

Appropriation State and Private Forestry

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 President’s Budget proposes \$109,500,000 for programs under the State and Private Forestry appropriation, a decrease in budget authority of \$153,308,000 from FY 2008.

State & Private Forestry Appropriation (Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2007 Final	FY 2008 Enacted	Increase or Decrease			FY 2009 Pres Budget	Program Change Percent
			Pay & Other	Cost	Program		
			Cost Changes	Reductions	Changes		
Enacted Budget Authority							
Annual Appropriations	\$279,961	\$262,808	\$1,824	-\$1,588	-\$153,544	\$109,500	-58%
Emergency & Supplemental Appropriations*	\$0	\$0				\$0	
Total Enacted Budget Authority	\$279,961	\$262,808	\$1,824	-\$1,588	-\$153,544	\$109,500	
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	627	626			-212	414	
Enacted Budget Authority by BLI							
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands	\$53,963	\$54,110	\$1,234	-\$1,147	-\$9,197	\$45,000	-17%
Forest Health Management - Coop Lands	\$47,104	\$44,542	\$101	-\$138	-\$34,505	\$10,000	-77%
State Fire Assistance	\$32,895	\$32,605	\$150	-\$156	-\$7,599	\$25,000	-23%
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$5,912	\$5,906	\$0	\$0	-\$906	\$5,000	-15%
Forest Stewardship	\$41,947	\$29,532	\$97	-\$41	-\$24,588	\$5,000	-83%
Forest Legacy Program	\$56,536	\$52,317	\$75	-\$8	-\$39,884	\$12,500	-76%
Urban & Community Forestry	\$30,130	\$27,691	\$48	-\$41	-\$22,698	\$5,000	-82%
Economic Action Program	\$0	\$4,206	\$0	\$0	-\$4,206	\$0	-100%
Forest Resources Information and Analysis	\$4,588	\$4,516	\$0	\$0	-\$4,516	\$0	-100%
International Forestry	\$6,886	\$7,383	\$119	-\$57	-\$5,445	\$2,000	-74%

-- Cost Reductions result from Forest Service transformation efforts

-- Pay & Other Cost Changes are calculated increases in personnel compensation and benefits, rents and utilities, Unemployment Compensation payments, and departmental Working Capital Fund charges.

State and Private Forestry Programs

State and Private Forestry (S&PF) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation’s urban and rural forests, and to protect communities and the environment from wildland fires, insects, disease, and invasive plants. Through a coordinated effort in management, protection, conservation education, and resource use, State and Private Forestry programs help facilitate sound stewardship across lands of all ownerships on a landscape scale, while maintaining the flexibility for individual forest landowners to pursue their objectives. S&PF programs play a key role, along with the National Forest System, Forest and Rangeland Research, and the Department of the Interior, in implementing the National Fire Plan to manage the impacts of wildland fires on communities and the environment. Funds in the State and Private Forestry appropriation also support the International Forestry program.

Redesigning State and Private Forestry

In FY 2007, the Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters agreed to redesign State and Private Forestry. The intent of the redesign is to focus and prioritize resources to better shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for current and future generations. The initial phase of national implementation has begun, including a new competitive process for a portion of S&PF funds. The Forest Service has committed to monitor implementation of the redesign approach, facilitate an annual review, and implement changes as needed.

As a result of the redesign, the Forest Service will focus on challenges and issues of national importance, will prioritize work using the best available technology and information, and will work toward achieving meaningful outcomes at landscape and watershed scales. Toward this end, the States will conduct comprehensive assessments at the State level. S&PF will also conduct a national assessment to identify conditions, threats, and forest-related benefits and services. The information garnered will be used to set priorities at the national and other geographic levels. Furthermore, S&PF will increase accountability by competitively allocating Federal funds and documenting and communicating of the results of its investments. Programs will continue to be delivered with and through partners, ensuring that appropriate skills and organizational structures are in place to fund and carry out priority work.

