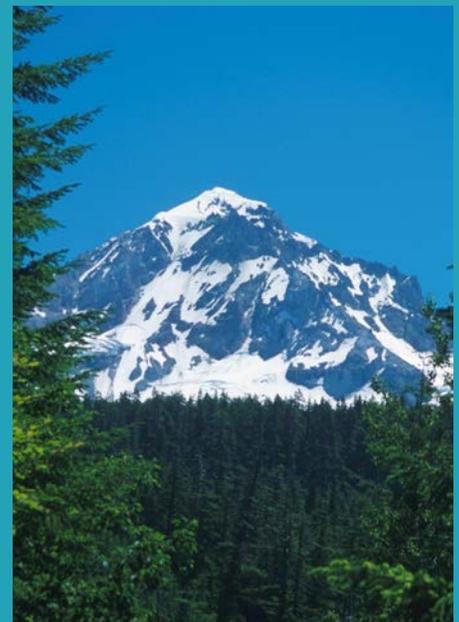
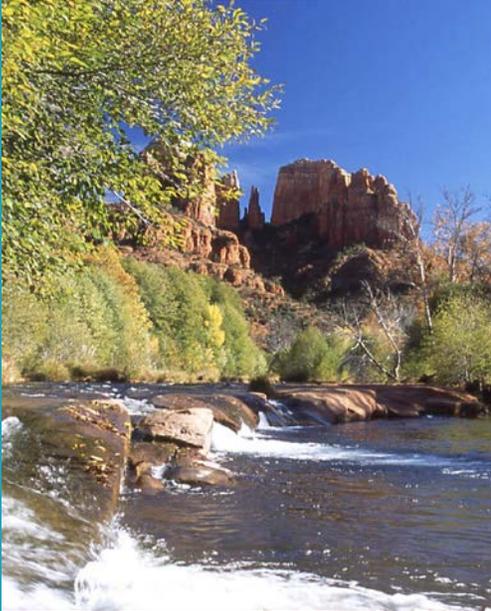




United States
Department of
Agriculture

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Overview



Forest
Service

February 2015

REVISED

USDA Forest Service Snapshot

- The Forest Service manages 193 million acres in 44 States and territories representing 30 percent of all federally owned lands.
- There are 154 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and eight national monuments managed by the Forest Service.
- Seven research units, including the Forest Products Laboratory and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry employ more than 500 scientists working at the forefront of natural resource and social science to improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands.
- Scientists, engineers and cartographers staff and operate two Technology and Development Centers, 80 Experimental Forests, and a Geospatial Service and Technology Center in support of scientific advances in resource management.
- The Forest Service manages 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers in 18 states with a capacity to house, educate, and train over 6,200 young Americans. Students can complete their GED or high school diploma, take college classes and get training in more than 30 occupations.
- The Forest Service manages 442 wilderness areas, encompassing more than 36 million acres of rare, wild lands for the American people, today and in the future.
- The Forest Service employs approximately 35,000 scientists, administrators, and land managers.
- Working with partners, Forest Service programs restored or enhanced more than 6.1 million acres of public and private forest lands in FY 2014, making them more resilient to the effects of wildfire.
- Various activities on Forest Service lands contribute more than \$36 billion to America's economy each year supporting nearly 450,000 jobs.

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In the spirit of our agency motto, “Caring for the land and serving people,” this budget overview summarizes the goods, services, values, and benefits that we will provide to the American people during Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. In this budget overview, we provide our priorities in serving the American people and our many corresponding programs and activities. You can find full details in the program sections of our Budget Justification. In the following pages, you can also find out about the challenges facing the Nation’s forest and grassland resources, some of the richest in the world; and you will see how we propose to meet those challenges on your behalf and with your help. We will continue to rely on help and support from our partners, for the challenges facing the Nation’s forests and grasslands are daunting, and none of us can meet them alone.

The FY 2016 President’s Budget continues to call for a fundamental change in how wildfire suppression is funded to reduce fire risk, manage landscapes more holistically, and increase resiliency of the Nation’s forests and rangelands and the communities that border them. The cost of fire management has grown from 13 percent of the agency’s budget in the 1990s to over 50 percent in 2014. It is subsuming the agency’s budget and jeopardizing our ability to successfully implement our full mission. The Budget proposes a fiscally responsible funding strategy that considers catastrophic wildland fires as disasters, to be funded in part by budget authority provided through a wildfire suppression cap adjustment which is outside the discretionary appropriation of the agency. This strategy provides increased certainty in addressing growing fire suppression funding needs, better safeguards non-suppression programs from transfers that have diminished their effectiveness, and allows us to stabilize and invest in programs that will more effectively restore forested landscapes, treat forests for the increasing effects of climate change, and prepare communities in the wildland urban interface to manage for future wildfires.

Forest Service Overview

Our mission at the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service manages a system of 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 44 States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National Forest System includes specially designated Wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Monuments, research and experimental areas, and other unique natural and cultural treasures. These lands encompass 193 million acres, an area almost twice the size of California. They provide some of the richest resources and most breathtaking scenery in the world, as well as drinking water for millions of Americans, along with hundreds of thousands of jobs. Thousands of communities across the Nation depend on the national forests and grasslands for their social well-being and economic prosperity. Thousands of businesses, both big and small, provide recreation services to the public to help them enjoy and experience the national forests and grasslands.

As the Nation’s leading forestry organization, we also serve Americans in other ways. We support the sustainable stewardship of non-Federal forest land across the Nation, including 423 million acres of private forest land, 69 million acres of State forest land, 18 million acres of Tribal forests, and over 130 million acres of urban and community forests. In addition, we maintain the largest forestry research organization in the world, with more than a century of discoveries in such areas as wood and forest products, fire behavior and management, and

sustainable forest management. In an age of global interconnectedness, we also support the sustainable stewardship of forests around the world. We have provided critical research and technical assistance to people in more than 80 countries around the world.

Value of the Forest Service

America's forests, grasslands, and other open spaces are integral to the social, ecological, and economic well-being of the Nation. Our job at the Forest Service is to make sure that Americans continue to get all the values and benefits they need from their forests and grasslands, both now and in the future.

Jobs and Economic Activity

The benefits from Forest Service programs and activities include jobs and economic activity, especially in rural areas where other sources of employment and economic growth might be few. Jobs and economic benefits stem not only from public use of the national forests and grasslands, but also from Forest Service management activities and infrastructure investments.

In FY 2011, for example, the various activities on the NFS contributed over \$36 billion to America's gross domestic product and supported nearly 450,000 jobs.¹ Over 68 percent of the contribution to the economy was associated with direct use of National Forest System lands and resources, including land use fees from privately provided recreation services – ski areas, outfitting and guiding, campground concessions; expenditures related to skiing, hiking, hunting, fishing, and other forms of outdoor recreation; the generation of energy, minerals, and traditional forest products; and livestock grazing. More than 26 percent was tied to agency expenditures, such as for restoration treatments—activities designed to restore the health and resilience of degraded forests and other ecosystems. Of the remaining five percent, about half came from payments to States and counties to support schools, roads, and other government services. The rest came from other expenditures, such as operating Job Corps centers and Federal Highway Administration programs on forest roads.

Forest Service investments in research and development also create jobs. In his state of the union address for 2014, the President stated: “We know that the nation that goes all-in on innovation today will own the global economy tomorrow. This is an edge America cannot surrender.” He called for more federally funded research to help lead to the ideas and inventions that will drive tomorrow's economy, pointing out that “one of the biggest factors in bringing more jobs back is our commitment to American energy.” Accordingly, a top priority for Forest Service researchers is developing wood-to-energy technologies.

The Forest Service leverages taxpayer funds by engaging a wide range of partners who contribute to investments in land management projects and activities. In FY 2014, for example, we entered into more than 9,300 grants and agreements with partners who added a \$613 million

¹ National Visitor Use Monitoring Results USDA Forest Service National Summary Report (Data collected FY 2007 through FY 2011).

in cash and noncash contributions. Combined with our own contribution of nearly \$700 million, the total value of these partnerships was over \$1.3 billion.

The total value of our grants and agreements surpassed the value of our contracts for the acquisition of goods and services for the direct benefit of the Forest Service. The growing value of grants and agreements demonstrates the increasing importance of partnerships in fulfilling the Forest Service mission. Many of these partnership projects were accomplished by volunteers and service participants with conservation and service corps and other AmeriCorps partners. In FY 2013, more than 103,000 volunteers and service participants contributed 4,048,333 service hours valued at \$89.6 million. Their hourly contributions were equal to 1,946 full-time equivalents (FTE) (2,080 hours per FTE).

Other Benefits

Noncommercial uses provide crucial benefits and services to the American people. For example, many Tribal people use the national forests and grasslands for hunting, fishing, and gathering wild foods and other materials for personal use. Tribes also use sacred sites on the national forests and grasslands for ritual and spiritual purposes.

Although it is difficult to estimate the cash value of most noncommercial services, the value can often be quantified in other ways, as the following examples show.

- *Outdoor experiences, access, citizen stewardship, and environmental education.* The national forests and grasslands attract about 160 million visits per year and thousands of volunteers and youth seeking a wide range of outdoor experiences. Outdoor recreation experiences are a high priority for our visitors. Slightly more than 50 percent



Two kayakers row down a creek through Van Norden Meadow in Royal Gorge on Donner Summit near Lake Tahoe, CA. Tahoe National Forest.

reported engaging in a strenuous physical activity. Visitors also reported visiting with family and friends to picnic, viewing and photographing wildlife and nature, gathering plants and other natural products, or coming to escape noise and crowds and simply relax. Citizen stewardship values draw tens of thousands of volunteers annually who want to contribute their time and effort to a public lands legacy for the next generation. Studies have shown that

outdoor activities, particularly in natural settings, contribute to health and well-being by reducing stress and increasing fitness, thereby lowering our Nation's health care costs and enriching lives.

- *Water.* More than half of our Nation's freshwater flows from public and private forest lands,² and about 60 million Americans rely on drinking water that originates on the national forests and grasslands.³ Forest Service land management, combined with Forest Service assistance to private landowners, helps protect the single greatest source of drinking water in the Nation.
- *Urban benefits.* More than 83 percent of Americans live in metropolitan areas, where opportunities to experience nature are often fewer than in rural areas. Our Urban and Community Forestry program assists cities, suburbs and towns across the country in improving the condition of community trees and forests. The Forest Service has an array of programs designed to get people into the woods, especially children. Each year, we reach an average of more than five million people with conservation education programs.

We support sustainable forest management on all of the Nation's forests through our Research and Development and State and Private Forestry programs. Forest landowners of all kinds benefit from our forest-related research, as does anyone who buys products made from wood. Through our Forest Inventory and Analysis program, for example, we report on forest conditions such as volume, productivity, and health. The forest products industry and wood-to-energy industry rely on the information we provide to make investment decisions.

Fifty-six percent of the 751 million acres of the Nation's forested land is privately owned. We also work closely with the State Foresters to help State forest managers and private forest landowners to sustainably manage America's working forests. Through our Forest Health Management program, for example, we monitor and assess forest health conditions on all lands nationwide, both public and private, tracking outbreaks of insects and disease and providing funds for treating areas at risk. Our Slow the Spread program has reduced the spread rate of gypsy moth by 60 percent, with a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3:1. Without the program, about 50 million more acres would be infested, resulting in the need for larger and more costly treatment needs in the future.

America benefits from investments in its green infrastructure, and Americans from all walks of life and every demographic group participate. Our goal at the Forest Service is to ensure the ability of our Nation's forests and grasslands to deliver a full range of jobs and benefits, both now and for future generations to come.

² USDA Forest Service. 2007. Assessment of the status and trends of natural resources from U.S. forest and range lands. FS-875. Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service.

³ Sedell, J.; Sharpe, M.; Apple, D.D.; Copenhagen, M.; Furniss, M. 2000. Water and the Forest Service. FS-660. Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service.



Challenges to Conservation

Our Nation's ability to protect its forest and grassland resources is now at risk due to drought, invasive species, uncharacteristically severe wildfires, and uncharacteristically severe outbreaks of insects and disease, all exacerbated by a changing climate. Such stresses and disturbances are affecting America's forests, grasslands, and watersheds across the country. Since 2000, for example, at least 10 States have had their largest fires on record, and some have had their records broken more than once. Forest Service scientists predict that fire seasons could return to levels not seen since the 1940s, reaching 12 to 15 million acres annually.

