a bioenergy facility that uses commercially proven technologies to produce thermal, electrical, or liquid/gaseous bioenergy. Grant funding will further the planning of such facilities by funding the preliminary analysis and decision-making process for communities and businesses and provide engineering services necessary for final design and cost analysis that are critical to obtaining and leveraging funding.
- The Forest Service continues to work with the USDA, Rural Development, and FSA on the USDA Wood to Energy Initiative. In FY 2013, we worked with USDA to host the Western Utility and Forest Health Summit. CEO's from 15 major Investor Owned Utilities as well as the Chairs of ten State Public Utility Commissions and five State Energy Departments met to address wildfire risk and liabilities related to utility infrastructure. Partnerships are being developed to jointly address this issue and conduct analyses to quantify the associated economic values. This work will occur in 2014.
- The Wood to Energy Initiative also includes work with the Western Utilities Group (WUG). Wildfire has impacted electric transmission both at the local community level and on a national scale. Increasingly volatile fires have also resulted in significant impacts on NFS lands, including loss of resources. The Forest Service and WUG are working together in this new partnership to increase vegetation management efforts outside of transmission right-of-ways. Through cooperation, these two organizations are developing a partnership and a means to reduce the shared threats and expenses of severe wildfire while mitigating resource, service, and land-access losses for the people they both serve.
- In FY 2013, the Rocky Mountain Region entered into a five-year Memorandum of Understanding and Collection Agreement with the Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy). The Forest Service and Xcel Energy have a shared understanding of the need for strategic vegetation treatments at the landscape scale. This work is being informed by the joint fire science program and will occur in focus areas determined to meet mutual objectives. The purpose of the partnership is to improve forest condition through vegetation treatments that produce biomass to help maintain reliable energy

supplies. A five-year action plan is currently being developed to guide future vegetation treatments.

**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 2015 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 2013 to FY 2015 Funding**

*(dollars in thousands)*

<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres Bud</b>
\$6,650	\$6,318	\$6,318

**Past Performance**

In FY 2013, CRF funds were approved for some unplanned projects and provided additional funding for others. Total program amounts assessed and obligated in FY 2013 are illustrated in the table below.

**FY 2013 Program Amounts**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>FY 2013 Program</b>	<b>Approved</b>
Forest & Rangeland Research	\$295
Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands	133
Forest Health Management-Federal Lands	199
State Fire Assistance	150
Forest Stewardship	83
Urban & Community Forestry	67
Land Management Planning	266
Inventory & Monitoring	532
Recreation, Heritage, & Wilderness	598
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	332
Grazing Management	133
Forest Products	598
Minerals & Geology Management	166
Vegetation & Watershed Management	599
Landownership Management	266
Law Enforcement Operations	138
Hazardous Fuels	266
Preparedness	503
Suppression	428
Facilities	399
Roads	266
Trails	166
Infrastructure Improvement	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,650</b>

Examples of projects funded by the Chief’s Reserve Fund in FY 2013 include:

**Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRP) (\$1,721,239)**

The CRF provided additional funding for three CFLRPs. These projects included the Colorado Front Range and Uncompahgre projects in Region 2, and the Dinkey project in Region 5. The additional funding will assist the regions in accelerating restoration activities and sustaining forest product inventory.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Service Corps (\$500,000)**

The CRF provided additional funding to assist with the increase of program participation in the Conservation Corps, the personnel component of this program. In FY 2013, expected increase in participation was 22 percent. These funds will be leveraged with Bureau of Land Management funds, grantee matching funds, and corporate sponsor funds.

**Region 2 Flooding (\$374,000)**

Funds were provided to Region 2 to support Rapid Assessment Costs associated with flooding.

## **Conservation Education**

### **Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction, but 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 continue 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 (pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade), and their educators in classroom and non-formal settings.

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 2015 Program**

In FY 2015, 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. CE will continue to:

- Expand the Discover the Forest Campaign to include targeted outreach to American girls. Forest Service research has shown that girls spend less time in natural settings than boys, and that their time spent outdoors might be trending downwards. The campaign will also focus on celebrating American cultural diversity. Activities currently in development include television, radio, outdoor, and Web public service advertisements.
- Support the agency's climate change emphasis area, specifically through climate change educational materials, distance learning programs, and "Green Schools!" activities.
- Contribute to the general body of knowledge regarding the field of environmental education by continuing distribution of an updated Environmental Literacy in America report.
- 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.
- Develop a social media-based water conservation 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Investigator science journals for students, encourage the expanded adoption of the new 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 FY 2013, a "Discover the Forest" campaign specifically targeting the African American population was launched to encourage that segment of the population to reconnect to nature and our Nation's forests. A new set of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) featuring characters from the Smurfs 2 movie was launched as a result of a private-public partnership with NBC Universal and the Ad Council. All of these assets encourage parents and their children to reconnect with nature. From FY 2008 through FY 2013, the combined English-Spanish campaign websites have received over 5.2 million visits.

In FY 2013, over 4.5 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. This includes the “More Kids in the Woods” cost share program, which leveraged \$1,500,000 partner funds from \$772,820 of Forest Service investment. Projects included:

- The Richmond Edible Forest project in conjunction with the Pacific Southwest Research Station, which will engage some 700 young people through field trips, camping, and shadow opportunities to install five edible forests or gardens in Richmond, California, parks and school areas;
- Explorations in an Urban Wild in conjunction with the Eastern Region’s Urban Connections, which will bring urban youth from low-income and underserved communities in metro Boston to the Allendale Woods for a summer program to learn about the outdoors while participating in nature-based activities; and
- The Bitterroot Culture Camp in conjunction with the Bitterroot National Forest, which will increase middle-school students understanding of and respect for each other and the land while camping on the forest. Tribal and non-Tribal youth from the Bitterroot Valley, the traditional home of the Salish American Indians, will participate.

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;
- The GreenSchools! 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 years to provide \$152.3 million in donated media exposure for this outreach campaign.

## Cost Pool (both Direct and Indirect) Totals

### 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. It is based on direct FTE within the cost pool.

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 FTE within the cost pool.

Cost Pool 3 - Legislative and Public Communications

This cost pool includes salaries, associated employee benefits, and related costs for general receptionists, 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. It is based on FTEs of total employees within the cost pool.

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 grants and agreements, and information resource management. Cost Pool 4 consists entirely of indirect costs. It is based on total FTE within the cost pool.

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 a charge 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 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 President’s Budget proposes a ceiling of \$957 million for cost pool expenses, a decrease of \$10 million from the FY 2014 cost pool ceiling. 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 2013 to FY 2015 Cost Pool (1-5) Assessments**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres Bud</b>
Cost Pool Assessment	\$997,000	\$967,000	\$957,000
Percent of Total Forest Service Budget	18.6%	17.0%	16.5%

**Forest Service Cost Pool Exhibits**

In FY 2015, the Forest Service is estimating that cost pools will be \$957,000,000, representing 16.5 percent of the FY 2015 President’s Budget. For an estimate of FY 2015 Total Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item, see Exhibit 1.

In FY 2013, the Forest Service estimated that \$997,000,000 would be charged to the cost pools, representing 18.6 percent of the Enacted Budget. Due to efficiency measures, savings were achieved and actual cost pools were \$972,682,000. In FY 2014, cost pools are estimated to decrease to 17 percent of the Enacted Budget. For a comparison of FY 2013 Planned and Actual Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments and FY 2014 Estimated Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item, see Exhibit 2.

Actual cost pool expenditures decreased from \$1,028,728,000 in FY 2012 to \$972,682,000 in FY 2013. For a display of Cost Pool Actuals for FY 2012 and FY 2013 by Pool and Region, see Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 1

Estimate of FY 2015 Total Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item

(dollars in thousands)

Budget Line Item					
Fund	Prog	FY 2015 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	FRRE	\$275,315	\$42,108	15.3%	4.4%
<b>Total Research</b>		<b>\$275,315</b>	<b>\$42,108</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Forest Health Fed Lands	SPFH	\$58,922	\$13,398	22.7%	1.4%
Forest Health Coop Lands	SPCH	45,655	3,828	8.4%	0.4%
Forest Stewardship	SPST	23,036	1,914	8.3%	0.2%
Forest Legacy	LGCY	53,000	957	1.8%	0.1%
Urban and Community Forestry	SPUF	23,676	1,914	8.1%	0.2%
<b>Total State and Private Forestry</b>		<b>\$204,289</b>	<b>\$22,011</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Integrated Resource Restoration	NFRR	\$820,000	\$173,217	21.1%	18.1%
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	CFLN	60,000	6,699	11.2%	0.7%
Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring	NFPN/NFIM	183,928	44,979	24.5%	4.7%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	NFRW	259,090	91,872	35.5%	9.6%
Grazing Management	NFRG	49,600	17,226	34.7%	1.8%
Minerals and Geology Management	NFMG	70,566	19,140	27.1%	2.0%
Landownership Management	NFLM	71,440	22,968	32.2%	2.4%
Law Enforcement Operations	NFLE	125,860	18,183	14.4%	1.9%
<b>Total National Forest System</b>		<b>\$1,640,484</b>	<b>\$394,284</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>41.2%</b>
Preparedness	WFPR	\$1,080,840	\$232,551	21.5%	24.3%
Suppression	WFSU	708,000	86,130	12.2%	9.0%
Hazardous Fuels	WFHF	358,564	65,076	18.1%	6.8%
State Fire Assistance	WFCF	78,000	1,914	2.5%	0.2%
<b>Total Wildland Fire</b>		<b>\$2,225,404</b>	<b>\$385,671</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>40.3%</b>
Facilities	CMFC	\$71,600	\$18,183	25.4%	1.9%
Roads	CMRD	154,000	40,194	26.1%	4.2%
Trails	CMTL	77,530	23,925	30.9%	2.5%
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>		<b>\$303,130</b>	<b>\$82,302</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
Land Acquisition	LALW	\$51,000	\$2,871	5.6%	0.3%
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>		<b>\$51,000</b>	<b>\$2,871</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Brush Disposal	BDBD	\$8,502	\$1,914	22.5%	0.2%
Timber Salvage Sales	SSSS	19,898	7,656	38.5%	0.8%
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenburg Trust Fund	CWKV	53,117	12,441	23.4%	1.3%
Reforestation Trust Fund	RTRT	30,000	5,742	19.1%	0.6%
<b>Total Permanent and Trust Funds</b>		<b>\$111,517</b>	<b>\$27,753</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Total Assessed BLI's</b>		<b>\$4,811,139</b>	<b>\$957,000</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST SERVICE</b>		<b>\$5,805,204</b>	<b>\$957,000</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Only includes appropriations (BLIs) which will be assessed for cost pools 1-5 in FY 2015.

Supplemental, emergency, transfer, or Payments to States funds are not assessed for cost pools 1-5.

Exhibit 2

Comparison of FY 2013 Planned and Actual Total Cost Pool Assessments 1-5 and  
FY 2014 Estimated Cost Pool 1-5 Assessments by Budget Line Item

(dollars in thousands)

Budget Line Item	FY 2013 Planned			FY 2013 Actual			FY 2014 Estimated			
	FY 2013 Enacted Budget	FY 2013 Estimated Cost Pools 1-5	Estimated Cost Pools as Percent of BLI	FY 2013 Actual Cost Pools 1-5	Actual Cost Pools as a Percent of BLI	Percent of Total FS Cost Pools 1-5	FY 2014 Enacted Budget	FY 2014 Estimated Cost Pools 1-5	Cost Pools as a Percent of BLI	Percent of Total FS Cost Pools 1-5
Forest & Rangeland Research	\$279,853	\$46,812	16.7%	\$45,716	16.3%	4.7%	\$292,805	\$42,547	14.5%	4.4%
<b>Total Forest &amp; Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$279,853</b>	<b>\$46,812</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>\$45,716</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>\$292,805</b>	<b>\$42,547</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Forest Health Fed Lands	\$44,944	\$15,936	35.5%	\$15,563	34.6%	1.6%	\$58,922	\$12,571	21.3%	1.3%
Forest Health Coop Lands	36,895	2,988	8.1%	2,918	7.9%	0.3%	45,655	3,868	8.5%	0.4%
Forest Stewardship	30,441	1,992	6.5%	1,945	6.4%	0.2%	22,398	1,934	8.6%	0.2%
Forest Legacy	50,515	996	2.0%	973	1.9%	0.1%	50,965	967	1.9%	0.1%
Urban and Community Forestry	30,701	1,992	6.5%	1,945	6.3%	0.2%	28,040	1,934	6.9%	0.2%
State Fire Assistance	25,759	1,992	7.7%	1,945	7.6%	0.2%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Forest Resources Information & Analysis	4,660	996	21.4%	973	20.9%	0.1%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
International Forestry	7,569	996	13.2%	973	12.9%	0.1%	8,000	967	12.1%	0.1%
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$231,484</b>	<b>\$27,888</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>\$27,235</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>\$213,980</b>	<b>\$22,241</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Integrated Resource Restoration	\$138,041	\$0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	0.0%	\$170,000	\$25,142	14.8%	2.6%
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	37,885	5,976	15.8%	5,836	15.4%	0.6%	40,000	6,769	16.9%	0.7%
Land Management Planning, Assessment, & Monitoring	187,855	47,808	25.4%	46,689	24.9%	4.8%	188,773	45,449	24.1%	4.7%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	261,932	91,633	35.0%	89,487	34.2%	9.2%	261,719	92,832	35.5%	9.6%
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	106,689	34,668	32.5%	34,044	31.9%	3.5%	109,466	28,043	25.6%	2.9%
Grazing Management	51,568	14,940	29.0%	14,590	28.3%	1.5%	55,356	17,406	31.4%	1.8%
Forest Products	276,051	106,318	38.5%	104,077	37.7%	10.7%	286,130	86,064	30.1%	8.9%
Vegetation and Watershed Management	131,967	39,292	29.8%	37,935	28.7%	3.9%	134,716	30,945	23.0%	3.2%
Minerals and Geology Management	77,716	19,920	25.6%	19,454	25.0%	2.0%	76,423	19,340	25.3%	2.0%
Landownership Management	79,869	25,896	32.4%	25,290	31.7%	2.6%	77,730	23,208	29.9%	2.4%
Law Enforcement Operations	133,984	21,912	16.4%	21,399	16.0%	2.2%	126,653	18,373	14.5%	1.9%
<b>Total Nat. Forest System</b>	<b>\$1,483,557</b>	<b>\$408,363</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>\$398,801</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>41.0%</b>	<b>\$1,526,966</b>	<b>\$393,571</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>40.7%</b>
Preparedness	\$948,651	\$244,021	25.7%	\$237,334	25.0%	24.4%	\$1,057,580	\$234,980	22.2%	24.3%
Suppression	509,812	60,756	11.9%	59,334	11.6%	6.1%	680,488	87,030	12.8%	9.0%
Hazardous Fuels Management	281,149	75,696	26.9%	73,924	26.3%	7.6%	282,500	65,756	23.3%	6.8%
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	78,000	1,934	2.5%	0.2%
<b>Total Wildland Fire</b>	<b>\$1,739,612</b>	<b>\$380,473</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>\$370,592</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>38.1%</b>	<b>\$2,098,568</b>	<b>\$389,700</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>40.3%</b>
Facilities	\$70,572	\$26,892	38.1%	\$26,262	37.2%	2.7%	\$71,000	\$18,373	25.9%	1.9%
Roads	165,959	42,828	25.8%	41,825	25.2%	4.3%	166,000	40,614	24.5%	4.2%
Trails	74,999	26,892	35.9%	26,262	35.0%	2.7%	75,000	24,175	32.2%	2.5%
Legacy Roads and Trails	28,312	3,984	14.1%	3,891	13.7%	0.4%	23,000	3,868	16.8%	0.4%
<b>Total Capital Improve &amp; Maint</b>	<b>\$339,842</b>	<b>\$100,596</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>\$98,240</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>\$335,000</b>	<b>\$87,030</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
Land Acquisition	\$49,762	\$2,988	6.0%	\$2,918	5.9%	0.3%	\$43,525	\$2,901	6.7%	0.3%
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$49,762</b>	<b>\$2,988</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>\$2,918</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>\$43,525</b>	<b>\$2,901</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses	\$2,438	\$996	40.9%	\$973	39.9%	0.1%	2,500	967	6.7%	0.1%
<b>Total Other Appropriations</b>	<b>\$2,438</b>	<b>\$996</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>\$973</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$967</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Brush Disposal	\$6,589	\$1,992	30.2%	\$1,945	29.5%	0.2%	\$8,502	\$1,934	22.7%	0.2%
Timber Salvage Sales	23,236	7,968	34.3%	7,781	33.5%	0.8%	20,443	7,736	37.8%	0.8%
Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenburg Trust Fund	219,098	11,952	5.5%	11,672	5.3%	1.2%	52,796	12,571	23.8%	1.3%
Reforestation Trust Fund	29,127	5,976	20.5%	5,836	20.0%	0.6%	30,000	5,802	19.3%	0.6%
Recreation Fees, Forest Service	48,124	996	2.1%	973	2.0%	0.1%	57,501	0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total Permanent and Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$326,174</b>	<b>\$28,884</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>\$28,207</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>\$169,242</b>	<b>\$28,043</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
<b>Total Assessed BLI's</b>	<b>\$4,452,722</b>	<b>\$997,000</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>\$972,682</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$4,682,586</b>	<b>\$967,000</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST SERVICE</b>	<b>\$5,369,277</b>	<b>\$997,000</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>\$972,682</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$5,689,916</b>	<b>\$967,000</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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.