In FY 2009, at least 15 percent of available funds in Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands and State Fire Assistance – in the State and Private Forestry and Wildland Fire Management appropriations - as well as Forest Stewardship and Urban and Community Forestry will be allocated for projects selected under the redesign themes.

Budget Line Item **Cooperative Forestry**

Cooperative Forestry (Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2007 Final	FY 2008 Enacted	Increase or Decrease			FY 2009 Pres Budget	Program Change Percent
			Pay & Other Cost Changes	Cost Reductions	Program Changes		
Enacted Budget Authority							
Annual Appropriations	\$128,613	\$266,402	\$220	-\$90	-\$95,892	\$22,500	-36%
Emergency & Supplemental Appropriations	\$0	\$0				\$0	
Total Enacted Budget Authority	\$128,613	\$266,402	\$220	-\$90	-\$95,892	\$22,500	-36%
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	165	164				50	
Enacted Budget Authority by EBLI							
Forest Stewardship	\$41,947	\$29,532	\$97	-\$41	-\$24,588	\$5,000	-83%
Forest Legacy Program	\$56,536	\$52,317	\$75	-\$8	-\$39,884	\$12,500	-76%
Urban & Community Forestry	\$30,130	\$27,691	\$48	-\$41	-\$22,698	\$5,000	-82%
Economic Action Program	\$0	\$4,206	\$0	\$0	-\$4,206	\$0	-100%
Forest Research Information and Analysis	\$4,588	\$4,516	\$0	\$0	-\$4,516	\$0	-100%

-- Cost Reductions result from Forest Service transformation efforts

-- Pay & Other Cost Changes are calculated increases in personnel compensation and benefits, rents and utilities, Unemployment Compensation payments, and Departmental Working Capital Fund charges.

Cooperative Forestry promotes working in partnership with States, tribal governments, communities, and private landowners to improve management, protection, and use of forest-based goods and services while building civic capacity to achieve long-term goals for sustainable development.

The Cooperative Forestry programs are Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy Program, Urban and Community Forestry, Economic Action Program, and Forest Research Information and Analysis. See descriptions of these programs on the following pages.

Budget Line Item
Expanded Budget Line Item

Cooperative Forestry
Forest Stewardship Program

Forest Stewardship (Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2007 Final	FY 2008 Enacted	Increase or Decrease			FY 2009 Pres Budget	Program Change Percent
			Pay & Other Cost Changes	Cost Reductions	Program Changes		
Enacted Budget Authority							
Annual Appropriations	\$41,947	\$29,532	\$97	-\$41	-\$24,588	\$5,000	-83%
Emergency & Supplemental Appropriations	\$0	\$0				\$0	
Total Enacted Budget Authority	\$41,947	\$29,532	\$97	-\$41	-\$24,588	\$5,000	-83%
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	83	82			-60	22	

-- Cost Reductions result from Forest Service transformation efforts

-- Pay & Other Cost Changes are calculated increases in personnel compensation and benefits, rents and utilities, Unemployment Compensation payments, and Departmental Working Capital Fund charges.

The FY 2009 President’s Budget proposes \$5,000,000 for the Forest Stewardship Program, a decrease in budget authority of \$24,532,000 from FY 2008. Funds will target technical and planning assistance to encourage long-term active forest management on approximately 350,000 acres. The program will target critical landscape areas where threats and opportunities converge to produce the greatest potential for return on Federal investments.

Active forest management can help mitigate threats posed by emerging insect pests and diseases, invasive species, wildfire and most recently, global climate change. Most private forest landowners lack the information in these areas they need to make forest management decisions that will enable them to sustainably manage their forests and to continue provide important environmental benefits and services.