The encroachment of homes and communities into areas prone to wildfire is an increasing management challenge. From 2000 to 2030, the U. S. could see substantial increases in housing density on 44 million acres of private forest land nationwide, an area nearly as large as North and South Carolina combined.⁴ More than 70,000 communities are now at risk from wildfire, and less than 15,000 have a community wildfire protection plan or an equivalent plan.⁵

Growth and development are also reducing America's forest habitat and fragmenting what remains. From 2010 to 2060, the U.S. is expected to lose up to 31 million acres of forest overall, an area larger than Pennsylvania.⁶ Twenty-seven percent of all forest-associated plants and animals in the U.S., a total of 4,005 species, are at risk of extinction.⁷

Many threatened, endangered, and sensitive species find refuge on the national forests and grasslands, but stresses and disturbances are affecting these lands as well. Invasive weeds such as kudzu, cheatgrass, leafy spurge, and spotted knapweed have infested about 6 million acres on the national forests and grasslands, an area the size of Massachusetts. The area affected by an epidemic of mountain pine beetle in the West has reached 32 million acres on the national forests alone. In 2012, the Forest Service



Volunteers using shovels and picks remove clusters of invasive hounds tongue from a high elevation meadow in the Raggeds Wilderness on the Gunnison and White River National Forests.

⁴ USDA Forest Service. 2005. Forests on the edge: Housing development in America's private forests. PNW-GTR-636. Portland, OR: Pacific Northwest Research Station.

⁵ USDA Forest Service. 2012. National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System.

⁶ USDA Forest Service. 2012. Future scenarios: A technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA assessment. RMRS-GTR-272. Fort Collins, CO: Rocky Mountain Research Station.

⁷ USDA Forest Service. 2011b. National report on sustainable forests—2011. FS-979. Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service.



estimated that 65 to 82 million acres on the NFS were in need of fuels and forest health treatments—up to 42 percent of the entire system.

In a country where more than 80 percent of the population lives in urban areas, our citizenry is becoming more disconnected from the natural environment. Our Nation's forests and grasslands, community green spaces, and urban forests play a critical role in fostering healthy and sustainable communities and providing opportunities for a diversity of Americans to connect with the outdoors. The Forest Service must also do more to make our workforce reflect the diversity of the American population. We need the diversity of thought that comes from a diverse workforce in order to successfully meet current and future conservation challenges.

Forest Service Response

To meet the daunting challenges ahead, the FY 2016 President's Budget for the Forest Service focuses on five key areas: restoring resilient landscapes; building thriving communities; managing wildland fires; promoting safety, both for our own employees and for the people we serve; and building a diverse and inclusive workforce. All five emphasis areas are consistent with the strategic goals and objectives outlined in the Forest Service's Strategic Plan for FY 2015–2020.

The President's proposed budget for discretionary funding for the Forest Service in FY 2016 is \$4.9 billion, which is \$130 million less than the FY 2015 Enacted level but with strategic increases to meet public demand to increase forest restoration and reduce wildfire threats to communities.

Restoring Resilient Landscapes

The Forest Service responds to the many stressors affecting our landscapes and watersheds by restoring healthy, resilient forests and grasslands. By restoration, we mean restoring the functions and processes characteristic of healthier, more resistant, more resilient ecosystems, even if they are not exactly the same systems that were there in the past. People and the communities they live in depend on natural resources from forests and grasslands for their livelihoods and well-being. Our goal is to protect and restore the ability of America's forests and grasslands to deliver all the social, economic, and ecological values and benefits that Americans want and need, both now and for generations to come. The value of ecosystem services flowing from the Nation's forested lands has been estimated to range from \$96.5 billion to \$5.7 trillion annually.⁸ This results in benefits values between \$303 and \$17,857 for every American each year. There is general agreement that there are many important benefits of healthy ecosystems that cannot be expressed in monetary terms, which makes this a conservative estimate.

For decades, the Forest Service has focused on protecting and restoring critical forested landscapes, not only on the national forests, but also on non-Federal lands. In response to the

⁸ De Groot, R.S., L. Brander, S. Ploeg, R. Constanza, F. Bernard, L. Braat, M. Christie, N. Crossman, A. Ghermandi, L. Hein, S. Hussain, P. Kumar, A. McVittie, R. Portela, L.C. Rodriguez, P. tenBrink, P. vanBeukering. 2012. Global estimates of the value of ecosystems and their services in monetary units. *Ecosystem Services* 1, 50-61. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212041612000101>.



2008 Farm Bill, all 50 States prepared comprehensive State Forest Action Plans identifying the forested landscapes most in need of protection and restoration. Based on these State Forest Action Plans, the Forest Service has been working with State and other partners to tailor our programs accordingly, applying our limited resources to the most critical landscapes.

The FY 2016 President's Budget for the Forest Service will leverage new opportunities to build landscape and community resilience. We will provide the restoration treatments and infrastructure needed to protect and restore healthy, resilient ecosystems—ecosystems capable of furnishing abundant and clean drinking water; resisting damage from fire, insects, and diseases; and sustaining a strong productive capacity, thereby supporting economic opportunities for rural communities. Community resilience includes urban to rural outreach through Conservation Education programs, 21st Century Conservation Service Corps training opportunities and employment, engaging citizens as stewards through volunteer and service programs, outdoor recreation experiences, and Urban and Community Forestry programs. All of these programs are designed to address the growing disconnect our predominately urban population has with the natural world and the natural resources that are so important in our daily lives.



Friends of the Nevada Wilderness partnered with the U.S. Forest Service for a National Public Lands Day Event at the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area near Las Vegas, Nevada.

We restore degraded ecosystems by working with partners across shared landscapes through an integrated set of actions and programs designed to increase ecological health and resilience while sustaining social and economic systems. By coordinating our programs, expertise, and partnerships, we restore landscapes that are functional and resilient, contributing to a high quality of life for the people we serve. We work with partners through a suite of “restorative actions” for the benefit of forests, grasslands, and watersheds across rural and urban communities alike. Such actions range from restoring fire to its natural role in backcountry landscapes to working with urban communities to plant trees and reduce storm water runoff.

Foundational Areas

The FY 2016 President’s Budget for the Forest Service will set the stage for restorative actions, providing the necessary infrastructure as well as the needed scientific and organizational foundations for ecological restoration.

- *Our researchers will create and apply the science needed to support risk-based decision-making.* Ecosystems are tremendously complex, as are the forces affecting them, including climate-related stresses and disturbances such as drought, wildfires, insect outbreaks, and invasive species. We conduct long-term research in such areas as forest disturbances, climate change effects, fire and fuels, invasive species, pollinators, wildlife and fish, and resource management and use. Our restoration work is predicated on a good understanding of changing conditions on the ground as well as the risks involved in our management decisions and any potential tradeoffs. Our researchers will provide managers with the knowledge they need to make sound risk-based decisions to take restorative actions. The FY 2016 President’s Budget would continue the work of Forest Service Research and Development (FS R&D) to support the Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change. The Hubs provide coordinated technical support to supplement USDA agriculture and land management program delivery, especially to underserved and vulnerable communities, Tribes, and individuals. The Hubs will be responsive to the information and technical needs of public and private forest landowners. The FY 2016 President’s Budget would fund Forest Service Research and Development at \$292 million.
- *Our researchers will measure and assess forest and grassland ecosystems across landscapes.* Our Forest Inventory and Analysis program delivers the information we need to identify the most pressing threats to forested watersheds across the Nation and is foundational to measuring progress in the achievement of climate mitigation objectives under the President’s Climate Action Plan. Through our national network of 81 experimental forests and ranges, the Forest Service has collected more than a century of data and records on most of America’s forest types and many other ecosystems, providing a firm foundation for sustainable land management and ecological restoration. We will provide the information needed for our own land managers to make sound restoration investments—and for the forest products industry and family forest landowners alike to make sound investments in mills, private forest management, wood-to-energy facilities, and other enterprises. The FY 2016 President’s Budget would fund Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) at \$83 million, an increase of \$13 million from the FY 2015 Enacted level. Providing this resource level for



FIA strengthens the capacity of the Forest Service to complete field inventory work in all 50 States and in U.S. Territories, and for the first time interior Alaska.

- *Our researchers will find new ways of utilizing low-value woody materials, and we will work with partners to market woody biomass for energy and other uses.* Restoration activities typically involve the removal of timber and woody biomass to help restore healthy, resilient forests. Private facilities for wood utilization buy the materials removed, providing the Forest Service with resources to do more restoration while offsetting restoration costs to the taxpayer. By finding high-value, high-volume, economically viable uses for forest biomass, we can pay for more forest restoration activities while providing jobs in rural communities. Such outcomes require investments across program areas in research and development, education and technology transfer, rural community assistance, and on-the-ground removal of woody materials. Through an integrated forest products industry, public and private landowners can work together to sustain America's forests and working landscapes while addressing the impacts of a changing climate.
- *We will reduce our environmental footprint as an agency while gaining maximum value from our operations and assets.* The Forest Service maintains and manages almost 27,000 recreation sites and about 23,000 research, recreation, and other administrative buildings, plus additional structures, including dams, telecommunication facilities, and water and wastewater facilities. In accordance with our own conservation goals, we are working to reduce the environmental footprint of our facilities by reducing energy use, promoting the use of green building techniques and materials, and formulating a national strategy for the right number of facilities at the right size. To save costs, we defer new construction whenever we have reasonable, cost-effective alternatives. By 2019, we will have taken a series of actions to make our operations more sustainable, reducing our environmental footprint in the areas of water usage, waste generation, energy consumption, and the number and energy efficiency of our vehicles.

Core Restorative Action Areas

To promote restoration, the FY 2016 President's Budget for the Forest Service will make strategic investments across agency programs. Leveraging the strengths of multiple programs, we will achieve a common goal: healthy, resilient landscapes—forests and grasslands that can meet the needs of the people and communities we serve. We will continue to take a science-based approach to address climate-related stresses and to help forests and grasslands recover from climate-related disturbances while sustaining their ability to sequester atmospheric carbon. We will work with USDA to implement the President's Climate Action Plan. We will join the Department of the Interior in requesting \$400 million in discretionary funding and \$500 in mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY 2016, with all \$900 million coming from mandatory funding in FY 2017. Full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund supports the President's Climate Action Plan and his goals for species conservation.

- *We will work with partners to keep working forests working—to protect open space and critical habitat connectivity.* We will use the State Forest Action Plans to identify and conserve forests critical for wildlife habitat and rural jobs. Through the States, we provide

working forests with permanent protection by purchasing conservation easements from willing private landowners. We will also work with our State partners to pursue landscape-scale projects across a mix of programs to target the forested areas most in need of restoration treatments while also leveraging partner funds. In addition, we will work with communities to help them acquire local lands for public recreation and watershed benefits. Our goal is to help create a Nation of citizen-stewards committed to conserving healthy, resilient forests for the benefit of future generations. The FY 2016 President's Budget would fund Landscape Scale Restoration at \$23.5 million, an increase of \$9.5 million from the FY 2015 Enacted level. The Forest Legacy Program would receive \$61 million, an \$8 million increase over the FY 2015 enacted level.

- *We will manage forest and grassland vegetation across the National Forest System for the density, composition, and other conditions characteristic of healthy, resilient landscapes.* For example, our Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program was created in 2009 to restore high-priority forested landscapes, improve forest health, promote job stability, create a reliable wood supply, and reduce firefighting risks across the United States. The program currently supports 23 large-scale projects for 10-year funding, mostly on the National Forest System but also on adjacent private and other lands. The projects support an array of restoration activities, including reducing hazardous fuels, restoring watershed function and resilience, increasing pollinator forage, and improving forest vegetation and wildlife habitat. These projects help local economies by creating and maintaining jobs in rural communities, generating commercial timber and biomass for energy production, and restoring forest health while reducing the need for fire suppression in overgrown forests. The collaborative nature of the program ties communities to local forest landscapes, engaging them in the work needed to restore surrounding landscapes and watersheds. Under the program, our public/private partnerships are leveraging new resources to support the Forest Service's restoration goals. The FY 2016 President's Budget for the Forest Service includes a proposal to increase funding authority for the program from \$40 million to \$80 million, with funding in FY 2016 requested at \$60 million. The funding increase will allow for additional projects; the budget will also extend authority for the program through 2024 to allow for full completion of new projects.
- *We will respond to insects and disease, helping to prevent and control them across the Nation.* We conduct risk mapping, inventories, and surveys to identify priority areas threatened by invasive species and native forest pests and disease, including invasive species such as gypsy moth, quagga and zebra mussels, emerald ash borer, white pine blister rust, and invasive plants and noxious weeds. When identifying the areas at greatest risk and deciding how to respond, we work in collaboration with Federal, State, Tribal, and private landowners, in part by supporting State Forest Action Plans, State Invasive Species Management Plans, and other relevant plans and strategies. We also work with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, and other Federal and State agencies, to coordinate the funding, actions, and messaging needed to address specific invasive species threats. We will use new authorities to address the high-priority "insect and disease areas" designated by USDA under the 2014 Farm Bill across nearly 46 million acres, and increase our partnerships to effectively

implement our comprehensive National Invasive Species Management Policy across the NFS.

