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Chapter 1 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Budget Execution Guide located in the [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section of the Managing for Results website provides additional information regarding funds overview and funds control topics included in this chapter.

Apportionments

Please refer apportionment questions not addressed in the Budget Execution Guide to WO SPBA staff.

Funds Overview

Discretionary

Apportionment

Appropriation Acts provide the amount of budget authority available to the FS. WO Budget requests these amounts, including enacted rescissions or sequestration, on the apportionment document.

Allotment

Allotments are determined by balancing the priorities of Congress, the Administration, agency leadership, and RSA capabilities. Current year allotments will be based on appropriated funding. Prior year allocations will be based on available unobligated balances. Any available balances prior to FY 2013 will be reviewed by WO SPBA for approval. Allotments are loaded in WorkPlan for planning purposes for both current and prior years. RSA's should request changes in authority through WorkPlan. If challenges arise, SPBA staff will work with RSA's to allocate available authority and request additional apportionment from OMB.

Permanent Appropriations

Apportionment

RSA's are to provide the next year's estimate for anticipated collections prior to the end of the fiscal year and the agency requests apportionments based on this estimate and available balance.

Allotment

Funds will be made available to the RSAs based on receipts available in the fiscal year in which they were collected. Available balances will be entered into Workplan for planning purposes.

Obligation

Obligations may only occur after OMB has apportioned. Obligations cannot exceed the amount available to each RSA in the fiscal year the funds were collected.

Trust Funds

Apportionment

RSA's provide the next year's estimate for anticipated collections prior to the end of the fiscal year and the agency requests apportionment based on this estimate and available balances.

Allotment

- CWKV and CWK2: The WO determines Knutson-Vandenberg Trust Fund (CWKV) allocations based on RSA program level requests and cash balances, with a final decision by the Deputy Chief, National Forest System. The Final Program Direction will provide the RSA CWKV allocations and any changes to these allocations are to be made through the NFS Deputy Chief.
- CWFS and CWF2: The Cooperative Funds Act authorizes the Agency to collect deposits from cooperators to perform work to protect and improve NFS lands. The Agency collects these deposits in advance of performance of work.

CWFS: The collection of a down payment request from a sales order representing a signed collection agreement is the basis for the allocation. Refer to the “Reimbursable Authority” section for further details about how the budget authority is managed.

CWF2: The anticipated obligations provided by the RSA’s are the basis of the allocations to the extent that program levels do not exceed cash available. If an RSA needs budget authority above the amount contained in the Final Program Direction, send the request to the appropriate WO Budget Analyst.

- URMJ: Special Uses Major Category Cost Recovery Agreements are managed as sales orders in FMFI. The collection of a down payment request from a sales order representing a signed cost recovery agreement is the basis for the allocation. Refer to the “Reimbursable Authority” section for further details about how the budget authority is managed.
- RTRT: The Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Act of 1980 established this fund to accomplish reforestation and timber stand improvement activities. Homeland Security transfers a maximum of \$30 million to the Forest Service trust fund each fiscal year and incrementally as tariffs are collected. The RTRT allocations to the RSAs shall be made as funds are apportioned using the errata process.

Obligation

Obligations may only occur after OMB apportionment. Obligations shall not exceed the amount available to each RSA in the fiscal year in which the funds were collected.

Reimbursable Authority

Various reimbursable authorities provide the Forest Service the ability to bill another federal or non-federal source for work performed in accordance with signed agreements. Prior to creating any obligations relating to reimbursable work, the agency must have a valid agreement in place and apportionment authority from the OMB.

<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Treasury Symbol</u>
Capital Improvements & Maintenance (Construction)	CMEX	12X1103
Research	FREX	12X1104
State & Private Forestry	SPEX	12X1105
National Forest System (NFS) Protection & Management	NFEX	12X1106
Wildland Fire Management and/or Suppression	WFEX	12X1115

Apportionment

WO SPBA requests apportionment for reimbursable authority for the upcoming fiscal year based on an estimate for agreements expected to be in place for that fiscal year.

Allocation

Based on signed agreements with federal or non-federal partners, the Forest Service enters a sales order in the accounting system, which allocates and allots authority to make resources available for obligation at the Funds Center (Region/Unit) and WBS (work breakdown structure or project) level. Agreements requiring advance collection from a non-federal cooperator will not have authority allocated/allotted until receipt of the collection. ASC B&F Reimbursable and Advance Collection Agreements (RACA) will receive the signed agreement and determine the accounting methodology to be used prior to recording the sales order. ASC RACA will coordinate with ASC Funds Control as needed to allocate budget authority needed outside

the sales order process. ASC RACA will make FMFI shorthand code assignments for RSA's as a means of authorizing spending on the project.

Refer to [ASC RACA Field Instructions](#) for further details.

Funds availability controls are at the WBS (Funded Program) level for sales order activity. ASC will produce a RACA Funds Control report to aid the field Budget Staff and Program/Project managers in monitoring spending.

Multi-Year Agreements

Reimbursable authority will be allocated/allotted for the full amount of the agreement (unless funding is authorized annually via an annual operating plan). The agreement will continue to be managed within the authority of the original Budget Period of the year the agreement was executed. If a modification to increase funds is executed in a subsequent fiscal year, the modification will be managed within the Budget Period the modification was executed. Likewise, amounts authorized via annual operating plan will be managed in the Budget Period of the annual operating amount.

For agreements converted from FFIS to FMFI executed in BFY 2012 or earlier, Budget Period 12XX is considered the "original" year of the agreement.

The shorthand code ending in a Fiscal Year identifier equivalent to the Budget Period cited on the sales order WBS will be utilized. At the beginning of each new fiscal year, RACA will publish a list of sales orders qualifying for current year spending based on expiration date and available balance.

Obligation

RSAs should not charge any obligations until agreements are in place, ASC B&F has allocated the authority, and a shorthand code issued to the RSA. RSAs are responsible for ensuring that signed agreements are in place and ASC RACA has issued shorthand codes prior to incurring obligations.

Billings

Authority for any reimbursable obligations will be supported by the designated appropriation until billings for obligations have been posted in FMFI. For instance, if the reimbursable agreement is within the NFEX fund, the agency must have sufficient authority within the NFNF appropriation to support obligations and expenditures until billings/receivables have been posted in FMFI. If billings are not posted to support all "EX" obligations and expenditures, the end of year unobligated balance in the designated appropriation will be affected by the amount of unbilled obligations. These unfilled customer orders encumbered with unbilled obligations could affect the availability of a perceived unobligated balance for spending in the succeeding fiscal year if that Treasury Symbol's cash balance is at risk. RSA's should keep this in mind when a significant share of reimbursable authority is utilized for long-standing third-party party agreements or contracts.

Reimbursable funds are specifically designated within a treasury symbol to accommodate reimbursable activity (fund type "RB"). Use of appropriate posting logic facilitates proper recognition of reimbursable activity in the general ledger and on financial statements. Selection of the correct reimbursable fund must correspond with the appropriated funds based on the primary purpose of mutually beneficial work being accomplished, or based on the primary funding source for the performing unit if work is done on behalf of the cooperator.

Non-Federal Partners: For agreements with non-Federal partners, RSAs must collect funds in advance – this means prior to any obligations occurring or work performed. The exception is where specific authority allows the agency to work in advance of collections (e.g., agreements that support emergency fire suppression requirements, agreements executed under the authority of Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914 or Granger-Thye or other authorities authorizing reimbursement of appropriated funds).

Direct reimbursable authority questions to the Albuquerque Service Center at 877-372-7248, Menu Option 1.

Prior Year Unobligated Balances

Prior year unobligated balances are balances in Treasury accounts that have not expired at the end of the fiscal year. Unlike prior years, the agency must now manage all prior year unobligated balances in the year in which they were appropriated. These funds are no longer moved forward to current year in the FMFI system, creating the need for RSAs to manage multiple prior fiscal years during the current fiscal year.

WO Budget and ASC B&F calculate the unobligated balances by analyzing budget authority or cash available using standard general ledger balances. Available prior year balances were determined by looking at national level unobligated balances, accounts receivable, unfilled customer orders and abnormal balances. Unobligated balances that cannot be supported by available cash will remain unallocated to ensure financial solvency. Amounts available by RSA were determined by looking at the program level FY 2014 end of year unobligated balances; obsolete program balances, agency adjustments, need to cover deficits, and Chief determination on how prior year balances will be distributed.

Funds Control

Work Plan (errata)

As an agency, we must improve the management of our program of work within our approved budget authority. Project planning provides an opportunity for us to reach that goal; therefore, with the exception of Perms & Trusts, RSAs are expected to have approved project plans that balance to the full year actual budget authority by budget line item in WorkPlan within 90 days of receipt of the program direction errata. We are requesting that this requirement be met by **9:00 pm EDT on Friday, May15, 2015**.

The amounts reflected in the **Net Available Table** for Perms & Trusts are based upon estimated obligation amounts and are provided for informational purposes only. Actual Authority Available is loaded into WorkPlan by BFY or is managed by RACA. Please ensure that planned amounts for P&T line items reflect your program of work for the FY within the authority available for that BFY; they are not expected to match the full authority allotted in WorkPlan.

Further guidance is posted on the [WorkPlan page on Managing for Results](#). The database will be locked for good on **October 30, 2015 @ 9:00 pm EDT** to perform the yearend snapshot of financial and accomplishment data. **Reminder: Use of the Initiatives Tracking feature is now also required for the Chief's Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership Projects; a complete listing is available via [WorkPlan Initiative Projects Most Current Listing](#).**

Reprogramming Direction

Consult the Budget Execution Guide located in the [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section of the Managing for Results website.

Quarterly Reporting

The quarterly reporting template will be found on the Managing for Results website, as an attachment to Chapter 1 of the Program Direction. Please note that the reporting template has two tabs that need to be filled out or reviewed. Send quarterly reports to WO SPBA Budget Analysis Staff.

Collection Rates and Assessments

Collection rates and assessments for Brush Disposal (BDBD), Timber Sale Salvage Fund (SFSF), and Cooperative Work Knutson-Vandenberg (CWKV).

Program Support Rates (errata)

CWKV: 40.0 percent

BDBD: 41.0 percent

SSSS: 63.0 percent

BDBD Surplus Collections

Reference Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2409.19 - Renewable Resources Handbook, Chapter 40 - Brush Disposal Fund Collections, Costs, and Accounting for requirements. The destination for excess/surplus funds being transferred to the WO is Region 15, 08, reporting category (RPTG) 999.

OGC Reimbursement (errata)

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 upholds the following Administrative Provision: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service not to exceed \$500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations and similar non-litigation related matters. Future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture shall clearly display the sums previously transferred and the requested funding transfers.” OGC will bill the Forest Service quarterly for expenditures. Units are not required to hold funds for local OGC travel.

Direct OGC reimbursement questions to WO Business Operations.

Overhead Assessment Rates

Reduced National Overhead Assessment Rate (errata)

The Forest Service 2014 calendar year reduced national overhead assessment rate is 2 percent. The reduced rate is for pass-through funds that create a significant additional indirect cost burden for the agency and for agreements between Forest Service units funded from different appropriations. Note that employee travel costs are **not** considered pass-through and shall not be exempted or subject to the reduced rate. This rate remains in place until the 2015 calendar rates are established. The calendar year 2015 national overhead assessment rate is not available at this time and will be provided when available.

Overhead Assessment Rate (errata)

The Forest Service 2014 calendar year national overhead assessment rate was 8 percent. This rate remains in place until the 2015 calendar rates are established. The calendar year 2015 national overhead assessment rate is not available at this time and will be provided when available. The direction stated in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.13-Program Development and Budgeting Handbook, sections 40.61 and 40.62 describes those agreements that are exempt or non-exempt from the national or established overhead rate. An exception may also exist when an existing master agreement identifies a negotiated rate different from the current national rate. In this case, the negotiated rate will be used in a new agreement, project supplement, or task order tiered to the existing master agreement. Research Stations are subject to a rate of 14% for grants and agreements (reimbursable and advanced collection). Other transfers will continue at the reduced national overhead assessment rate of 2 percent. Enterprise Units and Office of International Programs are subject to the rate protocol established for their respective units.

The national overhead assessment rate is to be applied against the total estimated direct costs and used when negotiating agreements (Forest Service Handbook FSH 1509.11-Grant, Cooperative agreements and Other Agreements Handbook, Chapter 30-Cooperative Law Enforcement, Forest Road, and Fire Protection Agreements, Section 33.2 2a(2) and Chapter 40-Collection Agreements, Section 43.2 2b. Although some statutes require payment by the cooperator for all costs associated with a project, others allow some latitude. When this is the case, every attempt should be made to negotiate and recover Forest Service (FS) overhead costs within the terms of the FSH 1909.13 Chapter 40 policy.

The percentage of overhead assessment applied will be based on the current National or Reduced Overhead Assessment Rate and stated in the agreement terms and conditions and any accompanying Financial Plan. Where combined rates are applied (e.g., certain costs subject to the national rate and certain costs exempted (0% assessment rate) or assessed at the reduced rate) a factored rate will be applied to the agreement during processing at ASC B&F. No more than two rates (including 0%) will be applied in any given agreement.

The overhead assessment will result in an increase of budget authority in a receiver WBS where indirect costs are collected for the hosting unit of an agreement, in the Budget Period for which the sales order is being managed.

Implementation of the Open Government Act of 2007

Direct questions about the Open Government Act to the WO Office of Regulatory and Management Services (ORMS).

Pathways Program Strategy

President Obama signed Executive Order 13562, entitled "Recruiting and Hiring Students and Recent Graduates," on December 27, 2010 establishing two new programs and modifying another:

1. The Internship Program for current students;
2. the Recent Graduates Program for people who have recently graduated from qualifying educational institutions or programs (2 years from the date the graduate completed an academic course of study); and
3. the reinvigorated Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program for people who obtained an advanced degree (e.g., graduate or professional degree) within the preceding two years.

These programs, collectively recognized as the Pathways Program, are streamlined developmental programs tailored to promote employment opportunities for students and recent graduates in the Federal workforce.

As approved by the National Leadership Council (NLC) in FY 2014, a national agency support project was established in the Washington Office, Office of the Deputy Chief for Business Operations. The Pathways Program Strategy will be administered by the Pathways Advisory Board and will be used to provide incentives for Forest Service units to invest in Pathways interns. The national funding provided is for new Pathways interns which Units have committed to convert into permanent employees at the end of their Pathways appointment. An incentive of \$2,000 per intern in their first year is available for both new Indefinite Interns and Recent Graduates. Interns with an NTE appointment are not eligible to receive this funding.