Program Performance

Annual Output Measure	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007		FY 2008	FY 2009	Change
	Actual	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Plan	FY 2009 vs FY 2008
Percentage of nonindustrial private forest acres in important forest resource areas being managed sustainably, as defined by a current Forest Stewardship Plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5%	10%	10%	0%

In FY 2008, State partners will fully adopt spatial accomplishment tracking procedures that will enable more strategic, landscape-based planning. Field monitoring of management plan implementation will provide ongoing assessment of forest management outcomes and related public benefits that are the result of program assistance. States will also continue assessment work in FY 2009 to identify suburban landscape areas where coordinated S&PF program delivery will have the greatest lasting impact. Funding is provided to highest priority activities that can demonstrate performance in a transparent manner.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Forest Stewardship Program helps sustain our Nation's critical private forest landscapes by providing forest landowners with long-term technical assistance and access to a variety of incentive and educational programs. The program contributes to the current and future production of high quality nursery stock. New seedling propagation protocols are developed and seed testing services, long-term germplasm storage, and technical assistance is provided to private, State, and tribal nurseries upon request. Program funds are not used for the production of nursery stock. Forest Stewardship management plans provide landowners with practical guidance for achieving their own unique objectives in a way that also maximizes public goods and services provided by forests.

Allocation and Integration

Program funding is allocated to Forest Service regions and the Northeastern Area based on statewide comprehensive program potential, priority forest resource areas, and past program performance. Statewide comprehensive program potential is based on number of non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) owners and number of NIPF acres. Technical and planning assistance is targeted to strategically important forest resource areas, on a landscape scale, maximizing Federal investment. These areas are identified using GIS technologies. Program performance is based on: rolling 10-year average of the number of Forest Stewardship plans and acres encompassed by plans and by State, and percentage of high potential areas being managed under active Forest Stewardship management plans. States greatly enhance program performance by integrating programs and leveraging partnerships to intensify activity within high potential areas.

The Spatial Analysis Project (SAP)

The SAP is a GIS-based strategic management tool that allows participating State forestry agencies to identify and spatially display important forest lands (rich in natural resources, vulnerable to threat), tracts currently under Forest Stewardship Plans, and areas of opportunity to focus future Forest Stewardship Program efforts.

Partnerships

All Forest Stewardship activities are coordinated with and delivered through State and territorial forest agency partners; thus, the program leverages substantial non-Federal financial and human resources. States are required to match Federal funds dollar for dollar, but most far exceed this level. The Forest Stewardship Program partners with Forest Service Research and Development and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to support the National Agroforestry Center, which successfully transfers sustainable farm forestry and agroforestry technologies to thousands of land management professionals each year.

Budget Line Item
Expanded Budget Line Item

**Cooperative Forestry
Forest Legacy Program**

Forest Legacy (Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2007 Final	FY 2008 Enacted	Increase or Decrease			FY 2009 Pres Budget	Program Change Percent
			Pay & Other Cost Changes	Cost Reductions	Program Changes		
Enacted Budget Authority							
Annual Appropriations	\$56,536	\$52,317	\$75	-\$8	-\$39,884	\$12,500	-76%
Emergency & Supplemental Appropriations	\$0	\$0				\$0	
Total Enacted Budget Authority	\$56,536	\$52,317	\$75	-\$8	-\$39,884	\$12,500	-76%
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	22	22			-5	17	

-- Cost Reductions result from Forest Service transformation efforts

-- Pay & Other Cost Changes are calculated increases in personnel compensation and benefits, rents and utilities, Unemployment Compensation payments, and Departmental Working Capital Fund charges.

The FY 2009 President’s Budget proposes \$12,500,000 for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), a decrease in budget authority of \$39,817,000 from FY 2008. These funds will support the protection of 300 acres, as well as assist with the completion of already funded projects. These funds protect important forests from conversion to development or other non-forest uses, thereby losing valuable public benefits. The program ensures Federal dollars are spent on projects with the highest national importance as well as improving Forest Legacy Program business practices.