- *We will help disturbed and degraded ecosystems and landscapes recover and regenerate.* A classic case is the longleaf pine ecosystem, which once covered almost 90 million acres in a vast arc across the Southeastern Coastal Plain. Today, only 3.4 million acres of the original longleaf pine forest remain. As a result, longleaf-associated species have sharply declined; 29 have been federally listed. The Forest Service is working with partners to restore longleaf pine throughout much of its range. By restoring longleaf pine, we will recover a forest type not only better adapted than other forest types to such climate-related stresses as fires and storms, but also containing prime habitat for threatened and endangered species such as red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise. In addition to restoring degraded forest types such as longleaf pine and ponderosa pine, we will focus on recovering grasslands and aquatic systems, including watershed functions and green infrastructure in urban areas. For example, we are expanding our work with cities such as New York, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles, working with an array of partners in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership to restore watersheds in urban areas.
- *We will work with the States to leverage partner funds for restoration.* The 2014 Farm Bill permanently authorizes and expands the Good Neighbor Authority, enabling us to work more effectively with all 50 States to expand collaborative restoration work across the country.
 - *In Colorado, Federal and State partners working across multiple ownerships to increase the effectiveness of fuel reduction efforts have used Good Neighbor Authority.* Projects have occurred on four of the seven national forests in Colorado. These projects focused mostly on fuels reduction in the wildland-urban interface and treated over 3,800 acres. In Utah, the authority has been successfully used on timber sale preparation, burning assistance, and extensively with the rehabilitation of trails, fences, road drainage, and meadow protection.
 - *Over \$2 million of work has been completed to date.* Costs compare very favorably to costs for Forest Service only treatments. In some cases, additional partners such as the Denver Water Board paid for the treatments on National Forest System lands adjacent to their ownership. Non-monetary benefits include:
 - national forest, State, and private lands are at less risk from catastrophic wildland fire,
 - the fuel treatments conducted provide defensible space for firefighters to occupy while combating fire from moving from forests to developed areas, or vice versa, and
 - an impediment to cross-boundary watershed restoration activities (i.e. “boundary less management”) was removed, resulting in greater protective and restoration accomplishments.

Integrated Resource Restoration

Integrated Resource Restoration is the Forest Service’s premier approach to investing in restoration, allowing us to work more effectively across program areas and at a landscape scale. Integrated Resource Restoration is a collaborative, holistic approach to restoring forest and grassland health and resilience across large landscapes. Through this integrated program, we are



accelerating the pace of restoration and job creation by integrating activities such as hazardous fuels reduction, road decommissioning, removal of barriers to fish passage, and more. Outcomes include reducing risk from fire, insects, and disease; maintaining clean drinking water for communities; restoring degraded watersheds, landscapes, and wildlife habitat; and supporting more local jobs and economic opportunities. The IRR includes activities accomplished through previous budget line items, or programs, 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.

Since 2012 we have had a pilot program for Integrated Resource Restoration in only three regions. Results from the pilot program consistently show that budget planning is simpler; that managers have more flexibility to complete restoration work, partly because programs are better integrated; that it is easier to establish goals and set priorities; and that forests have improved ability to implement projects with multi-stakeholder collaborative groups.⁹ In FY 2014, our integrated efforts in the three pilot regions sustained or restored almost 1.1 million acres of forest and grassland while decommissioning 721 miles of road, restoring 970 miles of stream habitat, supporting rural economies with the sale of 571 million board feet of timber (MMBF), and substantially improving conditions across six entire watersheds.



The Big Meadow Creek Watershed Fire Regime Restoration project area after fuels were thinned and piled. Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

We propose fully implementing IRR across the entire Forest Service in FY 2016 as the best way to capitalize on the lessons learned thus far from the pilot program. However, if Congress decides that more time is needed to demonstrate the success of the pilot program before granting nation-wide authority, we ask that the pilot program be continued in FY 2016. A fifth year of the

⁹ USDA Forest Service. 2013. Integrated resources restoration: FY 2012 report. Washington, DC.

pilot program would allow us to further clarify what benefits can be gained, and what challenges remain, from this new approach.

We propose a national Integrated Resource Restoration budget line item of \$822 million, which will allow us to:

- implement restoration projects to address insect and disease outbreaks in areas designated under the 2014 Farm Bill;
- improve or maintain over 52 percent of the watersheds across the NFS to a properly functioning condition (a key performance measure in the USDA Strategic Plan);
- sell 3.2 billion board feet of timber;
- improve the condition of up to an additional 20 watersheds; and
- treat 2.9 million acres to improve watershed function and resilience.

Thriving Communities

Community-based forestry is embedded in Forest Service culture. From our very beginning more than a century ago, our employees have lived and worked in the communities we serve. Local forest supervisors and district rangers know local conditions and work with communities to meet their needs. We recognize the vital role that communities play in sustaining the forests and grasslands around them and the benefits they provide. Conservation begins where people live, work, play, and learn. Healthy landscapes and healthy communities are inextricably linked, and the Forest Service has a responsibility to help sustain both.

The Forest Service works to build thriving communities across the Nation by helping urban communities reconnect with the outdoors, by expanding the benefits that both rural and urban communities get from outdoor recreation, and by harnessing the many economic benefits that communities obtain from sustainable multiple-use management of the national forests and grasslands. We have a proven track record as a community-based organization that collaborates with local communities and national partners to accomplish our goals.

Jobs and economic benefits stem from our administration of the NFS, including its multiple uses; they also stem from investments in the activities, access, and infrastructure needed to deliver essential public services such as clean water, electrical power, and outdoor recreational experiences. We help create sustainable jobs and vital industries throughout the country, especially in rural areas where other sources of employment and economic growth might be few.

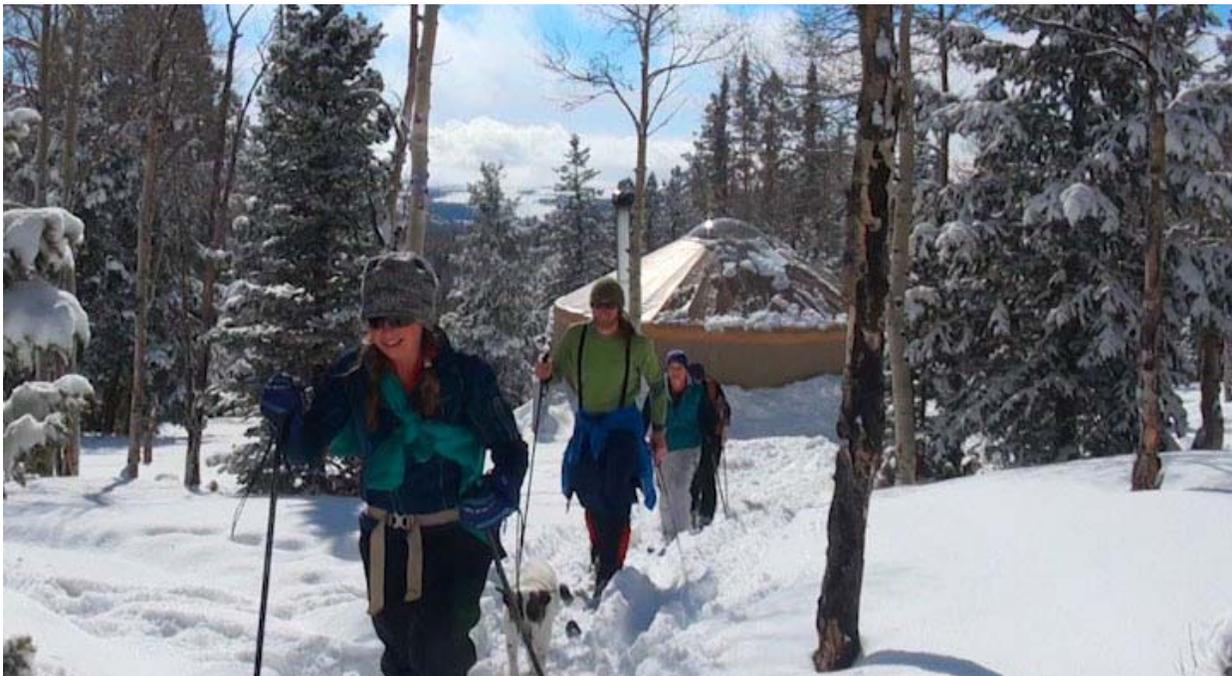
The FY 2016 President's Budget for the Forest Service will focus on building thriving communities by providing jobs and benefits in two key areas: 1) outdoor recreation; and 2) forest products, grazing, and other uses of forests and grasslands all across the Nation.



Jobs and Benefits from Outdoor Recreation

Spending by visitors engaging in recreation activities, including skiing, hiking, hunting and fishing, supports more jobs and economic outputs than any other kind of activities on the National Forest System. Privately provided services on the national forests, such as ski areas, resorts, marinas, outfitting and guiding and concession campgrounds serve millions. All activities account for about 160 million visits each year to the national forests and grasslands. The dollars that visitors spend support local businesses that provide guides, outfitting, transportation, food, lodging, and other services. In 2012, outdoor recreation on the National Forest System supported around 194,000 jobs, contributing about \$13 billion to the Nation's gross domestic product. Outdoor recreation is also associated with learning, enjoyment, health benefits, and various kinds of social activities, all of which contribute to a high quality of life.

- *We will maintain and restore healthy, resilient landscapes with rich opportunities for outdoor recreation and all the jobs and other benefits that go with it.* We will offer a range of recreational opportunities across the NFS, connecting people with nature in an unmatched variety of settings and through a plethora of activities. We will continue conducting the social and recreation-related research needed to help managers provide recreational services that Americans want and need. We will invest in special use processes to streamline permitting and improve customer service to our privately provided recreation service industries. Our recreational settings include backcountry and wilderness areas, which meet a deep-seated human need for undisturbed relaxation in truly wild environments. Outdoor recreation is the basis for vital industries across the country, especially in rural areas. Reauthorization of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act will help us cover the costs of sustainably managing recreational facilities for generations to come.



Cross-country skiers after checking into the Grizzly Ridge Yurt on the Ashley National Forest. The primitive camping site is open year-round, but many people are drawn to it for its feeling of isolation and for the cross-country and snowshoeing trails.



- *We will facilitate healthy outdoor activities on the national forests and grasslands for all Americans, especially children.* Each year, we engage millions of children and their families in outdoor experiences. With about 83 percent of Americans living in urban areas, the national forests and grasslands are a tremendous resource for healthy outdoor activity. Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates have tripled, and obesity rates among America's young people remain high at 17 percent. Today's more urbanized youth spend 50 percent less time outdoors than they did 20 years ago. By helping to get more kids outdoors, up close and personal with nature, the Forest Service will help to reverse the alarming trend toward obesity while contributing to healthy lifestyles and lowering health care costs. Based on lessons learned from implementing our Youth Strategy in 2014 and 2015, we will expand programs that demonstrate success and explore new partnerships that will leverage resources and support early life contact with the outdoors. We will also reconnect visitors with their outdoor heritage as Americans and help them learn about the Great Outdoors, improving their quality of life as they become citizen-stewards of the lands that are their birthright as Americans. The FY 2016 President's Budget would fund the Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness program at \$263.9 million.
- *We will ensure that all Americans have safe, unhindered access to their national forests and grasslands by acquiring needed lands and by maintaining an effective system of roads, trails, facilities, and corridors.* We will identify and acquire tracts to improve public access, and we will invest in roads, bridges, trails, campgrounds, and other facilities needed for safe and sustainable public access to a range of recreational and other activities across the National Forest System. We will manage our infrastructure to protect water quality and wildlife habitat, especially for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. The FY 2016 President's Budget includes a \$33 million investment in Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement to address the backlog of maintenance and repair on Forest Service facilities. The FY 2016 President's Budget also increases funding for Trails \$5 million over the FY 2015 enacted level. We will use up to \$8 million of these Deferred Maintenance and Trails funds to improve recreational access and infrastructure on the eight national monuments managed by the Forest Service. This funding will leverage private and partnership funding and opportunities.
- *We will focus on connecting the Nation's underserved urban youth to job training and employment, allowing them to earn a decent wage while connecting them to the Great Outdoors.* Our Nation is rapidly becoming "minority-majority," with urban areas now dominated by young Americans from a variety of backgrounds. America's youth have a great deal to offer the cause of conservation with their diverse backgrounds and perspectives, yet many young Americans have little or no experience of the Great Outdoors. We are committed to offering our underserved urban youth eye-opening, life-altering experiences, often in connection with needed jobs and training opportunities through Job Corps and other programs. Through jobs that help them personally as well as benefiting the land and the people we serve, these young Americans can learn to become "change agents" in their own communities. Through the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps program, we will sustain our performance of more than 10,000 youth and veterans employed on mission critical work; promote new partnerships, that will enhance our ability to put more youth and veterans to work on Forest Lands; expand opportunities for urban and tribal youth through

the Youth Conservation Corps; and aggressively recruit eligible and qualified participants for permanent positions.