The limited funds are intended to serve as an incentive to implement a high quality Pathways experience. Funds are intended to be used to: 1) partially cover the cost of high quality on-boarding and orientation; 2) to coordinate training, mentoring, and shadowing; and 3) provide an integrated experience for new employees. The commitment we make to program participants will foster a strong corporate identity that attracts a workforce where everyone's contributions are valued and careers in conservation are enriched through challenging experiences, peer-to-peer support, and mentoring by agency leaders.

Units will receive funds after HRM has provided a report with the listing of selections and their locations.

Pathway Program intern recruitment and selection related questions should be directed to the HRM Staff. The Business Operations Deputy Area Budget Coordinator will coordinate program funding source with the Regional Budget Officers. Program funding related questions should be directed to WO Business Operations

For additional information regarding the Pathways Internship Program, please visit the [Pathways Hiring website](#). This funding incentive is separate from the PMF Program.

Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) Program

Continuing with the Chief's initiative to recruit and attract leaders of the future, the PMF program will fund and authorize up to 9 slots at the national level in FY 2015. Units selected by the PMF Advisory Board to sponsor a fellow will be reimbursed approximately 50% of the fellow's salary and related cost - up to \$40,000 per year, for 2 years, beginning the first full fiscal year after the fellow is hired. The \$40,000 allotted for each PMF hired in 2014 represents an increase from the \$30,000 allotted for each PMF hired in 2013. This ceiling does not include the OPM fee for recruitment (\$7,000 per PMF in FY 2014). In FY2015 although there is no travel ceiling for this program, RSA's are to use prudent judgment in approved travel expenses for program participants.

These positions are associated with a Chief's initiative and therefore will be financed out of Cost Pool 1 throughout the fellowship, regardless of the discipline or program the fellow is focused on during their 2 year assignment. Units who are approved to sponsor a fellow under the PMF Program shall establish salary and related costs accordingly. Expenses should be collected for the entire year and an adjustment will be made between the unit's cost pool and the WO cost pool, not to exceed the approved PMF allocation by August 31 of each year. Copies of all accounting adjustments to Patty Davis (pattydavis@fs.fed.us) WO Business Operations. Units electing to charge the WO code directly should use IDP125/1322 for FY2015.

PMF Program management questions should be directed to HRM staff. Budget related questions should be directed to WO Business Operations staff.

At the beginning of each new fiscal year, a report will be generated by WO-HRM to determine the names and locations of PMF participants as of September 30 of the previous fiscal year. The PMFs funded from the Chief’s initiative are listed below:

Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) Participants

Name	Year Hired	Unit	Location
Andrew Loescher	2013	R6, Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Headquarters	Amboy, WA
Brandy Billie	2013	WO, CR	Washington, D.C.
Ginelle Heller	2013	R8, RO FAM	Atlanta, GA
Lauren McChesney	2013	R5, Klamath NF	Fort Jones, CA
Lindsay Buchanan	2013	R3, Santa Fe NF	Santa Fe, NM
Tyler Fish	2013	R9, Superior NF	Duluth, MN
Sunny Ng	2014	WO, FM	Washington, D.C.
Timothy Stroope	2014	R2, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison NF	Delta, CO
Veronica Van Hulle	2014	R3, Coronado NF	Forest Hdqtrs
Amarina Wuenschel	2014	R2, Regional Office	Denver, CO
Dan O’Toole	2014	R3, Carson NF	Forest Hdqtrs
Jennifer Austin	2014	R5, Inyo NF	District Office
Jasmine Napier	2014	R8, NF of Texas	Sam Houston RD
Kelly Balcarczyk	2014	R8, NF of Alabama	Forest Hdqtrs
Melissa Steward	2014	R9, Mark Twain NF	Rolla, MO
Torey Powell	2014	R10, Chugach NF	Forest Hdqtrs
Nick Goldstein	2014	WO, ORMS	Washington, D.C.
Jason Armbruster	2014	R2, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison NF	Delta, CO

Multicultural Workforce Strategic Initiative (MWSI)

The following funds have been approved for annual Forest Service Multicultural Workforce Initiative activities. MWSI job code for all the initiatives is IDP1MW, override (1322).

Multicultural Workforce Strategic Initiatives Total - \$800,787

Hispanic - \$41,250

Hispanic Initiative: Provides funds to manage outreach/recruitment of students for the Hispanic Initiative and includes liaison funding. The program currently supports two students pursuing natural resources and related disciplines.

American Indian - \$19,100

American Indian and Alaska Native Initiative: Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students and includes liaison funding. No students are currently being supported.

Asian - \$6,900

Asian American and Pacific Islander Initiative: Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for attending Asian Serving Institutions. No students are currently being supported.

African American \$67,300

Tuskegee Initiative (\$28,100): Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for the Tuskegee Initiative and includes liaison funding. The program currently supports two students pursuing natural resources and related disciplines.

Southern University Urban Forestry Initiative (\$30,000): Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for the Southern University Initiative. The program currently supports four students pursuing natural resources and related disciplines.

Alabama A&M Initiative (\$8,700): Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for the Alabama A&M Initiative and includes liaison funding. The program currently supports one student pursuing natural resources and related disciplines.

Florida A&M Initiative (\$500): Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for the Florida A&M Initiative. No students are currently being supported.

Disabilities - \$750

Persons with Disabilities Initiative (PWD): Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for the Persons with Disabilities Initiative. This also covers contracts and an MOU to assist in the overall management, monitoring and evaluation of the MWSI program. No students are currently being supported.

Scientist - \$12,500

Scientist Recruitment Initiative: Provides funds to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for the Scientist Recruitment Initiative. The program currently supports two students pursuing natural resources and related disciplines.

Job Corps - \$66,000

Schenck Initiative: Provides funds for a contractor to manage the outreach/recruitment of students for the Schenck Initiative. No students are currently being supported.

1890 Scholars - \$440,000

USDA 1890 Scholars Program: Provides financial assistance (full tuition/books/fees) for scholars, considering or pursuing disciplines primarily in natural resources. The program currently supports 22 students pursuing natural resources and related disciplines.

Greening Youth Foundation - \$146,987

Green Youth Foundation: Provides funds to recruit 22 interns from minority serving institutions based on need, as determined by Forest Service regional offices, forests or ranger districts. Focus will be on preparing students to qualify as candidates for the Public Land Corps authority.

WO Civil Rights Partnership, Outreach and Capacity Building Program

The following funds have been approved for annual Forest Service partnership, outreach and capacity building activities. The national program promotes community outreach and partnerships with the Land Grant Colleges and Universities, diverse community-based organization partners, and other federal agencies, as directed by Civil Rights and Natural Resources Laws, USDA Departmental Regulations, Executive Orders, and directives.

WO Partnership and Outreach Total - \$765,700**Pacific Southwest Region - \$125,000**

(Job Code IDP1PO; Override 1322): Supports the Central California Consortium (\$100,000) and the Northern California Consortium Initiatives (\$25,000) in a partnership to strengthen community outreach, recruitment, and capacity building program. The Initiatives emphasize the training and placement opportunities for Hispanic and Asian Pacific Islanders. The Initiatives also integrate community collaboration with underserved communities to promote healthy ecosystems through forest management planning. Forest ecosystem enhancement, conservation, maintenance, and restoration projects were implemented.

Southern Region - \$72,200

(Job Code IDP1PO; Override 1322): Supports the Urban Forestry Program at Southern University to support capacity building, program operations, publications, and awards. The funds will also support efforts toward academic program accreditation, job training/internships, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/Hydrology lab, the Urban Tree Research Farm, and the annual Urban Forestry Conference.

This program is linked to and strengthens the WO HRM Multicultural Workforce Strategic Initiatives (MWSI) Programs associated with this campus.

Southern Research Station - \$247,950

(\$205,200 - Job Code FRRE22; Override 1322) and (\$42,750 - Job Code IDP1PO; Override 1322): Supports the 1890 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) partnership outreach and capacity building activities through cooperative agreements with:

Alabama A&M University, Center of Excellence research, initiatives to support institutional/student resources (\$42,750)

Florida A&M University research initiatives (\$171,000)

Tuskegee University research scientist (\$34,200)

Additional funding (\$200,000) is allocated directly to the SRS (not included in this summary) for building capacity at the university to conduct Forest Service related research and support the development of future Forest Service scientists. These programs provide a link to and strengthen the WO HRM MWSI programs.

Forest Products Laboratory - \$47,025

(Job Code IDP1PO; Override 1322): Supports an HBCU agreement between the Forest Products Laboratory, Clark Atlanta University, and the Institute for Paper Science and Technology, to support education and research.

Washington Office Civil Rights Staff - \$273,525

(Job Code IDP1PO; Override 1322): These funds are held in the Washington Office, Office of Civil Rights for partnership outreach, capacity building and technical assistance initiatives, with underserved communities as follows:

WO Partnerships and Outreach (\$19,850): Support of annual USDA Forest Service Outreach initiatives:

National Environmental Justice Conference - \$3,000

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference and the Farmers Conference -\$4,750

Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) Conference - \$9,100

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) - \$3,000

Colleges and Universities Internship Program (\$240,925): Participates in the USDA assessment of the Hispanic American Colleges and Universities (HACU) National Internship Program. Supports an employment outreach and recruitment program for students from the Hispanic Serving Institutions and, as such, is connected to the WO HRM MWSI program. The National Hispanic Employment Program Manager is responsible for developing a final accomplishment report.

Tribal Colleges and Universities Support (\$12,750): Funds support capacity building to Tribal colleges and universities (TCU) and program/information outreach to Tribal Communities by enhancing the natural resource curriculum and development of students for employment with the Forest Service workforce. Funds may be utilized to support Student Internships. The National American Indian Program Manager is responsible for developing a final accomplishment report.

Chapter 2 RESERVED

Chapter 3 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Key Dates

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>
December 31, 2014	1 st Quarter FY 2015 performance accomplishment data for KPM 's shall be entered into source systems by this date.
March 31, 2015	2 nd Quarter FY 2015 performance accomplishment data for KPM 's shall be entered into source systems by this date.
June 30, 2015	3 rd Quarter FY 2015 performance accomplishment data for KPM 's shall be entered into source systems by this date.
July 18, 2015	3 rd Quarter FY 2015 KPM results and 4 th Quarter projections are due to USDA (data due to WO-SPBA July 3 rd).
October 31, 2015	WorkPlan projects are locked with FY2015 final year-end accomplishments. Other systems of record (SORs) follow their individual final input rules.
November 9, 2015	RSA's report project accomplishments, in an informal memo to WO - SPBA Budget Analysis Branch, that were financed from the Chief's Reserve Fund (CRF).
November 13, 2015	Per FSM 1490.3, Regional Foresters FY 2015 Year End Certifications due to WO-SPBA.
November 30, 2015	4th quarter and FY 2015 Year End KPM results are due to USDA (data due to WO-SPBA November 13 th).
December 11, 2015	Per FSM 1490.3, Deputy Chief FY 2015 Year End Certifications due to WO-SPBA.

Overview

Accomplishment reporting is critical to achieving the goals and objectives of the Forest Service and performance data supports both budgeting and target setting. The Performance Accountability System (PAS) provides access to performance data, including all targets and planned accomplishments, and can be accessed by going to the [PAS webpage](#). Actual accomplishments will be recorded in the appropriate source system (see [Metrics Management](#)) as they are completed, but **no later than one month following the close of each quarter in the fiscal year**.

Performance Management and Performance Measures

In FY 2015, the definition of the Forest Service's official measure set has been refined and, beginning in FY 2016, any measure not included in the USDA Strategic Plan, the Forest Service Strategic Plan, the Budget Justification, or feeders to measures included in those documents will be removed from the Performance Accountability System and not migrated to the geo-enabled Performance Accountability System. RSAs will continue to collect data on all measures until notified by the applicable Deputy Area representative that the measure has been retired or that the data is no longer required for program management.

Performance Targets (*errata*)

Performance targets have been entered into Metrics Management, RSAs shall plan work accordingly.

Geospatial Accomplishment Reporting Project

The Geospatial Accomplishment Reporting Project (GARP) is a three-phase effort to migrate performance reporting from the Performance Accountability System (PAS) to the geo-enabled Performance Accountability System (gPAS). In FY 2015, Phase 2 will expand tabular reporting and data quality assurance plans while improving the geo-enabled reporting capabilities developed in Phase 1. Line Officers and Program Managers should monitor compliance of geospatial entry for [geo-enabled measures](#). This means that some applications do not require entry of a polygon, point, or line, but that may change if RSAs

do not self-enforce. To learn more about the efforts to date and future milestones, visit the [GARP SharePoint](#) site.

Data Quality Assurance Plans

RSA performance management self-reviews and the WO performance oversight reviews are being replaced by WO Data Quality Assurance (DQA) plans. The current [FACTS DQA Plan](#) and [SMART DQA Plan](#) articulate data stewardship roles and assign on-line training for stewards of resource management data. In FY 2015, data stewards (of [geospatial measures](#)) in the RSA (down to the District level) are expected to take two on-line training courses: *Data Stewardship for Data Stewards* and *QA/QC for Data Stewards*. These courses are brief, relevant, and easily completed at your desk. Training can be found at the [USFS Data Stewardship Training Portal](#).

Links to important instructions/guidance

- Performance reporting business rules - [Metrics Management Page](#) of Managing for Results website.
- Definitions of PAS measures and their source applications - [FY 2015 Measure Metrics Details](#).
- Current actual accomplishment reporting, including targets, planned and actual accomplishment versus target - [PAS Accomplishment Reports Quick Start Guide](#) and [Instructions - Targets Assigned to RSAs](#).
- Roles, responsibilities, policies, and procedures for assuring accomplishment data quality - Program Development and Budgeting Handbook, FSH 1909.13, Chapter 50 - Accountability.

Special Initiatives

Accomplishment information related to several special initiatives and emphasis areas shall be identified as such in the appropriate source application. Current initiatives and emphasis areas are: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLRP), Western Bark Beetle Strategy (WBBS), Stewardship Contracting (STWRD), and the Forest Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service (FSNRC).

Appropriations Use

Refer to the Budget Execution Guide located in the [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section on the Managing for Results website.