Forty-five States submitted 87 proposed projects to the Forest Service for FY 2009 funding consideration by the national selection panel. The proposed projects total more than \$200 million and have combined support from 586 distinct individuals and organizations. Funding is provided to highest priority activities that can demonstrate performance in a transparent manner.

FY2009 Project List

(Order reflects rank in priority)

Rank	State	Project Name	Funding
1	ME	Machias River	\$3,450,000
2	CA	Chalk Mountain Area	\$3,000,000
3	MN	Koochiching	\$3,050,000
		Administrative Funds	\$3,000,000
		TOTAL	\$12,500,000

Program Performance

Annual Output Measure	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007		FY 2008	FY 2009	Change
	Actual	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Plan	FY 2009 vs FY 2008
Acres of environmentally important forests protected from conversion	46,181	361,467	120,000	88,091	107,000	13,600	-93,400
Parcelization of forests avoided (number of parcels prevented)	N/A	19,342	6,400	2,880	4,600	730	-3,870

In FY 2007, the FLP closed 46 tracts and leveraged Federal dollars with 68.5 percent of partner funds to protect a total of 88,091 acres. Completed acres were lower than anticipated due to the following factors: (1) the FLP closed a significant number of tracts, but tracts were smaller than average size. Almost as much effort is needed to close smaller tracts as is required by larger tracts. (2) Real estate negotiations are very unpredictable. Many tracts that were anticipated to close in FY 2007 were delayed, resulting in larger first quarter FY 2008 accomplishments (the FLP conserved 56,831 acres across 7 tracts in 1st quarter FY 2008).

Program Description

Program Overview

Through the Forest Legacy Program, the Forest Service works with States, private landowners, and other conservation partners to protect environmentally important forests threatened by land conversion to development and other non-forest uses through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases. Fifty-seven percent (429 million acres) of our Nation’s forests are privately owned. Family forest owners and timber companies are facing increasing pressure to develop their land. The program provides financial incentives to private landowners to conserve their forests, thereby protecting recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and resource-based economies. The program operates on a “willing buyer-willing seller” basis and is a non-regulatory, incentive-based land conservation program.

Bull Creek – Florida

The Bull Creek project matched \$2.2 million of FLP dollars with \$19 million from State and local agencies, the Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Department of the Army. The project protects 3,071 acres of important forestland that buffer Camp Blanding Military Base, providing habitat connectivity between already protected lands, and protecting a groundwater recharge area.

Allocation

Forest Legacy Program projects are nominated through a two-step competitive process (State-level identification and approval, and a national review and ranking), resulting in high-quality projects supported both locally and nationally. Each project is ranked using three standardized criteria: (1) importance – public benefits gained from the protection and management of the property; (2) threat – likelihood of conversion to non-forest uses resulting in a loss of forest values and public benefits; and (3) strategic – project fits with a larger conservation plan, strategy, and initiative, and enhances previous conservation investments. Projects management funds are allocated to the regions based on project management needs.

Partnerships

To date, more than 1.6 million acres of environmentally important private lands have been protected through the FLP. States and landowners are the primary partners, but land trusts and other conservation organizations play a critical role in identifying and completing projects. While the program requires a 25 percent non-Federal match, the program averages a 50 percent non-Federal match.

Muschopauge Brook – Massachusetts

The Muschopauge Brook project matched \$630,000 of FLP dollars with \$395,000 to protect the headwaters for an important municipal drinking water supply in one of the fastest growing towns in the state. The project provides public recreation, and connects with greater than 1,000 acres of forested and open protected land.

Budget Line Item
Expanded Budget Line Item

Cooperative Forestry
Urban and Community Forestry

Urban & Community Forestry (Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2007 Final	FY 2008 Enacted	Increase or Decrease			FY 2009 Pres Budget	Program Change Percent
			Pay & Other Cost Changes	Cost Reductions	Program Changes		
Enacted Budget Authority							
Annual Appropriations	\$30,130	\$27,691	\$48	-\$41	-\$22,698	\$5,000	-82%
Emergency & Supplemental Appropriations	\$0	\$0				\$0	
Total Enacted Budget Authority	\$30,130	\$27,691	\$48	-\$41	-\$22,698	\$5,000	-82%
Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	48	48			-37	11	

-- Cost Reductions result from Forest Service transformation efforts

-- Pay & Other Cost Changes are calculated increases in personnel compensation and benefits, rents and utilities, Unemployment Compensation payments, and Departmental Working Capital Fund charges.