Exhibit 3

**Cost Pool Expenditures for FY 2012 and FY 2013 by Pool and Region**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

Cost Pool		FY 2012	FY 2013
Cost Pool 1	General Management	\$157,819	\$159,665
Cost Pool 2	Direct Project Approved Activities	13,819	13,618
Cost Pool 3	Legislative and Public Communications	36,455	35,165
Cost Pool 4	Ongoing Business Services	369,149	350,625
Cost Pool 5	Common Services	451,486	413,609
<b>TOTAL COST POOL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$1,028,728</b>	<b>\$972,682</b>

Region/Station/Area		FY 2012	FY 2013
Region 1	Northern	\$41,720	\$41,126
Region 2	Rocky Mountain	37,859	39,394
Region 3	Southwestern	42,169	42,392
Region 4	Intermountain	41,174	41,448
Region 5	Pacific Southwest	64,067	63,250
Region 6	Pacific Northwest	76,715	71,914
Region 8	Southern	47,580	46,395
Region 9	Eastern	36,325	37,076
Region 10	Alaska	18,322	17,536
Region 12	International Institute of Tropical Forestry	1,440	1,495
Region 13	Washington Office-HQ	117,205	84,090
Region 14	Chief's Reserve	0	0
Region 15	National Operations	107,571	104,781
Region 17	Accounting Adjustments	2,778	0
Region 25	Central Business Services	392,110	379,911
Region 26	Pacific Northwest Research Station	227	185
Region 42	Northeastern Area	1,466	1,689
<b>TOTAL COST POOL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$1,028,728</b>	<b>\$972,682</b>

*Region 13 Washington Office –HO 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, Valles Caldera National Preserve, 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 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

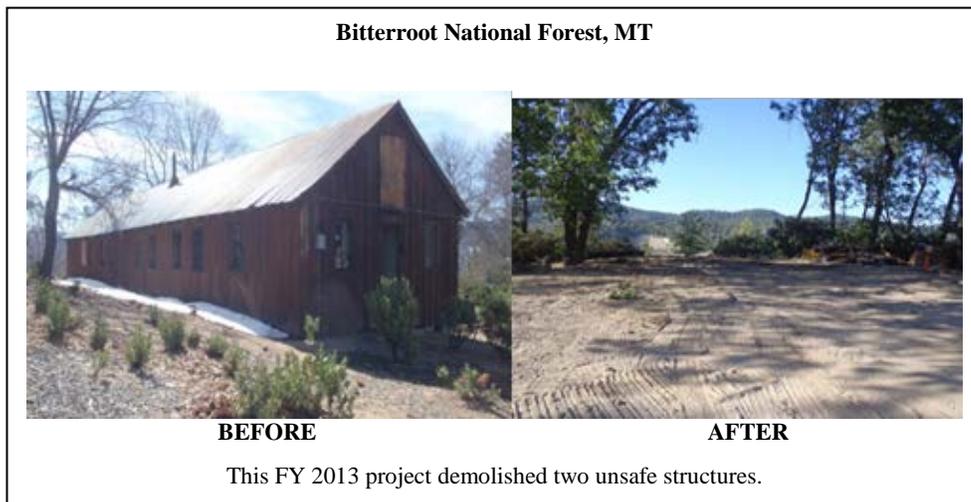
Executive Order 13327 - "*Federal Real Property Asset Management*" established a framework for improved use and management of real property owned, leased, or managed by the Federal Government. The agency recognizes the importance of real property resources and has increased management attention and established 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 2013, 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 approximately \$57 million in revenues and reduced facilities deferred maintenance by almost \$21 million.

In FY 2013, we collected approximately \$3.8 million in receipts through the conveyance of real property sale authorities. We reduced the deferred maintenance backlog by \$5.4 million, and disposed of 13 properties. The agency plans to initiate the conveyance of an estimated \$30 million in land and excess administrative facilities, reducing deferred maintenance by an additional \$21 million in FY 2015.

<b>The Forest Service Facility Realignment Enhancement Act Outcomes</b> <i>(dollars in thousands)</i>		
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Deferred Maintenance Reduction</b>
2004-2012	\$53,018	\$15,418
2013	3,849	5,389
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,867</b>	<b>\$20,807</b>

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 2015, we plan to assess up to \$55 million for maintenance, which is equal to the maximum assessment allowed. Refer to the Facility Assessment Special Exhibit for additional information.

The table below displays facilities maintenance - Cost Pool 09 (CP09) by Budget Line Item (BLI) for FY 2013.

**FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI**

(dollars in thousands)

<b>BLI Description</b>	<b>BLI</b>	<b>FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment</b>
<b>Forest &amp; Rangeland Research</b>		
<b>Total Forest &amp; Rangeland Research</b>	<b>FRRE</b>	<b>\$4,117</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>		
Forest Stewardship	SPST	68
State Fire Assistance	SPCF	64
Forest Health Mgmt - Cooperative Lands	SPCH	124
Forest Health Mgmt - Federal Lands	SPFH	735
Urban and Community Forestry	SPUF	54
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>		<b>1,045</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>		
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	CFLN	\$773
Land Management Planning	NFPN	506
Grazing Management	NFRG	895
Forest Products	NFTM	5,866
Inventory & Monitoring	NFIM	1,998
Landownership Management	NFLM	1,553
Minerals and Geology Management	NFMG	1,124
Recreation, Heritage, & Wilderness	NFRW	5,128
Integrated Resource Restoration	NFRR	3,587
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	NFWF	1,801
Vegetation and Watershed Management	NFVW	1,994
Subsistence Management - Alaska	SMSM	52
Unit Recreation Enhancement	FDDS	48
<b>Total National Forest System</b>		<b>25,325</b>
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>		
Facilities	CMFC	1,468
Roads	CMRD	2,666
Trails	CMTL	1,377
Legacy Road Remediation	CMLG	188
<b>Total Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>		<b>5,699</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>		
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>LALW</b>	<b>\$184</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>		
Preparedness	WFPR	12,780
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	WFHF	4,218
National Fire Plan - State Fire Assistance	SPS2	3
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>		<b>17,001</b>
<b>Permanent Appropriations</b>		
Brush Disposal	BDBD	\$92
Timber Salvage Sales	SSSS	500

**FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI**  
(dollars in thousands)

BLI Description	BLI	FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment
<b>Total Permanent Appropriations</b>		<b>592</b>
<b>Trust Fund Appropriations</b>		
Cooperative Work – Knutson-Vandenberg	CWKV	659
Reforestation Trust Fund	RTRT	377
<b>Total Trust Fund Appropriations</b>		<b>1,036</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$54,999</b>

The table below displays deferred maintenance by asset class as reflected in the agency’s financial statement.

<b>Deferred Maintenance by Asset Class as of September 30, 2013</b> (dollars in thousands)			
Asset Class	Critical <sup>1</sup>	Non-critical <sup>2</sup>	Total
Bridge	\$38,189	\$171,927	\$210,116
Building	80,336	1,144,307	1,224,643
Dam	10,909	14,776	25,685
Fence	267,983	388	268,371
Handling Facility	21,813	22	21,835
Heritage	3,482	17,620	21,102
Minor Constructed Features	0	94,397	94,397
Roads <sup>3</sup>	633,448	2,633,668	3,267,116
Trail	5,010	274,284	279,294
Trail Bridge	3,430	5,902	9,332
Wastewater System	15,879	16,248	32,127
Water System	50,694	46,785	97,479
Wildlife, Fish, and TES	4,537	1,969	6,506
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,135,710</b>	<b>\$4,422,293</b>	<b>\$5,558,003</b>

<sup>1</sup> *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.*

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

<sup>3</sup> *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.

**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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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>.



**DURING CONSTRUCTION**

**AFTER**

This FY 2013 project improved the safety of the trail tread and 1 mile of 14 tightly stacked switchbacks.

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 and expert witnesses stated 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, FY 2012, and FY 2013 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](http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/requests/7105962_Equal%20Access%20to%20Justice%20Act_Letters%20and%20Report.pdf)

Subsequent FY 2013 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, FY 2012, and FY 2013**

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

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
7/25/2011	08-1067-JCC	Conservation Northwest v. Harris Sherman and D.R. Johnson Lumber Co.	EIS Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines, 2007 Supplement	Western Environmental Law Center	7/27/2011	Forest Products	155,555
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
<b>Subtotal FY 2011</b>							<b>\$1,471,666</b>

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
<b>Subtotal FY 2012</b>							<b>\$565,237</b>

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
<b>Subtotal FY 2013</b>							<b>\$1,586,978</b>

## 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.

Meadow Dam,  
Grey Towers National Historic Site, PA



In FY 2013, the assessment was increased to \$55 million as detailed in the table Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI 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 (BLIs).

The Forest Service currently maintains approximately 16,500 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 4,820 water and 4,880 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



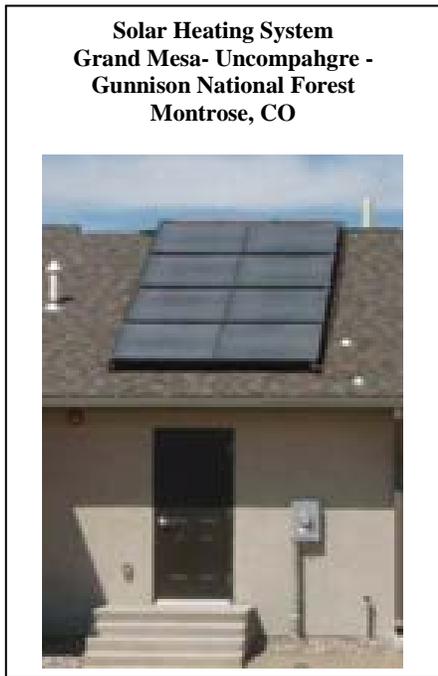
the cost of conducting business operations for land management purposes.

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

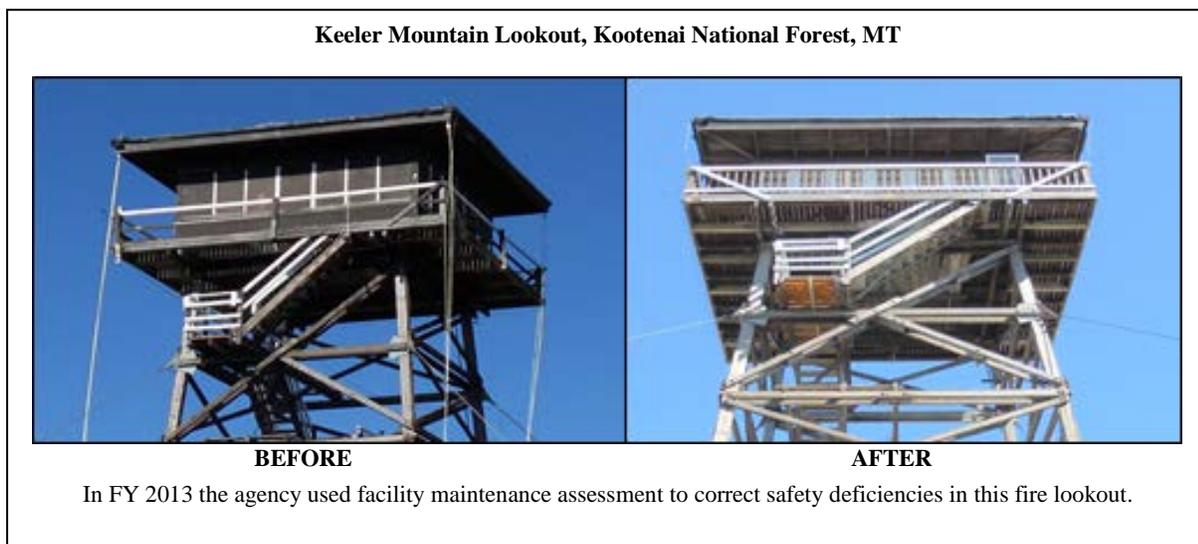


\$1.34 per square foot up to \$4.27 per square foot, which falls within the limits of four percent of the facility replacement value and seven dollars per square foot.

In FY 2015, the Forest Service proposes to assess programs \$55 million which equals the agency’s maximum assessment allowed. The assessment by region and program will be based on the final FY 2014 square footage corrected for salary charges by BLI. Consistent with FY 2013, the assessed amount is limited to 4 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	BLI	FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment	FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance Initial Assessment
<b>Forest &amp; Rangeland Research</b>			
<b>Total Forest &amp; Rangeland Research</b>	<b>FRRE</b>	<b>\$4,117</b>	<b>\$3,960</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>			
Forest Stewardship	SPST	68	55
State Fire Assistance	SPCF	64	55
Forest Health Mgmt. – Coop. Lands	SPCH	124	220
Forest Health Mgmt. - Federal Lands	SPFH	735	550
Urban and Community Forestry	SPUF	54	55
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>		<b>1,045</b>	<b>935</b>

**Facilities Maintenance (CP09) Assessment by BLI**  
**FY 2013 and FY 2014**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

<b>BLI Description</b>	<b>BLI</b>	<b>FY 2013 Facilities Maintenance Assessment</b>	<b>FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance Initial Assessment</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>			
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	1,485
Inventory & Monitoring	NFIM	1,998	1,925
Minerals and Geology Mgmt.	NFMG	1,124	1,210
Integrated Resource Restoration	NFRR	3,587	4,235
Recreation, Heritage, & Wilderness	NFRW	5,128	5,445
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	FDSS	48	55
<b>Total National Forest System</b>		<b>25,325</b>	<b>25,575</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>			
Facilities	CMFC	1,468	1,100
Roads	CMRD	2,666	2,695
Trails	CMTL	1,377	1,320
Legacy Road Remediation	CMLG	188	220
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>		<b>5,699</b>	<b>5,335</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>			
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>LALW</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>			
Preparedness	WFPR	12,780	13,365
Hazardous Fuels Reduction	WFHF	4,218	3,850
National Fire Plan – State Fire Assist.	SPS2	3	
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>		<b>17,001</b>	<b>17,215</b>
<b>Permanent Appropriations</b>			
Brush Disposal	BDBD	92	110
Timber Salvage Sales	SSSS	500	550
<b>Total Permanent Appropriations</b>		<b>592</b>	<b>660</b>
<b>Trust Fund Appropriations</b>			
Cooperative Work - KV	CWKV	659	770
Reforestation Trust Fund	RTRT	377	385
<b>Total Trust Fund Appropriations</b>		<b>1,036</b>	<b>1,155</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$54,999</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

**FY 2014 Facilities Maintenance Initial Assessment and Allocation by Unit  
Based on FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act**

<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>Total Gross Square Feet (GSF) as of 11/30/12</b>	<b>Dollars per GSF</b>	<b>Total Initial Assessment &amp; Allocation (dollars in thousands)</b>
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
<b>Region Subtotal</b>	<b>18,914,611</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>50,613</b>
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
<b>Research Station Subtotal</b>	<b>2,241,122</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>3,984</b>
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
<b>Other Units Subtotal</b>	<b>205,276</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>403</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,361,009</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

FY 2015 Facilities Assessment allocations by BLI will be based on FY 2014 salary charges by BLI. The facility maintenance assessment applies only to owned administrative space and does not include leased space or recreation space.

**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 2013 to FY 2015 for both Preparedness and Suppression programs.

In FY 2013, suppression and preparedness expenditures reflect the amount of funding that was appropriated as well as the amount of funding that was transferred from other programs into Suppression and Preparedness to continue fire operations during the 2013 fire season. In FY 2014, planned preparedness and suppression expenditures align with the amounts appropriated for these programs in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Because the FY 2013 expenditures include expenditures against the fire transfer, the planned expenses in FY 2014 are not comparable to actual expenses in FY 2013.

In FY 2015, 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)*

<b>Preparedness</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Planned</b>	<b>FY 2015 Estimate</b>
Firefighters	\$362	\$367	\$365
Firefighting Equipment and Support	215	209	200
Aviation Contracts	184	246	284
Agency Cost Pools	266	235	232
<b>Total Preparedness Spending</b>	<b>\$1,027</b>	<b>\$1,057</b>	<b>\$1,081</b>

<b>Suppression<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>FY 2014 Planned</b>	<b>FY 2015 Estimate</b>
Firefighters	\$444	\$314	\$320 - 512
Fire Suppression Operations and Logistics	658	435	444 - 753
Aviation Operations	100	71	72 - 125
Interagency Fire Support <sup>3</sup>	116	72	73 - 143
Burned Area Emergency Response	19	16	16 - 43
Agency Cost Pools	76	87	86
<b>Total Suppression Spending</b>	<b>\$1,413<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>\$995</b>	<b>\$1,011 – 1,662</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes both Suppression and FLAME funding.

<sup>2</sup>Includes \$505 million of fire transfer.

<sup>3</sup>Includes costs incurred by the Forest Service while providing support to DOI and State fire operations. See paragraph below for more detail.

<sup>4</sup>Total FY 2013 Suppression obligations include \$56 million of prior year funds not included in the 10-year average calculation.

The budget formulation process is informed by the Fire Program Analysis strategic management tool 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 2014 and FY 2015 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 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.

## Fire Transfers

### Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but 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 2013, the Forest Service developed a \$600 million fire transfer strategy which identified specific accounts and amounts that would be transferred to the Suppression account for emergency fire suppression due to severe burning conditions and increased fire suppression costs. Through careful monitoring of expenditures, the agency only executed \$505 million of the \$600 million in transfers from other funds. In P.L. 113-46, Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, \$600 million was appropriated for urgent wildland fire suppression activities. These funds are also available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppression. The table below represents accounts from which funds were transferred in FY 2013 and which were repaid in FY 2014.

**Funds Withdrawn for Transfer for Wildland Fire Suppression in FY 2013**  
(dollars in thousands)

Approp.	Budget Line Item	Amount Borrowed FY 2013	Amount Repaid FY 2014
FRFR	Forest Research	\$5,000	\$5,000
SPSP	State and Private Forestry	5,200	5,200
LCGY	Legacy	4,800	4,800
NFNF	National Forest System	40,000	40,000
CMCM	Capital Improvements and Maintenance	30,000	30,000
LALW	Land Acquisition	12,000	12,000
BDBD	Brush Disposal	30,000	30,000
PEPE	Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction	20,000	20,000
RIRI	Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements	183,000	183,000
SFSF	Timber Salvage Sales	5,000	5,000
CWKV	Knutson-Vandenberg Trust Fund	170,000	170,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$505,000</b>	<b>\$505,000</b>

In addition, \$33 million was repaid to CWKV for funds that had not been repaid for FY 2009 transfers. Total repayment in FY 2014 is \$538 million. The table below represents accounts from which funds were transferred from FY 2002 through FY 2014 and for which funds have not been repaid. From FY 2002 to FY 2013, the Forest Service made fire transfers from discretionary, mandatory, and permanent accounts to pay for fire suppression costs seven times, ranging from \$100,000,000 in FY 2007 to \$999,000,000 in FY 2002, totaling approximately \$3.2 billion. Of that total, \$2.8 billion has been repaid. Projects at all levels of the organization were deferred or canceled as a result of the transfers.

**Funds Withdrawn for Transfer for Wildland Fire Suppression  
and Not Repaid from FY 2002 to FY 2013**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Approp.</b>	<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$424,069</b>

**Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) Financial Status**

**Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but is included to provide an update on repayment status of the Knutson-Vandenberg Fund from previous fire suppression transfers.

**Overview**

The fund provides money from timber purchasers to reforest and perform other natural resource improvements on their timber sale areas. As provided by section 412 of P.L. 109-54, K-V receipts are also used for forest restoration work in the region in which the receipts were collected.

The Forest Service has used authority provided in the annual Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts to transfer from any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service necessary amounts to support emergency fire suppression requirements. The agency has historically transferred funds available to us through the Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) Fund (a fund authorized in P.L. 71-319).

The K-V Act provides that any deposit found to be in excess of the cost of doing the work shall be returned to the Treasury, provided there are no outstanding unreimbursed fire suppression transfers.

In FY 2013, \$170 million was withdrawn to fund transfers for Wildland Fire Suppression and was repaid in FY 2014 along with an additional \$33 million repaid from prior year borrowing (total of \$203 million). These monies were collected from timber sales to perform specific resource work identified in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. If these funds were not restored, the agency would need to remove projects from the approved plans, amend the NEPA documents, and request additional appropriations to perform the work. Refer to the Special Exhibit on Fire Transfers for more detail. The table below displays the repayment status of the K-V Fund.