Appropriations Law Principles

Refer to the Budget Execution Guide located in the [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section on the Managing for Results website.

Primary Purpose

Refer to the Budget Execution Guide located in the [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section on the Managing for Results website.

Chapter 4 NET AVAILABLE AND RSA ALLOCATION (*errata*)

FY 2015 Net Allocations have been determined and distributed.

Chapter 5 COST POOLS AND COST ALLOCATION FUNDING GUIDANCE**COST POOLS AND COST ALLOCATION****(Includes direction on OWCP and UCI)**

Cost Pools are described in Budget Execution Guide located in the [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section on the Managing for Results website.

Regional FY 2015 ceilings for Cost Pools 1-5 remain the same as in FY 2014. Regions will build their FY 2015 WorkPlans to these levels.

Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP) and Unemployment Compensation Insurance (UCI)

New guidance that streamlines the process of charging costs related to these payments will be provided separately. RSA units should plan for cost to continue to be charged to the program most directly related to the work being performed at the time of injury (OWCP) or unemployment (UCI).

FUNDING GUIDANCE**Who Pays for What FY 2015 Chief Information Office (CIO) and Human Resources Management (HRM)**

The CIO and HRM links provided share information on the major cost categories and reflects whether costs are paid by the local unit or the Forest Service (FS) CIO or HRM. CIO coverage of local unit costs is indicated where information technology services or infrastructure has been approved by the CIO in accordance with FS standards.

RSAs will be notified when access to the “Who Pays for What” document is published on the respective websites.

Cost Pool 9 - Facilities Maintenance Assessment Fund (CP09)

Starting in FY 2015, the Forest Service will use CP09 to pay the annual I-QMIS bill. This will replace the process of withdrawing QMQM cash and budget authority from every unit. Assessment amounts will be calculated based on number of quarters by RSA, and withheld from the final RSA CP09 allocation. This change will not apply to the Job Corps since CP09 available is not available to those units. They will continue to have assessment amounts adjusted from the QMQM account.

<u>RSA:</u>	<u>Number of Quarters:</u>	<u>FY15 Amount:</u>
1	381	\$24,627.84
2	327	21,137.28
3	457	29,540.48
4	620	40,076.80
5	702	45,377.28
6	495	31,996.80
8	80	5,171.20
9	75	4,848.00
10	148	9,566.72
15	2	129.20
16	126	8,144.64
22	11	711.04
24	13	840.32
26	4	258.56
27	20	1,292.80
33	10	646.40
41	<u>1</u>	<u>64.64</u>
Total I-QMIS:	3,472	\$224,430.00

General Categories of Expenses that May be Included in Cost Pools

Refer to the Budget Execution Guide located in [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section on the Managing for Results website.

Chapter 6 WO BUDGET AND DETACHED UNITS FUNDING

The ELT approved an increase in the Washington Office budget constraint to include investments that benefit the entire Agency and warranted inclusion in the annual review process.

It is important to note that:

Funding for Headquarters is not an increase in operational costs or FTEs.

Some projects appear new to the list; however, they have been funded in the past through final or supplemental allocations. Adding them to the WO portfolio increases consistency and transparency in the funding process.

The FY 2015 WO Budget reflects a 5% decrease in IT investments.

Specific project information is included in the funding table document at the Managing for Results website, under [FY 2015 Program Direction](#). The funding table displays the Washington Office and Detached Units off-the-top funding (Headquarters-HQ, Agency Support Projects-ASP and Information Resource Direction Board-IRDB).

Chapter 7 RESERVED

Chapter 8 CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION

Overview (*errata*)

New, Expanded, Extended and Expired Authorities (*errata*)

Secure Rural Schools Payments (P.L. 106-393)

In October 2013, Congress passed a one-year reauthorization for the Secure Rural School (SRS) program (H.R. 527) for fiscal year 2014. Currently, the SRS program is not authorized in 2015, which will impact payments to states. Without enactment, states and counties will receive payments in FY 2015 based on the most recent seven-year average of the Payment for Receipts for Schools and Roads (P.L. 60-136).

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (*errata*)

SEC. 422 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriation Act, 2015 amends Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) by striking “10 years after December 8, 2004” and inserting “on September 30, 2016”. The authority now extends until September 2016.

Additional Authorities Information

The deferral of Roads and Trails for States funds to Treasury continues. NFS estimates this deferral to be around \$18 million for FY 2015.

Definitions of Congressional Intent

Refer to the Budget Execution Guide located in the [FY 2015 Program Direction](#) section on the Managing for Results website.

Chapter 9 CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Resiliency in Addressing Impact of Climate Change

FY 2015 is a year of transition toward integration of the Climate Change and Sustainable Operations Programs within the Forest Service, with the goal of aligning climate science with sustainable actions for operationally restoring the health, diversity and productivity of natural resources.

The integration of these programs will provide a broader platform to facilitate achievement of the FS mission in the face of a changing climate. It will also provide holistic policy and guidance to strive for resilient landscapes, resilient communities, and a sustainable organization.

The climate change advisor's office was established to prepare our agency and the communities we serve to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. The Forest Service approach for adapting to climate change encompasses climate-specific strategies applied across the agency and direct program-by-program efforts to integrate climate-related policies and guidance. This is a balanced and proactive approach that enables the agency to restore and maintain resilient ecosystems through smart policy and forward-thinking management practices. **Our commitment to dealing with the impact of a changing climate will be interwoven with our priority work.** The *National Roadmap for Responding to Climate Change*, the *Climate Change Performance Scorecard*, and the *2012 Planning Rule* are particularly valuable in integrating climate change adaptation into agency-wide policies, processes, programs and operations. We also strive to be consistent and credible in achieving compliance with EO 13514, EO 13653 and the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA).

The Climate Resilience Council was established by the President in 2013 (EO 13653) to help move his climate action plan forward. The Council established a working group (Climate Natural Resources Working Group) to provide guidance on the activities federal agencies pursue. The FY 2015 program direction is based upon expected Administration and Departmental direction. The national emphasis activities our agency can accomplish in accordance with the Climate Performance Scorecard and the priority emphasis areas described in the Chief's FY 2014 letter transmitting the budget guidance to the field appear below. The linkages among these diverse efforts will help increase understanding of to multiple objectives will be accomplished for The President, USDA, and Forest Service.

Sustainable Operations supports the agency's mission in the face of a changing climate by connecting our land stewardship with practices that reduce the agency's resource consumption and environmental footprint. Driven by federal sustainability legislation, Executive Orders, and the Office of Management and Budget scorecard reporting, Sustainable Operations focuses on reducing on-the-ground consumption, piloting scalable innovations, and developing policy that is integrated, solution-oriented, and leadership supported. It engages a network of dedicated employees who share the commitment to build resiliency into our landscapes and communities, and to link our consumption habits to our future assets. Continue implementation of unit specific programs of work as developed by each Region/Station/Area in FY 2014.

While the action items below directly support and can be reported in the Climate Change Performance Scorecard, completing an action item does not necessarily enable a unit to answer "yes" to a respective Scorecard element. For example, if a unit completes FY 2015 emphasis action item 4 (Demonstrate and partner with communities to develop exemplary facilities and resource management activities that use cutting edge resiliency effort) it does not mean that the unit fully met the threshold for responding "yes" to Elements 5,7, 9 or 10. Continue to refer to the [Climate Change Performance Scorecard Guidance](#) to determine how a unit can respond "yes" to a Scorecard element.

Many of the climate specific action items below span more than one Scorecard element. Please refer to the scorecard guidance document to determine under which element to report your progress.

Emphasis Activities:

1. Develop at least one flagship tribal partnership in every Forest Service Region to implement climate adaptation strategies for tribal lands and partnering with National Forests and research stations. (Scorecard elements 4, 5, 6, 7) (Chief's emphasis-inclusion, communities, restoration).
2. Engage with youth and veterans through the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to accomplish climate-informed restoration work on public lands (i.e., watershed restoration, hazardous fuel reduction). (Scorecard elements 1, 5, 6, 7) (Chief's emphasis-communities, wildland fire management).
3. Collaborate with states and or other partners on projects to reduce threats from wildfire, insects and disease and bolster forest climate-informed restoration and build in climate impacts and projections in implementing the new provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill. (Scorecard elements 4, 5, 6, 7) (Chief's emphasis-restoration, wildland fire management, safety, communities).
4. Demonstrate and partner with communities to develop exemplary facilities and resource management activities that use cutting edge resiliency efforts (i.e., retrofitting bridge systems, moving recreational facilities out of high risk areas, using locally sourced wood in facilities). (Scorecard elements 5, 7, 9, 10) (Chief's emphasis-safety, communities).
5. Inform employees and the public about baseline estimates of carbon stocks and trends and translate forest carbon principles and other guidance for biological carbon in the planning and implementation processes with other efforts to assist forests in adapting to the impacts of a changing climate. (Scorecard elements 1, 9) (Chief's emphasis-restoration, communities).
6. Work with state and local partners to target urban and community forestry investments that support carbon sequestration; reduced energy consumption and adapt communities to climate change. An example is the Federal Urban Waters Partnership. (Scorecard elements 5, 6, 7, 9, 10) (Chief's emphasis-communities, restoration, wildland fire management).
7. Take quick action to address post-disturbance ecosystem restoration activities by considering climate - informed opportunities to regenerate with species better adapted to a changing climate. An example is reforestation. (Scorecard elements 7, 9) (Chief's emphasis-wildland fire management, restoration, communities).
8. Consider how the future climate will affect the results of the Watershed Condition Framework where national forests and grasslands have the opportunity to evaluate their portfolio of watershed condition rankings and use future climate scenarios to adjust where investments will achieve lasting outcomes. (Scorecard elements 6, 7) (Chief's emphasis-restoration).
9. Use future climate scenarios to improve investments in wildland fire management and monitor results. (Scorecard elements 6, 7, 8, 10) (Chief's emphasis-wildland fire management).
10. Evaluate at least 1 monitoring program to determine how it can be used to track changes in the most highly vulnerable resources and most critical stressors. (Scorecard element 8) (Chief's emphasis-restoration).
11. Engage and expand interagency and community partnerships in every Forest Service Region to implement sustainable mitigation and adaptation strategies jointly with communities. (Scorecard elements 10) (Chief's emphasis-inclusion, communities, restoration).

Chief's Corporate Sustainability Action Items

1. Continue agency-wide implementation of Power-IT-Down and Utility Bill Cleanup priority action items; and

2. Continue the work of field-based teams including: Communications, Eco-fleet and Drivers, Climate Change Scorecard Element 10 (Sustainable Operations), Green Events Toolkit, Greening Fire, Sustainability Science, Sustainable Acquisition, Track to Zero, and Water.

In FY 2015, the Sustainable Operations Collective’s combined national and RSA funding allocation will reside and be managed in the Washington Office. The RSA amount allocated to support the Sustainable Operations Collective is \$567,700; specific BLI allocations are displayed in the table below.

Sustainable Operations Collective Funding
(Whole \$)

	<u>Budget Line Item (BLI)</u>						
	<u>CMFC</u>	<u>CP01-04</u>	<u>CP09</u>	<u>FRRE</u>	<u>SPST</u>	<u>WFPR</u>	<u>Total</u>
R1	26,900	26,900	26,900				80,700
R2		60,000	20,000			20,000	100,000
R3		50,000	30,000				80,000
R4		25,000					25,000
R5		50,000					50,000
R6		117,000				25,000	142,000
R9	5,000	25,000	5,000			5,000	40,000
NA					5,000		5,000
RMRS				10,000			10,000
Research (5,000 per Station)				35,000			35,000
TOTAL	<u>31,900</u>	<u>353,900</u>	<u>81,900</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>567,700</u>

Chapter 10 RESERVED

Chapter 11 FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

Forest and Rangeland Research is managed under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Act of 1978. Forest Service Research and Development (FS R&D) serves society by developing and communicating the scientific information and innovative technology required to manage, protect, use, and sustain our nation’s forests and rangelands.

BLI: Forest and Rangeland Research (FRRE)

Priority Allocations

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNW (26).....	13,983,000
PSW (27).....	803,000
RMRS (22).....	14,160,000
NRS (24).....	17,262,000
SRS (33).....	15,872,000
FPL (11).....	1,293,000
IITF (12).....	200,000
Region 2.....	40,000
Region 8.....	95,000
Unallocated (1512).....	1,520,000
Total.....	\$65,228,000

FY 2015 funding for Threat Assessment Centers **is included in the WO National Office** (1326). Allocation includes \$2,166,000 for PNW and \$2,166,000 for SRS from various BLIs.

Congressional Direction/Emphasis

See page 73 to 74 of [House Report](#) 113-551.

See page 49 to 50 of [Senate Report](#).

“The Forest Service is expected to prioritize white-nose syndrome in bats, commercialization of nanocellulose production, research to improve management of the stressors impacting forests, and science and technology deployment in high value, high volume markets for low value wood through a wide range of biomass uses, including nanotechnology, wood for energy, Green Building Construction and other products.

“The Forest Service is urged to invest in innovative building systems to support growth in the market share of wood in both residential and non-residential construction, including tall wood building systems, improvements in softwood lumber structural assessments, and other research and technology transfer that will help grow markets for forest products.”

Reports

Invasive Species - “The Committee directs the Forest Service to provide the Committees on Appropriations with a report, detailing its work to eradicate and/or mitigate this threat.”

Program Priorities

Develop prevention, mitigation, treatment, short/long-term restoration methods and strategies for disturbances (e.g., invasive species, extreme events).

Provide integrated energy feedstock management, production, and conversion systems, technologies, and opportunities for sustainable bioenergy.

Develop an integrated approach to understanding urban and urbanizing environments as ecological units to more effectively manage forests in these complex landscapes.

Develop and deploy analysis and decision support systems to minimize costs of land management and protect lives and property.

Pursue activities that strengthen and enhance the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program capability to: (1) improve cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness; (2) develop new process and evaluation models for the Nation’s forests and rangelands; (3) produce online FIA information tools; and (4) enhance resource monitoring.

Targets - Performance

The Research Information Tracking System (RITS) is the official reporting system for all publications originating from FS scientists in their official capacities. Field employees should record all publications in RITS as specified by the RITS functional business requirements and include accomplishments deriving from partnerships. Stations will refer to letter “Budget and Performance-related Data Calls” dated July 25, 2014 for the list of performance measures and due dates.