- *We will provide Americans from all walks of life with opportunities to partner with us in sustaining and restoring trails, campgrounds, and other facilities on the national forests and grasslands.* Partnerships for building trails, for example, connect people with each other, their community, their heritage, and their public lands. Approximately 25 percent of all volunteer accomplishments focus on trail maintenance projects that leverage substantial amounts of direct and in-kind contributions. In 2013, these volunteers contributed 1.11 million hours on trails projects; this work was valued at \$24.58 million, equaling nearly 617 FTEs working full time on these trails.

Jobs and Benefits from Forest Products, Grazing, and Other Uses

Through work on National Forest System lands, the forest products industry, livestock producers, and minerals/energy production collectively support about 118,000 jobs; each year, they contribute about \$11.5 billion to America's gross domestic product. Especially in rural areas, these uses deliver sustained social and economic benefits to communities.

However, the national forests account for only 20 percent of the Nation's forests. In fact, about 56 percent (approximately 420 million acres) of the Nation's forests are privately owned, of which, 62 percent is owned by families or individuals. The remaining private forest land is owned by corporations, conservation organizations, clubs, Native American tribes, and others. Private forests supply almost 30 percent of the surface drinking water to cities and rural communities. They provide habitat for 60 percent of the at-risk species in the U.S., and they furnish more than 90 percent of the timber harvested in this country.

Accordingly, our responsibilities at the Forest Service go far beyond the National Forest System. Working with State, private, and other partners, the Forest Service helps to support sustainable forest management across roughly 80 percent of the Nation's forested landscapes.

- *We will continue providing the research and development needed to support ecological restoration for jobs and other benefits, in part by finding ways to protect forests and to utilize woody materials and other forest products.* Our research supports green building techniques and technologies, the utilization of beetle-killed trees and low-value tree species, and innovative uses of wood removed to restore forest health and reduce fuels, including woody biomass. Our research also helps to control the spread of insects and disease in valuable wildlife such as bats, which help sustain the Nation's farming industry by devouring agricultural pests. Our research on insects and disease also helps protect many commercially valuable tree species.
- *We will accelerate the pace of our restoration-related work, providing jobs and community benefits.* We will use our stewardship contracting authority on the NFS to restore watersheds and healthy, resilient forested landscapes, engaging communities in managing their public lands. Our restoration work will create jobs and help sustain communities, as will the sale of



restoration byproducts. Local communities will also benefit from timber sales, fuelwood supplies, special forest products, and safe drinking water supplies from the national forests. We will promote woody biomass utilization and biomass markets and facilities, providing jobs and other community benefits.

- *We will continue to work with partners to develop mineral, energy, and geological resources on the National Forest System.* Mineral and energy extraction provides rural jobs and stimulates local economies, helping to stabilize rural communities. We will manage mining and other operations to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat while minimizing environmental impacts and restoring abandoned sites. The FY 2016 President's Budget would fund the Minerals and Geology Management program at \$70.7 million.
- *We will maintain a sustainable supply of forage for livestock.* Ranching is a longstanding American tradition that provides rural jobs and sustains rural communities while protecting rangelands from conversion to developed uses. We will work with partners to manage rangelands sustainably and to restore lands that have been degraded in the past. The Grazing Management program would be funded at \$49.7 million.
- *We will support thousands of private sector jobs through special use activities on the national forests and grasslands.* We work hard to expand and protect access to public lands, providing recreational and other forest-related economic benefits to communities. We will continue furnishing permits for corridors and infrastructure for energy pipelines, telecommunications, hydropower facilities, and geothermal energy transmission. We will manage our capital investments in roads and other facilities to connect rural areas with urban areas, to allow for utility lines, and other kinds of infrastructure connectivity.
- *We will continue to support sustainable forest management on a landscape scale through a variety of educational and technical assistance programs for private forest landowners.* In addition to providing direct technical and financial assistance, we serve as a conduit for other forms of assistance and incentives for family forest landowners. The FY 2016 President's Budget maintains our investment in forest landowner assistance through funding for the Forest Stewardship program at \$23 million.
- *We will work with partners to protect critical forested landscapes from conversion to developed uses.* Rural communities benefit from local forests, which provide local jobs, bolster rural economies and community infrastructure, and furnish opportunities to connect rural Americans to the Great Outdoors. We propose \$61 million in discretionary funding for Forest Legacy Program, \$8 million more than FY 2015 enacted level. We are also requesting \$39 million in mandatory funds, from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, for a total of \$100 million. The increase is a key component of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative to conserve critical landscapes and reconnect Americans to the outdoors through reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund as fully mandatory funds starting in FY 2017.
- *In a similar vein, our Land Acquisition Program will protect critical ecosystems and prevent habitat fragmentation.* In accordance with the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, we worked with the U.S. Department of the Interior to establish a Federal interagency Collaborative Landscape Planning Program, designed to leverage our joint



investments and coordinate our efforts to protect intact, functioning ecosystems across entire landscapes. Land acquisitions are a proven value for the taxpayer, making it easier and less expensive for people to access their public lands—and easier and less expensive for the Forest Service to manage and restore the lands entrusted to our care. An analysis by The Trust for Public Land showed that every \$1 invested in Federal land acquisition returns \$4 to the taxpayer; taking returns beyond 10 years into account, the benefits are even greater.

- *The President's FY 2016 budget proposes \$63 million in discretionary funding for our Federal Land Acquisition program, an increase of \$15.5 million from the FY 2015 enacted level.* We also propose almost \$65 million in mandatory funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, for a combined total of \$127.7 million. These mandatory funds are part of the President's proposed Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorization with fully mandatory funds starting in FY 2017.
- *We will help sustain urban and community forests across America.* The vast majority of Americans live in urban areas; in fact, urban and community forests cover about 130 million acres, an area larger than California. We will work with partners to sustain and restore urban forests for such benefits as energy savings, flood and pollution control, and climate change mitigation. Amenities such as tree-lined streets and open spaces improve quality of life for millions of Americans, and we will work with urban communities to protect and expand them. The FY 2016 President's Budget would fund Urban and Community Forestry at \$23.7 million.



Three planters working amongst the shadows of trees on the Plumas National Forest for the Antelope Complex Project.

Managing Wildland Fires

- *One of the greatest challenges facing the Nation's forests is growing fire season severity.* Of all the unwanted fires that the Forest Service responds to, we are able to keep almost 98 percent very small, but the few fires that we are not able to promptly suppress tend to get much bigger much faster than ever before. Extreme fire behavior has become more common; on extremely large fires, firefighters are largely limited to protecting certain points around homes and communities, and the cost of fire suppression has soared in the past 20 years.
- *Our evolving approach to managing wildland fire is integral to our goals of safety, landscape-scale restoration, and risk management.* We continue to learn more about wildland fire, and we continue to apply what we learn through fire and risk management science in partnership with States, communities, and other Federal agencies. We strive to maximize our response capabilities and to support community efforts to reduce the threat of wildfire and increase ecosystem resilience.
- *In 2009, Congress passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act, calling on federal land managers to develop a joint wildland fire management strategy.* Working with the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service took the opportunity to involve the entire wildland fire community in developing a long-term National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Our strategy has three components: restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, building fire-adapted human communities, and responding appropriately to wildfire.
- *The FY 2016 President's Budget continues the FY 2015 proposal for a new funding strategy for wildfire suppression.* As in FY 2015, the FY 2016 President's Budget proposes discretionary funding for wildland fire suppression at a level that provides for suppression of 99 percent of fires within the Forest Service discretionary program, represented by 70 percent of the 10-year average of fire suppression spending. In addition, up to \$855 million would be available under a disaster funding cap adjustment to meet suppression needs above the base appropriation. This strategy provides increased certainty in addressing growing fire suppression funding needs, better safeguards non-suppression programs from transfers that have diminished their effectiveness, and allows us to stabilize and invest in programs that will more effectively restore forested landscapes, treat forests for the increasing effects of climate change, and prepare communities in the wildland-urban interface for future wildfires.

Restoring Fire-Adapted Ecosystems

Fire plays a beneficial role in fire-adapted landscapes, and the Forest Service is working with partners through the Hazardous Fuels and Integrated Resource Restoration programs to restore healthy, resilient fire-adapted ecosystems. Our goal, especially near homes and communities, is to make forests and grasslands healthy and resilient—able to resist stresses such as drought and to recover from disturbances such as wildfires. Most of the 23 projects under our Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program are designed in part to restore fire-adapted forest types across large landscapes, including the reintroduction of periodic wildland fire where safe and effective.



- *We will continue providing scientific and analytical support for our National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.* Forest Service researchers are developing knowledge and tools to support managers in restoring and maintaining fire-adapted ecosystems.
- *We will continue using science-based techniques to restore healthy, resilient fire-adapted ecosystems.* Where we can, we will return the natural role of fire to landscapes through our prescribed fire program. We will work through IRR and our Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, complemented by our Hazardous Fuels program and treatments on non-federal lands through the State Fire Assistance program, to restore resilient fire-adapted ecosystems across the United States.
- *We will continue to promote markets for low-value wood materials.* A top priority for the Forest Service is developing new markets for the low-value woody materials that we remove during our restoration and hazardous fuels treatments and therefore offsetting much of the costs of these activities while providing new revenue streams for private landowners. We will continue to support grants and other forms of assistance for wood-to-energy initiatives, and we will continue to fund permits and designs to make projects more competitive for other sources of funding. We will also provide technical assistance for project development, and we will help develop financially viable approaches for building and sustaining facilities that convert wood to energy.

Building Fire-Adapted Human Communities

More than 46 million homes in the United States, or about 40 percent of our Nation's housing units, are located in fire-prone areas of the wildland-urban interface. Hundreds of post fire assessments show that fuels and forest health treatments are effective in reducing wildfire severity. When a fire breaks out, an effective emergency response can then more easily control it—and maybe even use it, returning the natural role of fire to the landscape.

However, wildland fire is a natural process in many of America's forest types; sooner or later, they will burn. Homeowners and communities can make themselves safer from wildfire by adopting building practices and maintenance techniques for homes and properties that help them become "fire adapted," or well-prepared for wildland fire. Our goal is to have communities that are adapted to wildland fire, with an effective emergency response plan in place, along with a commitment to managing risk in a way that protects lives, property, and wildland resources.

- *We will control fuels by removing buildups of dead vegetation and by thinning overly dense forests that can be hazardous to lives, homes, communities, and wildland resources.* We will focus on treating high-priority areas in the wildland-urban interface, including municipal watersheds to protect water supplies. We will also focus on protecting communities that are working toward Firewise designations, developing community wildfire protection plans, or otherwise taking responsibility for making people and homes safer from wildfire. We will use innovative tools to evaluate risk to communities and monitor the effectiveness of fuels treatments to ensure we focused on the highest priority areas. We propose \$359 million for the Hazardous Fuels program, approximately the same level as FY 2015 enacted level.



- *We will continue working through cross-jurisdictional partnerships to help communities become safer from wildfires.* We will help communities complete hazardous fuels treatments, prepare community wildfire protection plans, become designated as Firewise Communities through the national Firewise program, and obtain equipment to respond to and mitigate fire. We propose funding the State Fire Assistance Program at \$78 million and the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program at \$13 million, both nearly equal to the FY 2015 Enacted levels.
- *We will continue providing scientific and analytical support for building fire-adapted human communities.* Forest Service researchers are developing knowledge and tools to support managers in decreasing the adverse effects of wildfire on people, communities, and the environment. We propose funding the Research and Development program at \$20 million and the Joint Fire Science Program at \$7 million, both nearly equal to the FY 2015 enacted levels.