**Repayments to the Knutson-Vandenberg Fund**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Repayment Status</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
Amount Owed to K-V Fund from Prior Year	159,000*	163,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	193,000	203,000	0
Transfers from K-V Fund (+)	30,000	0	0	0	160,000	170,000	0	0
K-V Fund Repayment (-)	26,000	130,000	0	0	0	160,000	203,000	0
<b>Balance Outstanding</b>	<b>163,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>193,000</b>	<b>203,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Transferred from K-V Fund in FY 2006.

**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**

Since the enactment of the National Trails System Act in 1968, the Forest Service has designated trail coordinators or administrators for six National Scenic and Historic Trails (NS&HT): Arizona, Continental Divide, Florida, Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo), Pacific Crest, and Pacific

**Trail Work on the Continental Divide Trail – Teton Wilderness, Wyoming**



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. \*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. The agency has established a trail Administrator position for the trail and is starting development of a comprehensive resource management plan.

### 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. Planning efforts are proposed to connect the FNST to the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail and the Appalachian Trail allowing passage from the Florida Keys to Canada on foot.

### 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). Over the past decade the PCT has become a favorite of thru-hikers and thru-riders (horseback) with over 850 permits for thru-travel being issued in 2012.

### 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. The Trail Coordinator is working to assemble an interagency planning team to develop a Comprehensive Management Plan to guide future management and development of the PNNST.

### 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.

**FY 2013-FY 2015 Allocation by Trail**

(dollars in thousands)

Name	FY 2013 Enacted				FY 2014 Enacted			FY 2015 President's Budget		
	Trails	Land Acq.	*Partner	FS Total	Trails	Land Acq.	Total	Trails	**Land Acq.	Total
Appalachian	\$163	0	\$2,138	\$163	\$183	0	\$183	\$183	\$700	\$883
Arizona	148	0	564	148	348	0	348	348	0	348
Continental Divide	1,688	0	59	1,688	1,688	200	1,888	1,688	0	1,688
Florida	1,266		373	1,266	1,266	0	1,266	1,266	0	1,266
Nez Perce	540	0	0	540	620	0	620	620	1,050	1,670
Pacific Crest	1,688	846	1,519	2,534	1,688	367	2,055	1,688	7,685	8,873
Pacific Northwest	148	0	716	148	148	0	148	148	2,700	2,848
All-others**	693	0	0	693	693	0	693	693	330	1,023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,334</b>	<b>\$846</b>	<b>\$5,369</b>	<b>\$7,180</b>	<b>\$6,634</b>	<b>\$567</b>	<b>\$7,201</b>	<b>\$6,634</b>	<b>\$12,465</b>	<b>\$19,099</b>

\* Partner includes value of volunteer hours using the Independent Sector value of volunteer hours.

\*\* Land Acquisition Funding for FY 2015 includes both discretionary and mandatory funding.

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.

**FY 2013 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 organizations

- Volunteers, USFS staff, and Appalachian Trail Conservancy staff continued annual rare and endangered plant as well as exotic species inventory and monitoring along the entire AT corridor. Invasive species plant removal projects are ongoing throughout the trail corridor. Specific emphasis on non-native invasive species monitoring and mapping on the AT was placed in and near the wilderness areas of Eastern Divide Ranger District.
- Open areas management efforts continued across all southern forests. The George Washington and Jefferson National Forest mowed more than 40 acres on Tarjacket Ridge and Cole Mountain and 3 acres in Davis Valley and Bland County.
- Work continued on the revision of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (FLRMP) for the George Washington National Forest. Completion of the plan revision, which includes Management Prescription Area 4A for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor on the Pedlar portion of the Glenwood/Pedlar Ranger District, is expected in FY 2014. Work on the FLRMP for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests began in North

Carolina in FY2013. This plan will also have a management prescription area specific for the AT.

- The Forest Service continued its collaborative work with Appalachian Trail Conservancy and National Park Service to support the AT Communities and Trail to Every Classroom programs. Additionally, the Forest Service is working in collaboration with NPS to support the nomination of the AT to the National Register of Historic Places.

### Arizona National Scenic Trail

*Partners:* Arizona Trail Association (ATA), Tribal governments, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

- With funding from a voter approved Open Space bond and a Growing Smarter Grant, the City of Flagstaff, in cooperation with Coconino County, successfully acquired a 477.8 acre parcel of land for \$4.8 million. The acquisition of Picture Canyon provides a natural place for members of the Flagstaff community to learn about ecology, geology, and archaeology, while participating in outdoor recreation. Acquisition of this parcel also protects 0.5 miles of the Arizona Trail and its corridor.
- With a \$33,000 NPS Connect Trails to Parks Grant, Walnut Canyon National Monument, in coordination with the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County, funded American Conservation Experience crews to upgrade the Arizona Trail in the Picture Canyon area to acceptable specifications. A highly-eroded equestrian section was realigned to a sustainable location. We began the obliteration of three miles of adjoining or parallel social trails and roads directly adjoining the Arizona Trail and will continue into FY 2014, along with trailhead and junction signage and continued trail improvement work.
- A BLM assistance agreement has been put in place that will enable the Tucson Field Office to aid the Arizona Trail Association in their Seeds of Stewardship Program. The ATA is committed to protecting the Arizona National Scenic Trail in perpetuity and engaging youth is a critical component. Two grants from Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) and Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation kicked off this project to encourage youth participation in the Arizona Trail through a three-tiered approach: experience, education, and stewardship. The partnership's intention is 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. In FY 2014, the Tonto National Forest will also have an agreement in place to facilitate funding this program.
- The Four Peaks Passage, a remote, severely eroded and brushed over 13 mile section of the Arizona Trail on the Tonto National Forest was reconstructed during a monumental effort partially funded by Arizona State Parks who provided \$42,000 in Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds, Coconino Rural Environment Corps, who provided 8 hitches (overnight stays for field work) of donated crew time (5,120 hours) in addition to paid time, American Conservation Experience who provided two hitches donated crew time (1,840 hours) plus paid time, also Southwest Conservation Corps who donated time, Arizona Trail Association (ATA) volunteers, and the local hotshot crew who transported water to the trail crew along with packers paid for by ATA.
- On Saguaro National Park, 11 miles of overgrown trail was cleared of brush and down trees. Half a mile of severely trenched tread was relocated and the abandoned tread rehabilitated.

New trail signs were installed. Volunteers contributed 363 hours to successfully complete the project.

- American Conservation Experience crews reconstructed 3.5 miles of the Highline National Recreation Trail, which is also part of the Arizona Trail. The work included a reroute of over half a mile, as well as addressing severe erosion issues by armoring drainages and expanding water diversions.

#### Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST)

*Partners:* Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Montana Wilderness Association, National Park Service, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

- The Forest Service operated the trail under cost-share agreements with the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, The Colorado Trail Foundation, and Montana Wilderness Association.
- At least 783 miles of the CDNST travel route were maintained through the partnership.
- We planned for development of approximately 50 miles following NEPA environmental assessment processes.
- We constructed approximately 18 miles of trails and reconstructed 35 miles (deferred maintenance). In addition, we constructed three minor trailheads and signed 30 miles.
- We spent a minimum of \$2.5 million of Federal funds on operations, planning, construction, reconstruction (deferred maintenance), trailhead projects, and cost-share programs. This exceeds the \$1.7 million dedicated allocation, principally due to support of regular Trails funds. The available funds were distributed for both specific project work and partnership programs.
- Three principal nonprofit groups contributed to CDNST volunteer programs in FY 2013: the Montana Wilderness Association, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and the Colorado Trail Foundation. In total, volunteer groups reported providing a total of 2,710 volunteer-days for direct project work. These volunteer contributions are valued at \$480,000.
- Easement and acquisition work continued primarily in Catron and Sandoval Counties, New Mexico.

#### Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST)

*Partners:* Florida Trail Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

- The Florida National Scenic Trail celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as part of the National Trail System in 2013. The year was commemorated with a series of trail events beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup> in Big Cypress National Preserve with the unveiling of a new Southern Terminus monument and ended with a reunion of former Trail Administrators and current land managers and volunteer stewards at the FNST Symposium in Sanford, Florida in September.
- The newly updated Florida National Scenic Trail inventory is available for free online and on smartphones through ESRI and ArcGIS applications. Users are now able to navigate the FNST and see their position relative to the map, locate designated trailheads and campsites and determine what the trail class and trail type are. In FY 2014, additional interactive applications will allow users to navigate trail resources online for educational and trip

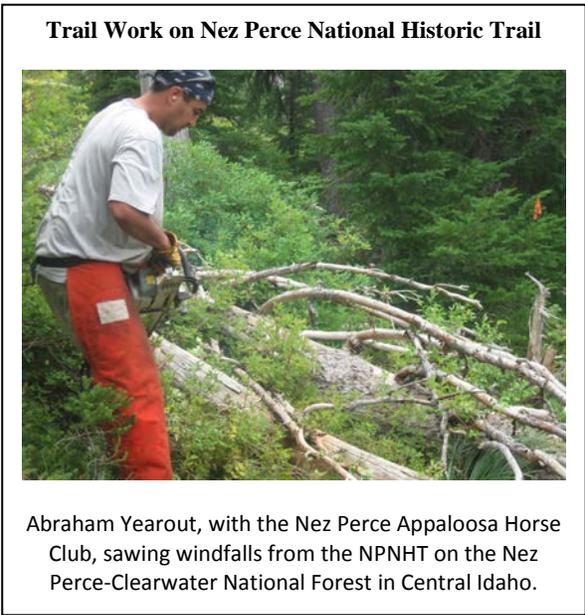
planning purposes, including the significant scenic, natural, cultural and historical resource sites on the Florida National Scenic Trail and current trail conditions.

- In FY 2013, the FNST program undertook a statewide inventory of existing bridges, with the goal of providing replacement, maintenance and recommendation plans for each structure to the underlying land manager and primary volunteer stewards. Approximately 1/3 of the FNST infrastructure inventory has been completed to date with the remainder to be completed in FY 2014. Inspections are being treated as on-the-job training opportunities for partners and volunteers to refresh their knowledge of bridge construction, maintenance and inspection standards.
- The Florida Trail Association, in partnership with the Forest Service, unveiled a new on-line volunteer reporting system which allows for volunteers to create individual profiles, link with other volunteers in an online community and allows land managers of the FNST to access a central database of volunteer maintenance and accomplishment reporting for their units. The system was unveiled mid-year with great participation and is expected to become a centralized hub for all maintenance reporting on the FNST in the future.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (Nee-Mee-Poo)

*Partners:* Nez Perce Trail Foundation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Backcountry Horsemen of America, Tribal governments, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

- Continued interagency efforts for the revision of the Trail’s 1990 Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). Finalized public comments and prepared to implement the NEPA process.
- Led coordination with four regions of the Forest Service including eight national forests; two National Park Service units; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Bureau of Land Management; Army Corp of Engineers; State Parks in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oklahoma; multiple chapters of Backcountry Horsemen of America; Tribal Governments; State and County Governments; and non-governmental organizations for all activities along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT).
- Enhanced, refined and updated NPNHT website including webcams, current CMP information, and additional uses of social media: FLICKR, Twitter, and YouTube.
- Revised Auto Tours numbered: 1, 7 & 8, and General Brochure. Worked closely with staff from Forest Service enterprise team and approximately 80 reviewers during past year on Auto Tours 1 (Wallowa, OR to



Kooskia, ID) and Auto Tour 7 (Yellowstone NP). Update and reprint of Auto Tour 8 (Canyon Creek to Bear Paw). Also replaced photos with public domain images.

- NPNHT Trail work on the Lolo National Forest (NF) replaced 37 damaged NPNHT markers and new trail markers were installed along the trail.
- Members of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPApHC) spent many hours and miles riding and working along the NPNHT and giving presentations to the public about the Trail. In August, an NPApHC work crew spent three days along the 500 Road, in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest of central Idaho, clearing thick brush and logs to open a portion of the NPNHT between Moon Saddle and Indian Post Office.
- A partnership produced the play, Tim'ne'epe "Heart of the Monster," Nimiipuum Titwaatit (The Peoples Story) based on the Nez Perce creation story. The play was produced entirely in the Nez Perce Language with English translations and utilizing a Nez Perce cast and support staff. Presentations were held in Moscow and Lewiston, ID. DVDs were produced and given to the NPNHT Administration for our Education Trunks and to use for presentations.

### 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.

- Initiated a Master Title Plat review with the BLM and a pilot project for the PCT beginning at the Mexican border and going north.
- Initiated a Memorandum of Agreement between the BLM and Forest Service on management and 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 are protected.
- Hosted seven Trails Skills College training sessions for volunteers and agency partners (one in Southern California, two in Northern Sierras, one in Big Bend, three in Columbia Cascades).
- Collaborative partnership between Backcountry Horseman of California, Oregon, and Washington, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Pacific Crest Trail Association, BLM, and the Forest Service continued to grow in strength and depth. Two Centers of Excellence were created in the Pacific Southwest Region (R5) to support traditional skills including packing.
- Continued development of the PCTA's volunteer saw training and certification program in Pacific Southwest and Pacific Northwest Regions of the Forest Service.
- Held multiple meetings with regional saw program leads to ensure compliance with policy and to strengthen the 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

*Partners:* Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA), Tribal governments, and other Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations.

- The agencies are working together and with PNTA, and using 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 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grants, has contributed a total of over \$1,113,445.00 since FY 2004 towards maintenance projects on the PNNST.
- The PNTA started a very successful new youth program, for students 8 -12 years old, with over 70 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 Service Knowledge Youth (SKY) Programs in the development and maintenance of the Trail.

**FY 2013 Program Accomplishments**  
(dollars in thousands)

Location	Volunteers		Non-Cash Contributions	Miles of Trail Maintained	Miles of Trail Improved	Acres Acquired	Major Structures Constructed <sup>1</sup>
	Hours	In-kind Contributions					
Appalachian	104,709	\$0	\$0	2,176	5	0	1
Arizona	25,480	0	0	107	24	478	3
Continental Divide	21,680	480	0	783	53	0	3
Florida	16,848	0	0	1,036	20		2
Nez Perce	1,117	30	44	388	3	0	0
Pacific Crest	68,626	1,519	276	1,153	42	652	41
Pacific Northwest	32,370	0	0	400	67	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>270,830</b>	<b>\$2,029</b>	<b>\$320</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>62</b>

<sup>1</sup> Major structures include bridges, kiosks, boardwalks, campgrounds, etc.

\* This table does not include "Other" trails, as in previous years, due to insufficient data.

**Office of the 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 the General Counsel bills the Forest Service quarterly for non-litigation travel and related costs. The FY 2013 actual reimbursement in the table below reflects billings received to date. Final billing for FY 2013 has not been received from the department.

**FY 2013 to FY 2014 OGC Reimbursements**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

<b>FY 2013 Actual Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2014 Estimated Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>
\$15	\$30	\$30

## **Office of Tribal Relations**

### **Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction, but 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 by the primary purpose of the projects.

**Partnerships**

The OTR collaborates closely with internal staff areas and in 2012, 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 a diversity of 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 2013, the Forest Service entered into more than 8,200 grants and agreements with partners, who contributed \$540 million; when leveraged by the agency’s nearly \$730 million, the total value of these partnerships was over \$1.27 billion. The growing value of grants and agreements transactions demonstrates the increasing importance of partnerships to the Forest Service. In FY 2013, more than 101,000 volunteers and service participants contributed 3,855,000 service hours valued at \$85 million; representing an eight percent decrease below FY 2012 levels. Their hourly contributions were equal to 2,141 fulltime equivalents.

These partnerships are more than just money and resources brought to bear. Partnerships enhance “on-the-ground” accomplishments and create immense value through relationships with public, private and civic entities. These relationships also 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 carry 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), in order to share in the stewardship of our natural resources. The congressionally established foundations, 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 of these innovative, effective, and mutually-beneficial partnership initiatives include:

National Water Replenishment Initiative. Since 2012, the Forest Service and our Foundation partners (NFF and NFWF) have been working with the Coca-Cola Company (Coca-Cola) to restore watersheds and forested lands. In FY 2013, four restoration sites were added to the restoration portfolio, including sites in California, New Mexico, Illinois, and Michigan. In total, Coca-Cola has invested \$597,000 in six different restoration projects across the country. In addition, our Foundation partners have matched Coca-Cola's investment with additional private funding towards the effort. These restoration projects are implemented by locally based partners, Coca-Cola employees, community volunteers, Forest Service staff, and include the construction of sediment detention basins, rehabilitation of alluvial fans, improvement of meadow habitat, and more. All associated organizations have a mutual interest in watershed health: Coca-Cola is pursuing its water use sustainability goals, while the Forest Service and our Foundations continue to ensure an ample, clean drinking water supply for the American public. This partnership initiative and its benefits will likely continue to expand over the next several years.

Western Utilities Group. Wildfire has impacted the transmission of electricity at both the local community and national scales through direct damage to established transmission lines and surrounding National Forest System lands. These fires have also included impacts on natural resources critical to human and fish/wildlife populations. The Forest Service and Western Utilities Group (WUG) have begun working together to increase vegetation management efforts outside of transmission right-of-ways to reduce the risk of wildfire, while mitigating resource, service, and land-access losses. The Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Xcel Energy (Colorado) to support forest restoration projects as part of this partnership initiative.

Baltimore Restoration Partnership. For over 15 years, the Forest Service has been working with the city of Baltimore and a host of partners to improve the city's natural environment and the well-being of its residents. The Baltimore Restoration Partnership is a new commitment between the Forest Service and the city of Baltimore to foster partnered attention on the sustainability and social and ecological restoration of inner city neighborhoods. This partnership brings together a number of Forest Service projects and initiatives in Baltimore, including the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, the Baltimore Wood Project, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and a new wildlife habitat initiative with the National Wildlife Federation.

### **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 national forests and grasslands. The NFF accepts and administers gifts of funds and lands, and provides financial and technical support to facilitate community-based conservation benefiting the National Forest System (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*

Four years ago, 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 special landscapes from Alaska to New Hampshire, this campaign unites diverse partners and communities to promote the health of their public lands and their own enjoyment of them.

In 2012, the NFF entered the public phase of the campaign by launching a substantial media campaign. Much of this effort is focused on 14 keystone sites, carefully selected based on conservation need, ecological values, and citizen interest. In the fall of 2013, the NFF crossed the \$86 million mark in its fundraising effort.

### *Tree-Planting and the Carbon Capital Fund*

The Carbon Capital Fund was developed to educate the public about carbon sequestration, while providing a way to contribute to a program that ameliorates impacts of 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. The contributor can choose either non-registered offsets or, through the American Carbon Registry, registered and retired offsets that cannot be traded, sold, or used for statutory or regulatory obligations. 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.

In recent years, severe wildfire, insect outbreaks, and other impacts have damaged millions of acres of national forests. Through the *Trees for US* and *Tree for Me* programs, the NFF is helping to revitalize these landscapes through large-scale tree-planting supported primarily through corporate partnerships and individual donations.