The FY 2009 President’s Budget proposes \$5,000,000 for the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program, a decrease in budget authority of \$22,691,000 from FY 2008. The program will focus on landscape scale demonstration projects that have regional and national significance for urban and community forest management across landscapes. Through transfer of strategic planning information, management tools, and technology to resource managers, urban trees and forests will optimize social, economic, and environmental services and benefits.

Program Performance

Annual Output Measure	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007		FY 2008	FY 2009	Change
	Actual	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Plan	FY 2009 vs FY 2008
Percentage of people living in communities managing programs to plant, protect, and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	N/A	37%	38%	38%	37%	N/A *	N/A
Percentage of people living in communities developing programs and/or activities to plant, protect, and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.	N/A	36%	35%	34%	20%	N/A *	N/A

* The FY 2009 President's Budget does not provide funding for State programs

In FY 2007, U&CF provided assistance to 6,326 communities, reaching a total population of 162.3 million. The population served by the program in FY 2007 represented 72 percent of the people living in communities with the potential to develop programs to plant, protect, and manage their urban and community trees and forests. The program expects to provide assistance to 5,450 communities in FY 2008. In FY 2009, the Forest Service will shift U&CF Program emphasis toward participating in landscape scale demonstration projects of regional and national significance. The Forest Service is developing U&CF program criteria and new outcome

measures for these projects. Funding is provided to highest priority activities that can demonstrate performance in a transparent manner.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Urban & Community Forestry Program assists cities, suburbs, and towns across the country to improve the condition and extent of community trees and forests. Active management of these assets secures the greatest economic, social, and environmental benefits for 80 percent of the Nation's population. U&CF delivers technical, financial, educational, and research assistance to communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 8 U.S. territories. Assistance is delivered to communities primarily through State forestry agencies. Program priorities emphasize increasing community tree canopy and improving urban forest management to deliver critical ecosystem services such as air and water quality, stormwater management, energy conservation, noise abatement, and wildlife habitat.

Putting a Value on Urban Forests

The Trust for Public Land matched 50-50 an FS grant of \$138,000 to determine and quantify the ecological and human benefits of parks and forests to a city. The 4-year study documented specific numbers for test cities of Boston and Washington, D.C.

Allocation and Integration

U&CF allocates funds based on performance that is monitored using a web-based accomplishment reporting system based on 2000 Census data. Allocations focus on communities that have achieved one or more of the following four measures of a sustainable program: 1) professional urban forestry staff, 2) tree ordinances, 3) urban forest management plans, 4) tree boards or advisory organizations. In 2006, 164 million people benefited from living in 6,564 program supported communities achieving one or more of these measures.

U&CF and Forest Health Protection are piloting a program to monitor urban forest health in three states. The program will be expanded in 2008 to include additional States. U&CF is also working with FS Research and Development to develop, disseminate, support, and refine an urban and community forest benefits assessment and management tool called i-Tree, currently distributed to over 2,000 communities nationwide.

Partnerships

U&CF delivers its program through a continually expanding partnership network of State forestry agencies, other FS programs, other Federal agencies, local governments, community organizations, and volunteers. State programs leverage FS investment with other funding sources, by 150 percent, to deliver financial assistance to communities for urban and community forestry. U&CF is also working with the USDA National Agroforestry Center, The Conservation Fund, members of the National Association of Regional Councils, and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition to support geographically-based training on designing and implementing green infrastructure as part of landscape-based planning and program delivery.