Responding Appropriately to Wildfire

Most of America's landscapes are adapted to fire; wildland fire plays a natural and beneficial role in many forest types. Where suppression is needed to protect homes and property, we focus on deploying the appropriate resources in the right place at the right time. Using improved



Two firefighters working on the 90 acre Rogers Fire, which began on August 9, 2011, five miles from Aladdin, Washington. Colville National Forest.

decision support tools, fire managers are making risk-based assessments to decide when and where to suppress a fire—and when and where to use fire to achieve management goals for long-term ecosystem health and resilience. Our goal is to protect life and property through our collaborative interagency emergency response capacity, in cooperation with law enforcement, focusing on preparedness for wildfire and natural disasters and an appropriate risk-based response.



- *We will continue to provide scientific and analytical support for developing tools and frameworks for an appropriate response to wildfire.* The Wildland Fire Decision Support System provides analytical tools, analysis, and documentation for hundreds of fire management decisions annually to protect communities and natural resources, effectively use firefighter resources, decrease firefighter exposure, and decrease suppression costs.
- *We will maintain an appropriate level of preparedness.* Our Preparedness program has proven its worth; Fire Program Analysis, a strategic management tool, shows that every \$1.00 subtracted from preparedness funding adds \$1.70 to suppression costs because more fires escape to become large and because large fires cost a tremendous amount to suppress.¹⁰ By maintaining an adequate level of preparedness, we will reduce overall fire management costs. We propose funding Preparedness at \$1.08 billion.
- *We will continue pursuing our Large Airtanker Modernization Strategy.* Airtankers play a crucial role in keeping most fires at small sizes. The Forest Service's fleet of large airtankers is old, with an average age of more than 50 years. The cost of maintaining them is growing, as are the risks associated with using them. Our strategy is to fund both the older aircraft still in operation (needed as we transition to newer aircraft) and the next-generation airtankers currently under contract. Funding will also cover required cancellation fees, the C-130 Hercules aircraft transferred by the U.S. Department of Defense, and new turbine-driven water scooper aircraft.
- *We will sustain the capacity of our fire organization to protect life, property, and natural resources through an appropriate response to wildfires based on careful risk assessments.* We will continue using decision-support tools to ensure efficient allocation of resources and the use of risk management principles. We will continue to invest in new decision support tools, such as the Wildland Fire Investment Portfolio System and Risk Console C. Such tools help fire managers better understanding the complex relationships involved in managing wildland fire and alert them to potential problem areas. We will continue managing all wildland fires in accordance with risk management protocols, resulting in better decisions regarding safety and costs.
- *We will sustain a robust capacity for responding to both natural and manmade disasters, taking a cost-effective approach to funding wildland firefighting.* Wildfires have grown larger and more difficult to suppress due to fuel buildups, longer fire seasons, drier soils, and the spread of housing developments into fire-prone landscapes. Our costs have increased accordingly. Since 2000, suppression costs have exceed amounts provided in annual appropriations every with only two exceptions, requiring the Forest Service to transfer funds from other programs to cover those costs. This has left a smaller proportion of funding for nonfire purposes, including for watershed protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, outdoor recreation, and other benefits and services that Americans expect from their public lands.
- *We will support incident response with a highly visible uniformed patrol presence.* We will carefully determine the causes of every wildfire, and we will conduct vigorous criminal and civil investigations to protect property and natural resources.

¹⁰ Forest Service, Fire Program Analysis, 2009. www.fpa.nifc.gov.



- *We will continue leveraging State and local firefighting resources by providing State and volunteer fire assistance.* State and local fire departments are the first responders to almost 75 percent of the Nation's wildfires, so investing in their capacity is a high priority for the Forest Service. Federal grants are matched dollar for dollar, extending the value of our investments.



A DC-10 air tanker drops chemical fire retardant below Pilot Peak at the Rim Fire. The Rim Fire on the Stanislaus National Forest began on Aug. 17, 2013 and burned 257,314 acres.

Promoting Safety

Forest Service work can take us into high-risk environments. Safety means recognizing the risk and managing it. For several years now, the Forest Service has been on a learning journey to become a safer organization and our efforts have resulted in a reduction of work-related annual fatalities from a five year running average of 7.4 per year in 2009 to the current 1.8 per year. We have also seen a 28 percent drop in new workers compensation claims over the same period. We have redesigned the process we use to review serious accidents to ensure we learn all we can from every incident so we can prevent recurrence. We continue to explore our safety culture and history, comparing ourselves to high-reliability organizations that also work in high-risk environments, and working to change our safety culture accordingly. Every one of our employees has taken training to become more attuned to safety issues and the need to personally manage risk.



- *We will continue our safety journey.* We will provide employees with additional training opportunities so that they will routinely recognize risk and know how to manage it. We have just initiated the third round of leader-employee safety engagements which fosters personal and organizational resiliency, and explores the workload – safety balance. Our goal is to become a zero-fatality organization through a constant, relentless focus on safety.
- *We will sustain a relentless focus on safety for visitors and employees alike on the national forests and grasslands.* We will provide a highly visible uniformed patrol presence and a rapid emergency response to any incidents affecting anyone visiting or working on the National Forest System. We will sustain strong partnerships with State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies through cooperative law enforcement agreements, and we will vigorously prosecute the perpetrators of any crimes committed on lands belonging to the American people.
- *We will improve physical security for all employees.* The Forest Service increased registration and use of the Lincpass Security card—more than 70 percent of employees have received cards, which provides further security for building access and computer systems.

Building Diversity and Inclusiveness

At a time when the vast majority of Americans live in metropolitan areas, part of our job at the Forest Service is to reach out to urban and underserved communities to give more people opportunities to get outdoors, to participate in our land management, and to engage in conservation work in their own communities.

- *Building on USDA priorities, we will create and retain a more diverse and inclusive workforce.* Part of inclusiveness is making our workforce look more like the face of America. Diversity of thought is key to the ability of successful organizations to respond to changing circumstances, and it stems from hiring people from various backgrounds. We will change our culture accordingly, striving to become an employer of choice for all Americans. We are absolutely committed to treating everyone fairly and with respect, giving everyone in our workforce the opportunity to contribute and succeed.
- *We will expand access to the outdoors for underserved and minority communities and young people from urban areas.* We will continue and expand programs designed to reach out to urban youth and offer them opportunities to experience the Great Outdoors and hands-on workforce development in green careers on the national forests and grasslands. We will build on our work with partners in urban areas to offer urban youth opportunities to engage in conservation work in their own communities as well as on National Forest System lands and provide coaching and mentoring opportunities for interns interested in green careers, similar to the MobilizeGreen agreement, a partnership that has launched the Forest Service career of a number of participants.
- *We will continue to support the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative and target of 10,000 students serving on public lands.* Forest Service Job Corps sites established eight Public Lands Corps projects enabling 1,825 Job Corps students (more than 18 percent of target) to participate in 21st Century Conservation Service Corps projects. We have also



implemented other youth programs, such as Bridging Cultures Conservation Corps, to target underserved college youth interested in natural resource careers, and we are using new recruiting and hiring tools under the Public Land Corps Authority to increase the diversity of our new hires.



M. Kwok (age 3) helps during a planting project at the Richmond, CA Edible Forest as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Cost Savings and Avoidance

The Forest Service is committed to achieving the greatest benefits for the taxpayer at the least cost. Mindful of the need for savings, we have taken steps to cut operating costs, and are actively seeking opportunities to change processes in ways that will avoid future increases in expenditures such as energy. For example:

- *Taking advantage of new technologies, we have streamlined and centralized our financial, information technology, and human resources operations to gain efficiencies and save costs. We will continue to work together with other USDA agencies under the Blueprint for Stronger Services to develop strategies for greater efficiencies in key business areas.*
- *In order to reduce administrative costs and increase opportunities for discounts we are fully participating in USDA's Shared First initiative which requires intra-agency approaches to similar requirements when contracting.*



- *We continue to review contract requirements for inter-agency efficiencies and use the most appropriate method.* For example:
 - We administer the \$120 million National Recreation Reservation System contract, which enables reservation of government sites by the public. A new contract is in progress to replace the expiring contract and will be used by the following agencies: Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Archives, and Army Corps of Engineers. The contract is structured such that the contractor is paid largely through a portion of the fees collected, so there is little direct funding by the agencies.
 - We leveraged interagency resources by acquiring aircraft spare parts from the Defense Logistics Agency for the recent transfer of aircraft. This resulted in a cost avoidance of \$750,000.
 - We avoided approximately \$650,000 in fees by awarding an \$11 million contract for CL-415 Waterscoopers ourselves using an Economy Act agreement with the Department of the Interior.
- *For the same reasons, we have integrated work across our deputy areas for National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research and Development.* For example, all three deputy areas have collaborated to develop the Southern Forest Futures project, a comprehensive analysis of the future of forests in the South over the next 50 years.
- *We are implementing a new planning rule designed to reduce the length of time it takes to revise management plans, reducing costs.* We are also reducing costs by making our environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act more cost efficient.
- *We have adopted new public-private partnership strategies for leveraging restoration funding.* For example, over 10 years the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is expected to generate \$152 million in partner funding.
- *In 2010, we also signed an agreement to use municipal funds to restore fire-damaged national forest land in the municipal watershed of Denver, CO.* Over five years, Denver Water is matching the Forest Service's own \$16.5 million investment in watershed restoration. We have signed similar agreements with Santa Fe, NM, and with other cities in Colorado, including Aurora and Colorado Springs.
- *In accordance with sustainability and efficiency mandates, we are working to reduce our environmental footprint and increase the resilience of our operations and assets by incorporating conservation measures and corporate actions that will reduce local energy, water, and fuel use through everyday practices.* Our sustainability efforts focus on growing our "Net Zero Fellows" program, and achieving agency-wide participation and performance of annual corporate priority action items. New corporate action items which are planned include: adoption of a no-idling policy, tracking of renewable energy systems, and a shift to 100 percent recycled paper. Further refinement of national plans to reduce energy and water consumption and costs that reach across staff areas to integrate efforts and eliminate duplication is also a priority. These plans focus on coordinating specific national and field-level actions with policy updates, and will include a continuous improvement framework.

Proposed Budget Structure Changes

We are proposing changes in the budget structure to increase transparency in how we deliver these programs, to increase efficiencies in administration, and to integrate accomplishments.

Table 1. FY 2016 Proposed Budget Structure Changes

FY 2015 Budget Line Item (BLI)	FY 2016 Proposed BLI	Change
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Mgmt. (NFS)	Integrated Resource Restoration (NFS)	Combines five BLIs from NFS, CIM, WFM into one
Forest Products (NFS)		
Vegetation and Watershed Mgt. (NFS)		
Legacy Roads and Trails (CIM)		
Hazardous Fuels Non-Wildland Urban Interface (WFM)		
Land Management Planning (NFS)	Land Management Planning, Assessment, Monitoring (NFS)	Combines two BLIs into one
Inventory and Monitoring (NFS)		

S&PF – State and Private Forestry; NFS- National Forest System; WFM - Wildland Fire Management; CIM - Capital Improvement & Maintenance

In fiscal years 2012 through 2015, Integrated Resource Restoration was funded in three regions as a pilot. The FY 2016 request expands this program to all regions. We propose shifting funds from five budget line items (Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Vegetation and Watershed Management, Forest Products, Non-WUI Hazardous Fuels, and Legacy Roads and Trails) into one program under the National Forest System appropriation.

The FY 2016 request also combines two budget line items related to planning and inventory into a new line item for Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring.

Summary of Proposed Legislation

In connection with our budget proposal for FY 2016, the Forest Service proposes several key legislative changes to improve our effectiveness in delivery of programs and services:

- *Fire Suppression Cap Adjustment.* We propose a budget cap adjustment to fund suppression costs for large and complex fires. Suppression would be funded at a level that covers 99 percent of the fires we fight, or 70 percent of our 10-year average suppression costs. Remaining fire costs would be funded through an “off-budget” fire suppression cap adjustment. Off-budget funding would be accessed with Secretarial declaration of need and imminent end of appropriated discretionary funds. Proposed language amending the Appropriations Act is included in this Budget Proposal, Appropriations Language Changes.
- *Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.* We propose in FY 2016 to increase the authorized funding level for this successful program from \$40,000,000 to \$80,000,000. In FY 2016, we request \$60,000,000 to continue to fund the existing 23 projects and provide for investment in up to another ten projects. Proposed language is included in this Budget Proposal, Appropriations Language Changes, and General Provisions.