Allocation Direction

Allocation of Research funds will support the development and delivery of knowledge and innovative technology to improve the health and use of the Nation’s forests and rangelands in public and private lands across the landscape continuum, from wilderness to urban areas.

National Economic Center

Research Stations should provide support to establish the National Center for Natural Resource Economics at the following FTE levels as a minimum for FY 2015:

NRS	2.00
SRS	2.25
RMRS	2.25
FPL	1.00
PNW	1.25
PSW	1.25
IITF	0.25

Wood Products Insect Research Unit

Funding for the Wood Products Insect Research Unit, located in Starkville, Mississippi will be permanently transferred to FPL. For details, see “A Proposed Reorganization of FPL RWU-4723 (Letter of Understanding)” dated April 4, 2014.

Forest Inventory and Analysis

The FRRE priority allocations include funding to support the forest inventory and analysis program for implementation in all 50 states and U.S. Territories, excluding interior Alaska.

BLI: Fire Operations Other - Forest and Rangeland Research (FRF2)

Priority Allocations

FRF2 Specific Allocations to Stations

PSW (26).....	900,000
PSW (27).....	30,000
RMRS (22).....	870,000
NRS (24).....	100,000
IITF (12).....	100,000
Total.....	\$2,000,000

Program Priorities

Conduct research and development activities in support of the National Fire Plan (NFP), the Healthy Forest Initiative, and Fire and Fuels R&D Strategic Plan in five key areas: core fire; ecological and environmental fire science; social fire science; integrated fire and fuels management research; and science application.

Consider the FS R&D response to recommendations of the Wildland Fire and Fuels Peer Review in establishing the program of work and implementing new activities.

Targets - Performance

Stations shall refer to letter “Budget and Performance-related Data Calls” dated July 25, 2014 for the list of performance measures and due dates.

Allocation Direction

Stations will follow direction contained in the Budget Justification and general section of this report pertaining to congressional intent and reprogramming, as well as the intent of the recommended distribution of NFP funds among portfolios and elements and to special projects that will be provided with final allocations, in allocating and spending Forest Service National Fire Plan Research funds in FY 2015.

BLI: Joint Fire Science Program (FRJF)**Priority Allocations**

None.

Program Priorities

The Joint Fire Science Program funds and monitors research and science application activities, largely through competitively-funded, peer-reviewed projects, to support the science needs of managers in planning, implementing, and analyzing effects of fuel and fire management and rehabilitation and restoration activities in fire-affected ecosystems and communities. Emphasis areas in FY 2015 will be determined by the interagency Governing Board of the Joint Fire Science Program following a scoping process for determining priorities that involves the user and research communities. Stations are expected to assign unique job codes to individual funded projects.

Allocation Direction

Funds held in reserve and those transferred to BLM will be allocated later as determined by the Governing Board.

National Forest Service Library (Various BLIs)

The National Forest Service Library provides the most cost-effective, efficient means of meeting the agency's information needs and a full range of scientific and technical information services to FS employees throughout the agency. Primary customers are resource professionals, scientists, and technicians. Access the [National FS Library](#).

The Library Program receives broad policy direction from a Board of Directors made up of a cross section of agency leadership. The National Library Program Manager reports to the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) Director and is located in Fort Collins, Colorado. The Program Manager directly supervises the overall operation of the library program including all day to day operations and all work assignment for the libraries and staff at FPL, IITF, and RMRS.

Select FY 2015 Projected Accomplishments and Deliverables:

Identify and deliver timely, accurate, and relevant information enabling employees to keep up-to-date with scientific and technical literature.

Deliver information to employees Agency-wide—to every Region, Station, and national forest, the WO and across all functional areas.

Deliver over 150,000 scientific and technical publications from around the world in response to specific requests; and an additional 150,000 via full-text downloads.

Provide one-stop access to quality scientific and technical information services via an easy to use national website.

Provide direct end-user access to thousands of relevant full-text documents on the web.

Increase employee access to full-text resources.

Provide professional guidance to FS employees on complex information management issues.

Provide critical support for FS planning efforts.

Chapter 12 STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS

General Direction

The FY 2014, Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 113-76, approved a new Budget Line Item, Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR). The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) budget line item formalizes the Redesign process.

FY 2015 Allocation Process for LSR (errata)

In FY 2015, the amount available for competitive allocation will be funded by LSR (SPLR), in accordance with the FY 2015 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Process National Guidelines, [FY 2015 National Guidance](#).

When the USFS receives its final appropriation from Congress, the Deputy Chief for S&PF will notify the State Forester regional organizations regarding their final competitive allocation and request their list of approved projects to be funded. If the final lists are not available at the time of the enactment of appropriations, they will be provided by the end of December 2014, in keeping with the traditional “Redesign” timeline. The Deputy Chief will allocate the requisite funding to the corresponding USFS Regional/Area Office for grant execution.

Matching requirements for dollars awarded through the competitive allocation process may be met through consolidation as currently handled through consolidated payment grants. Cash and in-kind contributions from other federal sources may not be used as match.

National Association of State Forester Region Allocations

<u>NASF Region</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>
Northeast	\$3,426,832	\$3,450,720
South	\$4,586,917	\$4,500,000
West	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000

Reporting and Accountability (errata)

Each geographic region will provide a year-end report outlining the methods involved in their competitive process, activities and accomplishments of funded projects, and lessons learned.

State Fact Sheets - only information for the current fiscal year (in this case FY 2015) will need to be entered; out-year estimates are not required. **All State Fact Sheets must be completed and approved by January 30, 2016.**

General Advice

In accordance with the Action Plan for the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) review of the Washington Office, State and Private Forestry, the Northeastern Area and Regions are to provide State Foresters with sections of this and future program direction sections that specifically address State and Private Forestry programs and activities (including WFCF and WFVF in the Wildland Fire Management Chapter).

Contributions to Hazardous Fuels Accomplishment

Forest Health programs (SPFH, SPCH) and State Fire Assistance (WFCF) contribute to reducing hazardous fuels. Please see the hazardous fuels section for recording instructions.

Council of Western State Foresters – Region 2 (errata)

130,000 – Forest Health – Cooperative Lands (SPCH)
 180,000 – State Fire Assistance (WFCF)
 145,000 – Forest Stewardship (SPST)
 110,000 – Urban and Community Forestry (SPUF)
 40,000 – Forest Health – Federal Lands (SPFH)
 40,000 – Vegetation & Watershed Management (NFVW)
 76,000 – Hazardous Fuels (WFHF)
 40,000 – Forest and Rangeland Research (FRRE)
20,000 – Forest Legacy (LGCY)
 \$781,000

National Information Center (errata)

Funds are allocated to the Northeastern Area National Information Center to develop accomplishment-reporting systems. Funding mix is as follows:

19,000 – Forest Health Program, Federal Funds (SPFH)
 20,000 – Forest Health Program, Cooperative Funds (SPCH)
 38,000 – State Fire Assistance (WFCF)
 79,000 – Urban and Community Forestry (SPUF)
 50,000 – Forest Stewardship Program (SPST)
 39,000 – Forest Legacy Program (LGCY)
5,000 – Hazardous Fuels (WFHF)
 \$250,000

Redesign Implementation Council (renamed State and Private Forestry Board) (errata)

The amount allocated to the SPF Board is as follows:

18,000 – Forest Health Program, Cooperative Funds (SPCH)
 9,000 – State Fire Assistance (WFCF)
 9,000 – Volunteer Fire Assistance (WFVF)
 9,000 – Forest Stewardship Program (SPST)
9,000 – Urban and Community Forestry (SPUF)
 \$54,000

National Research Council Report Analysis and Implementation (errata)

Reserve funds include:

- 75,000 – Cooperative Lands, Forest Health Management (SPCH)
 - 74,000 – State Fire Assistance (WFCF)
 - 73,000 – Forest Stewardship (SPST)
 - 64,000 – Urban and Community Forestry (SPUF)
- \$286,000

National Seed Lab (errata)

The program for Region 8 is as follows:

- 195,000 – Forest Stewardship (SPST), allocated directly.
 - 123,000 – Forest Stewardship (SPST), from Region 8
 - 95,000 – Forest and Rangeland Research (FRRE), allocated directly.
 - 149,190 – Vegetation and Watershed Management (NFVW), within Region 8’s allocation.
 - 50,000 – Seed Testing Receipts.
- \$612,190

Grey Towers (errata)

The Washington Office provides administrative oversight for this landmark.

- 1,663,000 – Direct Cost Pool
 - 214,000 – Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness (NFRW)
 - 135,000 – Forest Stewardship (SPST – included in WO Budget,)
- \$2,012,000

Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) (errata)

- 260,000 – Cooperative Lands, Forest Health (SPCH)
 - 420,000 – State Fire Assistance (WFCF)
 - 35,000 – Forest Stewardship (SPST)
 - 145,000 – Urban and Community Forestry (SPUF)
 - 100,000 – WFM Hazardous Fuels (WFHF)
- \$960,000

FS/NRCS - Chiefs’ Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership

The FS/NRCS Forest Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service – Chief’s Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership is a multi-year partnership to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands meet across the nation. In FY 2014, the agencies invested about \$30 million for 13 projects in 12 states to reduce wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protect water quality and supply, and to improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species. In 2015, the FS plans to invest up to \$15 million for these projects and will consider additional sites for collaboration to build upon this “all lands” approach to landscape restoration. By leveraging technical and financial resources, building upon existing

partnership, and coordinating activities on adjacent public and private lands, conservation investments and outcomes by NRCS and FS will be more efficient and effective in these watersheds.

Please see Chapter 14 – National Forest System for the list of FS/NRCS projects.

BLI: Forest Health Management (FHM), Federal (SPFH) & Cooperative (SPCH) Lands

Program Priorities

BLIs are prioritized to 1) provide forest health expertise, technologies and methodologies to assist forest managers and landowners; and 2) support collaborative activities on all lands to identify, survey, monitor, eradicate, prevent, and suppress forest insect, disease and invasive plant infestations. Funds allocated in previous years for eradication, prevention, suppression, improving ecosystem resilience projects and not spent in previous fiscal years will be applied to similar FY 2015 projects.

Climate Change

To assist in future evaluation of the impacts of a changing climate, field units will monitor the occurrence and trends of infestations and damage caused by forest insects and diseases outside the normal geographic range of the pest; changes in the biology of pests; and other short-term changes in pest activity likely caused directly or indirectly by changes in climatic conditions.

Forest Health Evaluation Monitoring Funds, Pesticide Impact Assessment Program and Special Technology Development Program funds: Consistent with previous years, project proposals are solicited through a separate competitive process. Monitoring the impacts of a changing climate is a focus area; field units are encouraged to consider this focus area when submitting requests for funding. A letter from the Deputy Chief of State & Private Forestry, identifying approved projects, will be forthcoming.

Targets and Performance

Pest Conditions Data

Regions and Area will report 2015 forest conditions data into two databases: the Aerial Detection System and the Pest Event Reporter (PER). Final Region and Area data pertaining to the Aerial Detection will be entered in the System by the **NOVEMBER 13, 2015** due date. Initial PER data will be into the system by **JANUARY 30, 2016** and the Region and Area PER promotions are due by **FEBRUARY, 13, 2016**. The procedures and fields for both databases remain the same as 2014. The aerial survey data will be provided to FHTET Director in Ft. Collins, Colorado. The pest event data can be entered directly into the PER Database using a user name and password.

Accomplishments

Report Forest Health Management (FHM) funded acres treated by entering data into the Forest Health Accomplishment Database (FAD) according to the directions and timeline in the FAD User's Guide. Final accomplishments are due no later than **October 29, 2015**. Other Federal agencies will adhere to the same directions and due dates, and enter their accomplishment data directly into FAD.

Primary Purpose, Job Code Considerations

Funding Gypsy Moth Surveys

The following guides the allocation of funds for gypsy moth trapping surveys:

Detection and monitoring surveys associated with Slow-the-Spread (STS) projects are funded from SPFH or SPCH funds.

Detection surveys not associated with STS projects may be funded with either Survey and Technical Assistance (SPFH or SPCH) or APHIS funds.

Detection survey traps, outside the generally infested area, producing multiple moth catches in a year, may trigger a delimiting survey the following year. Delimiting surveys are funded with eradication funds.

Delimiting surveys on Federal lands are funded with FS eradication funds (SPFH). If the delimiting survey includes both federal and non-federal lands the federal lands portion is funded with federal funds (SPFH) and the portion on non-federal lands can be cost-shared (SPCH) 50:50 with states.

Post-eradication monitoring surveys are funded (at the same cost-share ratios as delimiting trapping) with eradication funds for a 3-year period from the last multiple trap catch or finding of a live gypsy moth life stage.

Allocation Direction

Allocation of funds for Survey and Technical Assistance (S&TA) will reflect a distribution which is based on a unit's level of technical assistance provided to National Forest System units, other federal agencies, and other partners. This reflects the amount of technical assistance required from the unit to the partners. Some of each unit's share of total S&TA funding may also be provided under SPCH. Any annual adjustments to the total amount of funding available for S&TA and the percentage of total that a unit is allocated is negotiated with the units and is based on the magnitude of the forest health issues in the unit.

Allocation of funds for Eradication, Prevention, Suppression, and Restoration projects will be based on field and WO recommendations that may include protecting acres at high risk of tree mortality (National Insect and Disease Risk Map); acres in the WUI; improving fire regime condition class; managing for Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species; risk of invasive species; and areas of ecological, economic, or local importance. The amount of funding available by pest (gypsy moth, southern pine beetle, western bark beetles, etc.) is based primarily on past and anticipated pest conditions, and subsequent Congressional actions. Regions and Area have the discretion to use up to 10 percent of the funding allocated for "Gypsy Moth", "Southern Pine Beetle", and "Western Bark Beetle" projects for other insect and disease pests that are considered to be locally significant. In addition, funds will be held in Reserve to help meet "unplanned needs" that might occur after the Program Direction is issued. In contrast, "Emergency Funds" are not held in Reserve. Emergency Funds are funds specifically appropriated by Congress, outside the normal annual appropriations for Forest Health Protection programs, or otherwise made available from within the Forest Service or the Department, to meet a specific, one-time, emergency to eradicate or suppress a pest.

Funds allocated in previous years for eradication, prevention, suppression, and restoration projects and not spent in previous fiscal years will be applied to FY 2015 eradication, prevention, suppression, and restoration projects.