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 granting programs, NFF has provided conservation awards to more than 500 nonprofit organizations to complete more than 1,500 projects since 2001. The NFF and its partners have invested \$135 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 forests and grasslands.

Wilderness Stewardship Challenge - This program provides matching grants to nonprofit partners to implement wilderness stewardship in National Forest Wilderness Areas. The USFS is responsible for 35 million acres of wilderness areas, which is 20 percent of all Forest Service land.

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. Then NFF awards the collected funds to local nonprofit organizations who implement the projects.

Community Capacity and Land Stewardship Program - Building upon previous NFF capacity-building efforts, this program provides support for local collaborative efforts that work toward achieving watershed restoration objectives within the geographic focus areas of California, Oregon, Washington, and Southeast Alaska. The NFF has worked with Forest Service and nonprofit partners to create and implement this innovative capacity-building grant program in support of collaboratives and community-based organizations.

#### *Conservation Connect*

In addition to its grant programs, the NFF supports community-based collaborative groups through technical assistance and peer learning to meet the needs of collaborative efforts at various stages of growth and capacity, from start-up to sustainable organizations. As a learning network for collaboration, the program seeks to broaden and connect the community of people working to collaboratively steward NFS lands, prevent repetition of common mistakes and promote successful strategies. It strives to assist groups of diverse interests in working more efficiently and effectively to achieve long-lasting, on-the-ground results for the benefit of our national forests and grasslands. The program fosters community-to-agency connections, and helps groups identify common challenges and move to team problem-solving.

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 growing constituency of supporters, the National Forest Foundation conducts public outreach, education, and volunteer activities. The NFF helps people learn about the issues and values surrounding our national forests through publications, the NFF website ([www.nationalforests.org](http://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 160,000 Friends of the Forest, and an additional 110,000 Friends receive its semi-annual magazine or electronic newsletter. In 2013, the NFF conducted a bi-partisan national poll regarding Americans' attitudes towards the National Forest System. The results will be used to help the Forest Service better understand public attitudes regarding national forests, improve Forest Service and NFF messaging to the public about the National Forest System and its resources, and will help guide NFF priorities and strategic direction.

#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The Forest Service's partnership with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is of high value and one of our largest and longest-standing partnerships. Since the beginning of the partnership in 1988, NFWF has undertaken more than 1,229 projects in partnership with the Forest Service and has leveraged more than \$44.3 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's FY 2013 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 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 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 habitat. 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, DOI, and USDA 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 the 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 Forest Service 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 the 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 have 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 NF. 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 Forest Service Southwest Region. This pilot program establishes an important new public-private partnership for the Forest Service and may lead to other partnership projects in the future.

**FY 2013 National Grants and Agreements (G&A)  
Summary by Instrument Type<sup>1</sup>**  
*(dollars in thousands)*

<b>Instrument Type</b>	<b>Instrument Description</b>	<b>G&amp;A Count</b>	<b>Forest Service Contribution</b>	<b>Partner Contribution</b>	<b>Total Value</b>
Challenge Cost Share Agreement	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement citing one of multiple partnership authorities.	1,149	\$53,302	\$48,605	\$101,907
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.	1200	27,003	71,865	98,868
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.	217	44,664	11,139	55,803
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.	12	0	489	489
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.	121	10,160	345	10,505
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.	748	266,473	165,427	431,900

Instrument Type	Instrument Description	G&A Count	Forest Service Contribution	Partner Contribution	Total Value
Cooperative Fire Agreement	An agreement in which the Forest Service works with other Federal and State agencies to provide wildland fire protection, to perform approved severity activities and to respond to states of emergency or disaster under FEMA authorities.	294	7,256	5,116	12,372
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.	1761	193,204	149,418	342,622
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.	12	856	688	1,544

Instrument Type	Instrument Description	G&A Count	Forest Service Contribution	Partner Contribution	Total Value
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.	16	2,839	234	3,073
International Joint-venture	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement entered into with a foreign partner for the purposes of conducting agricultural research activities and agricultural teaching activities.	11	933	345	1,278
Joint Venture Agreement	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement entered into for the purposes of conducting agricultural research activities and agricultural teaching activities.	441	37,294	14,168	51,462
Cooperative 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.	458	6,016	0	6,016

<b>Instrument Type</b>	<b>Instrument Description</b>	<b>G&amp;A Count</b>	<b>Forest Service Contribution</b>	<b>Partner Contribution</b>	<b>Total Value</b>
Memorandum of Understanding	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.	278	0	0	0
Participating Agreement	A mutual interest/mutual benefit agreement citing one of multiple partnership authorities.	1,248	65,524	67,904	133,428
Cooperative Road Agreements	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.	238	12,237	3,089	15,326
Stewardship Agreement	A partnership agreement with the purpose of achieving land management goals on NFS lands that will accomplish landscape restoration objectives.	32	4,693	1,057	5,750
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8,236</b>	<b>\$732,454</b>	<b>\$539,889</b>	<b>\$1,272,343</b>

1. Data are compiled from the Forest Service G&A database. These are either new G&A's for FY 2013 or G&A's that had new funding added in FY 2012 via modifications. All of these items represent new investments in partnerships that occurred in FY 2013.

## Reforestation

### Background

This exhibit is included to address requirements of P.L. 109-54 House Report 109-80 page 138, which directed:

The Committee expects the Forest Service to provide clear presentations of reforestation needs and accomplishments in future budget justification, including the specific use and distribution of the mandatory funding from the Reforestation Fund, as well as partner efforts, such as the American Forest 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 species of trees, degree of stocking, rate of growth, and conditions of stand designated to secure the maximum benefits of multiple use sustained yield management in accordance to land management plans. It further requires the Secretary of Agriculture to identify and report to the 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 amount and location, by national forest and State and by productivity class, where applicable, of needs to reforest areas that have been cut-over or otherwise denuded or deforested.

The Forest Service reforestation program has four major goals:

- maintain all forest lands within the National Forest System 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 experience.

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 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, reduce timber yields, and may adversely affect meeting other resource objectives. In addition, these areas may be less resilient to wildfire and increase 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 would be 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 2013, the agency reforested a total of 182,812 acres. Of this total, the agency accomplished 83,529 acres through certification of natural regeneration of sites not requiring preparation. At the start of FY 2014, the agency has identified 1,100,459 acres of NFS lands that can benefit from reforestation. The identified acres are the result of completed silviculture diagnosis and prescriptions. The on-going assessment of areas impacted by wildfire in prior years significantly added to this figure.

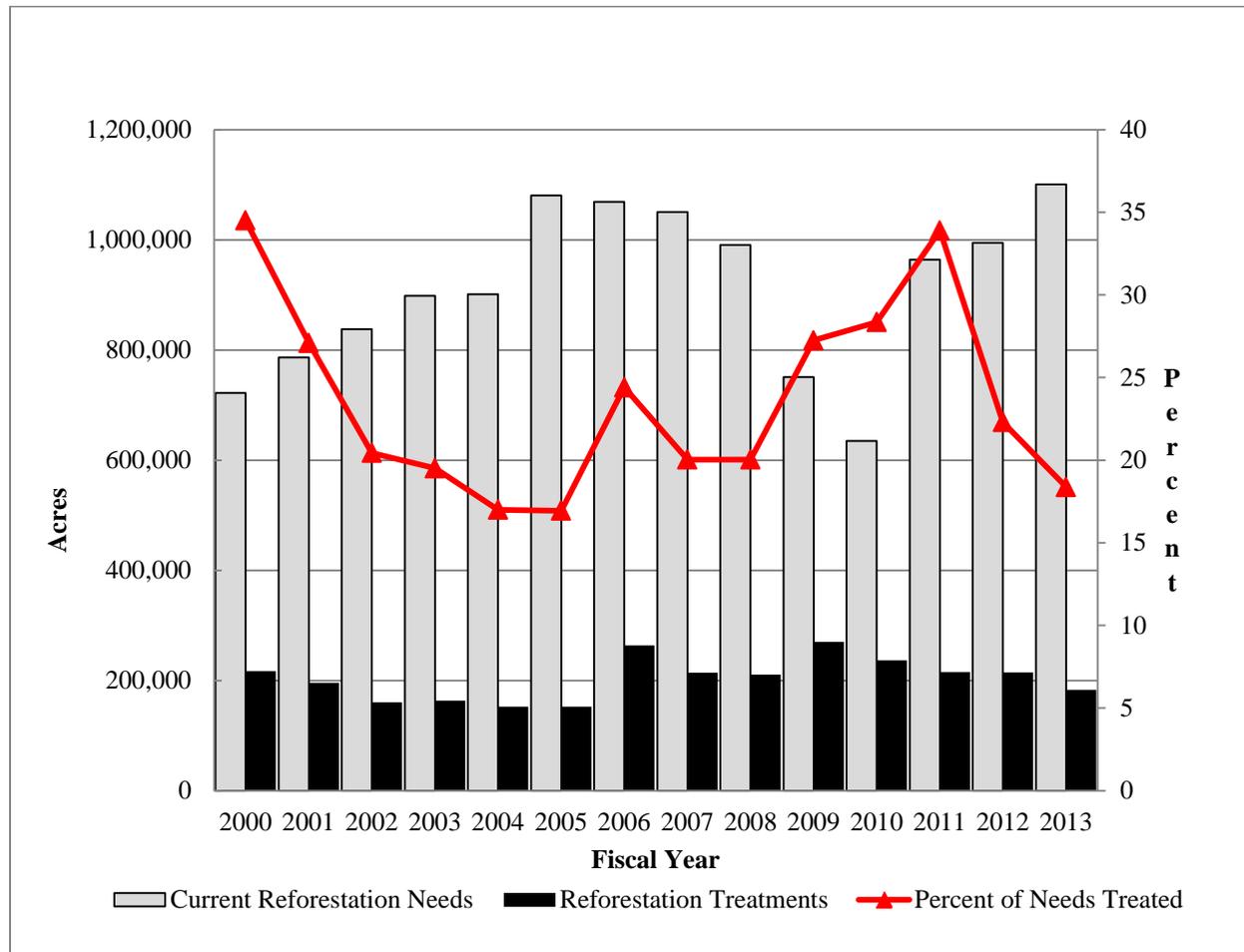
The agency's total reforestation target for FY 2014 is 204,000 acres, which will be funded from multiple sources. This includes approximately 68,000 acres of reforestation funded from the proposed Integrated Resource Restoration BLI, a target similar to what we have previously accomplished through Emergency Supplemental Funds for fire restoration and the Rehabilitation and Restoration program. The agency will reforest an additional 124,000 acres utilizing the Reforestation Trust Fund and K-V Trust funds, and 12,000 acres will be accomplished 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 agency has developed and is implementing a strategy to increase nursery production to meet projected reforestation needs generated by past wildfire activity. As increased seedling production comes on line, additional reforestation through planting of seedlings will be feasible. It takes one to two years and sometimes longer for the nurseries to produce the planting stock necessary to meet the demands of the regional programs.

The graph below shows reforestation needs and accomplishments for FY 2000 through FY 2013. Since FY 2000, reforestation needs have accumulated largely due to large wildfires affecting NFS lands in the West and insect epidemics in the East. From FY 2000 through FY 2013, the agency addressed about 24 percent of the reforestation needs nationally. However, since FY 2008 the agency has been building nursery stock production and reforestation capability.

Reforestation capacity and the projected accomplishments for FY 2014 will continue to reflect the agency’s restoration objectives.

**Trends in Reforestation to FY 2000 – 2013**

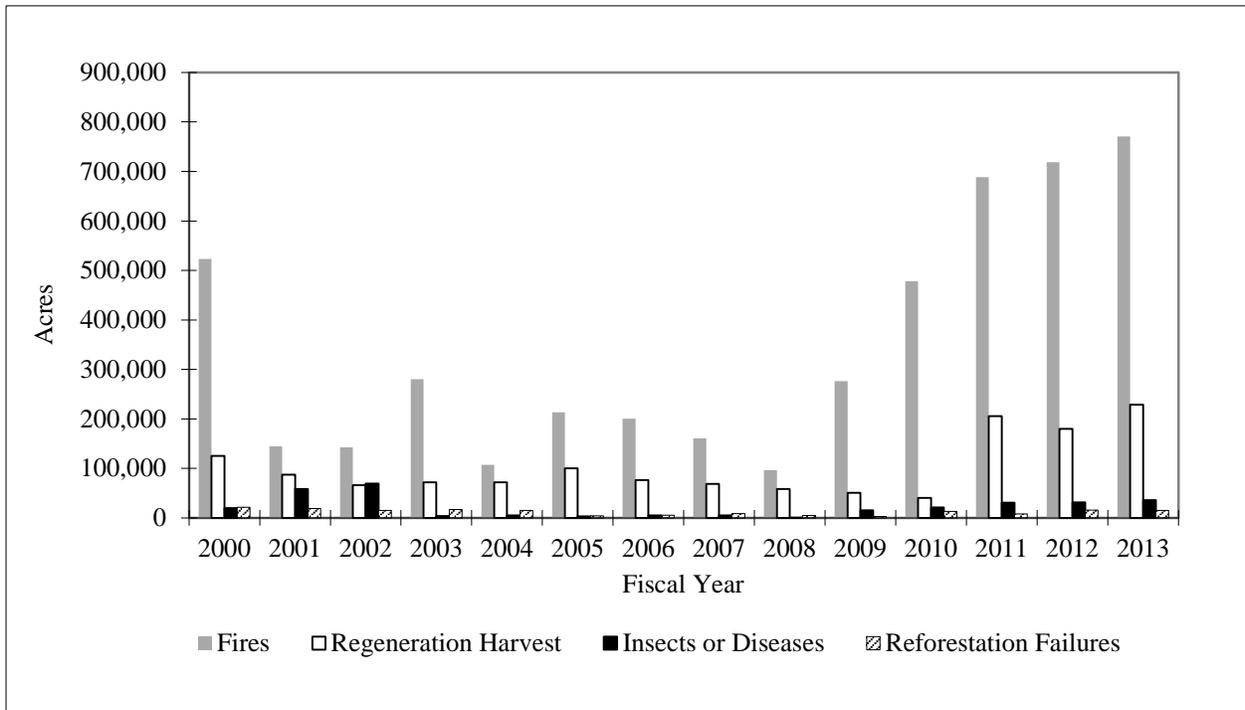


<sup>1/</sup>This graph displays the current reforestation needs as of the end of FY 2013. The increase from FY 2012 to FY 2013 is a result of additions to needs resulting from field analysis of wildfire events during FY 2012 and 2013.

<sup>2/</sup>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 reforestation 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 for re-establishing 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. In order 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 the planned treatments needed to re-establish forest vegetation.

### Causal Agent for Reforestation Needs FY 2000 - 2013



## **Region, Station and Area Allocations**

### **Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but 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, New Mexico, and the national headquarters in Washington, D.C. 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 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013 <i>(dollars in thousands)</i>	Region 1 - Northern Region			Region 2 - Rocky Mountain Region		
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12	FY13
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$58	\$63	\$48
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$3,136	\$2,015	\$1,350	\$2,614	\$1,331	\$1,217
State Fire Assistance	1,702	1,297	1,354	2,416	1,954	2,056
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	835	435	1,637	1,123	1,623	2,091
Volunteer Fire Assistance	425	425	403	741	740	701
Forest Stewardship	1,165	700	896	2,388	1,240	1,308
Forest Legacy Program	9,873	9,709	4,298	4,291	1,789	9,502
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	367	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	778	748	1,205	2,093	1,745	2,341
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	47
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$17,913</b>	<b>\$15,329</b>	<b>\$11,511</b>	<b>\$15,666</b>	<b>\$10,423</b>	<b>\$19,263</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$45	\$6,503	\$5,961	\$4,438	\$4,149	\$3,744
Land Management Planning	2,725	2,314	3,002	3,447	2,518	2,564
Inventory and Monitoring	11,044	11,278	10,387	9,763	9,076	8,382
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	16,232	15,578	14,853	25,721	25,757	23,754
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	10,441	0	0	8,683	9,289	8,629
Grazing Management	5,210	6,216	5,887	7,735	8,946	8,405
Forest Products	30,875	0	0	24,777	25,707	23,842
Vegetation and Watershed Management	18,765	0	0	13,577	13,494	12,913
Minerals and Geology Management	9,219	9,232	9,922	8,741	8,539	7,594
Landownership Management	6,435	6,167	5,659	7,220	6,705	6,406
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	58,698	68,221	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$110,990</b>	<b>\$115,986</b>	<b>\$123,892</b>	<b>\$114,102</b>	<b>\$114,180</b>	<b>\$106,234</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$56,173	\$58,941	\$58,786	\$29,237	\$30,919	\$30,753
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	22,510	17,325	15,723	30,354	27,327	25,991
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	1,679	0	0	491	0	0
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)	2,913	1,993	2,142	3,333	1,919	1,879
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	2,082	1,590	1,013	1,560	1,164	955
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	4,946	722	3,259	6,331	1,422	6,089
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	706	500	474	839	593	563
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	7,059	0	0	114	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$98,067</b>	<b>\$81,070</b>	<b>\$81,397</b>	<b>\$72,258</b>	<b>\$63,345</b>	<b>\$66,230</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$6,541	\$3,324	\$2,432	\$13,568	\$6,238	\$6,209
Roads	16,098	15,289	14,855	22,841	19,081	17,897
Trails	12,555	11,415	10,187	9,668	8,734	7,814
Infrastructure Improvement	219	1,869	969	652	1,337	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	5,158	0	0	3,699	3,644	3,437
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$40,572</b>	<b>\$31,897</b>	<b>\$28,444</b>	<b>\$50,428</b>	<b>\$39,035</b>	<b>\$35,356</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$1,359	\$831	\$854	\$699	\$541	\$450
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$1,359</b>	<b>\$831</b>	<b>\$854</b>	<b>\$699</b>	<b>\$541</b>	<b>\$450</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$270</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$239</b>	<b>\$505</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$448</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$269,172</b>	<b>\$245,113</b>	<b>\$246,336</b>	<b>\$253,717</b>	<b>\$227,587</b>	<b>\$228,030</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$14,918</b>	<b>\$14,383</b>	<b>\$14,492</b>	<b>\$15,019</b>	<b>\$16,432</b>	<b>\$11,279</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$10,960</b>	<b>\$13,377</b>	<b>\$12,073</b>	<b>\$13,197</b>	<b>\$13,689</b>	<b>\$10,103</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$295,050</b>	<b>\$272,872</b>	<b>\$272,901</b>	<b>\$281,933</b>	<b>\$257,708</b>	<b>\$249,412</b>