- *Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.* We propose an extension through FY 2017 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Under the Act, 95 percent of the recreation fees collected on a national forest or grassland is retained at that unit, to be reinvested in recreation sites and services. This is an interagency proposal with the Department of the Interior. The current act expires on September 30, 2016. Proposed language is included in the General Provisions of our proposed Appropriations Language Changes.
- *Land and Water Conservation Fund.* The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture propose 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 programs beginning in fiscal year 2017. Starting in 2017, \$900 million annually in mandatory funds would be available. In 2016, the budget proposes \$900 million in total Land and Water Conservation Fund funding, comprised of \$500 million in mandatory and \$400 million in discretionary funds. The amounts requested include the authorized levels for the Department of the Interior and USDA. Proposed language will be transmitted to Congress following submittal of this Budget Proposal.
- *Payments to Communities.* We propose reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for a four-year phase-out through 2019. We propose making payments through mandatory funding. We also propose revising the allocation split among the Schools and Roads, Economic Investment and Forest Restoration/Protection, and Fire Assistance portions of the program. The funding proposal for SRS is included in this Budget Proposal, with the legislative proposal to be transmitted to Congress following submittal of this Budget Proposal.
- *Administrative Fee for Grazing.* We propose a 4-year authorization of an administrative fee of \$2.50 per head month for cattle and its equivalent for other livestock for national forests in the 16 Western States and all national grasslands. This proposal will offset administrative costs associated with the issuance and enforcement of grazing permits on National Forest System lands. Based on the head months of use, the Forest Service would generate approximately \$15 million in administrative fees that could be used to offset costs associated with grazing permit administration.
- *Extension of Grazing Permits.* We propose to provide permanent authority for grazing permit reauthorization. Extending the authority granted in the 2004 Appropriations Act will allow the Forest Service to continue making progress in completion of NEPA for grazing allotments. Permanent authority was granted for 16 western states under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015. This proposal would extend existing authority to all national grasslands and national forests in the eastern states.

Future Outlook

For more than a century, the Forest Service has served the American people by making sure that their forests and grasslands deliver a full range of values and benefits. America receives enormous value from our programs and activities, including hundreds of thousands of jobs and annual contributions to the economy worth many times more than our entire annual discretionary budget. Especially in these tough economic times, Americans can benefit tremendously from



investing in Forest Service programs and activities to increase our social well-being, economic prosperity, quality of life, and opportunities for health and fitness in the Great Outdoors.

Now we are facing some of the greatest challenges in our history. Invasive species, climate change effects, regional drought and watershed degradation, fuel buildups and severe wildfires, habitat fragmentation and loss of open space, and devastating outbreaks of insects and disease all threaten the ability of America's forests and grasslands to continue delivering the goods, services, values, and benefits that Americans want and need. In response, the Forest Service is increasing the pace and scale of ecological restoration. We are restoring healthy, resilient forest and grassland ecosystems capable of sustaining and delivering clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and many other benefits.

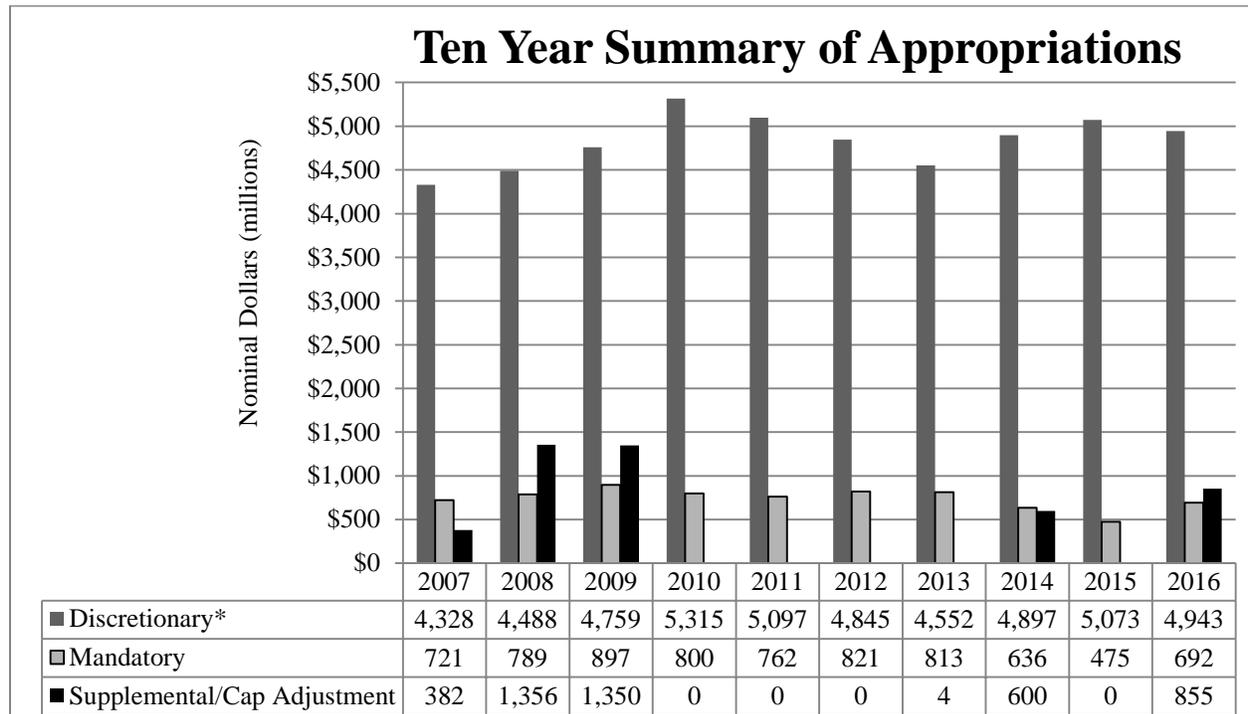
Our budget request focuses on the public's highest priorities for restoring resilient landscapes, building thriving communities, and safely managing wildland fire while providing an effective emergency response. Our requested budget will enable us to address the growing extent and magnitude of our management challenges and the mix of values and benefits that the public expects from the national forests and grasslands. We will optimize our response to cross-cutting issues by integrating our programs and activities, and we will continue our journey toward becoming a safe organization, one that values diversity and inclusiveness. We will also continue to reduce our environmental footprint and improve our administrative operations for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Our research organization will continue to solve complex problems by creating innovative science and technology for the protection, sustainable management, and use of all forests, both public and private, for the benefit of the American people.

We will achieve our goals through partnerships and collaboration. Our budget priorities highlight the need to strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and public/private partnerships that leverage our investments to reach shared goals. Through strategic partnerships, we can accomplish more work while also yielding more benefits for all Americans, for the sake of all generations to come.

Forest Service Budget Summary
(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	Program Changes	FY 2016 President's Budget	Pay Costs*	Increase for FY 2016 Pay Raise	Increase for seasonal FEHB
Annual Appropriations						
Discretionary Funds						
Forest & Rangeland Research	\$296,000	(\$4,018)	\$291,982	\$2,030	\$472	\$0
State & Private Forestry	232,653	3,958	\$236,611	571	125	1
National Forest System Capital Improvement & Maintenance	1,494,330	153,984	\$1,648,314	12,051	2,826	1,004
Land Acquisition	360,374	(18,450)	341,924	2,273	528	335
Other Appropriations	48,666	16,500	65,166	57	0	0
Wildland Fire Management FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve	4,865	(59)	4,806	19	3	0
	2,333,298	20,731	2,354,029	13,194	3,070	5,354
	303,060	(303,060)	0	0	0	0
Discretionary Funds Total	\$5,073,246	(\$130,414)	\$4,942,832	\$30,195	\$7,024	\$6,694
Suppression Cap Adjustment	0	854,578	854,578	0	0	0
Mandatory Appropriations	\$474,566	\$217,342	\$691,908	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grand Total, Forest Service	\$5,547,812	\$941,506	\$6,489,318	\$30,195	\$7,024	\$6,694

* Pay costs are included within each appropriation for FY 2016. The total Pay Cost increase for FY 2016 is \$30,195,000. The President's budget provides \$7.024 million in additional funding to cover a portion of the FY 2016 Pay Cost salary increase and \$6.694 million to cover the costs of Federal Employee Health Benefits for seasonal employees. This additional funding is included in the funding totals listed in the FY 2016 President's Budget column.



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Three-Year Summary of Appropriations

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 President's Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Change
Forest & Rangeland Research					
Forest and Rangeland Research	\$292,805	\$296,000	\$291,982	-\$4,018	-1%
Forest & Rangeland Research Total	292,805	296,000	291,982	-4,018	-1%
State & Private Forestry					
Landscape Scale Restoration	14,000	14,000	23,513	9,513	68%
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	58,922	58,922	58,998	76	0%
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	45,655	45,655	40,678	-4,977	-11%
Forest Stewardship	22,398	23,036	23,049	13	0%
Forest Legacy Program	50,965	53,000	61,000	8,000	15%
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation	2,000	2,000	1,683	-317	-16%
Urban and Community Forestry	28,040	28,040	23,686	-4,354	-16%
International Forestry	8,000	8,000	4,004	-3,996	-50%
State and Private Forestry Total	229,980	232,653	236,611	3,958	2%
National Forest System					
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	822,110	822,110	0%
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	40,000	40,000	60,000	20,000	50%
Restoration Partnerships	2,000	0	0	0	0%
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	184,236	184,236	0%
Land Management Planning	37,754	37,754	0	-37,754	-100%
Inventory and Monitoring	151,019	151,019	0	-151,019	-100%
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	261,719	261,719	263,942	2,223	1%
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	140,466	140,466	0	-140,466	-100%
Grazing Management	55,356	55,356	49,706	-5,650	-10%
Forest Products	339,130	339,130	0	-339,130	-100%
Vegetation & Watershed Management	184,716	184,716	0	-184,716	-100%
Minerals and Geology Management	76,423	76,423	70,689	-5,734	-8%
Landownership Management	77,730	77,730	71,601	-6,129	-8%
Law Enforcement Operations	126,653	126,653	126,030	-623	-0%
Valles Caldera National Preserve	3,364	3,364	0	-3,364	-100%
National Forest System Total	1,496,330	1,494,330	1,648,314	153,984	10%
Capital Improvement & Maintenance					
Facilities	71,000	71,600	71,695	95	0%
Roads	166,000	168,094	154,262	-13,832	-8%
Trails	75,000	77,530	82,516	4,986	6%
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement	3,000	3,150	33,451	30,301	962%
Legacy Roads and Trails	35,000	40,000	0	-40,000	-100%
Capital Improvement & Maintenance Total	350,000	360,374	341,924	-18,450	-5%
Land Acquisition					
Land Acquisition	43,525	47,500	63,000	15,500	33%
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts	912	950	1,950	1,000	105%
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	217	216	216	0	0%
Land Acquisition Total	44,654	48,666	65,166	16,500	34%
Other Appropriations					
Range Betterment Fund	3,000	2,320	2,320	0	0%
Gifts, Donations, & Bequest for Forest & Rangeland					
Research	40	45	45	0	0%
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses	2,500	2,500	2,441	-59	-2%
Other Appropriations Total	5,540	4,865	4,806	-59	-1%

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 President's Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Change
Wildland Fire Management					
Preparedness	1,057,580	1,145,840	1,082,620	-63,220	-6%
Suppression	680,488	708,000	794,534	86,534	12%
Hazardous Fuels	306,500	361,749	359,126	-2,623	-1%
Research and Development	19,795	19,795	19,820	25	0%
Joint Fire Science Program	6,914	6,914	6,917	3	0%
State Fire Assistance	78,000	78,000	78,012	12	0%
Volunteer Fire Assistance	13,025	13,000	13,000	0	0%
Wildland Fire Management Total	2,162,302	2,333,298	2,354,029	20,731	1%
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund					
Total, FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	315,000	303,060	0	-303,060	-100%
Discretionary Appropriations Total					
	4,896,611	5,073,246	4,942,832	-130,414	-3%
Fire Transfer Repayment	600,000	0	0	0	0%
Suppression Cap Adjustment	0	0	854,578	854,578	0%
Discretionary + Fire Transfer + Cap Adjustment	5,496,611	5,073,246	5,797,410	724,164	14%
Permanent Appropriations					
Brush Disposal	8,715	8,500	8,500	0	0%
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research	66	46	46	0	0%
Timber Salvage Sales	20,746	22,000	22,000	0	0%
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration	2,987	6,400	6,400	0	0%
Forest Botanical Products	1,553	2,000	2,000	0	0%
Stewardship Contracting	9,669	15,000	14,000	-1,000	-7%
Recreation Fees, Forest Service	71,285	75,175	75,575	400	1%
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction	883	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters	8,683	9,000	8,100	-900	-10%
Roads and Trails for States	0	0	0	0	0%
Land Between the Lakes Management	4,753	4,200	4,200	0	0%
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees	299	600	600	0	0%
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Restoration	0	0	0	0	0%
Quinault Special Management Area	3	5	5	0	0%
Valles Caldera	733	600	0	-600	-100%
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements	27,408	51,400	47,400	-4,000	-8%
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention	422	841	780	-61	-7%
Organizational Camps Program	466	700	700	0	0%
Cost Recovery (Land Uses)	5,185	6,900	5,400	-1,500	-22%
Licensee Program Smokey Bear	14	120	120	0	0%
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl	3	12	12	0	0%
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)	10	67	70	3	4%
Conveyance of Administrative Sites	4,238	6,000	6,000	0	0%
Site-Specific Lands Acts	7,466	5,600	3,900	-1,700	-30%
Payments to State Funds	325,690	77,150	316,000	238,850	310%
Permanent Appropriations Total	501,277	293,316	522,808	229,492	78%
Trust Funds					
Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg	65,146	70,000	65,900	-4,100	-6%
Cooperative Work, Other	40,051	81,000	73,000	-8,000	-10%
Reforestation Trust Fund	29,255	30,000	30,000	0	0%
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund	13	250	200	-50	-20%
Trust Funds Total	134,465	181,250	169,100	-12,150	-7%
Grand Total, Forest Service	\$6,132,353	\$5,547,812	\$6,489,318	\$941,506	17%