Suppression funding for "other Federal agencies" has ranged between \$2 - \$3 million. Except for a few cases, this funding is transferred from the WO through Treasury to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Defense.

Funding for invasive plant control and management on federal lands is limited to technical assistance to federal land managers, except in Hawaii and other states with tropical forests, as authorized by the Hawaii Tropical Forestry Recovery Act of 1992. Currently, the Forest Service limits non-technical assistance to tropical forests in Hawaii.

The Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) program promotes the collection of forest stress and disturbance data on federal, state, tribal, and private lands using nationally standardized methods and data fields. Standardized data are necessary to produce reports and maps depicting regional and national forest health conditions in an unbiased and scientific manner. Allocation of FHM base funding will be based on the number of participating States and acres of forested land in those States.

FHM program partners are to use national standards to conduct aerial and ground surveys and report survey data on an annual basis. FHM funding should also be used to support participation in program activities,

such as risk mapping of forest insects and pathogens. FHM Evaluation Monitoring (EM) is a competitive program to evaluate the extent, severity, and impact of forest health issues. Allocation of EM funds will be based on recommendations from regional and national selection panels that review proposals through a competitive process. Allocations for other FHM projects of regional or national significance such as sudden oak death survey, analysis, and national activities will be based on FHM Management Team recommendations. A letter from the Deputy Chief of State & Private Forestry, identifying approved projects, will be forthcoming.

Allocation of funds for other projects or purposes of regional or national significance will be based on factors such as long-term commitments (i.e., National Information Center), nationally significant projects (i.e., gene conservation), increased program efficiencies (i.e., Risk Assessments), regionally significant projects (for example, Western S&PF Center), and Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team's (FHTET) Field Technology Development Projects.

Allocation of funds for some programs and projects, such as the Forest Service Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (FS-PIAP) or FHTET's Special Technology Development Program (STDP) will be based on a competitive selection process, and pending final recommendations and decisions, are generally allocated separate from the Program Direction. A letter from the Deputy Chief of State & Private Forestry, identifying approved projects, will be forthcoming.

BLI: National Fire Plan - Forest Health Management, Cooperative Lands (SPS5)

Based on the FY 2014, Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 113-76, SPS5 is now in the Forest Health - Cooperative Lands section (SPCH).

BLI: Forest Stewardship (SPST)

Priority Allocations

None.

Reports

For performance reporting instructions please refer to official FY2015 reporting guidance issued by the Director of Cooperative Forestry.

Program Priorities

Landscape Stewardship-Develop guidance and best practices for development and implementation of landscape-scale and multi-landowner Forest Stewardship Plans and planning approaches.

Landowner Outreach-Develop and promote new landowner and community outreach and communication tools including social marketing and peer-to-peer networking tools to effectively target program delivery efforts in important forest resource areas.

Landowner Access to Assistance-Increase landowner opportunities for participation in biomass energy, certification, USDA cost-share programs, and markets.

Accomplishment Tracking-Use the Stewardship Mapping and reporting Tool (SMART) to spatially track, and tie program accomplishments to forest resource management outcomes.

Allocation Direction

The Forest Service will continue phasing in a new allocation methodology for the Forest Stewardship Program that is intended to encourage performance within Important Forest Resource Areas that are geospatially defined through the Forest Stewardship Program Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) and/or State Forest Action Plans. Resource and performance factors are:

Statewide comprehensive program potential (55 percent), represented by the number of NIPF owners (>10 acres), number of NIPF acres (>10 acres), and acres of agricultural land in need of protection.

Program Performance (45 percent) based on:

Total acres covered by current, approved Forest Stewardship Management Plans. (15%)

Acres within Important Forest Resource Areas covered by current, approved Forest Stewardship Management Plans. (15%)

Acres within Important Forest Resource Areas that are being managed according to an approved Forest Stewardship Management Plan, as confirmed by visits to a statistically valid random sample of plan properties. (15%)

BLI: Forest Legacy (LGCY)

Priority Allocations

The Forest Service is directed to fund projects in priority order according to the competitively selected national priority list submitted by the Forest Service. Administrative allocations to the field are expected to be similar to 2014.

Program Priorities

Each Region, Area, or Institute reported their recommended project lists to the Washington Office and a final project list was developed by a national panel and was published in the FY 2015 President's Budget. Final determination of funding levels is decided by Congressional direction.

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) will support the following information, appraisal, and outreach activities that benefit the program:

National Information Center database

Geographic information system support

A dedicated Forest Legacy review appraiser in the Northeastern Region and appraisal support to some Regions

Western Forestry Leadership Coalition

Woodland Owner's Survey

Forest Service Timber Tax website

Forests on the Edge study

Forest Service Taxation Team

Targets - Performance

For projects that closed within a given fiscal quarter, enter accomplishments, including final acres, final project costs, and parcels prevented, into the Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS) no later than the end of that quarter. In addition, States are required to provide the Forest Service with a Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefile of FLP project tracts and match properties that closed during the fiscal year, as part of regular annual reporting requirements. These GIS shapefiles will allow the Forest Service to spatially track FLP program accomplishments and allow the agency to calculate program outcomes and public benefits provided by the lands protected through FLP. The Washington Office has provided the Regions with a set of data standards for the shapefiles.

Allocation Direction

Funds are allocated for project acquisition and program management, which may include project development and acquisition facilitation. Program management funds are allocated based on the need and capacity of active States in each Region, Area, or the Institute.

BLI: Urban and Community Forestry (SPUF)**Program Priorities**

The following program priorities are intended to provide focus for the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program:

- Improve community livability by focusing on the urban forest human health connections
- Pursue mutually beneficial partnerships to connect people and urban areas to natural resource conservation
- Mitigate and adapt to climate variability
- Protect and improve air and water quality
- Conserve energy
- Reduce the impacts of fragmentation and urbanization on forest landscapes
- Build urban forest resilience-ease the impacts of invasive pests and catastrophic events
- Foster sustainable communities

Targets – Performance

States report annual UCF accomplishment data through the Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS). The National Information Center (NIC) hosts CARS on their [NIC web portal](#). State reporting in CARS should be completed by **October 16, 2015** to allow the regions time to approve their state reports (see below).

Program Direction by Activity

Regions will continue providing guidance to ensure the following:

- Communities have active urban & community forest management plans
- Communities employ or retain through written agreement the services of professional forestry staff
- Communities have adopted and can present documentation of local and statewide ordinances or policies
- Communities have local advocacy or advisory organizations such as active tree boards, commissions, or non-profit organizations
- Number of hours of volunteer service are logged (statewide)
- Technical assistance is provided to communities
- State UCF programs will meet the four basic program standards (“Allocation Direction”), including a current five-year plan that may be included within an integrated Statewide Forest Action Plan

In addition, regional UCF program managers are to enter the Amount of Federal (USFS) funding to States into CARS.

Allocation Direction

Regions will allocate funding to their States, including the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and affiliated Pacific island nations, based on each State’s share of the population living in developing and managing communities. Regions may assign weights so that no less than 20 percent of each State’s overall allocation would come from the managing or developing categories. Following consultation with their State Foresters, Regions have authority to adjust funding to continue regional technical assistance activities and program operations. Regional allocations will include funding for UCF programs in each Region and the Northeastern Area.

The National Program will fund Regions/Area enough to provide \$200,000 for each State (including the District of Columbia & Puerto Rico), and \$100,000 for the Virgin Islands and each Pacific Island that maintains a basic program at a minimum.

For a State to fully qualify for basic program support and have the capacity to compete for and manage use of UCF funding, including competitive funding, each State's basic program will meet the following 4 program standards:

- Urban and community forestry program coordinator
- Volunteer/partnership/technical assistance coordination
- Urban and community forestry advisory council
- State program strategic plan (five-year plan)

Program elements may be implemented in a variety of ways including the use of grants, contracts and/or agreements. While the State Forester's Office is the primary delivery organization, partnerships are an important element in the success of the program. Professional and technical urban forestry training for partner staff, conference attendance, and youth and diversity engagement are encouraged for grantees and recipients of program funding.

BLI: Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (SPSC/LGSC)

Priority Allocations

Program Management funds will not be allocated to the field at this time. Project funds will be allocated to the field once project selection for the current Request for Applications has been completed. This is anticipated to happen in late spring.

Program Priorities

The purpose of Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program- CFP, (authorized by Section 8003 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-236; 122 Stat. 1281), is to achieve community benefits through grants to local governments, Tribal Governments, and nonprofit organizations to establish community forests by acquiring and protecting forestlands. By creating community forests through land acquisition, communities and tribes provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, address the impacts of a changing climate, provide demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and derive financial and community benefits from sustainable management.

Targets - Performance

The first CFP grants were issued in 2012. The CFP has issued a total of 21 project grants. More than 2000 acres of community forest have been secured through CFP. The Forest Service has not yet developed program performance targets.

Allocation Direction

In FY 2014 the Forest Service issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for projects. The Forest Service will conduct competitive review and ranking process of project applications to determine which community projects will receive funding. The review and rankings are based on criteria outlined in the CFP final rule. We anticipate making project selections in May 2015. Program administration funds are allocated to RSA's based on workload and need.

Conservation Education

Congressional Intent

See - FSM 1620 and Conservation Education Strategic Plan to Advance Environmental Literacy.

Chief's National Emphasis

The Conservation Education (CE) program is instrumental in supporting the America's Great Outdoors and the First Lady's Let's Move Outside, as well as meeting a variety of Departmental priorities. The CE program advances the Chief's priorities, specifically diversity and inclusiveness, restoration, wildland fire management, and communities and works across NFS, S&PF and R&D programs.

CE is dedicated to developing environmental literacy so that Americans can make informed decisions about the increasingly complex and interconnected environment we live in and become active stewards and conservation leaders.

CE programs specifically targeted for children pre-K to 12th grade are critical to advancing environmental literacy by assisting educators in teaching science and other resource topics, as well as engaging youth in stewardship activities.

CE programs engage both urban and rural populations, thereby enhancing the agency's outreach to diverse populations.

CE assists in improving the health and welfare of America's children. Children who spend time in nature have: lower stress levels, more active imaginations, are more fit and lean, develop stronger immune systems and have greater respect for themselves and others.

CE activities provide opportunities for play and learning, solace and solitude and wildlife viewing, and represent an important conduit for society's connection to nature and connection to and stewardship of special places.

Program Priorities

In support of the national strategic focus on connecting kids to nature through meaningful hands-on outdoor experiences, programs and activities are to:

All units are to report their CE accomplishments, regardless of funding source, in the agency's corporate database: Naturewatch, Interpretation, Conservation education (N.I.C.E.) database by October 15, 2015.

Use and promote high quality materials and programs, such as Natural Inquirer, Investigator and Project Learning Tree materials, that target pre-K to 12th grade students and their educators in both formal and non-formal settings, particularly in urban and underserved communities.

As appropriate, support previously awarded More Kids in the Woods and Children's Forest Partnerships.

Maximize and diversify partnerships and, as appropriate, adopt successful programs, such as Latino Legacy, Urban Connections, Head Start and California Consortium, to improve outreach to underserved and urban audiences.

Collaborate with climate change coordinators to incorporate climate change information into professional training for formal and non-formal education.

Apply professional standards to guide development of new programs and materials. Undertake evaluations of programs and materials, and use these evaluation results to improve activities and programs.

Use and promote programming using new media technologies related to the Discover the Forest Ad Council campaign, FS NatureLIVE distance-learning projects to increase the agency's social media presence.

Focus on building capacity for CE among formal and non-formal educators. Such work will include the Anecdotes to Evidence research initiative, and participating in professional conferences, such as the North American Association for Environmental Education, National Association for Interpretation, and the National Science Teachers Association.

Use and promote materials produced by the National Symbols Program, such as the Junior Forest Ranger and Junior Snow Ranger programs, Woodsy Owl ABC's (in English and Spanish) and other Symbols Cache products. Encourage the Woodsy Owl conservation message such as the 4R's, to promote water conservation and environmental ethics among kids and their families.

Emphasize transforming scientific information into suitable formats for non-scientists, including educators, students, and general public. The agency's National Inquirer and The Investigator science journals are examples of this emphasis.

Contribute to the Workforce Recruitment Strategy by working with educational institutions and environmental education organizations to develop and support natural resource mentoring programs, such as EnvironMentors and Envirothon, which develop and sustain the interest of youth in natural resources, as well as resource careers.

Where possible, support Conservation Education staff positions as they provide leadership and coordination of CE programs across deputy areas and disciplines, and increase the ability to achieve the Chief's priorities.

Office of Tribal Relations

Congressional Intent

The Forest Service lands have been created from those historically held by Indian tribes. Through treaties and legislation, tribal rights and interests in these lands continue to the present day. The Forest Service (FS) honors and protects these interests through operating on the basis of a treaty obligations, trust responsibilities, and mandates in laws such as the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Alaska National Interest Conservation Act (ANILCA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA), and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill). As well, Executive Orders 13007 and 13175, the Presidential Memorandum of November 5, 2009, and the USDA regulations recognize the government-to-government relationship requiring ongoing coordination with Indian Tribes.

Chief's National Emphasis

Accountable Direction

The Forest Service's relationship with Indian tribes is rooted in meaningful consultation, wherein the agency proactively consults with tribes on agency policies and actions that may affect them. Soliciting meaningful and timely input from Indian tribes in the development of legislation, regulations, and programmatic actions is mandated by Executive Order 13175. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1500 - External Relations, Section 63 - American Indian and Alaska Native Relations and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1509.13 - American Indian and Alaska Native Relations provide agency policy on consultation, as does departmental policy found in USDA DR-1350-002 (January 18, 2013). The FS must consult with Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations on matters that could affect their rights and interests, including FS land and resource management policies, research, development, and other programs and actions.

Through advice, consultation, training, and partnership building, the FS Washington, DC Office of Tribal Relations (OTR), RSA, Tribal Relations Program Managers, and field staff provide policy guidance and support in fulfilling these mandates within national and regional policies, programs, and activities in a

manner that honors Indian treaty rights, fulfills the legally mandated trust responsibility, and maintains government-to-government relationships with federally recognized tribal governments.

The OTR will continue to coordinate and collaborate with all agency staff areas to provide timely and meaningful tribal consultation in FY 2015. A primary focus in 2015 will be the continued review of FS Tribal Relations Directives; FSM 1560 and FSH 1509.13 for final publication. The final publication will be followed with implementation training.