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 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013						
	Region 3 - Southwestern Region			Region 4 - Intermountain Region		
(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12	FY13
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$7</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3</b>	<b>\$7</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$1,574	\$1,384	\$422	\$2,241	\$1,410	942
State Fire Assistance	692	589	606	1,110	602	620
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	450	272	819	1,171	1,309	1,161
Volunteer Fire Assistance	178	177	168	138	137	130
Forest Stewardship	672	719	709	385	454	814
Forest Legacy Program	134	147	143	96	4,092	175
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	975	692	722	677	642	1,330
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$4,676</b>	<b>\$3,980</b>	<b>\$3,589</b>	<b>\$5,818</b>	<b>\$8,646</b>	<b>\$5,171</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$5,913	\$6,243	\$5,989	\$0	\$190	\$2,592
Land Management Planning	4,472	4,100	3,865	2,016	1,395	1,411
Inventory and Monitoring	9,603	9,248	8,805	12,506	12,021	10,946
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	23,301	23,820	23,356	26,375	26,554	25,549
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	9,222	0	0	10,293	0	0
Grazing Management	8,669	10,016	9,568	9,233	10,493	10,047
Forest Products	11,117	0	0	12,826	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	12,945	0	0	16,889	0	0
Minerals and Geology Management	6,922	7,019	6,848	11,433	10,908	10,307
Landownership Management	5,215	4,975	4,906	7,731	7,036	6,689
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	37,818	44,022	0	41,127	48,999
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$97,379</b>	<b>\$103,239</b>	<b>\$107,359</b>	<b>\$109,301</b>	<b>\$109,724</b>	<b>\$116,539</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$59,755	\$62,949	\$62,410	\$56,475	\$61,144	\$60,753
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	38,707	30,066	26,951	25,335	21,059	20,210
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	948	0	0	2,915	0	0
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)	982	719	1,257	2,466	1,829	1,627
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	600	324	194	901	218	938
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	3,365	342	1,077	1,980	355	3,037
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	574	406	386	309	219	208
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	81	0	0	94	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$105,011</b>	<b>\$94,806</b>	<b>\$92,274</b>	<b>\$90,476</b>	<b>\$84,825</b>	<b>\$86,773</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$9,479	\$5,093	\$4,214	\$12,183	\$4,995	\$4,559
Roads	16,463	14,623	14,304	15,705	15,722	15,374
Trails	4,291	4,037	3,730	9,108	8,236	7,623
Infrastructure Improvement	697	919	767	917	1,456	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	3,446	0	0	4,168	0	0
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$34,377</b>	<b>\$24,672</b>	<b>\$23,016</b>	<b>\$42,081</b>	<b>\$30,408</b>	<b>\$27,557</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$488	\$298	\$246	\$771	\$747	\$706
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$488</b>	<b>\$298</b>	<b>\$246</b>	<b>\$771</b>	<b>\$747</b>	<b>\$706</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$639</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$617</b>	<b>\$759</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$692</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$242,578</b>	<b>\$226,996</b>	<b>\$227,104</b>	<b>\$249,213</b>	<b>\$234,350</b>	<b>\$237,444</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$13,419</b>	<b>\$12,114</b>	<b>\$13,760</b>	<b>\$37,817</b>	<b>\$39,462</b>	<b>\$32,538</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$2,751</b>	<b>\$3,636</b>	<b>\$4,569</b>	<b>\$5,393</b>	<b>\$5,307</b>	<b>\$4,717</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$258,747</b>	<b>\$242,747</b>	<b>\$245,433</b>	<b>\$292,422</b>	<b>\$279,118</b>	<b>\$274,699</b>

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 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013	Region 5 - Pacific Southwest Region			Region 6 - Pacific Northwest Region		
	(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$108	\$151	\$3
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$2,259	\$1,178	\$565	\$3,400	\$2,358	\$2,307
State Fire Assistance	1,844	1,487	1,539	4,704	4,181	1,794
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	2,559	2,562	1,979	2,118	2,413	1,640
Volunteer Fire Assistance	357	356	338	220	219	208
Forest Stewardship	1,626	1,053	1,176	1,313	820	832
Forest Legacy Program	378	9,854	3,543	116	165	4,748
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	1,110
Urban and Community Forestry	2,576	2,379	2,699	1,086	791	836
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	2	0	0	478
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$11,598</b>	<b>\$18,869</b>	<b>\$11,841</b>	<b>\$12,957</b>	<b>\$10,947</b>	<b>\$13,953</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$416	\$1,639	\$2,249	\$2,880	\$3,395	\$9,148
Land Management Planning	3,142	2,625	3,214	4,904	4,476	3,871
Inventory and Monitoring	12,860	13,459	11,297	13,676	12,708	12,054
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	29,173	29,238	26,560	26,592	27,634	26,081
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	13,492	14,325	13,372	17,553	17,671	17,741
Grazing Management	3,103	3,779	3,510	3,741	4,578	4,047
Forest Products	34,544	35,516	32,924	58,717	59,421	60,575
Vegetation and Watershed Management	17,217	17,725	16,961	22,324	23,501	24,302
Minerals and Geology Management	6,422	6,891	5,943	5,102	4,929	4,223
Landownership Management	9,732	8,677	8,069	8,558	7,702	7,104
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$130,101</b>	<b>\$133,874</b>	<b>\$124,098</b>	<b>\$164,049</b>	<b>\$166,015</b>	<b>\$169,147</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$207,244	\$234,499	\$234,969	\$78,385	\$85,291	\$78,832
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	57,114	50,099	49,348	33,365	32,551	30,689
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	2,745	0	0	1,109	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	34
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	2,057	1,430	2,587	3,675	2,787	3,519
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	2,056	1,330	1,585	1,862	1,386	2,077
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	9,055	6,280	6,384	5,402	972	7,141
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	971	687	653	706	500	474
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	108	0	0	326	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$281,350</b>	<b>\$294,326</b>	<b>\$295,525</b>	<b>\$124,830</b>	<b>\$123,488</b>	<b>\$122,766</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$13,796	\$5,724	\$5,606	\$11,841	\$9,121	\$7,330
Roads	18,791	16,482	15,984	25,803	22,832	20,957
Trails	8,439	7,336	6,258	8,856	7,839	6,884
Infrastructure Improvement	2,126	1,224	0	935	1,011	601
Legacy Roads and Trails	7,063	6,780	6,372	8,728	8,740	7,732
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$50,216</b>	<b>\$37,547</b>	<b>\$34,220</b>	<b>\$56,163</b>	<b>\$49,543</b>	<b>\$43,504</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$1,177	\$1,168	\$631	\$843	\$767	\$626
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$1,177</b>	<b>\$1,168</b>	<b>\$631</b>	<b>\$843</b>	<b>\$767</b>	<b>\$626</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$156</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$141</b>	<b>\$221</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$199</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$474,599</b>	<b>\$485,784</b>	<b>\$466,457</b>	<b>\$359,171</b>	<b>\$350,910</b>	<b>\$350,197</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$36,088</b>	<b>\$42,539</b>	<b>\$45,001</b>	<b>\$42,546</b>	<b>\$36,402</b>	<b>\$42,302</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$24,432</b>	<b>\$22,126</b>	<b>\$60,006</b>	<b>\$32,946</b>	<b>\$28,406</b>	<b>\$29,133</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$535,119</b>	<b>\$550,449</b>	<b>\$571,464</b>	<b>\$434,663</b>	<b>\$415,719</b>	<b>\$421,632</b>

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 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013	Region 8 - Southern Regions			Region 9 - Eastern Region		
	(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$136</b>	<b>\$123</b>	<b>\$104</b>	<b>\$9</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$3</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$10,973	\$8,487	\$8,957	\$16	\$18	\$86
State Fire Assistance	7,423	5,982	6,228	76	75	75
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	16,784	7,127	7,593	0	0	110
Volunteer Fire Assistance	1,839	1,837	1,740	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	8,325	6,221	7,780	0	0	3
Forest Legacy Program	10,699	12,834	7,121	0	0	21
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	25	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	7,422	5,542	6,336	0	0	18
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	34
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$63,466</b>	<b>\$48,030</b>	<b>\$45,779</b>	<b>\$92</b>	<b>\$93</b>	<b>\$346</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$1,279	\$1,529	\$6,878	\$0	\$392	\$1,293
Land Management Planning	3,880	3,413	3,111	2,111	1,689	1,640
Inventory and Monitoring	10,653	10,014	10,642	10,881	10,218	9,237
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	29,605	29,716	27,740	24,064	23,769	22,320
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	17,658	17,985	16,729	14,757	15,452	14,375
Grazing Management	574	603	551	570	600	545
Forest Products	31,464	32,002	29,999	35,954	36,997	34,750
Vegetation and Watershed Management	14,478	14,286	14,504	15,986	16,571	16,320
Minerals and Geology Management	4,291	4,649	4,713	6,659	6,543	5,554
Landownership Management	9,489	8,410	7,721	9,137	8,517	7,681
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$123,370</b>	<b>\$122,606</b>	<b>\$122,588</b>	<b>\$120,119</b>	<b>\$120,747</b>	<b>\$113,715</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$34,267	\$36,316	\$36,163	\$22,416	\$23,333	\$23,025
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	41,868	41,967	40,979	12,933	13,430	12,988
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	497	0	0	496	0	0
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)	7	134	41	0	2	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	868	191	51	0	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	15,394	10,731	12,668	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	2,245	1,589	1,509	0	0	0
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	176	0	0	175	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$95,323</b>	<b>\$90,928</b>	<b>\$91,411</b>	<b>\$36,020</b>	<b>\$36,765</b>	<b>\$36,013</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$16,908	\$10,183	\$9,234	\$13,149	\$5,780	\$5,441
Roads	19,809	17,997	17,415	16,088	14,569	14,007
Trails	8,747	8,377	7,351	7,337	7,043	6,350
Infrastructure Improvement	1,754	32	293	104	918	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	5,311	4,803	4,542	4,115	3,787	3,428
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$52,529</b>	<b>\$41,392</b>	<b>\$38,834</b>	<b>\$40,793</b>	<b>\$32,097</b>	<b>\$29,225</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$1,439	\$1,227	\$998	\$1,680	\$1,575	\$1,041
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$1,439</b>	<b>\$1,227</b>	<b>\$998</b>	<b>\$1,680</b>	<b>\$1,575</b>	<b>\$1,041</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$336,265</b>	<b>\$304,305</b>	<b>\$299,715</b>	<b>\$198,713</b>	<b>\$191,279</b>	<b>\$180,345</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$25,350</b>	<b>\$26,097</b>	<b>\$24,798</b>	<b>\$19,551</b>	<b>\$20,820</b>	<b>\$20,561</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$38,756</b>	<b>\$38,653</b>	<b>\$40,494</b>	<b>\$19,845</b>	<b>\$17,730</b>	<b>\$20,729</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$400,370</b>	<b>\$369,056</b>	<b>\$365,007</b>	<b>\$238,109</b>	<b>\$229,829</b>	<b>\$221,635</b>

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**Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013	Region 10 - Alaska Region			Forest Products Lab		
	(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$33</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$24,231</b>	<b>\$21,001</b>	<b>\$17,816</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$1,085	\$962	\$745	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Fire Assistance	744	644	667	0	0	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	700	334	1,060	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance	147	147	139	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	914	666	639	0	0	0
Forest Legacy Program	69	67	57	0	0	0
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	248	245	250	0	0	0
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$3,907</b>	<b>\$3,065</b>	<b>\$3,557</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$0	\$188	\$31	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land Management Planning	926	580	663	0	0	0
Inventory and Monitoring	7,017	6,665	6,372	0	0	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	10,518	10,349	9,568	0	0	0
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	9,688	10,051	9,445	0	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	17,333	17,542	16,459	0	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	4,598	4,908	4,835	0	0	0
Minerals and Geology Management	3,423	3,417	3,301	0	0	0
Landownership Management	4,450	4,314	4,049	0	0	0
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$57,953</b>	<b>\$58,015</b>	<b>\$54,722</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$2,910	\$2,859	\$2,873	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	1,089	1,051	985	3,826	3,826	800
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	4	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	703	616	651
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	1,722	1,467	1,048	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	331	474	598	0	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	1,460	407	1,683	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	308	218	207	0	0	0
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	90	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$7,914</b>	<b>\$6,476</b>	<b>\$7,394</b>	<b>\$4,529</b>	<b>\$4,442</b>	<b>\$1,451</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$10,002	\$5,100	\$4,952	\$50	\$351	\$0
Roads	8,019	7,609	7,424	0	0	0
Trails	4,759	4,690	4,173	0	0	0
Infrastructure Improvement	475	11	0	0	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	680	668	613	0	0	0
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$23,936</b>	<b>\$18,078</b>	<b>\$17,162</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$351</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$106	\$292	\$304	\$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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$106</b>	<b>\$292</b>	<b>\$304</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$2,212</b>	<b>\$2,252</b>	<b>\$1,968</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$96,078</b>	<b>\$88,212</b>	<b>\$85,107</b>	<b>\$28,810</b>	<b>\$25,794</b>	<b>\$19,267</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$7,225</b>	<b>\$7,198</b>	<b>\$6,806</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$2,119</b>	<b>\$6,722</b>	<b>\$6,509</b>	<b>\$351</b>	<b>\$418</b>	<b>\$450</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$105,422</b>	<b>\$102,132</b>	<b>\$98,422</b>	<b>\$29,161</b>	<b>\$26,212</b>	<b>\$19,717</b>

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**Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013	Rocky Mountain Research Station			Northern Research Station		
	(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$43,075</b>	<b>\$40,500</b>	<b>\$37,799</b>	<b>\$57,188</b>	<b>\$54,484</b>	<b>\$51,538</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$285	\$140	\$160	\$206	\$1,049	\$169
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	251	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	131	115	105	152	217	212
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	204	188	197	0	341	0
Forest Legacy Program	0	0	10	95	136	65
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	0	0	0	175	201	25
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	1,035	1,026	828	1,235	1,145	1,021
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$1,655</b>	<b>\$1,469</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>\$1,863</b>	<b>\$3,340</b>	<b>\$1,492</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory and Monitoring	0	3	0	190	0	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	29	29	29	456	26	26
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	2	0	0	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	0	45	0	460	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
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$29</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>\$29</b>	<b>\$1,106</b>	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$26</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$1,245	\$1,240	\$1,140	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	1,505	1,118	1,118	60	48	48
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	7,545	7,161	7,278	3,452	2,895	3,120
Joint Fire Sciences	263	0	762	0	0	75
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	150	173	16	0	1	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	0	2	0	65	36	46
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$10,708</b>	<b>\$9,694</b>	<b>\$10,314</b>	<b>\$3,577</b>	<b>\$2,980</b>	<b>\$3,289</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$3,596	\$1,239	\$2,781	\$579	\$0	\$470
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	4	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$3,596</b>	<b>\$1,243</b>	<b>\$2,781</b>	<b>\$579</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$470</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$59,063</b>	<b>\$52,986</b>	<b>\$52,223</b>	<b>\$64,313</b>	<b>\$60,830</b>	<b>\$56,815</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$184</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$367</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$650</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$59,347</b>	<b>\$53,886</b>	<b>\$53,123</b>	<b>\$64,695</b>	<b>\$61,140</b>	<b>\$57,470</b>

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**Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013	Pacific Northwest Research Station			Pacific Southwest Research Station		
	(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$42,249</b>	<b>\$40,258</b>	<b>\$38,152</b>	<b>\$20,830</b>	<b>\$19,674</b>	<b>\$18,579</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$0	\$24	\$15	\$161	\$121	\$10
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	400	404	380	0	1	60
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
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	1,005	975	827	0	0	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$1,405</b>	<b>\$1,403</b>	<b>\$1,222</b>	<b>\$161</b>	<b>\$122</b>	<b>\$70</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory and Monitoring	600	609	564	0	600	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	0	0	28	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	200	2	188	480	7	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
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$612</b>	<b>\$752</b>	<b>\$508</b>	<b>\$607</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	340	268	346	60	48	198
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	4,061	3,699	4,242	2,985	2,591	2,824
Joint Fire Sciences	1,111	0	316	469	0	4
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	400	401	380	75	2	21
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	20	1	0	0	77	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$5,932</b>	<b>\$4,369</b>	<b>\$5,284</b>	<b>\$3,589</b>	<b>\$2,718</b>	<b>\$3,047</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$5,469	\$1	\$0	\$580	\$501	\$500
Roads	0	1	0	200	0	0
Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure Improvement	0	0	0	850	0	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$5,469</b>	<b>\$2</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,630</b>	<b>\$501</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$55,855</b>	<b>\$46,644</b>	<b>\$45,410</b>	<b>\$26,718</b>	<b>\$23,622</b>	<b>\$22,196</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$1,435</b>	<b>\$2,705</b>	<b>\$1,670</b>	<b>\$347</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$288</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$618</b>	<b>\$1,053</b>	<b>\$1,006</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$56,178</b>	<b>\$46,979</b>	<b>\$47,195</b>	<b>\$30,041</b>	<b>\$26,345</b>	<b>\$23,549</b>

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 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013	Southern Research Station			International Institute of Tropical Forestry		
	(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$52,354</b>	<b>\$48,242</b>	<b>\$45,097</b>	<b>\$3,878</b>	<b>\$3,457</b>	<b>\$3,586</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$80	\$0	\$125	\$39	\$29	\$36
State Fire Assistance	0	0	0	338	300	353
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	570	586	530	196	182	144
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	57	57	54
Forest Stewardship	423	6	0	347	463	327
Forest Legacy Program	10	40	10	87	87	85
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	58	0	0	477	404	389
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	1,372	1,217	988	0	6	0
International Forestry	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$2,513</b>	<b>\$1,849</b>	<b>\$1,653</b>	<b>\$1,541</b>	<b>\$1,529</b>	<b>\$1,388</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$0
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	48	13	0
Inventory and Monitoring	600	10	564	0	0	0
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	2	0	0	0	0
Grazing Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products	0	0	0	0	0	3
Vegetation and Watershed Management	200	7	188	25	32	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
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$19</b>	<b>\$752</b>	<b>\$73</b>	<b>\$46</b>	<b>\$3</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Fuels	240	198	0	0	0	0
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	2,527	2,195	2,397	0	0	50
Joint Fire Sciences	422	0	42	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	400	405	380	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	60	61	0	0	0	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	145	106	108
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	78	55	52
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$3,649</b>	<b>\$2,859</b>	<b>\$2,819</b>	<b>\$224</b>	<b>\$161</b>	<b>\$210</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$2,414	\$2,071	\$0	\$50	\$22	\$0
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
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$2,414</b>	<b>\$2,071</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$22</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$61,730</b>	<b>\$55,040</b>	<b>\$50,321</b>	<b>\$5,765</b>	<b>\$5,215</b>	<b>\$5,187</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$8</b>	<b>\$8</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$1,503</b>	<b>\$1,515</b>	<b>\$1,005</b>	<b>\$73</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$63,241</b>	<b>\$56,563</b>	<b>\$51,331</b>	<b>\$5,838</b>	<b>\$5,215</b>	<b>\$5,187</b>