Three-Year Summary of Full-Time Equivalents

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 President's Budget	Program Changes
Forest & Rangeland Research				
Forest and Rangeland Research	1,748	1,924	1,894	-30
Forest & Rangeland Research Total	1,748	1,924	1,894	-30
State & Private Forestry				
Landscape Scale Restoration	1	0	0	0
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	307	352	302	-50
Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands	106	95	94	-1
Forest Stewardship	56	54	54	0
Forest Legacy Program	24	24	24	0
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation	0	1	1	0
Urban and Community Forestry	48	48	42	-6
International Forestry	38	30	15	-15
State and Private Forestry Total	580	604	532	-72
National Forest System				
Integrated Resource Restoration	0	0	5,473	5,473
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	283	283	278	-5
Restoration Partnerships	0	0	0	0
Land Management Planning, Assessment & Monitoring	0	0	1,234	1,234
Land Management Planning	260	260	0	-260
Inventory and Monitoring	896	896	0	-896
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	2,005	2,005	2,074	69
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	1,041	1,041	0	-1,041
Grazing Management	441	441	420	-21
Forest Products	2,765	2,765	0	-2,765
Vegetation & Watershed Management	1,276	1,276	0	-1,276
Minerals and Geology Management	505	505	492	-13
Landownership Management	560	560	592	32
Law Enforcement Operations	813	813	680	-133
Valles Caldera National Preserve	0	1	0	-1
National Forest System Total	10,845	10,846	11,243	397
Capital Improvement & Maintenance				
Facilities	338	382	382	0
Roads	1,006	1,147	1,051	-96
Trails	585	591	607	16
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement	1	7	80	73
Legacy Roads and Trails	191	218	0	-218
Capital Improvement & Maintenance Total	2,121	2,345	2,120	-225
Land Acquisition				
Land Acquisition	51	49	53	4
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	0	0	0
Land Acquisition Total	51	49	53	4

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 President's Budget	Program Changes
Other Appropriations				
Range Betterment Fund	5	5	5	0
Gifts, Donations, & Bequest for Forest & Rangeland Research	0	0	0	0
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses	12	12	13	1
Other Appropriations Total	17	17	18	1
Wildland Fire Management				
Preparedness	7,371	6,781	7,134	353
Suppression	2,652	3,069	2,760	-309
Hazardous Fuels	1,910	2,254	2,254	0
Research and Development	102	99	99	0
Joint Fire Science Program	11	13	13	0
State Fire Assistance	69	50	50	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0	0	0	0
Wildland Fire Management Total	12,115	12,266	12,310	44
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund				
Total, FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0
Discretionary Appropriations Total	27,477	28,051	28,170	119
Fire Transfer Repayment	0	0	0	0
Suppression Cap Adjustment	0	0	0	0
Discretionary + Fire Transfer + Cap Adjustment	27,477	28,051	28,170	119
Permanent Funds	1,169	1,211	1,271	59
Trust Funds	842	867	849	-18
FTEs Only				
Allocation	1,513	1,511	1,503	-8
Discretionary Reimbursable	656	656	656	0
Working Capital Fund	597	597	596	-1
FTEs Only Total	2,766	2,764	2,755	-9
Grand Total, Forest Service	32,254	32,893	33,044	151

FY 2016 Revenue, Receipts, and Transfers Table
(dollars in thousands)

Revenue, Receipts, and Transfers	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Estimated	FY 2016 Pres Bud	1908 Act Receipt?
Timber Management				
National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts	31,984	30,040	30,000	Yes
Mandatory Transfers from NFF:				
Timber Roads--Purchaser Election Program	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts ^{1/}	-200	-200	-400	
Ten-Percent Roads and Trails Fund ^{1/}	-4,300	-3,600	-3,700	
Cooperative Work - Knutsen-Vandenberg Fund	211,784	45,936	45,850	Yes
Timber Salvage Sales	33,152	20,000	20,000	Yes
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration Fund	4,897	5,400	6,200	Yes
Credits to Timber Purchasers (not receipts)				
Credits for Road Construction (sales before April 1, 1999)	-214	-1	-1	Yes
Specified Road Costs	-12,852	-9,568	-10,000	Yes
Brush Disposal	8,062	8,700	8,700	
Forest Botanical Products	1,482	1,500	1,500	
Total Timber Management Receipts	291,361	111,576	112,250	
Total Timber Management Receipts and Credits	304,427	121,145	122,251	
Total Timber Management Deposits to NFF	25,484	24,240	23,900	
Grazing Management				
National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts	4,820	5,074	5,100	Yes
Grasslands and Land Utilization Projects (LUP)	159	594	500	No
Mandatory Transfers from NFF & Grasslands & LUP's:				
Range Betterment Fund (50 Percent Grazing)	-2,410	-2,537	-2,550	Yes
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts ^{1/}	-30	-30	-70	
Ten-Percent Roads and Trails Fund ^{1/}	-700	-600	-600	
Total Grazing Management Receipts	4,979	5,668	5,600	
Total Grazing Management Deposits to NFF & Grasslands Fund	1,839	2,501	2,380	

Revenue, Receipts, and Transfers	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Estimated	FY 2016 Pres Bud	1908 Act Receipt?
Minerals Management				
National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts	1,845	2,179	2,000	Yes
FS Grasslands Minerals Receipts	3	3	3	
Minerals Receipts on Acquired Lands to NFF from ONNR	25,304	30,000	30,000	Yes
Grasslands and Land Utilization Projects (LUP) from ONNR	89,983	91,002	90,000	No
Mandatory Transfers from NFF:				
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts ^{1/}	-10	-10	-30	
Ten-Percent Roads and Trails Fund ^{1/}	-200	-300	-200	
Total Minerals Receipts	117,135	123,184	122,003	
Total Minerals Deposits to NFF and Grasslands Fund	116,925	122,874	121,773	
Landownership Management				
National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts - Land Uses	17,963	23,020	23,000	Yes
National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts - Power	8,031	9,015	9,000	Yes
Grasslands and Land Utilization Projects (LUP) -Land Uses & Power	415	210	200	No
Mandatory Transfers from NFF:				
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts ^{1/}	-190	-210	-450	
Ten-Percent Roads and Trails Fund ^{1/}	-3,500	-3,800	-3,900	
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges	0	217	0	
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention	625	545	544	
Organizational Camp Programs	964	600	600	
Cost Recovery (Administration of Rights-of-Way)	5,374	5,200	5,200	
Total Landownership Management Receipts	32,957	38,597	38,344	
Total Landownership Management Deposits to NFF and Grasslands Fund	22,719	28,235	27,850	

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Estimated	FY 2016 Pres Bud	1908 Act Receipt?
Revenue, Receipts, and Transfers				
Recreation Management Revenues and Receipts				
National Forest Fund - Recreation, Admission, and User Fees	61,409	72,409	70,000	Yes
Mandatory Transfers from NFF:				
Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts ^{1/}	-400	-500	-1,000	
Ten-Percent Roads and Trails Fund ^{1/}	-8,300	-8,700	-8,600	
Recreation Fees Forest Service	70,690	65,225	65,925	
Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Management Fund	4,175	4,200	4,200	
Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Trust Fund	0	0	0	
Total Recreation Management Receipts	136,274	141,834	140,125	
Total Recreation Management Deposits to NFF	52,709	63,209	60,400	
Other Revenues and Receipts				
Grasslands and Land Utilization Projects (LUP)- all other	10	10	10	No
Stewardship Contracting	11,159	14,000	14,000	
Cooperative Work, Other	34,631	35,000	31,000	
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees	4	600	600	
Midewin National Tallgrass Restoration Fees	0	0	0	
Licensee Program Smokey Bear	70	100	100	
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl	1	6	6	
Forest Service Go Green Program	66	69	70	
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters	8,041	7,200	7,100	
Conveyance of Administrative Sites	9,487	19,800	9,400	
Site-Specific Land Acts	0	0	0	
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements	2,213	13,000	13,000	
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Research	50	50	50	
Valles Caldera Fund	482	600	0	
Total Other Receipts	66,214	90,435	75,336	
Total Other Deposits to Grasslands Fund	10	10	10	
Total Forest Service Revenue and Receipts	648,920	511,294	493,658	
Total Deposits to NFF before Mandatory Transfers	151,356	171,737	169,100	
Total Deposits to Grasslands Fund before Mandatory Transfers	90,567	91,816	90,710	
Total Mandatory Transfers	-22,240	-22,487	-23,500	
Total Deposits to NFF & Grasslands after Mandatory Transfers	219,686	241,069	236,313	
Deposits & Credits Basis for Act of 1908 (25% Fund)	479,518	314,458	311,861	

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Estimated	FY 2016 Pres Bud	1908 Act Receipt?
Revenue, Receipts, and Transfers				
Payments and Transfers for States and Counties.				
National Forest Fund Payments to States Available	83,445	0	50,850	
Payments to States Act of 1908	11,078	50,000	10,000	
Payments to States Supplemental	175,604	0	164,000	
Payments to Minnesota Counties	5,707	6,150	6,150	
Payments to Counties, Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act	21,605	21,000	21,000	
Secure Payments for States	28,046	0	64,000	
Secure Payments for States/Repayment per DOT	0	0	0	
Total Payments and Transfers for States and Counties	325,485	77,150	316,000	

Summary of Appropriations and Budget Line Item Changes

The following descriptions summarize the changes for each FY 2016 appropriation and related budget line items compared to FY 2015 shown in the Three Year Summary of Appropriations.

Integrated Resource Restoration Consolidated Budget Line Items

(dollars in thousands)

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

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

This second IRR table compares the FY 2016 President’s Budget proposed funding level to previous years as if IRR were previously approved, by adding the amounts of the legacy BLIs.

Integrated Resource Restoration Consolidated Budget Line Items

(dollars in thousands)

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

1. Integrated Resource Restoration in FY 2012 to FY 2015 is a pilot program in Regions 1, 3, and 4.

2. The FY 2014 Appropriations Act and Consolidated and Continuing Further Appropriations Act, 2015 allowed the Forest Service to transfer “up to” these amounts to the IRR Pilot Program.