The OTR will continue to coordinate with the field to develop an annual National Tribal Relations Program report. A formal request, in the form of a letter, will come from the deputy area to the Regions, Stations, and Areas for annual tribal relations reporting. The final report will be assembled by OTR and published on the OTR Web site. The OTR reporting template includes the following information:

Summary - Narrative summary of Tribal Relations Program structure and cross-regional collaboration, Executive Team/Leadership, with quantitative data on staff assignments and time commitments on per forest/unit basis.

Consultation - Quantitative and qualitative data on consultation. (Definitions and explanatory materials on are provided in the report template.)

Partnerships, Programs, Outreach and Collaboration - Narrative summary of outreach, collaborations and partnerships. This shall include work done with state-recognized tribes and Alaska Native Corporations as well as Memoranda of Agreement/ Understanding, grants, contracts (and any other agreements) with budget data.

Training - Summary of any training conducted on tribal relations, including the presenter, audience, and topic. The OTR is assisting the USDA Office of Tribal Relations in developing and providing training relating to agency policies and interactions with tribes to implement the USDA DR-1350-002.

Reburials - Quantitative and budget data for reburials on a forest/unit basis.

Challenges - Narrative of particular challenges in fulfilling agency trust responsibilities and meaningful consultation.

Direction to Units

Enhancing Opportunities

The Tribal Relations Program continues to educate and advise FS leadership and staff on policy that will enhance the agency's positive working relationships with Indian tribes. The Tribal Forest Protection Act, Stewardship contracts, Special Forest Product policy, Cooperative Forestry, and Woody Bio-mass Utilization are examples of opportunities for Indian tribes and an array of FS units throughout the agency to develop healthy forests and healthy communities. Tribes will continue to be afforded access to technical and financial assistance provided by the agency.

Special Initiatives

In FY 2015, the OTR will continue to coordinate across the agency on the implementation of the USDA and FS sacred sites report. Other priority areas for enhanced tribal collaboration include climate change adaptation, restoration of high priority landscapes, and improvement in the social, economic and ecological components of tribal communities, especially through Forest Plan revisions. Program managers also assist in meeting the goals of the program through facilitating consultation, cooperation, and collaboration with tribes on policy, projects, and specific issues. Where appropriate, Tribal Relations personnel shall assist FS managers and leadership in their relationships with tribes that are not federally recognized, and with Native American groups and individuals with interest in Forest Service actions, policy, and procedures. The scope and types of this work will vary according to individual regions.

Chapter 13 INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY

BLI: International Forestry (SPIF)

Program

The International Forestry program is funded within the State and Private Forestry treasury account. Additional information about the International Forestry program is located at the [International Programs](#) homepage.

Chapter 14 NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM (NFS) (errata)

Focus efforts on restoration of the natural diversity and ecological dynamics of NFS lands with an emphasis on priority watersheds and providing ecosystem services important to the public including clean and abundant water, renewable energy from biomass, wildlife and fish habitat, forest products, and resilient forests and rangelands.

Under the Final FY 2015 Appropriation Bill, we will continue to conduct the IRR pilot in Regions 1, 3 and 4. The purpose of the pilot continues to demonstrate how the IRR concept will gain administrative efficiencies, increase the ability to accomplish more on-the-ground work, enhance outcomes, and contribute to enhanced restoration related activities. In this program direction, we are providing integrated restoration direction for all regions under one section to communicate the agency priority of implementing ecosystem restoration projects that are integrated, collaborative and part of an all-land, large-scale conservation strategy.

Stewardship contracts and agreements are important tools for implementing resource management objectives, and shall be utilized to the greatest extent feasible as a means to deliver integrated, on-the-ground projects to achieve ecosystem and watershed restoration objectives. Units are encouraged to utilize the value of forest products generated as an outcome of forest vegetation management and watershed restoration treatments to leverage additional restoration accomplishments.

FS/NRCS - Chief’s Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership

The Forest Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service - Chief’s Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership is a multi-year partnership to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands meet across the nation. In FY 2014 the agencies invested \$30 million in 13 projects in 12 states to reduce wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protect water quality and supply, and to improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species. In FY 2015, the Forest Service plans to invest up to \$15 million in these projects and will consider additional sites for collaboration to build upon this “all lands” approach to landscape restoration. By leveraging technical and financial resources, building upon existing partnership, and coordinating activities on adjacent public and private lands, conservation investments and outcomes by NRCS and FS will be more efficient and effective in these watersheds.

FS/NRCS - Chief’s Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership

Region	State	Project Name	Project #	Forest
1	MT	Red Mountain Flume/ Chessman Reservoir	FSNRC-09	Helena
3	NM	New Mexico: Isleta Project	FSNRC-11	Cibola
5	CA	California: Middle Klamath River Communities Project	FSNRC-02	Klamath
5	CA	California: San Bernardino and Riverside County Fuels Reduction Project	FSNRC-12	San Bernardino
6	OR	Oregon: East Face of Elkhorn Mountains	FSNRC-01	Wallowa-Whitman

Region	State	Project Name	Project #	Forest
8	AR	Western Arkansas Woodland Restoration	FSNRC-04	Ozark & Ouachita
8	MS	Mississippi Upper Black Creek Watershed	FSNRC-13	Desoto
8	KY	Kentucky Triplett Creek	FSNRC-05	Daniel Boone
9	WV	West Virginia Restoration Venture	FSNRC-07	Monongahela
9	MN	Minnesota Upper Mississippi Headwaters Restoration	FSNRC-10	Chippewa
9	WI	Wisconsin Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership	FSNRC-03	Chequamegon-Nicolet
9	NH	New Hampshire Drinking Water Improvement	FSNRC-08	White Mountain
9	NY	New York Susquehanna Watershed Riparian Buffer Enhancements	FSNRC-06	NE Area

Access the NRCS portal for more information and description of the [projects](#).

Youth Programs

More Kids in the Woods (MKIW) and the Children's Forest (CF) competitive cost-share program have been modified for FY 2015. Funding for More Kids in the Woods (MKIW) and the Children's Forest (CF) will continue to be distributed to the Regions, Stations, and Area (RSA) within the fiscal year allocations, and will be prioritized and implemented at the RSA instead of at the WO. This will continue to allow the RSAs to prioritize and accomplish high priority innovative youth work that is responsive to the needs of local communities and Forest Service units while continuing to emphasize this agency-wide focus.

21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) (errata)

Engaging youth and returning veterans to protect, restore, and enhance America's Great Outdoors is an Administration and Forest Service focus. 21CSC offers the agency a way to achieve critical Forest Service mission work, while employing youth and veterans, and thus preparing them to be America's future workforce. Through participation on Forest Service projects, many 21CSC participants have become conservation stewards, developed job skills and prepared for future careers in conservation. Community-based crews create visible links between local citizens and the national forests and grasslands where they live, while individual placements expose participants to deep learning experiences and career development opportunities.

Partnerships with 21CSC member organizations draw on the experience and expertise of existing Federal, State, tribal, non-profit conservation and youth corps, and veterans' programs to contribute to the following goals:

- Build America's future—develop natural and cultural resources stewards.

- Put Americans to work—provide training and employment opportunities.

- Preserve, protect and promote America's greatest gifts-Increase public lands access and use.

Opportunities for engaging 21CSC exist for almost every field unit. 21CSC objectives are primarily accomplished through partnering with other Conservation Corps, youth and veteran's organizations. 21CSC projects typically address critical resource management needs such as hazardous fuels reduction, improved forest health, eradication of invasive weeds, fisheries and wildlife habitat improvement, trail maintenance, preservation of historic structures, improvement of recreation access and infrastructure, and

watershed restoration actions. However, participants also support research and development, strategic planning, communications and outreach, and other FS operations.

The Youth Conservation Corps is also an important component of 21CSC activities. Through service during the summer months on crews, the YCC program is a critical entryway for many high school students who pursue natural and cultural resources because of their YCC experience. Expanding opportunities for all interested youth to serve is a high priority.

Future conservation stewardship is essential to sustain the public lands legacy. We need more diverse workers who care about the land. 21CSC helps us achieve this goal. Within FY 2015 funding allocations, units shall emphasize expanded FS participation in 21CSC by focusing on the following objectives:

Sustain 2014 performance level of youth veterans engaged and employed in the conduct of Forest Service mission activities.

Increase partnerships with 21CSC member organizations.

Increase the number of YCC members to 1,500, expand YCC partnership agreements, and offer residential YCC opportunities.

Promote special hiring of eligible youth and veterans who successfully complete 640 hours of service--20 hires in 2015.

Outreach to Tribal partners to expand Tribal participation in 21CSC activities, including YCC.

Seek opportunities to use Conservation Service Corps and other partners instead of traditional contracts or seasonal hires, where feasible. Significant cost savings may be achieved.

Expand enrollment of 21CSC certified member organizations by assisting current partners and seeking additional partners.

Leverage resources from public and private sectors to expand 21CSC partnerships. The WO will coordinate with the RSA to collaborate with NFWF, NFF and other groups to leverage private, corporate and foundations to support 21CSC.

RSA level 21CSC goals based on 2014 actual performance will be forthcoming. Details about 21CSC member organizations are at <http://21csc.org/>.

Best Management Practices Monitoring Requirements (errata)

The National Best Management Practices (BMP) Program improves agency performance, accountability, consistency, and efficiency in protecting water quality. It also enables the agency to readily document Clean Water Act compliance with management of nonpoint source pollution at local, regional, and national scales, while addressing the new planning rule requirement for national BMPs (36 CFR 219.8(a)(4)). The National BMP Program is a critical component of NFS's stewardship of its lands.

Monitoring is an integral component of the National BMP Program. FY 2015 is the beginning of a 2-year (FY 2015-FY 2016) reporting cycle. During the 2-year cycle, all regions should ensure that monitoring of each of the ten non-planning resource area BMPs is completed for activities occurring on NFS lands. To accomplish this goal, during this reporting cycle, the regions will assign each administrative unit a target of monitoring at least 12 national BMP monitoring protocols. For this cycle, one of the projects to be monitored on each administrative unit will be a mechanical vegetation management activity, which is the focus resource area for this reporting cycle. A focus resource area is needed to ensure a sufficient number of monitoring results are collected to analyze the implementation and effectiveness of the BMP. Targets will be assigned so that at least three (one for Region 10) monitoring protocols from each of the ten non-

planning resource areas in the National Core BMP Technical Guide is completed within the region. The regions have discretion to adjust targets, as appropriate, if certain activities do not occur in certain units. This monitoring is to be an integrated effort and funded accordingly. NFWW is not intended to be the sole source of funding for these efforts. Monitoring results are to be entered in the interim National BMP Monitoring Database by October 30, 2015. The National Core BMP Technical Guide (Volume 1), training webinars, and detailed monitoring protocols are all available at the [National BMP Program website](#).

Geospatial Reporting Requirements

The Geospatial Accomplishment Reporting Project (GARP) is a three-phase effort to migrate the Forest Service's official performance measure accomplishment data from its current tabular, numeric form in the Performance Accountability System (PAS), to a geospatial environment in the Geo-enabled Performance Accountability System (gPAS). gPAS will visually depict accomplishments on clear, understandable maps available both internally and externally. In FY 2014, the agency developed proof-of- concept reporting with a set of approximately 20 measures that are required for geospatial reporting. These measures already have a geospatial reporting component, or have been identified to include geospatial reporting by this year. More information about the measures included, and the planned activities in Phase 2 and 3 are included on the [GARP Sharepoint site](#).

All accomplished activities within the following program areas must be entered into the appropriate Database of Record with both tabular and spatial data:

Silviculture Activities

Trust Fund Activities

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Activities

Invasive Species Management Activities

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Activities

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Activities

Soil and Water Improvement Activities

Heritage Program Activities

The spatial data must meet the following minimum criteria:

All spatial data must conform to data dictionary standards

Spatial data will be stored in a spatial data engine (SDE) at the National Data Center

All accomplishments recorded in FACTS will be linked through a Sub-Unit ID (SUID) to a spatial record in the aforementioned SDE

All spatial records shall accurately reflect the actual extent of the area treated

Partnerships

Regions should continue to direct resources to foster new and expand existing partnerships, particularly those that help deliver youth programs, young adult and veterans' employment, volunteerism, connections with urban citizens, and community-based collaboration engagement, in order to help achieve the purposes of each of these programs.

The FS Public Private Partnership Strategy identified the initial projects that are now referred to as High-Performance Partnerships (HPPs). These original HPPs have been expanded and are inclusive of all Deputy Areas. HPPs are pursued to their fullest extent in order to emphasize the value of public-private partnerships and promote learning across the agency and its partners. The following high-priority focal

areas for public-private partnerships reflect the critical challenges and opportunities facing the USFS and its partners:

Creating Strategic Opportunities in Water and Watershed Management

Promoting Increased Partnerships in Healthy Forests and Restoration

Strengthening and Creating Pathways for Expanded Youth Engagement

Fostering Synergies in Recreation and Volunteerism

Developing Connections in Urban Communities for Forests and Grasslands

Regions should be working to develop partnerships that address these high-priority focal areas. More information can be found on the FS Partnership Resource Center website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/prc>).

Service First

Regions are encouraged to seek new opportunities to use Service First authority to increase efficiencies, improve customer service and collaboratively manage resources with the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74) extended Service First authority indefinitely. The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act expanded the Service First authority to all USDA and DOI bureaus and offices.

National Forest Foundation Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences Conservation Campaign

The forests hosting *Treasured Landscapes* sites are at the forefront of the agency's priority for public-private partnership, collaboration, and accelerated restoration. Regions have collaborated with NFF in the establishment of 14 *Treasured Landscapes*, *Unforgettable Experiences* campaign sites, carefully selected based on conservation need, ecological values, and citizen interest:

Angeles National Forest, CA

Coconino National Forest, AZ

Idaho Panhandle National Forest, ID

Midwin Tallgrass Prairie, IL

Ocala National Forest, FL

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WA

Tahoe National Forest, CA

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, UT

White Mountain National Forest, NH

White River National Forest, CO

The Forest Service will continue to commit agency resources to provide a 1:1 match to the NFF's private fundraising in support of Site Implementation Plan work in each of these *Treasured Landscapes* sites. The regions will ensure the match by prioritizing the associated program of work from within the region's allocation. It is essential that the forest and region establish a strategy to meet the match commitment over the lifetime of the site. Forest Service match and accomplishments will be reported to NFF through a standard spreadsheet; Forests using WorkPlan to track their *Treasured Landscapes* projects are encouraged to continue to do so.