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**Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013						
Northeastern Area - State & Private Forestry				Albuquerque Service Center		
(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12	FY13
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$31</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$30,285</b>	<b>\$30,427</b>	<b>\$32,448</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$12,513	\$10,015	\$11,008	\$4,378	\$4,800	\$5,947
State Fire Assistance	6,707	5,535	5,967	754	756	827
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	17,964	13,178	13,245	1,069	571	1,269
Volunteer Fire Assistance	2,578	2,574	2,439	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	9,803	8,101	10,391	1,011	863	896
Forest Legacy Program	24,967	12,248	18,748	396	455	473
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	390	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry	10,395	8,440	9,452	713	757	852
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	0	0	0	266	385	294
International Forestry	0	0	0	511	509	647
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$84,927</b>	<b>\$60,091</b>	<b>\$71,639</b>	<b>\$9,097</b>	<b>\$9,094</b>	<b>\$11,207</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,519	\$0
Land Management Planning	0	0	0	4,989	4,801	4,021
Inventory and Monitoring	0	0	0	16,102	15,520	14,608
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	1	0	0	41,251	38,618	36,145
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	0	0	0	15,821	16,495	10,437
Grazing Management	0	0	0	6,998	6,232	5,413
Forest Products	0	0	0	46,452	45,835	35,033
Vegetation and Watershed Management	0	0	0	20,795	22,446	13,188
Minerals and Geology Management	0	0	0	8,661	8,931	7,571
Landownership Management	0	0	0	11,251	11,351	9,633
Law Enforcement Operations	0	0	0	14,518	14,661	14,606
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$186,840</b>	<b>\$187,409</b>	<b>\$150,656</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$15	\$0	\$21	\$35,735	\$112,482	\$104,300
Fire Operations -- Suppression	0	0	0	103,164	11,176	41,522
Hazardous Fuels	105	105	105	39,754	36,066	27,657
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	0	0	0	416	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	0	0	0	1,809	1,795	0
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	4	4	4	1,593	1,861	0
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	81	81	367	391	357	0
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	11,144	7,484	7,573	47	0	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	2,246	1,589	1,509	0	0	0
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	0	0	0	1,226	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$13,595</b>	<b>\$9,263</b>	<b>\$9,579</b>	<b>\$184,134</b>	<b>\$163,737</b>	<b>\$173,479</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$8,464	\$9,894	\$9,496
Roads	0	0	0	22,144	21,569	16,635
Trails	0	0	0	9,452	9,569	9,327
Infrastructure Improvement	0	0	0	253	186	0
Legacy Roads and Trails	0	0	0	1,778	3,953	1,395
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$42,090</b>	<b>\$45,171</b>	<b>\$36,853</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$548	\$623	\$1,088
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
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$548</b>	<b>\$623</b>	<b>\$1,088</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$255</b>	<b>\$236</b>	<b>\$313</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$98,553</b>	<b>\$69,354</b>	<b>\$81,219</b>	<b>\$453,249</b>	<b>\$436,697</b>	<b>\$406,043</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$4,625</b>	<b>\$4,651</b>	<b>\$3,815</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,769</b>	<b>\$8,580</b>	<b>\$6,381</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$98,554</b>	<b>\$69,365</b>	<b>\$81,319</b>	<b>\$466,643</b>	<b>\$449,928</b>	<b>\$416,239</b>

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**Region, Station, and Area Allocations FY 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes <b>direct program + cost pool</b> funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013	National Headquarters in Washington, DC (WO)			National		
	(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY11	FY12
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$23,568</b>	<b>\$24,474</b>	<b>\$25,516</b>	<b>\$8,573</b>	<b>\$12,412</b>	<b>\$9,156</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>						
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$6,861	\$6,876	\$6,979	\$4,917	\$5,228	\$3,902
State Fire Assistance	3,037	3,060	3,062	811	3,775	611
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	1,483	2,193	2,269	1,116	6,477	592
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Stewardship	2,767	3,200	3,376	1,206	3,780	1,100
Forest Legacy Program	1,385	1,401	1,348	297	281	169
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	0	0	0	1,000	1,997	0
Urban and Community Forestry	1,930	1,943	2,258	2,436	6,798	1,987
Economic Action Program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	50	70	73	62	93	68
International Forestry	8,501	7,354	6,612	480	124	309
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$26,013</b>	<b>\$26,096</b>	<b>\$25,976</b>	<b>\$12,325</b>	<b>\$28,552</b>	<b>\$8,738</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>						
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$0	\$496	\$0	\$0	\$12,692	\$0
Land Management Planning	11,066	10,259	8,758	1,308	1,753	1,083
Inventory and Monitoring	47,942	46,625	43,288	3,781	3,668	3,506
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	19,459	19,763	18,299	8,851	10,324	7,652
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	8,520	9,149	8,182	4,104	4,663	7,779
Grazing Management	2,245	2,090	2,267	1,658	1,804	1,327
Forest Products	21,274	24,790	19,894	10,715	15,258	22,570
Vegetation and Watershed Management	18,601	23,526	19,845	6,802	8,199	8,723
Minerals and Geology Management	10,595	10,603	9,834	2,093	1,764	1,906
Landownership Management	9,805	9,681	9,547	2,740	2,203	2,405
Law Enforcement Operations	8,270	8,223	9,020	121,465	120,945	110,358
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	0	0	3,432	3,427	3,192
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	289	0	0	-24,900
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$157,778</b>	<b>\$165,206</b>	<b>\$149,224</b>	<b>\$166,949</b>	<b>\$186,700</b>	<b>\$145,600</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>						
Fire Preparedness	\$83,328	\$260,070	\$202,624	\$6,466	\$34,398	\$52,002
Fire Operations -- Suppression	206,733	15,746	152,224	685,614	271,319	316,066
Hazardous Fuels	19,192	15,997	15,640	11,247	8,673	12,783
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	93	0	0	85	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	303	293	0	484	454	41
Joint Fire Sciences	0	0	0	5,719	7,250	5,651
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	374	440	0	558	389	250
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	82	78	50	447	982	57
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	116	152	130	5,486	26,502	3,523
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	239	0	0	290	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$310,461</b>	<b>\$292,777</b>	<b>\$370,669</b>	<b>\$716,396</b>	<b>\$349,967</b>	<b>\$390,373</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$290,418</b>	<b>\$315,381</b>	<b>\$298,967</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>						
Facilities	\$4,454	\$4,388	\$4,883	\$1,879	\$1,638	\$2,465
Roads	8,183	7,765	7,264	5,050	8,987	3,844
Trails	3,231	3,209	3,357	1,937	1,366	1,946
Infrastructure Improvement	118	105	67	57	51	289
Legacy Roads and Trails	386	882	494	375	801	298
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$16,373</b>	<b>\$16,349</b>	<b>\$16,065</b>	<b>\$9,299</b>	<b>\$12,843</b>	<b>\$8,842</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>						
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$102	\$223	\$265	\$23,723	\$44,228	\$42,553
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	0	0	0	1,048	953	903
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0	227	0
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$102</b>	<b>\$223</b>	<b>\$265</b>	<b>\$24,771</b>	<b>\$45,408</b>	<b>\$43,456</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,569</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$45</b>	<b>\$45</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$47</b>	<b>\$42</b>	<b>\$78</b>	<b>\$63</b>	<b>\$43</b>	<b>\$79</b>
<b>TOTAL FOREST SERVICE (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$534,341</b>	<b>\$525,168</b>	<b>\$587,793</b>	<b>\$1,228,843</b>	<b>\$953,920</b>	<b>\$905,256</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$2,063</b>	<b>\$2,049</b>	<b>\$16,193</b>	<b>\$4,594</b>	<b>\$25,683</b>	<b>\$5,136</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$2,437</b>	<b>\$1,783</b>	<b>\$2,166</b>	<b>\$2,018</b>	<b>\$7,760</b>	<b>\$1,489</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$538,841</b>	<b>\$529,000</b>	<b>\$606,152</b>	<b>\$1,235,455</b>	<b>\$987,363</b>	<b>\$911,881</b>

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 2011 to FY 2013**

Includes direct program + cost pool funding allocated to Regions, Stations, Areas, ASC and the National Headquarters in Washington, DC FY 2011 to FY 2013			
FOREST SERVICE TOTAL			
(dollars in thousands)	FY11	FY12	FY13
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$306,637</b>	<b>\$295,300</b>	<b>\$279,853</b>
<b>State &amp; Private Forestry</b>			
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$56,737	\$47,425	\$44,944
State Fire Assistance	32,358	30,488	25,759
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	48,821	39,999	36,894
Volunteer Fire Assistance	6,680	6,669	6,320
Forest Stewardship	32,548	28,814	30,441
Forest Legacy Program	52,894	53,303	50,515
Community Forest & Open Space Conservation	1,000	1,997	1,892
Urban and Community Forestry	32,040	31,327	30,701
Economic Action Program	0	0	0
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	5,025	4,918	4,660
International Forestry	9,492	7,987	7,569
<b>Total State &amp; Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$277,596</b>	<b>\$252,926</b>	<b>\$239,695</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>			
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	\$14,970	\$39,936	\$37,885
Land Management Planning	45,033	39,936	37,203
Inventory and Monitoring	167,219	161,721	150,652
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	281,627	281,176	261,932
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	140,260	140,036	106,689
Grazing Management	49,738	55,356	51,568
Forest Products	336,049	335,511	276,051
Vegetation and Watershed Management	184,341	184,046	131,967
Minerals and Geology Management	83,560	83,426	77,716
Landownership Management	91,765	85,738	79,869
Law Enforcement Operations	144,254	143,829	133,984
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,432	3,426	3,192
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	136,631
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$1,542,248</b>	<b>\$1,554,137</b>	<b>\$1,485,338</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>			
Fire Preparedness	\$673,650	\$1,004,442	\$948,651
Fire Operations - Suppression	995,511	537,858	509,812
Hazardous Fuels	339,604	317,076	282,558
Rehabilitation and Restoration (NFP)	11,477	0	0
Fire Research and Development (NFP)	23,869	21,699	20,603
Joint Fire Sciences	7,984	7,250	6,884
Forest Health Management -- Federal Lands (NFP)	20,710	15,958	15,151
Forest Health Management -- Cooperative Lands (NFP)	11,405	8,353	7,931
State Fire Assistance (NFP)	64,870	55,475	52,672
Volunteer Fire Assistance (NFP)	8,982	6,356	6,035
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	9,980	0	0
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$2,168,042</b>	<b>\$1,974,467</b>	<b>\$1,850,298</b>
<b>Use of Prior Year Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$290,418</b>	<b>\$315,381</b>	<b>\$298,967</b>
<b>Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>			
Facilities	\$135,000	\$75,664	\$70,572
Roads	195,196	182,525	165,959
Trails	88,381	81,851	74,999
Infrastructure Improvement	9,158	9,121	2,986
Legacy Roads and Trails	44,910	44,928	28,312
<b>Total Capital Improvement &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$472,644</b>	<b>\$394,089</b>	<b>\$342,829</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>			
Land Acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$32,934	\$52,521	\$49,762
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts	1,048	953	903
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	227	0
<b>Total Land Acquisition</b>	<b>\$33,982</b>	<b>\$53,701</b>	<b>\$50,665</b>
<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>\$2,551</b>	<b>\$2,569</b>	<b>\$2,337</b>
<b>Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$45</b>	<b>\$45</b>
<b>Management of NF Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>\$2,577</b>	<b>\$2,573</b>	<b>\$2,438</b>
<b>TOTAL Forest Service (DISCRETIONARY)</b>	<b>\$5,096,745</b>	<b>\$4,845,189</b>	<b>\$4,552,465</b>
<b>Permanent Working Funds</b>	<b>\$226,080</b>	<b>\$249,665</b>	<b>\$238,673</b>
<b>Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$167,007</b>	<b>\$172,155</b>	<b>\$202,630</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$5,489,833</b>	<b>\$5,267,008</b>	<b>\$4,993,768</b>

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 is included to address 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 FY 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 risk. The work of the Centers is essential to ensuring that resource managers and stakeholders are equipped with the latest information and state-of-the-art technology.

### **The Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center**

The EFETAC is engaged in multiple projects at the forefront of technology development, application, and transfer in forest threat detection and assessment. The EFETAC uses satellite imagery to monitor forest conditions across the United States and characterize changes across broad landscapes. Researchers are developing indicators of landscape change and providing land managers and policy makers with new tools and information for strategic planning. Additionally, Center scientists and partners are addressing emerging issues and collaborating to create tools and resources related to forest ecosystems, water quality, biodiversity, and wildfires - all within the context of assessing effects of changing climate, increasing human populations, and dynamic socioeconomic constraints.

**FY 2013 to FY 2015 EFETAC Allocation***(dollars in thousands)*

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>
Personnel	\$2,859	\$2,651	\$2,626
Partnerships, Technology Acquisitions, and Grants & Agreements	1,358	699	439
Equipment & Supplies	92	81	81
Communications	58	68	68
Travel	108	85	85
Rent & Utilities	275	277	279
Indirect Costs	455	432	411
Other	9	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,214</b>	<b>\$4,296</b>	<b>\$3,992</b>

**FY 2013 EFETAC Accomplishments**

The EFETAC focused on synthesizing forest threats research, collaborating with multiple internal and external partners, and developing and sharing useful tools and technology in a timely and user-friendly manner. Public and private land managers used Center products to detect, assess, and respond to current and emerging threats throughout the Eastern United States. 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 2013 products expanded networks within and outside the Forest Service, broadened awareness of the Center's role in threat assessment, and provided land managers and decision makers useful tools to streamline detection of and response to forest health issues.

- **National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy** - Major investments are being made throughout the United States to reduce or mitigate the negative effects of wildland fire on ecological and social values. EFETAC led the science and analysis team commissioned to provide analytical support to the development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). The team worked with partners to explore alternative courses of action and completed a national analysis of potential policy options, their opportunities for success, and use in prioritizing strategic action.
- **Water Supply Stress Index Model** - Natural resource managers are evaluating future water resources using the EFETAC Water Supply Stress Index (WaSSI) ecosystem services model. WaSSI simulates water availability in the United States, Mexico, and Africa, with a focus on the role the National Forest System and other forested lands play in providing clean, reliable water supplies.
- **ForWarn Forest Disturbance Monitoring Tool** - Land managers are using the Center's collaboratively developed *ForWarn*, a state-of-the-art forest disturbance detection and

tracking tool, to rapidly detect, identify, and respond to unexpected changes in the Nation's forests. *ForWarn* captures recent disturbances almost immediately and offers flexibility in monitoring disturbance and forest recovery that provides a richer national overview of forest health to better focus and prioritize management efforts.

- **Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options** - The Center's Template for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Management Options (TACCIMO) helped tribal communities initiate understanding of climate change impacts on tribal conditions and cultural practices. Early adopters of the 2012 Planning Rule in the Southern and Pacific Southwest Regions used TACCIMO to meet climate change science needs and support a collaborative planning process.

Additional EFETAC efforts created opportunities for diverse audiences to integrate and benefit from cutting-edge science. Following are some examples.

- "Risk-averse" decision-makers incorporated new EFETAC techniques to account for uncertainty in forest pest risk assessment maps.
- EFETAC collaborative research allowed forest managers and Federal, State, and private agencies and organizations to monitor forest health trends and make informed decisions regarding short- and long-term management of critical forest resources.
- A national network of ecological monitoring stations selected EFETAC research sites to examine the effects of climate variability and forest management practices on forest ecosystem health, water supply, and carbon sequestration.
- 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.

### **FY 2014 EFETAC Program**

In FY 2014 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 Water Supply Stress Index (WSSI) model in the United States and developing countries, to assess future climate scenarios for managed forests and to highlight the important role forests play in water supply,
- prepare a comprehensive database that aids in the prediction, prevention, and proactive management of invasive plants for public release,
- further collaborative research that slows the spread of invasive forest pest species, especially through human-assisted pathways in the United States and Canada,
- examine the effects of climate variability and forest management practices on forest ecosystem health, water supply, and carbon sequestration,
- 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 2015 EFETAC Work Plan**

The EFETAC work plan for FY 2015 includes:

- advance *ForWarn's* application on all lands and to multiple user groups and expand web-based tools, products, and training opportunities,
- establish a prioritization framework that enables resource managers and scientists to evaluate genetic resources of forest tree species regionally and nationally,
- expand the Center's role in increasing strategic options developed within the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and promote use of advanced tools and information across all lands and within all jurisdictions,
- publish 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 build the joint capacity of university researchers and extension specialists to deliver climate science information to the public using TACCIMO,
- explore additional domestic and international applications for the WSSI model to evaluate effects of climate change on water resources, carbon sequestration, and changes in biodiversity,
- increase communications, science delivery, and partnerships to broaden the Center's audience and research influence,
- continue to lead efforts and support national Forest Health Monitoring activities and related programs and assessments,
- initiate and advance 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
- increase 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 has collaborative agreements 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 2013 – FY 2015 WWETAC Allocation

(dollars in thousands)

Expenditures	FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget
Personnel	\$670	\$698	\$650
Partnerships, Technology Acquisitions, and Grants & Agreements	1,020	903	865
Equipment & Supplies	20	13	13
Communications	160	43	40
Travel	32	32	32
Rent & Utilities	78	56	56
Indirect Costs	420	332	316
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$2,077</b>	<b>\$1,972</b>

### FY 2013 WWETAC Accomplishments

In FY 2013 the WWETAC had the following achievements.

- - The WWETAC continued to parameterize TACCIMO. Region 5 parameterization was completed in FY 2012. In FY 2013, four of the remaining six regions were partially parameterized, with all seven western regions to be completed in FY 2014. Over 200 data layers of projected change in vegetation and carbon content were added to TACCIMO.
  - BioMap, a dynamic vegetation model designed to map potential and future vegetation and carbon content (above and below ground, CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes) continues to be developed, and an online version has been posted.
  - The migration potential of three species of spruce, two associated with interior Alaska and one associated with the coastal rainforest, was assessed. Additional studies of climate envelopes include tall tree bristlecone stands in the Intermountain West, sagebrush grouse within the sagebrush habitat, and *Armillaria* root disease.
  - The WWETAC co-organized the International Union of Forest Research Organizations Working Party 7.01 and an air pollution meeting in FY 2013. The topics of these meetings focused on the fact that although CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the earth's atmosphere

has previously been high on a geologic time-scale, the current atmospheric chemistry with anthropogenic inputs is novel. Also discussed were the facts that elevated CO<sub>2</sub> is also accompanied by O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and high nitrogen deposition and strong oxides (O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>) negate the stimulatory fertilization and increased water use efficiency of elevated CO<sub>2</sub>.