3. Figures calculated as 25 percent of total Hazardous Fuels BLI.

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

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

Land and Water Conservation Fund Proposed Acquisition List Fiscal Year 2016				
Administration				Funding Request
Acquisition Management				\$8,500,000
Cash Equalization				\$250,000
Small Parcel Acquisitions				Funding Request
Sportsman/Recreational Access				\$5,000,000
Critical Inholdings/Wilderness				\$2,000,000
Priority	Project Name	State	Forest/Unit	Funding Request
1	CLP: Upper Rio Grande	CO	Rio Grande	\$5,000,000
2	Hurdygurdy	CA	Six Rivers	\$700,000
3	Wasatch Watersheds-Bonneville Shoreline Trail	UT	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache	\$2,320,000
4	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Pisgah	\$1,250,000
5	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Uwharrie	\$450,000
6	CLP: High Divide	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	\$1,525,000
7	CLP: High Divide	ID	Caribou-Targhee	\$1,625,000
8	CLP: High Divide	MT	Gallatin	\$2,000,000
9	CLP: High Divide	ID	Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness	\$425,000
10	CLP: High Divide	ID	Sawtooth	\$2,500,000
11	Sierra Nevada Checkerboard	CA	Tahoe	\$1,400,000
12	Toll Properties	CO	Roosevelt	\$800,000
13	Tennessee Mountains	TN	Cherokee	\$1,635,000
14	Current River	MO	Mark Twain	\$2,070,000
15	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake	VA	George Washington and Jefferson	\$1,990,000
16	Fossil Creek	AZ	Coconino	\$1,000,000
17	Minnesota Northwoods	MN	Chippewa	\$2,175,000
18	Minnesota Northwoods	MN	Superior	\$515,000
19	Florida Longleaf Initiative	FL	Osceola	\$3,900,000
20	CLP: National Trails	WA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	\$3,000,000
21	CLP: National Trails	CA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	\$200,000
22	CLP: National Trails	MT	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	\$255,000
23	Upper Gros Ventre	WY	Bridger-Teton	\$1,000,000
24	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Umatilla	\$840,000
25	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Rogue River-Siskiyou	\$550,000
26	Greater Yellowstone Area	WY	Bridger-Teton	\$1,025,000
27	Castle Crags	CA	Shasta-Trinity	\$2,800,000
28	CLP: High Divide	ID	Sawtooth	\$2,300,000

Priority	Project Name	State	Forest/Unit	Funding Request
29	CLP: High Divide	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge	\$200,000
30	Great Lakes- Northwoods	MI	Ottawa	\$1,800,000
Subtotal Discretionary Funding				\$63,000,000
31	Wedge Properties	CO	Arapaho	\$1,275,000
32	CLP: Upper Rio Grande	NM	Carson	\$3,000,000
33	CLP: Upper Rio Grande	CO	Rio Grande	\$6,000,000
34	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Pisgah	\$1,100,000
35	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Uwharrie	\$500,000
36	Tennessee Mountains	TN	Cherokee	\$4,200,000
37	Washington Cascades Yakima Basin	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee	\$3,000,000
38	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake	VA	George Washington- Jefferson	\$2,700,000
39	CLP: Rivers of the Chesapeake	WV	George Washington -Jefferson	\$3,000,000
40	Cube Cove	AK	Tongass	\$4,000,000
41	Disappearing Wildlands of Georgia	GA	Chattahoochee-Oconee	\$3,035,000
42	Heart Bar Ranch	NM	Gila	\$2,500,000
43	CLP: National Trails	CA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	\$1,000,000
44	CLP: National Trails	WA	Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail	\$1,000,000
45	Jenkins Gulch	MT	Helena	\$560,000
46	Montana Legacy Completion	MT	Flathead	\$2,000,000
47	Salmon Selway	ID	Sawtooth	\$3,500,000
48	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific	WA	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area	\$660,000
49	CLP: Pathways to the Pacific	OR	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area	\$465,000
50	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine	FL	Osceola	\$6,775,000
51	Rocky Mountain Nature Association McMahon Owens	CO	Arapaho	\$250,000
52	Wassen Creek	OR	Siuslaw	\$3,000,000
53	Hoosier Uplands	IN	Hoosier	\$1,325,000
54	CLP: Northern Coastal California	CA	Shasta-Trinity	\$2,828,000
Acquisition Management				\$7,000,000
Subtotal Mandatory Funding				\$64,673,000
Total Funding				\$127,673,000

¹ The funding of the Castle Crags project in California will allow for recreational access and the funding amount is also reflected in the Sportsmen/Recreational Access funding line near the top of this table.

FY 2016 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects

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

FY 2016 Forest Legacy Program Proposed Projects

Priority Rank	State	Project Name	Request
35	MS	Pascagoula River Conservation Lands	1,600,000
36	VA	New River Headwaters	1,665,000
37	FSM	Yela Forest Watershed	560,000
38	DE	Sussex Timberlands	1,860,000
39	KY	Knobs State Forest and Wildlife Management Area	1,200,000
40	VA	The Cove	1,035,000
41	RI	Arcadia Woodlands	820,000
Subtotal, Mandatory			\$39,000,000
Total Funding			\$100,000,000

FY 2016 Facilities Major Projects List
(dollars in thousands)

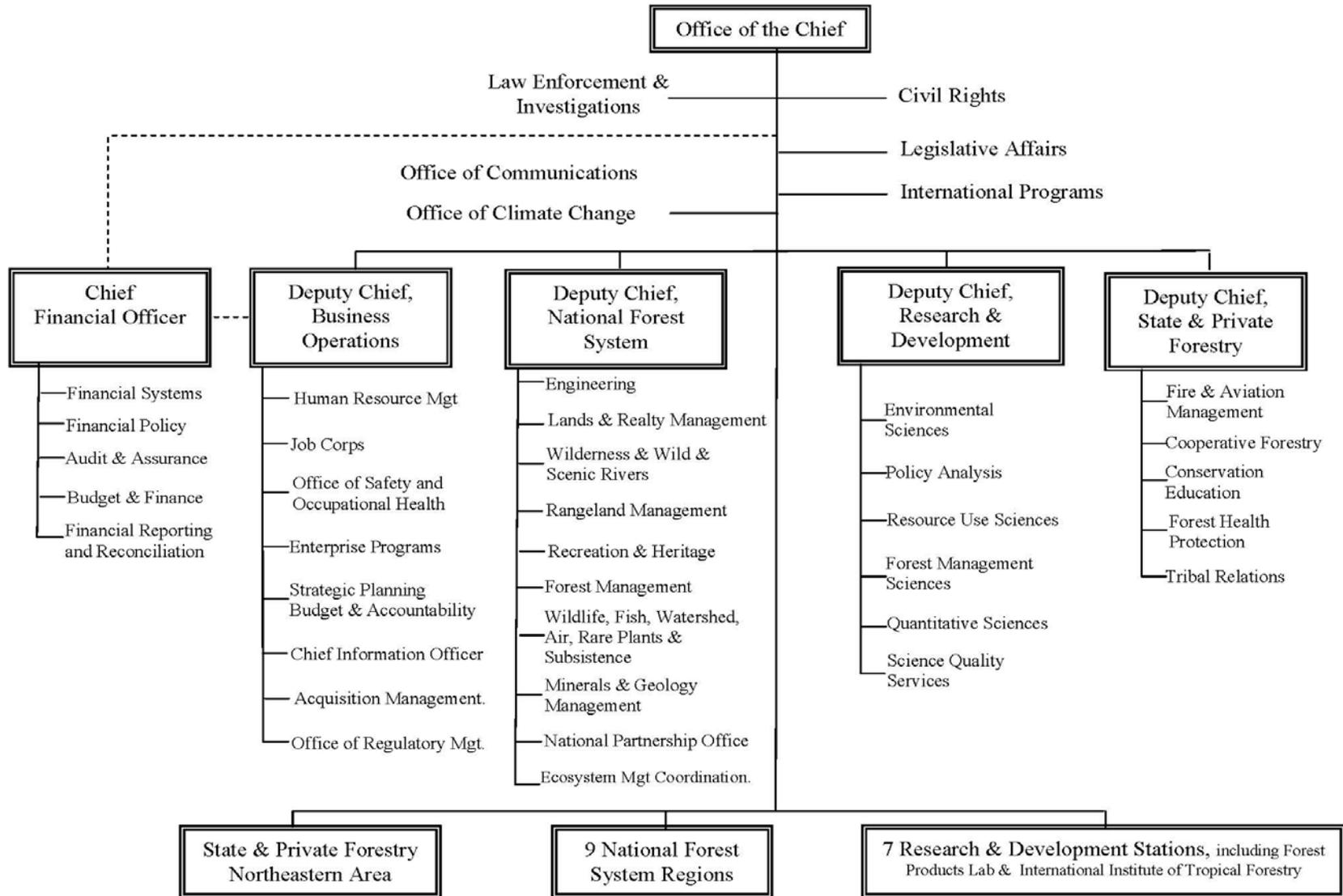
Agency-wide Critical Infrastructure Support					Total Cost
Recreation Maintenance (Projects Under \$500,000)					\$38,475
FA&O Maintenance (Projects \$250,000 - \$499,000)					\$2,310
Capital Improvement (Projects Under \$500,000)					\$1,059
Critical Infrastructure Support Projects					\$14,390
<i>Planning and Design for Future Projects</i>					2,809
<i>Washington Office (Maintenance and Improvement)</i>					2,772
<i>Albuquerque Service Center Business Management (Maintenance and Improvement)</i>					7,458
<i>Project Management and Implementation Support</i>					1,351
Total for Agency-wide Critical Infrastructure Support					\$56,234
Region/ Station/ Area	State	Project Name and Type	Unit	Deferred Maintenance Eliminated	Project Cost
National Priority Projects					
Research	OR	Corvallis FSL HVAC Repairs and Energy Upgrades Phase I	PNW	\$1,090	\$1,090
R10	AK	Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center Elevator Replacement Accessibility and Sustainability	Tongass	374	799
R05	CA	Kern River RD Consolidated District Office	Sequoia NF	88	1,500
<i>National Priority Subtotal</i>					<i>\$ 3,389</i>
National Demolition & Disposal Projects					
R08	FL	Camp Ocala Decommissioning	Ocala NF	\$252	\$325
R06	OR	Dale Ranger Station Facility Disposal	Umatilla NF	300	125
R04	UT	Mill Creek Dam Decommissioning	Uinta- Wasatch- Cache NF	368	370
<i>National Demolition & Disposal Subtotal</i>					<i>\$820</i>
Regional Priority Projects					
R01	MT	Regional Office Building 26 Phase 3 (Basement)	RO-Fort Missoula	0	1,850
R02	CO	Grand Mesa Trailhead Improvements (Phase 1)	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison NFs	60	650
R02	SD	North Cove Campground Water System Rehabilitation	Black Hills NF	397	567
R04	ID	Salmon-Challis NF Seasonal Housing (Phase 2)	Salmon- Challis	314	920
R05	CA	Groveland Hotshot Office and Engine Garage	Stanislaus	44	1,394
R08	NC	Croatan Ranger Station Renovation	Croatan NF/NFs in NC	155	1,440
R09	NH	Dolly Copp Campground Reconstruction, Phase 1	White Mountain	639	1,320

Research	MT	Fire Lab Burn Chamber/Wind tunnel Upgrades - Phase I	RMRS	890	1,600
Research	MT	Fire Lab Burn Chamber/Wind Tunnel Upgrades - Phase II	RMRS	325	541
Research	OR	CFSL HVAC Repairs and Energy Upgrades Phase II	PNW	970	970
<i>Regional Priority Subtotal</i>					<i>\$11,252</i>
Total – National, Demolition & Disposal, and Regional Facilities Projects Funding					\$15,461
TOTAL FY 2016 FACILITIES MAJOR PROJECTS					\$71,695

Key Performance Measures

Key Theme & Supporting Measures	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Restoring Resilient Landscapes					
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore watershed function and resilience	2,569,617	2,533,121	2,906,018	2,900,000	2,900,000
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced annually	3,704	4,168	3,488	3,262	3,262
Number of watersheds restored and moved to an improved condition class	9	12	10	19	20
Miles of roads decommissioned	2,103	1,936	1,415	1,600	2,000
Acres of terrestrial habitat enhanced through Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects (CFLRP)	182,046	398,231	399,861	420,200	356,533
Acres of forest vegetation improved through CFLRP projects	34,591	67,511	71,738	167,500	74,923
Acres of cooperative lands treated for invasive species control	546,025	410,371	448,350	468,993	361,549
Invasive species tools developed, delivered and used tools on a five year rolling average	169	193	169	173	173
Number of wilderness areas managed to a minimum stewardship level	307	356	415	415	Measure Retired
Number of wildernesses meeting baseline performance for preserving wilderness character	NA	NA	NA	New Measure	44
Acres of non-industrial private forest lands being managed sustainably under forest stewardship management plans	1,652,087	2,178,735	3,203,423	1,500,000	1,500,000
Building Thriving Communities					
Volume of timber sold by billion board feet	2.64	2.61	2.83	2.9	3.2
Tons of green woody biomass made available for energy production (millions of tons)	2,813,403	2,912,486	2,156,324	2,500,000	2,800,000

Key Theme & Supporting Measures	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Target	FY 2016 Target
Miles of system trails maintained	59,274	50,915	53,128	54,500	58,000
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion (Discretionary funds)	52,999	87,927	51,644	26,661	25,668
Managing Wildland Fires					
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels	1,867,202	1,736,927	1,725,077	1,725,000	1,725,000
Percent of acres treated in the WUI, that are identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans or equivalent plans	93.0	85.4	77	90	80
Number of Volunteer fire departments assisted -NFP	6,120	6,427	11,018	8,500	8,700
Financial assistance to communities at risk of wildfire (number of communities)	16,577	11,562	10,141	12,500	12,800



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USDA Forest Service Research & Development Facility Locations