Private funds raised and contributed to the *Treasured Landscapes* site are additive and intended to incentivize and accelerate work at the site; private funds are not to be viewed as an offset to existing forest resources.

BLI: Land Management Planning (NFPN)

Program Priorities

The Chief's national revision schedule has been updated to reflect a new schedule for expected completion of revisions under all planning regulations. The schedule is posted on the [Ecosystem Management Coordination staff website](#).

Revise Land Management Plans (LMPs) (*errata*)

1. Continue LMP revisions and meet performance milestones contained in the latest version of the Chief's Revision Schedule for the following units using the 1982 procedures:

Region 1	Kootenai and Idaho-Panhandle NFs
Region 2	Shoshone NF*
Region 3	Coronado, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Coconino NFs
Region 5	LTBMU*
Region 6	Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman, Colville and Okanogan/Wenatchee NFs

*For Objection resolution/ROD development only
2. The following 6 units will complete assessments and initiate plan revisions (i.e., Notice of Intent) under the 2012 Planning Rule.

Region 1	Helena, Lewis & Clark NFs
Region 2	Rio Grande NF
Region 3	Carson, Santa Fe and Tonto NFs
3. The following 2 units will begin implementing the assessment, collaboration and initial plan revision requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. Specific milestones and performance metrics will be established for each unit to assist in ensuring agency accountability for completing revisions and other activities under the new Planning Rule in a timely and efficient manner. Inventory & Monitoring (NFIM) funding is being provided for this work.

Region 3	Gila and Lincoln NFs
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4. The following eleven units shall continue meeting milestones (DEIS) for revising land management plans:

Region 1	Nez Perce and Clearwater, & Flathead NFs
Region 3	Cibola NF
Region 5	Inyo, Sierra and Sequoia NFs
Region 8	El Yunque, Nantahala-Pisgah and Francis Marion NFs
Region 10	Chugach NF
5. The following regions will begin forest plan revision preparations in order to implement the assessment, collaboration and initial plan revision requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule in FY 2016 for up to two units per region. Preparations include hiring, TOS, data collection and reconciliations, securing contracts, and establishing regional support mechanisms.

Region 1	
Region 2	
Region 4	
Region 5	
Region 6	
Region 9	

6. Finalize 20 land management plan amendments to address sage grouse conservation in their range in Regions 1, 2 and 4. This analysis will be led by Region 4. Additional prior year funding (NFPN) will be provided to Region 4 to conduct the Sage Grouse analysis and amendments.

Allocation Direction

The FY 2015 allocations for NFPN reflect current commitments to revision units, and similar to previous years, provide a constant maintenance level for each unit. Allocations for plan revision work were made to the regions containing the units listed above, which are either preparing for or conducting revisions implementing the 2012 Planning Rule or the 1982 procedures under the 2000 Planning Rule.

BLI: Inventory and Monitoring (NFIM)

Program Priorities (errata)

National Priorities for the Inventory and Monitoring Program include:

Complete assessments and continue collaboration activities on all units that have begun implementing the requirements of the new Planning Rule.

Initiate assessment and collaboration activities on the units scheduled to begin implementing the requirements of the new Planning Rule. Funding (\$600K) has been provided to units to accomplish this work over a one or two year period.

Continue transitioning to the monitoring requirements in the new Planning Rule on all NFS units not revising a land management plan. Funding (\$150K) has been provided to each region to assist in meeting this requirement by May 9, 2016 or as soon as practicable.

Continue developing regional broader-scale monitoring strategies under the requirements of the new Planning Rule.

Continue working on high priority implementation actions and pilots for improving Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment (IM&A) activities in the Forest Service.

Continue implementation of Natural Resource Manager (NRM) work agreements to achieve nation-wide implementation of all NRM modules, including complete geospatial implementation.

Continued collection of FIA Regional Attributes: For FY 2015 only, funding has been provided to the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Station to ensure that critical attributes are collected in Regions 5 & 6 to support land management planning and other priority business requirements.

National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM): The FY 2015 schedule of sample days for visitor use monitoring and expectations for conducting inventory design has been established and regional targets have been assigned and provided to the field by the WO Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources Director as listed below. The average expected cost for a day of field sampling is \$380.

National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM)

<u>Forest Name</u>	<u>Forest Code</u>	<u>Forest Total Days of Sampling</u>	<u>Regional Total</u>
Beaverhead – Deerlodge	0102	300	
Flathead	0110	300	
	<u>Region 1</u>		600
Rio Grande	0209	300	
Arapaho – Roosevelt	0210	250	
	<u>Region 2</u>		550
Coconino	0304	325	
Kaibab	0307	175	
	<u>Region 3</u>		500
Sawtooth	0414	300	
Caribout-Targhee	0415	300	
	<u>Region 4</u>		600
Lassen	0506	220	
Modoc	0511	200	
Tahoe	0517	300	
LTBMU	0519	180	
	<u>Region 5</u>		900
Mt. Baker – Snoqualmie	0605	250	
Olympic	0609	250	
Okanogan – Wenatchee	0617	450	
	<u>Region 6</u>		950
Kisatchie	0806	200	
Ouachita	0809	200	
Ozark – St. Francis	0810	300	
	<u>Region 8</u>		700
Allegheny	0919	225	
Green Mtn – Finger Lakes	0920	275	
White Mountain	0922	250	
	<u>Region 9</u>		750
Tongass	1005	175	
	<u>Region 10</u>		175
	<u>National Total</u>		5,725

BLI: Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness (NFRW)**Program Priorities (errata)**

The Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs are aligned with the 2010 Forest Service Framework for Sustainable Recreation (Framework). The benefits to American society that outdoor recreation provides are needed more today than ever before, and at the same time there are unprecedented challenges to providing

quality recreation. Outdoor recreation is where the Forest Service connects people with nature. Thus, recreation plays a critical role in increasing public awareness of natural and cultural restoration, enhancing social well-being, and providing economic opportunities in local communities. Ten Focus Areas outlined in the Framework form the basis for program priorities:

- Restore and adapt recreation settings
- Implement green operations
- Enhance communities
- Invest in special places
- Forge strategic partnerships
- Promote citizen stewardship
- Provide the right information
- Develop a sustainable financial foundation
- Develop our workforce
- Know our visitors, community stakeholders, and other recreation providers

Within FY 2015 funding, priority should be given to enhancing public service through privately provided recreation opportunities such as four-season opportunities at ski areas, administration of Recreation Special Use authorizations, finalizing and implementing travel management plans, conducting visitor use monitoring, implementing visitor safety actions identified for developed recreation sites, cultural resource site restoration, NAGPRA repatriation, supporting 21st Century Conservation Service Corps programs, and developing partnerships that leverage funds to provide or enhance recreation services to the public, including better information products. Special emphasis will be on assessing the impact of a changing climate on avalanche risk, to improve public safety as avalanche conditions worsen. Heritage public events shall emphasize volunteerism and *Preservation 50* themes, in anticipation of the 50th Anniversary of the Historic Preservation Act.

Building off the success of the recently completed 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, national forests should transition to the new performance measure “Wilderness Stewardship Performance” by selecting elements and conducting initial reporting. Allocations include a total of \$400,000 in NFRW funds to support various tasks related to implementing this new measure, such as training and technical support.

BLI: Integrated Resource Restoration (NFRR, NFWF, NFTM, NFVW)

Program Priorities

The Secretary of Agriculture’s vision recognizes the role of healthy forests and grasslands in providing high quality water resources and maintaining resiliency within a changing climate. The agency is aligning the budget structure to focus landscape scale restoration funding across deputy areas to support and accelerate the pace of a wide spectrum of restoration and resiliency-enhancing activities. This emphasis merges programs previously separated out as forest products; vegetation and watershed management; fish and wildlife habitat management; non-wildland urban interface hazardous fuels; post-fire restoration and rehabilitation; and legacy roads and trails (including road decommissioning).

Regions 1, 3, and 4 were selected as part of an agency pilot program to demonstrate the advantages of merging multiple budget line items (BLIs) into one, NFRR. We do not yet have Congressional direction on implementation of Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) in FY 2015. Until the Final FY 2015 Appropriation Bill is enacted, we will continue to implement the pilot in Regions 1, 3 and 4 as authorized in FY 2014.

These regions will be expected to report on program achievements completed in FY 2014 and also gather information necessary to complete a similar report on FY 2015, if the pilot is continued or complete an overall summary report if the pilot is not continued in FY 2015. The non-pilot regions were not authorized to consolidate BLIs but will move towards integrated resource restoration to the extent possible within limits of existing authority. Regions currently not under the pilot authority are to include CMLG, and non-WUI hazardous fuels work, in their planning and implementation strategy. While funds will be directed to re-establish forest and grassland watershed health, it will be important for each unit to balance targeted priority restoration needs along with other important program elements.

The focus on integrating various programs complements other ongoing efforts such as the Planning Rule revision, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) projects, travel management, and the Watershed Condition Framework, which are similarly anticipated to promote integration of various resource activities. Collaboration with stakeholders and internal interdisciplinary planning is emphasized to continuously improve restoration projects and increase community support. In return, the agency expects to gain administrative efficiencies increasing the ability to accomplish more on-the-ground work, enhance outcomes, and contribute, enhance, and maintain, restoration related jobs.

Within Forest Products Management, the purpose of each timber sale must be properly coded through the Timber Sale Accounting system. Region 8 is expected to continue coordination of the national Sale Layout and Harvesting Institute (SALHI) program in accordance with the existing agreement with Region 6.

For Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) and Priority Watersheds, units are expected to continue to collaborate with partners to identify additional priority watersheds corresponding to a reasonable and achievable 5-year program of work. Units will complete the development of Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPs) for all identified priority watersheds and continue WRAP implementation and identification of essential projects in the Watershed Improvement Tracking (WIT) database. Units will also begin the monitoring and evaluation phase of completed restoration activities.

For Fuel Treatment Effectiveness, wildland fire and fuels management emphasizes hazard fuels reduction to mitigate the risk of wildfire to communities and important values. Integrated restoration projects include hazardous fuel treatments that help restore fire resilient ecosystems in support of restoration goals and the National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy.

Complete Fuel treatment effectiveness evaluations as required by policy. This documentation will allow us to better understand how hazardous fuels treatments affect fire behavior, fire severity and fire suppression effectiveness. This information is important for several reasons: 1) to validate the treatments have been effective, 2) to provide baseline data from which to measure future improvements in hazardous fuels reduction, 3) to adjust treatment prescriptions, and 4) to share success with our partners, the public and congressional representatives.

NFS invasive species management focus is on 1) preventing establishment and spread of high-risk invasive species, 2) early detection and eradication of new or small infestations before they can establish or spread and 3) containing and decreasing inventoried populations of invasive species. Refer to the [Invasive Species Program website](#) for additional direction.

Beginning in FY 2015, use the new WorkPlan activity NV (Native Vegetation) to plan work involving the use of native plants. This includes the restoration of the structure and function of the non-canopy vegetative components of ecosystems. In addition, record accomplishments in FACTS (7000 codes). We will then use the FY 2015 native plant records to inform FY 2016 allocations.

Funding will be used to carry out landscape scale activities that contribute to agency outcomes for restoration by concentrating on key restoration priorities, techniques, and integrated approaches. Units will need to recognize the full suite of actions that contribute to resilient landscapes. e.g., CFLR; execution and learning from IRR pilot; implementing projects in Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPs); strengthening community relationships; and implementing Travel Management Rule Subpart A. While this

is not an exhaustive list, these are the types of actions to consider and utilize when focusing on restoration activities.

Biomass

Field units are encouraged to work with communities to improve the utilization of woody biomass from vegetation management projects on NFS lands. This will provide enhanced economic opportunities for communities by making raw material available for use and help to reduce the cost of treatments funded from Hazardous Fuel Reduction (WFHF), Vegetation and Watershed Management (NFVW), Wildlife Habitat Management (NFWF), Forest Products (NFTM), Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR), and Forest Health Protection (SPFH) programs.

Allocation Direction (errata)

Allocations continue to be influenced by regional capability responses; however, the restoration needs identified in the WRAPs for priority watersheds, the effectiveness of improving ecosystem conditions, and the demonstrated effectiveness of refocusing assets towards priority restoration needs central to the IRR concept all play an increasingly important role in allocations.

In FY 2015, the following are removed from the regular Regional allocations but are provided in the “priority” or “later” allocations. Refer to the allocation worksheets for funding details.

Funding for the Council of Western State Foresters/WFLC, national seed lab, nursery support and the tree marking paint national contract is provided.

Shared Service Positions

In recent years, the following positions/programs were supported by Regional Directors. Early in FY 2015, the shared service positions and levels of support will be reevaluated and updated. As in the past, funds to support the shared service work will be allocated to the hosting region. The units receiving these funds in their allocations are responsible for funding that shared service position/program.

Region 1

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation liaison
Carnivores
IGBC

Region 2 and 6

Full Curl (Wild Sheep)

Region 6

Columbia Basin Anadromous Coordinator

Region 8

Making Tracks Coordinator
Federal PARC Coordinator - Region is to transfer funds to the PARC Coordinator’s agency as Forest Service support for this interagency position.

Washington Office

Nature Watch Coordinator

ReLeaf

To reestablish forest cover on burned and other naturally disturbed areas, funds are set aside to leverage funds made available through an agreement with American Forests. NFVW/NFRR funding will be allocated to projects through the reforestation partnership proposal process and will match funds provided through the agreement with American Forests. Any remaining funds will be used to support additional reforestation partnership proposals from the regions.

BLI: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund (CFLR/CFLN) (errata)**Program Priorities**

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) continues to fund 23 projects in FY2015. Program funding will be provided through the NFS appropriation, to the CFLN budget line item. Projects having unspent CFLR or CFLN funds from previous years will continue to spend these funds, along with the new appropriations. The primary intent of CFLRP is to implement treatments to reduce uncharacteristic wildfire and WUI fire hazard, address ecological restoration, improve wildlife and fish habitat, improve hydrologic function and water quality, manage invasive species, maintain, decommission, and rehabilitate roads and trails; and utilize resulting wood by-product materials.