- WWETAC researchers continued to revise the Wildlands Threat Mapper, a web-based tool to map high value resources and provide a platform for wildfire risk assessments, locales of high tree mortality, current and future vegetation and carbon content products from dynamic vegetation models, as well as other assessments. Scientists continued to work with NASA-Stennis to identify sources of disturbances and tree mortality as detected by MODIS in the Western United States.
- The WWETAC completed a report that describes, inventories, and maps land type associations for the Inyo National Forest in Region 5, using the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units. The approach relates biological and abiotic resources across the landscape and provides validation of current vegetation for dynamic vegetation model output for an area east of the southern Sierra Nevada.
- The WWETAC developed a candidate list of invasive species in western Washington State and Oregon, including 112 traits to help understand their invasive capabilities. A similar approach was initiated for the list of 500 invasive species on Forest Service lands. A web-based tool, developed and published online, maps weed species location, shows where other invasives are found in the immediate area, and highlights land ownership.
- The Center evaluated the combined effect of fuel management, bark beetles, and wildfires on carbon stocks. Pine density was correlated to and explained 75 to 98 percent of cumulative mountain pine beetle caused mortality, and included the effect of bark beetles on significantly altered forest carbon dynamics as modeled in central Oregon. The effect of bark beetle outbreak on both biophysical and socioeconomic ecosystem services was evaluated for six case studies in the Western United States.
- Proceedings of a meeting reported the state of knowledge on genetic resistance to forest insects and diseases. Topics included resistance mechanisms, evolutionary mechanism of resistance and tolerance, pathogen evolution, tools for developing resistance and tolerances, and tools for screening.
- The logistic regressions used to predict post-fire tree mortality were reviewed for 19 conifers. Crown scorch and bole char injury combined were the best predictors of probability of mortality. An ongoing modeling effort to predict medium- and long-term weather conditions conducive to large wildfires in southern California was supported. An economic evaluation of fuel treatment effectiveness on wildfire suppression costs was conducted in central Oregon. Planned treatments resulted in substantial reductions in wildfire size and suppression cost (per fire). Fewer large fires resulted from ignitions and a lower total area burned.

### **FY 2014 WWETAC Program**

In FY 2014 the WWETAC program will:

- - cooperatively develop landscape-level assessment tools with EFETAC, NASA, and the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team for resource specialists and land managers

that will aid in identifying source and level of environmental disturbances using modeling and both satellite and fixed wing platforms,

- work with EFETAC on populating TACCIMO with summaries and publications for the western Regions and develop new online tools to facilitate Forest Plan revisions,
- work with the Rocky Mountain Research Station to develop a nationalized approach to socioeconomic vulnerability to climate change assessments at the regional level,
- continue developing assessment tools to quantify wildfire risk, fuel accumulation, and fuel treatment effectiveness and longevity and develop a better understanding of and tools to link fuel treatment with restoration objectives,
- improve understanding of vegetation succession after bark beetle and wildfires (within the context of climate change) and probabilities for subsequent re-burn after these disturbances and investigate the potential for using remote sensing to better predict short- and long-term effects on successional sequences and rates,
- develop an approach to prioritize treatment of invasive plants in the West,
- in cooperation with Region 6 and the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain Research Stations, develop an approach to efficiently model effects of pathogens and insect outbreaks at the landscape level, and
- develop a new dynamic vegetation model responsive to climate change scenarios that has the capability to predict current and future potential vegetation, carbon, and water pools and communicate expected changes in climate and vegetation to land managers and resource specialists.

### **FY 2015 WWETAC Work Plan**

In FY 2015 the WWETAC will:

- develop approaches to landscape-level assessments of environmental threats with EFETAC, NASA, the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, and Region 6 Forest Health Protection for the purpose of identifying source and level of environmental disturbances using modeling and both satellite and fixed wing platforms,
- complete parameterization of TACCIMO for the western regions and shift to weekly maintenance activities for this tool and cooperatively work with EFETAC to develop a new online tool to archive forest plans as they are revised,
- cooperatively work with the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest Research Station scientists to develop socioeconomic vulnerability to climate change assessments for Regions 6 and 10,
- apply a landscape-level fuels treatment prioritization tool for the Blue Mountains in Region 6 and to additional forests in Regions 1, 5, and 6 in the order of required forest plan revision; improve understanding of vegetation succession after bark beetle and wildfires; investigate the potential for using remote sensing to better predict short- and long-term effects on successional sequences and rates; and continue to document and demonstrate assessment tools with case studies for wildfire risk and fuels treatment effectiveness,
- continue to develop an online tool to prioritize treatment of invasive plants in the Intermountain West and work with Region 6 botanists to nationalize an approach for identifying vulnerabilities of invasive species to treatments,

- in cooperation with Region 6 and the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain Research Stations, develop an approach to efficiently model the effects of pathogens and insect outbreaks at the landscape level, and
- continue to develop the next phase of MAPPS (BioMap), a dynamic vegetation model responsive to climate change scenarios that has the capability to predict current and future potential vegetation, carbon, and water pools, validate models in three to five locations and publish these validations, provide talking points for expected environmental changes and vegetation response for each eco-region, and share these outputs with each region in the West.

## **Service First**

### **Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but is included to report accomplishments for the Service First program.

### **Overview**

Service First (SF) is a partnership authority for the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), (P.L. 106-291 as amended in 109-54, Title IV, Section 428). The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74, Section 422) extended Service First authority indefinitely changing the authority from a pilot program to a permanent authority. The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act expanded the Service First authority to all USDA and DOI bureaus and offices.

The Forest Service continues to strengthen partnerships with the BLM, NPS, and FWS to attain the three Service First goals of improving natural and cultural resource stewardship, enhancing customer service, and increasing operational efficiency. The four agencies provide national leadership, direction, and counsel on implementing the authorities and promoting the principles of Service First through the Service First Leadership Team (SFLT). The SFLT's goals include enhancing each agency's ability to meet its mission, increasing collective capacity to manage Federal resources on a landscape basis, overcoming institutional barriers that hinder interagency programs and initiatives, and improving constituent and customer service and resource management through streamlined processes, increased efficiencies, and use of emerging technologies.

Service First does not have a budget line item in the Forest Service but instead is funded from the program most appropriate, based on activity, within the National Forest System appropriation.

### **FY 2015 Service First Goals**

For FY 2015, the Service First Field Advisory Board will continue determining field-based needs for Service First. This group was developed in 2013 and is comprised of two field representatives from each of the four agencies. The group will continue to develop tools to make SF easier for field staff to use, including the development of an intranet website to share information and common practices.

Service First will continue to focus on opportunities for co-location of agency facilities where feasible and appropriate. Co-location facilitates interagency communication and results in integration of natural resource management across the landscape. Co-location is one method for increasing coordination across resource programs that include conserving water, hazardous fuels reduction, landscape scale species conservation, sustaining our rural communities, nurturing

youth through education and connections to the outdoors, and recreation management including off-highway vehicle (OHV) and trail management.

Service First will also continue to make advances in finding and creating solutions to information technology functionality between the four agencies while maintaining the appropriate levels of network security. Recent advances in technology will allow certain web enabled programs to be shared between agencies, and will enable access to each other's intranet sites and general sharing of information to facilitate accomplishment of each agency's mission. Joint access to more complex databases including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), invasive weed inventories, and other natural resource data will result in more seamless customer service and improved operational efficiency for shared employees and co-located offices.

Service First will continue to strengthen the network of practitioners in the field. We will continue development of standard operating procedures, tools for routine uses of Service First, and outreach and education about how to best use the Service First authority.

### **FY 2013 Accomplishments**

We accomplished numerous successes in FY 2013 in addition to the continued support of Service First implementation in the field, including:

Service First Memorandum of Understanding – The National Service First MOU was updated in 2013. It provides a framework for cooperation to improve the Agencies' effectiveness and efficiency in implementing Service First by clarifying the use of the Service First authority so that agency use of the authority increases and facilitates use of best practices in implementing the Service First authority.

Service First Field Advisory Board - The SFFAB was created to explore both opportunities and challenges with Service First and provide tangible results so that Service First ideas and tools are more readily accessible to local management units.

Master Interagency Agreement (7600B) - The National Service First Master Interagency Agreement serves as the terms and conditions for all Service First Agreements and replaces separate forms that each agency previously used.

Service First Congressional Report - This report, as requested by Congress, reflects the known status of Service First as of the spring of 2012. Key sections include uses of, success stories, and recommendations for Service First.

Service First – File Sharing & Storage (Max.gov) – Max.gov provides an interface for government-wide advanced collaborations, information sharing, data collection, publishing and analytical capabilities for Federal agencies and partners. The SF Max.gov site will serve as the internal network for SF agencies.

Service First Success Tracker - The intention of this form is to gather information about the successes with Service First and acknowledge the individual contributions of public service officials and organizations across the nation by sharing those successes.

Service First Examples Library - The Service First Examples Library is a collection of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), Memorandums of Agreement (MOA), Interagency Agreements (IA), and Letters of Delegated Authority between the four agencies in various combinations, which can be used as a reference for compiling future agreements. The goal of the Service First Library is to provide users with well-written and clear examples of Service First materials on particular topics that can be easily located in one central location, such as Max.gov. The Library will provide useful examples and language for creating interagency MOUs, MOAs, IAs, etc.

Service First Strategy Document - This strategy document outlines several focal areas that will help move Service First into the mainstream of our business.

## 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 the 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 2013, 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 Forest Service offices and the following Web site:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/documents/stewardship/stewardship\\_brochure.pdf](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.

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/forestmanagement/stewardship/training/index.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 total use of stewardship contracting increased in FY 2013 as compared to FY 2012. In FY 2013, there was an increase in the amount of biomass made available for energy production, noxious and invasive plant treatments, and the acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires through stewardship contracts and agreements. Through the increased 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 2013 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 FYs 2011-2013. Table 2 below shows the acres awarded, number of contract or agreements awarded, and volume awarded during the FYs 2003-2013.

**Table 1. Actual Stewardship Contracting Accomplishments (FY 2011 – 2013)**

<b>Accomplishment</b>	<b>FY 2011 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2012 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2013<sup>21</sup></b>
<b>Acres of forest vegetation</b>	4,374	4,321	3,391
Acres of forest vegetation	32,694	25,763	36,925
Acres of noxious weeds/invasive plant	1,604	2,356	2,746
Acres of wildlife habitat restored or improved	135,816	142,648	72,578
<b>Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced</b>	91	203	44
Miles of roads decommissioned	44	48	43

<sup>21</sup> The accomplishments listed here reflect the agency’s unified accomplishments under the stewardship contracting authority. Unified accomplishments may credit (count) multiple activities on a given acre. In contrast, the “acres of stewardship contracts/agreements awarded” performance measure represents an actual “footprint.”

<b>Accomplishment</b>	<b>FY 2011 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2012 Actual</b>	<b>FY 201321</b>
Miles of high clearance system roads improved	85	52	28
Miles of passenger car system roads improved	47	43	10
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	481	672	709
Green tons of biomass made available for energy	477,921	577,590	865,560
Acres of stewardship contracts/agreements awarded	100,577	134,257	171,767
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires	103,522	93,804	130,190
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	61,608	58,394	69,150
Number of stewardship contracts/agreements contributing to watersheds in fully functioning condition	13	9	17

**Table 2. Acres Awarded, Number of Contract or Agreements Awarded, and Volume Awarded FYs 2003-2013**

<b>FY</b>	<b>Acres Awarded</b>	<b># of Contracts &amp; Agreements</b>	<b>Volume Awarded (hundred cubic feet - ccf)</b>
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

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 2013. 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 2013 programmatic monitoring efforts by the Pinchot Institute will be available in late winter or early spring 2014. When available, the entire report will be online at:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/stewardship/reports/index.shtml>

## Stewardship Contracting Success Stories

Here are a few examples of successful implementation of stewardship contracts and agreements.

### Oregon

In September of 2013, the Malheur National Forest awarded a 10-year stewardship contract to Iron Triangle LLC of John Day, OR. Shortly after the Forest awarded the first task order under that contract, which includes over 8,000 acres of restoration work. The goal of this stewardship contract is to accomplish ecological restoration at a landscape scale, eventually treating between 180,000 and 500,000 acres.

In addition to providing opportunities for restoration work, the contract will provide jobs and material for forest product processing in local communities. This is significant to local communities surrounding the Malheur National Forest as the stewardship contract will include various types of work such as pre-commercial thinning, mechanical fuels reduction, road maintenance, and timber product removal. Approximately 500 million board feet of timber could be harvested over 10 years; however, annual harvest amounts are subject to negotiation.

### Colorado

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests have been using stewardship contracting to implement forest restoration work associated with the Uncompahgre Plateau CFLRP Project. Stewardship contracting has been an important tool that has enabled the forest to trade the value of the timber for fuels reduction and other forest restoration service work.

The forest has awarded four stewardship contracts over the past four years (FY 2010 – 2013) to accomplish approximately 3,000 acres of mechanical treatment and prepare approximately 10,000 acres for up-coming prescribed burning. The forest plans to award another stewardship contract in FY 2014 to accomplish another 1,250 acres of forest restoration and road-side hazard tree mitigation; and plans to pursue a stewardship agreement to help accelerate wildlife habitat improvement. The Forest plans 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.

### Colorado and Wyoming

The Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest Long Term Stewardship Contract is a 10-year stewardship contract that will treat a minimum of 1,000 acres per year for a total of 10,000 acres. The contract was awarded in November of 2012.

The intent of this contract is to support traditional timber industry and emerging biomass industries and:

- Continue mitigation of undesirable effects of a multi-million acre, mountain pine beetle infestation and to augment establishment of the future forest.
- Mitigate unacceptable fuel loading associated with the bark beetle infestation within the Wildland-Urban Interface.
- Treat safety hazards associated with falling dead trees along public travel corridors and around public infrastructure.
- Begin rehabilitating subalpine and mountain forest types to a condition more resistant to insects, and other disturbance mechanisms. The overall objective for these treatments is to increase age class and species diversity to promote forest resilience to disturbance, watershed health, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

Seven task orders were awarded in the first year for a total of 1,051 acres. These task orders included removal of existing biomass, fuels reduction and hazard tree removal. Implementation of the project is in the initial stages and material removed is currently hauled to a local sawmill and pellet plant.

### Texas

The National Forests in Texas and the National Wild Turkey Federation have been working together through stewardship agreements since 2008. Currently, the forest is using a stewardship agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation to thin forests on the Sam Houston National Forest in an area impacted in the 1980s by Southern Pine Beetle. The agreement is allowing for the removal of timber via thinning that the Forest was unable to sell commercially; this thinning will improve Red-Cockaded Woodpecker habitat. This stewardship agreement has a number of goals, including thinning and preparing for prescribed burning, all of which will lead to restoration of open-pine habitat suitable for Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and Wild Turkey, among other native plant and animal species.

## **Sustainable Operations**

### **Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but 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 business operations also directly support agency cost pool reduction goals for FY 2013 and FY 2014.

### **Overview**

In order to fulfill the Forest Service 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.

### **Success Stories and Current Initiatives**

The Forest Service continues to focus on integrating efforts in Business Operations, the Climate Change Advisor’s Office, Forest Service 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.

- Support a chartered group of sustainability champions across the nation - the Sustainable Operations Collective - that 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, conducted a Ranger Exchange program to promote District-level awareness and actions, and continues to pilot multiple field-level projects. The Collective was recognized with a Chief's Award in FY 2012. The Collective has now shifted to become an agency-wide Collective (not just the West) in FY 2014.

- Strengthen a partnership with the Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Lab to provide technical assistance for energy conservation and renewable energy analysis. The funding for this partnership has been matched by the Department of Energy because they want to provide a whole-agency, systematic approach to energy support.
- Grow a partnership with the General Services Administration (GSA) to increase the momentum for greening fleet and facilities. One innovative component of this partnership is an analysis of our supply chain and support from GSA to partner with vendors to reduce waste and supply green products.
- Continue to build momentum for collectively implementing cost and consumption reducing activities such as those outlined in the Top Ten Actions for Cost and Consumption Reduction letter, where an estimated \$11 to \$33 million savings could be achieved.
- 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 bottom 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 on sites and facilities.
- Develop a database available to field-based employees and managers that contains reliable utility consumption data.
- 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 will focus on the following priorities for sustainable operations:

- Implement 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 Regions, Stations, Areas and the Washington Office. A continuous improvement framework will be coordinated under this agreement. Other agency partners and USDA are part of the Board of Directors.
- Support agency-wide participation and performance of two corporate priority action items: Power IT Down, and Utility Bill Clean-up.

- Continue to implement the national energy cost and consumption plan and develop similar plans for other footprint areas.
- Further partnerships with other agencies such as Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) and General Services Administration (GSA).
- Further field based centers of innovation including: greening fire, net zero fellows, sustainable acquisition, greenhouse gas tracking, peer learning series, eco-fleet and driving team.
- Continue to support making reliable utility consumption data available to field-level employees and managers.

**FY 2015 Sustainable Operations Program Plans**

In FY 2015 the agency will focus on the following priorities for sustainable operations:

- Further the implementation of the continuous improvement framework established in FY 2014 as part of the Nationwide Collective.
- Identify and implement two additional corporate level action items to be adopted on an agency-wide basis.
- Continue to support making reliable utility consumption data and other Sustainable Operations data available to field-level employees and managers.
- Continue partnerships with other agencies such as DOE, EPA, GSA.
- Identify systems to reinvest cost savings back into Sustainable Operations activities – at multiple scales.

**Unobligated Balances**

**Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but 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 2014. 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 2013 Forest Service - Unobligated Balances, End of Year**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Forest Service Appropriation Budget Line Item/Programs</b>	<b>FY 2013 Unobligated Balances</b>
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	
Research and Development	\$7,445
National Fire Plan (NFP) Research Activities	770
Joint Fire Science	2,505
<b>Total Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>\$10,720</b>
<b>State and Private Forestry (S&amp;PF)</b>	
Forest Health - Federal Lands	\$5,358
Forest Health - Coop Lands	441
State Fire Assistance	1,845
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0
Forest Stewardship	2,379
Urban and Community Forestry	1,136
Economic Action Programs	0
Forest Res Info & Analysis	101
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	613
International Forestry	0
NFP Forest Health - Federal Lands	682
NFP Forest Health - Coop Lands	437
NFP State Fire Assistance	0
NFP Volunteer Fire Assistance	244
<b>Total State and Private Forestry</b>	<b>\$13,236</b>
<b>S&amp;PF Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)</b>	
S&PF LWCF (Forest Legacy)	\$7,505
<b>Total S&amp;PF LWCF</b>	<b>\$7,505</b>
<b>National Forest System</b>	
Land Management Planning	\$712
Inventory & Monitoring	1,140

**FY 2013 Forest Service - Unobligated Balances, End of Year**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Forest Service Appropriation Budget Line Item/Programs</b>	<b>FY 2013 Unobligated Balances</b>
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	1,044
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	529
Grazing Management	622
Rehabilitation and Restoration	0
Forest Products	565
Vegetation and Watershed Management	541
Minerals and Geology Management	1,632
Landownership Management	712
Law Enforcement Operations	0
Valles Caldera National Preserve	260
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	11,768
<b>Total National Forest System</b>	<b>\$19,525</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>	
Preparedness	\$6,167
Suppression	18,498
Hazardous Fuels Management	11,867
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	119
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>\$36,651</b>
<b>FLAME Fund</b>	
<b>Total FLAME Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>	
Facilities Capital Improvement/Maintenance	\$3,455
Roads Capital Improvement/Maintenance	1,270
Trails Capital Improvement/Maintenance	3,359
Legacy Roads	2,170
Deferred Maintenance	636
Construction Disaster Supplemental	2,174
<b>Total Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>	<b>\$13,064</b>
<b>Land Acquisition - LWCF</b>	
Land Acquisition	\$2,743
<b>Total Land Acquisition LWCF</b>	<b>\$2,743</b>
<b>Other Appropriations</b>	
Range Betterment Fund	\$854
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	128
Subsistence Management (Region 10)	362
<b>Total Other Appropriations</b>	<b>\$1,344</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$104,788</b>

## **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 program usage 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 currently supporting 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.

The 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 costs to deliver service. Under terms of the general provisions in annual appropriations to USDA, agency administrators must authorize the billing of their agency for services they receive. 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 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.

On the following page is a table displaying Forest Service assessments for USDA WCF services. On subsequent pages is a table describing WCF services provided by the USDA.

**FY 2013 to FY 2015 Working Capital Fund Assessments for the Forest Service**  
(dollars in thousands)

	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Planned</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres. Budget</b>
<b>Core Service</b>			
Central Excess Property Operation	\$112	\$106	\$110
Central Mail Unit	230	240	221
Computer Services Unit	61	102	58
Consolidated Forms and Publications Dist. Center	621	511	533
Comptroller Operation Division	11,830	10,596	10,547
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	92	108	97
Credit Card Service Center	0	1,002	1,189
Enterprise Network Services	5,052	5,232	2,373
Financial Systems	38,170	37,394	37,613
Integrated Procurement System	8,607	7,587	7,809
Internal Control Support Services	258	325	309
Network Services	47	53	55
Office of the Executive Secretariat	732	642	762
Telecommunication Customer Services Center	138	145	148
<b>Total Core Services</b>	<b>\$65,950</b>	<b>\$64,043</b>	<b>\$61,824</b>
<b>USDA Agency Specific Services</b>			
Central Mail Unit	\$24	\$35	\$27
Consolidated Forms and Publication Dist. Center	192	225	220
Copier and Duplicating Services	476	388	487
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	395	400	524
International Technology Services	5,414	5,400	5,400
National Finance Center	9,253	9,325	9,659
National Information Technology Center (NITC)	18,267	20,000	27,915
<b>Total USDA Agency Specific Services</b>	<b>\$34,021</b>	<b>\$35,773</b>	<b>\$44,232</b>
<b>TOTAL WCF ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>\$90,971</b>	<b>\$99,816</b>	<b>\$106,056</b>

The legislative cap for WCF activities, excluding NITC, for FY 2015 is \$82.0 million.

FY 2014 and FY 2015 NITC/ITS costs are estimates and subject to change based on agency execution year needs.

**WCF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Cost Recovery Methodologies</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
National Finance Center Agency Specific	Provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payroll/personnel services to USDA/non-USDA agencies</li> <li>• Applications support to Office of Personnel Management</li> <li>• Record keeper/other services to support the Thrift Savings Plan</li> <li>• Support services for USDA accounting applications</li> <li>• PKI licenses/support</li> </ul>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payroll/personnel services to USDA/non-USDA agencies</li> <li>• Applications support to Office of Personnel Management</li> <li>• Record keeper/other services to support the Thrift Savings Plan</li> <li>• Support services for USDA accounting applications</li> <li>• PKI licenses/support</li> </ul>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Management Modernization Initiative (FMMI - core accounting)</li> <li>• Real property</li> <li>• Corporate integrated administrative payments</li> <li>• Other systems as necessary to support program agency missions and fulfill USDA's fiduciary responsibilities to taxpayers</li> </ul>	Financial/Adm. Pmts: Costs recovered based on agency share of FMMI workload (measured in general journal records) Real Property: Costs recovered basis on agency shares of USDA-owned and GSA/commercially-leased property
Comptroller Operations Services	Provides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core accounting/reporting services</li> <li>• Agency-specific services</li> <li>• Operates a corporate controller organization that integrates accountability and systems across USDA</li> </ul>	Agencies are billed monthly at 1/12 <sup>th</sup> their estimated annual charges

**WCF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Cost Recovery Methodologies</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
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, promotes best practices across the Department to gain consistencies related to internal control for 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 to increase the Department's 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 FMML.	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.

**WCF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Cost Recovery Methodologies</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
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); assists agencies in using telecommunication services in a cost-effective manner.	Agencies' percentage shares are based on prior year agencies' utilization of voice and data telecommunication services. Actual costs for technical and data services are recovered via distribution through the WCF.
Telecom Customer Services Center (TSCS)	Manages and maintains the USDA's voice telephone services in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that 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 in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and voice mail services.	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 (appropriate). The cost for the support services to the Under and Assistant Secretaries are distributed among agencies based on estimated fiscal year nationwide FTEs.

**WCF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Cost Recovery Methodologies</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
Central Supply Stores	Provides required office supplies to the Office of the Secretary and USDA agencies in the Washington, DC metropolitan area; 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 Washington DC, buildings complex and nearby satellite locations (Riverdale Carver Center). A large inventory of pool/convenience copiers is placed within USDA agencies throughout DC area.	Agency shares are based on prior year billings.
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 providing procurement support to USDA agencies; develops, implements, and maintains an interface with the USDA corporate financial system.	Cost is distributed based on actual agency use of the IAS and SmartPay systems. Customers are billed monthly 1/12 of their estimated annual share of costs.

**WCF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Cost Recovery Methodologies</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
Mail Distribution Services	Central Mail: Central processing of incoming, outgoing, and interoffice mail; special handling services for priority items in the DC area; door-to-door pickup and delivery service of routine and special mailings in the DC downtown 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 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 Washington, DC metropolitan area 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 for the Washington, DC metropolitan area.
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 subsidy, postage, unemployment, and workers compensation based on actual costs incurred by individual agencies.

Outside Assessments - Costs such as OPM 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 Reimbursable 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 2013 to FY 2015 Forest Service Greenbook Costs**  
(dollars in thousands)

	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Planned</b>	<b>FY 2015 Estimated</b>
<b>Central Cost Distribution Programs</b>			
GSA Space - Agency	\$39,794	\$39,794	\$40,192
DHS GSA Building Security - Agency specific	3,022	3,022	3,052
U.S. Postal Service Mail - Agency specific	290	290	293
Unemployment Compensation	46,762	46,762	47,230
Workers Compensation	30,695	30,695	31,002
National Archives Records System	485	485	490
Flexible Spending Accounts FSAFEDS - Agency Specific	112	112	113
OPM Federal Employee Svcs and Admin Law Judges	183	183	185
Government-wide Council Activities	172	172	174
E-GOV Initiatives	2,661	2,661	2,688
<b>Total Central Cost Programs</b>	<b>\$124,176</b>	<b>\$124,176</b>	<b>\$125,419</b>
<b>Departmental Reimbursable Programs</b>			
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network	\$978	\$978	\$988
Faith-Based Initiatives & Neighborhood Partnerships	124	124	125
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	92	92	93
Hispanic Serving Institutions National Program (Formerly HACU)	631	631	637
1890 USDA Initiative	930	930	939
USDA 1994 Program (Formerly AIHEC)	248	248	250
USDA Human Resources Transformation (Includes Diversity Council) (Renamed in FY 2012)	516	516	521
Virtual University	653	653	660
Peoples Garden & Visitors Center	283	283	286

**FY 2013 to FY 2015 Forest Service Greenbook Costs**  
(dollars in thousands)

	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Planned</b>	<b>FY 2015 Estimated</b>
Honor Awards	16	16	16
TARGET Center	290	290	293
Sign Language Interpreter Services	134	134	135
Emergency Operations Center	734	734	741
Continuity of Operations Planning	664	664	671
Medical Services	21	21	21
Personnel and Document Security	384	384	388
Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program (Formerly Biobased Markets Program)	109	109	110
Facility Infrastructure Review and Assessment (New in FY 2012)	142	142	143
Retirement Processor Web Application	180	180	182
Preauthorized Funding	1,180	1,180	1,192
E-GOV Initiatives HSPD12	2,136	2,136	2,157
FEMA Emergency Preparedness	109	109	110
Consolidated Federal Funds Report	16	16	16
GSA HSPD12 Lincpass Maintenance	1,045	1,045	1,055
Transit Subsidy	1,072	1,072	1,083
<b>Total Reimbursable Programs</b>	<b>\$12,687</b>	<b>\$12,687</b>	<b>\$12,812</b>
<b>TOTAL GREENBOOK</b>	<b>\$136,863</b>	<b>\$136,863</b>	<b>\$138,231</b>

*FY 2015 estimate is unavailable at this time. The FY 2015 numbers reflect the FY 2014 planned increased by 1% non-pay inflation factor.*

*The legislative cap for the Departmental reimbursable program activities is \$14.5 million.*

**Greenbook Activities**

<b>Central Cost Distribution Programs</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
General Service Administration (GSA) Space - Agency	Provides for the payment of rental 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 SLUC Appropriation.
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.

**Greenbook Activities**

**Central Cost Distribution Programs**

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
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 nation-wide 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.
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 the USDA implementation efforts in the faith-based and neighborhood outreach areas and to support the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives regional outreach conferences. This office was established at the U.S. Department of Agriculture by executive order on December 12, 2002.	Distribution is based on current fiscal year nationwide FTE employment ceilings for each USDA agency.

**Greenbook Activities**

**Central Cost Distribution Programs**

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
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 1890 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.
USDA Human Resources Transformation Program (Includes Diversity Council)	Establishes policy, coordinates and evaluates the USDA agencies' efforts to carryout diversity programs. Creates a culture of change within the USDA's agencies that ensures its 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.

**Greenbook Activities**

**Central Cost Distribution Programs**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
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 fiscal year 2011, DC Metro Area Sign Language Services will be included in the Departmental Reimbursable Program and a Metro Area FTE cost recovery basis will be used. The intent of this change is 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.
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.

**Greenbook Activities**

**Central Cost Distribution Programs**

Activity	Description	Cost Distribution
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 <sup>SM</sup> 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	The Radiation Safety is responsible for administering the USDA radiation safety program including ensuring compliance with the 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.

**Greenbook Activities**

<b>Central Cost Distribution Programs</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
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.
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	To Improve 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 OCIO.
E-Gov Initiatives - Content Management Services	Content Management Services comprise a suite 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.

**Greenbook Activities**

**Central Cost Distribution Programs**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost Distribution</b>
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 alternative.	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 2015 Program Changes**

The FY 2015 budget request includes \$960,000 for WERC, the same as the FY 2013 and FY 2014 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 \$730,000,

leaving \$230,000 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 2012 – FY 2015 WERC Allocations**  
(dollars in thousands)

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2012 Allocation</b>	<b>FY 2013 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2014 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2015 Pres Bud</b>
WERC	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960

In FY 2015, 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 the 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 2013 Accomplishments**

In FY 2013, WERC cooperated with the WO Cooperative Forestry office to successfully conduct a Statewide Wood Energy Team competitive grants program which enabled the funding of five statewide wood energy teams in the states of Arkansas, California, Idaho, Minnesota, New Hampshire. WERC continued its outreach efforts to industry and communities by providing over 25 industry-related workshop/training sessions/webinars/webcasts. 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.

<p><b>WERC’s Woody Biomass Technical Support Team</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Since 2009, benefits have included over \$4.5 million in annual operating savings, over \$5.2 million in capital cost savings, and annual net CO<sub>2</sub> offset of over 35.5 metric tons. Additional details about the program can be viewed at <a href="http://na.fs.fed.us/werc/biomass/index.shtm">http://na.fs.fed.us/werc/biomass/index.shtm</a>.</p>
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WERC allocated \$167,000 to four new or existing grants and agreements that focus on wood energy preliminary assessments, industry training, and green building products. 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. Several of these projects focused on sustainable uses of woody biomass. 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.

In addition, numerous preliminary assessments pertaining to the potential conversion of boiler systems to woody biomass systems have been completed through WERC’s Woody Biomass Technical Assistance Team.

**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 website clearing house for information
- 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](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 (<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**

**Background**

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but is included to report expenses necessary for the Working Capital Fund.

**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 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Pres. Budget
Equipment - Fleet	\$172,461	\$176,433	\$192,234
Equipment - Aircraft	5,340	8,109	8,536
Nursery	11,656	11,890	12,187
Enterprise Services	43,600	44,500	45,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$233,057</b>	<b>\$240,932</b>	<b>\$257,957</b>

## **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. WCF rates are determined so that WCF recovers operating and replacement costs within a certain time period. 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. 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	
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	September 30, 2018	Research	P.L. 113-79	7 U.S.C. 7655

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Agriculture Grants and Powers Act of 1965	disseminate science-based tools that address the needs of the forestry sector. These activities must be carried out in coordination with the Forest Service, including the Forest Product’s Laboratory.				
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		NFS	P.L. 81-348	16 U.S.C. 581j-k

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	reforestation and vegetation programs.				
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
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 learning; (2) replace other laboratory functions; and (3) acquire other land or interests in Idaho.		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
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 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.		NFS	P.L. 96-586	
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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
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

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 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
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. 4601-6d

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 access. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary.		SPF	P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2103d
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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” such as sediment, or metals such as iron or aluminum which are not listed hazardous substances, are impacting the environment.		NFS	P.L. 96-510	42 U.S.C. 9601
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 Program, and the Urban and Community Forestry Program.		SPF	P.L. 95-313	16 U.S.C. 2101-2114
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 protection resources for the protection of State and privately owned lands. Structure and dump fire protection, which are the responsibility of local fire departments,		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
	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 1968 and contains the first official school for forestry in America..		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
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, & Fire Management	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 national forests and other lands administered by the agency.		WFM	P.L. 78-425	16 U.S.C. 579a
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 Recreation Enhancement Act	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 on recreation fee programs.	12/08/2015	NFS	P.L. 108-447; P.L. 113-46	16 U.S.C. 6806 and 6807

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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
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		ALL	P.L. 95-113	7 U.S.C. 3318-3319d

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	cooperating institutions without competition.				
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
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
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 Facility Realignment Pilot	The Interior and Related Agencies 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.	09/30/2008	CIM	P.L. 107-63, 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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 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.	09/30/2018	International Forestry; R&D	P.L. 101-624; P.L. 107-171; P.L. 110-234, sec 8202	7 U.S.C. 6701 to 6708
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	Permanent		113-79	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950	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.		ALL	P.L. 81-478	16 U.S.C. 572
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.	09/30/2015	NFS	P.L. 108-108, Sec. 325; P.L. 111-88; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-46; P.L. 113-76	43 U.S.C. 1752

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 of this section.		NFS	P.L. 108-447, Sec. 348	16 U.S.C. 461 note
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 (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		ALL	P.L. 108-148; P.L. 110-246	portions of 16 U.S.C. 6501 - 18 and 16 U.S.C. 6541-6591

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	providing watershed forestry assistance.				
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
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

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, 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
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 reforestation of 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 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.		NFS	P.L. 71-319; P.L. 94-588; P.L. 109-54	16 U.S.C. 576b
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	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 means as the Secretary considers appropriate.	9/30/2016		P.L. 109-54 P.L.1 11-8 P.L. 112-74 16 U.S.C. 580d	
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. 4601-4
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		NFS	P.L. 105-277, Title V of Sec. 101 - e	16 USC 460111 (Chapter 1, subchapter CXXIII)

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962	<p>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 Recreation Area, to be deposited into the LBL Management Fund to be available for obligation until expended.</p>		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	<p>This Act provides authority to: (a) dispose of mineral material and (b) approve and issue permits to explore and develop oil and gas leases.</p>		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 under the first section of P.L. 94-148 from Chapter 63 of Title 31, United States Code.		ALL	P.L. 111-11, sec. 3001	16 U.S.C. 1011
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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
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,		LEI	P.L. 99-570	16 U.S.C. 559b note, 559b-559g

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	equipment, facilities, training, and cooperative programs, \$10 million annually.				
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
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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, dispose of, and replace infested trees. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as are necessary.		SPF	P.L. 110-246	16 U.S.C. 2101a and continuing
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
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		NFS	P.L. 100-638	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	provisions of the Act.				
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; P.L. 113-79	42 U.S.C. 1856a-d;
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 for the trust fund balance.		NFS	P.L. 96-451	16 U.S.C. 1606a
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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 2012.	does not expire but there have been no excess receipts generated since 1989; final funds spent in FY 2012.	NFS	P.L. 101-121	
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
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		CIM	P.L. 85-767	23 U.S.C., Sections 107(d), 204(f) and 317

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	for highway rights-of-way.				
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
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		NFS	P.L. 90-327	16 U.S.C. 693b-d

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	and gifts to further the purposes of the Act.				
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	
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-	This Act, originally authorized through FY 2006 as P.L. 106-393, provides choices to counties to	09/30/2013		P.L. 106-393; P.L. 110-343;	16 U.S.C. 500 note; 16

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
Determination Act of 2000	<p>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.)</p>			<p>P.L. 112-141; P.L. 113-30</p>	<p>U.S.C. 7101 et seq</p>
Service First	<p>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.</p>		ALL	<p>P.L. 106-291; P.L. 109-54; P.L. 111-8; P.L. 112-74</p>	<p>43 U.S.C. 1701 note</p>
Shasta Trinity Marina Permit Fee Collection	<p>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.</p>	9/30/2019	NFS	<p>P.L. 110-161; P.L. 111-88; P.L. 113-76</p>	<p>16 U.S.C. 497; 16 U.S.C. 6807</p>

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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
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.		WFM	P.L. 108-317	16 U.S.C. 6701-6707

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
	Authorizes \$15 million annually.				
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	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
	made this authority permanent.				
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

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
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, 1908 (sec. 60.1 paragraph 1), shall not be applicable to the national forest land to which this Act applies.		NFS	P.L. 87-351; P.L. 94-384	16 U.S.C. 577g

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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
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	

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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 are available for preparation of additional timber sales and recreation backlog projects.		NFS	P.L. 104-134	16 U.S.C. 1611 note
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	Authorization to transfer up to \$10,000,000 from the National Forest Systems appropriation to	Permanent	NFS	P.L. 108-447; P.L. 111-88;	

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC reference
and Burro and Cadastral surveys	BLM for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from NFS lands, and for cadastral surveys..			P.L. 113-76	
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
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

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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. This includes the authority to assess fees for admission to and use of the Preserve. In addition, the Trust may solicit and accept donations of funds, property, supplies, or services for the purpose of management of the Preserve.		NFS	P.L. 106-248	16 U.S.C. 698v-4, 698v-6
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		ALL	P.L. 105-277 Sec. 323; P.L. 111-11 Sec. 3001	16 U.S.C. 1011 note

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Weeks Act of 1911	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.		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
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