PL 111-11, Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, states that the CFLRP funds “are to be used to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System lands.” “Carrying out” is interpreted to be synonymous with implementing and monitoring treatments on the ground. Matching funds are the remaining costs of implementing and/or monitoring CFLRP projects on NFS lands since the CFLRP funds are limited to 50 percent of these costs. Matching funds can include a combination of appropriated, permanent and trust, or partnership funds, in-kind contributions, and restoration treatments funded through timber value within a stewardship contract.

The following BLIs qualify for CFLN match, providing their respective legislative intent is consistent with the CFLRP project description and landscape restoration strategy: BDBD, CMEX, CMII, CMLG, CMRD, CMTL, CWFS, CWF2, CWKV, CWK2, NFEX, NFLM (boundary only), NFMG (ECAP/AML only), NFN3, NFRR, NFTM, NFVW, NFWF, PEPE, RBRB, RIRI, RTRT, SSSS, SPFH, SPEX, SPS4, SSCC, SRS2, VCNP, VCVC, WFEX, WFW3, WFHF.

In addition to the program codes mentioned previously, if appropriate, the cost of some road work funding with Federal Highway funds can be used as a match,

The listing below includes FY 2015 funding for the 23 CFLRP projects. The list shows project totals, the amount of CFLN funding and funding provided from other Budget Line Items.

CFLRP Projects

Project/State	CFLN*	Total Request	Balance
<u>Region 1</u>			
Southwestern Crown of the Continent	2,120,000	4,000,000	1,880,000 NFRR (CY)
Selway-Middle Fork Clearwater Project.....	2,120,000	4,000,000	1,880,000 NFRR (CY)
Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative	709,000	1,337,859	628,859 CMRD (PY)
<u>Region 2</u>			
Uncompahgre Plateau	600,000	1,134,300	534,300 NFVW (PY)
Colorado Front Range	2,120,000	4,000,000	1,880,000 NFVW (PY)
<u>Region 3</u>			
4 Forest Restoration Initiative	2,120,000	4,000,000	1,880,000 NFRR (CY)
Southwest Jemez Mountains	2,120,000**	4,000,000	1,880,000 NFRR (CY)
Zuni Mountain.....	424,000	800,000	376,000 NFRR (CY)
<u>Region 4</u>			
Weiser-Little Salmon Headwaters.....	2,040,000	3,850,000	1,810,000 CMRD (CY)
<u>Region 5</u>			
Dinkey Landscape Restoration.....	665,000	1,555,000	890,000 NFTM (PY)
Burney-Hat Creek Basin	748,000	1,411,310	663,310 NFWF (PY)
Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group	855,000	1,613,394	758,394 NFWF (PY)
<u>Region 6</u>			
Tapash	315,000	414,000	99,000 NFTM (PY)
Deschutes Skyline	809,000	1,345,000	536,000 NFTM (PY)
Lakeview Stewardship	1,633,000	2,900,000	1,267,000 NFTM (PY)
Southern Blues Restoration.....	1,421,000	2,500,000	1,079,000 WFHF (CY)
Northeast Washington Forest Vision	2,015,000	3,623,000	1,608,000 NFWF (PY)
<u>Region 8</u>			
Accelerating Longleaf Pine Restoration.....	1,091,000	1,877,619	786,619 WFHF (CY)
Shortleaf-Bluestem Community	1,324,000	2,620,652	1,296,652 NFTM (PY)
Grandfather Restoration	420,000	612,305	192,305 WFHF (CY)
Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Restoration.....	1,277,000	2,229,467	952,467 NFVW (PY)
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration.....	1,781,000	3,180,129	1,399,129 WFHF (CY)
<u>Region 9</u>			
Missouri Pine-Oak Woodlands Restoration	746,000	1,409,000	663,000 NFVW (PY)
Total.....	29,473,000	54,413,035	24,940,035

*Allocation including Facilities Assessment

**Project total is \$4M; however, \$1M is in CFLN reserve pending ongoing discussion with R3 on Valles Caldera portion of project.

Specific guidance for the annual report will be posted on the [CFLRP](#) website.

BLI: Rangeland Management (NFRG)

Program Priorities

The Grazing Management program manages the diverse rangeland resources on approximately 93 million acres of NFS lands within grazing allotments. The program plans for and properly administers livestock grazing on NFS lands, helps to restore and/or rehabilitate those historically depleted rangelands; and through planning and administration, improves or maintains a sustainable supply of forage for livestock and wildlife, maintains open space and habitat connectivity by linking NFS grazing authorizations to privately owned lands managed for agricultural production, and helps sustain rural based ranching and farming lifestyles.

The primary program focus is the environmental analysis of grazing allotments, preparation of environmental planning and decision documents as well as the implementation of these decisions through allotment management plans and grazing permits. Follow your unit’s allotment NEPA schedule to prioritize NEPA analyses of allotments. Also, consider the need to implement improved grazing management practices as part on an integrated approach to restoration, when prioritizing allotment actions. Additionally, make managing allotments to standard and utilizing sufficient monitoring a high priority to ensure sustainable grazing practices and promote appropriate rangeland stewardship.

Regions are expected to develop a program of work that includes grazing management practices that produce a sustainable supply of forage for livestock and wildlife, provides for economic opportunities for rural communities, supports integrated ecosystem restoration efforts where needed, and conserves working landscapes associated with open space and habitat connectivity across NFS and other federal, state, tribal, and private lands.

The terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108-108 (117 Stat. 1307), regarding grazing permits at the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service remain in effect for FY 2012 through 2016.

Section 325 of the FY 2004 Interior and Other Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Public Law 108-108) requires that the Secretary of Agriculture report to Congress the extent to which the FS is completing grazing NEPA analysis; and that bi-annually the Secretary shall provide Congress recommendations for legislative provisions necessary to ensure all grazing permit renewals are completed in a timely manner.

Pollinators/Native Plants

Units are to consider and implement, whenever possible, actions that promote forage and habitat for pollinators in all their activities as directed by the June 20, 2014 Presidential memorandum. These actions will support our on-going work with native plant materials and as such, units shall report accomplishments in FACTS 7000 codes.

Changes in Accomplishment Reporting in FY15 for Rangeland Vegetation Improvement (errata)

In FY15, the rangeland vegetation improved measure (RG-VEG-IMP) has been separated into two measure codes to clarify what work and associated accomplishments should be reported into each source system (FACTS and WorkPlan). The table below describes the changes. Full definitions of each measure are available in the Performance Accountability System (PAS) Metrics Management.

<u>FY14 Code</u>	<u>FY15 Code</u>	<u>Report Where?</u>	<u>Report What?</u>
RG-VEG-IMP	RG-VEG-IMP	FACTS	All acres where rangeland improvement projects are implemented including non-structural and structural improvements.
RG-VEG-IMP	RG-VEG-IMP-NEPA	WorkPlan	Acres of rangeland improvement accomplished through implementation of livestock grazing NEPA decisions.

Additionally, beginning in FY15, RG-VEG-IMP will be added to RG-VEG-IMP-NEPA within PAS to determine total acres of rangeland vegetation improvement. That total will be shown under the new measure code RG-VEG-IMP-AC in PAS and in accomplishment reports.

BLI: Minerals and Geology Management (NFMG)

Reports

Regions are to ensure that all applicable reporting requirements are met including the following: Coordinate with local BLM office to ensure that data regarding processing of SUPO's on NFS lands is recorded in the Automated Fluid Mineral Support System (AFMSS) database. AFMSS will be used for reports on the number and timeliness of FS SUPO processing.

Update the Center for Environmental Excellence (CEE) database at least quarterly. Additionally, RSAs will provide year-end accomplishments including success stories by October 31, 2015, and program of work status reports for FY 2015 (May 29, 2015) and FY 2016 (July 31, 2015) to the WO Director of Engineering (ECAP) or WO Director of Minerals and Geology Management (AML).

Program Priorities

Regions should give priority to programs with statutory requirements. The program will emphasize environmental review of proposed operations, including processing the backlog of oil and gas lease applications and related infrastructure needs. Other priorities include inspection and monitoring of ongoing mineral operations, restoring watershed health, and ensuring public safety.

Appropriate Use of ECAP/AML Funds

In addition to Chapter 90 of the Appropriation Use Handbook (FSH 6509.11g) units should be guided by the following:

AML Safety Earmark funds administered by Minerals & Geology Management are not to be used to fund closure of abandoned mine features associated with Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions at ECAP sites.

Where a responsible Forest Service program/project/activity can be clearly identified which has caused a release or generated waste, that program is responsible for spill response, cleanup, disposal, and for meeting related requirements. Do not use ECAP/AML funds to pay for disposal of waste generated by the Forest Service.

Penalties or fines for non-compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations, or enforcement actions; and for disposal of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous wastes that may have been generated by Forest Service operators, concessionaires, or special use permittees are the responsibility of those parties, and may not be paid for with ECAP/AML funds.

Payment of registration or oversight fees or participation in risk-management/sharing funds administered by third parties (state-managed Underground Storage Tank (UST)) registration fees that are "pooled" for administration and cleanup of both publicly and privately owned USTs may not be paid for with ECAP/AML funds.

ECAP/AML funds may not be paid to support regulatory oversight of mitigation activities except in cases where an interagency agreement or enforceable order exists that describes a specific fee-for-service arrangement or partnership.

Fines, penalties, and generic oversight fees related to environmental compliance or restoration may not be paid for with ECAP/AML funds.

ECAP/AML funds are competed and allocated by project and are not intended to support regional or forest cost pools or other programs' direct costs.

Compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations regarding hazardous material use and disposal, clean water, clean air, safe drinking water, toxic substances, etc., is part of doing business, and shall be funded by the appropriate resource program in accordance with the primary purpose principle.

Where physical safety hazards or releases of hazardous substances are known or suspected at abandoned mine sites, units should coordinate mitigation and CERCLA cleanup actions with the appropriate locatable mineral personnel to ensure that statutory rights under the mining laws are protected.

Land transaction screenings should be paid for by the budget line item used for funding the acquisition.

The cleanup and disposal of hazardous materials/waste is to be funded from the activity/function(s) which generated the waste or used the facility. ECAP/AML funds may not be used for cleanup of lands acquired after 1997, where contamination was known or suspected at the time of transaction.

Changes to any ECAP or AML project which cumulatively exceeds \$100,000 or addition of any new ECAP or AML projects with projected cumulative costs in excess of \$50,000 must receive prior approval from the Washington Office - Director of Engineering or Minerals & Geology Management, respectively.

Allocation (errata)

FY 2015 Abandoned Mine Land Safety Mitigation Projects

Forest	Project Dollars	Targets
<u>Region 1</u>		
Beaverhead-Deerlodge.....	85,000	11
Gallatin	85,000	6
Custer.....	55,000	24
Helena.....	75,000	12
Kootenai.....	50,000	8
Lewis & Clark.....	75,000	12
Idaho Panhandle.....	65,000	12
Total Region 1	\$490,000	85
<u>Region 2</u>		
Arapaho/Roosevelt	125,000	10
GMUG	105,000	14
Pike/San Isabel.....	140,000	0
San Juan	55,000	0
White River.....	225,000	14
Total Region 2	\$650,000	38
<u>Region 3</u>		
A-S.....	30,000	0
Cibola.....	175,000	14
Coronado.....	25,000	0
Santa Fe	25,000	0
Gila	185,000	18
Prescott	35,000	0
Tonto.....	25,000	0
Total Region 3	\$500,000	32

Forest	Project Dollars	Targets
<u>Region 4</u>		
Humbolt-Toiyabe.....	220,000	60
Salmon-Challis	100,000	40
Uinta-Wasache-Cache	30,000	13
Portal Posse.....	<u>200,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Region 4	\$550,000	113
<u>Region 5</u>		
Cleveland.....	30,000	6
El Dorado.....	90,000	5
Inyo.....	95,000	5
Klamath.....	35,000	1
Los Padres.....	10,000	0
Plumas.....	85,000	5
San Bernardino	50,000	0
Six Rivers.....	35,000	2
Stanislaus	40,000	2
Tahoe	<u>90,000</u>	<u>7</u>
Total Region 5	\$560,000	33
<u>Region 6</u>		
Ochoco.....	15,000	0
Malheur.....	70,000	2
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie.....	55,000	2
Rogue River/Siskiyou.....	50,000	0
Gifford Pinchot	25,000	0
Willamette.....	15,000	0
Umpqua.....	<u>40,000</u>	<u>9</u>
Total Region 6	\$270,000	13
<u>Region 8</u>		
Cherokee.....	30,000	2
Daniel Boone	200,000	9
George Washington	45,000	4
Kisatchie	45,000	1
Ouachita.....	40,000	3
NFs of North Carolina	<u>110,000</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Region 8	\$470,000	21
<u>Region 9</u>		
Wayne	135,000	6
Mark Twain	<u>80,000</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Region 9	\$215,000	8
National Total	\$3,705,000	343

FY 2015 Environmental Compliance and Restoration Project List

<u>Project</u>	<u>ECAP Project Funding</u>
<u>Region 1</u>	
Beal Mountain Mine Water Treatment - Long-term Operations & Maintenance	354,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 1	\$854,000
<u>Region 2</u>	
Leavenworth Creek WS Removal Action.....	300,000
Minnie Lynch Mine	200,000
Tomichi Creek/Akron Mine.....	800,000
Standard Mine.....	150,000
Nemo Work Center EDB Contamination	100,000
Camp Hale Asbestos.....	100,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 2	\$2,150,000
<u>Region 3</u>	
Harshaw Creek WS.....	100,000
Carpenter Mining District.....	100,000
Big Bug WS: Money Metals & Providence Mines.....	550,000
Big Bug WS: Eugene & Poland Mines.....	100,000
Cibola Uranium Mines.....	525,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 3	\$1,875,000
<u>Region 4</u>	
Paris Post and Pole RI/FS	275,000
Wood River Zinc Millsite	15,000
Krassel Wood Treatment Site	25,000
Apex Mine	15,000
Afton Wood Treatment Site.....	85,000
Leviathan Mine	35,000
Blackbird Mine	10,000
Monarch Millsite.....	50,000
Landmark Wood Treatment.....	85,000
Ontario Millsite.....	20,000
Rio Tinto	10,000
SE ID Phosphate Mines	260,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 4	\$1,385,000

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cuts to FY15 ECAP Projects</u>
<u>Region 5</u>	
Donna C/Dunn Asbestos Mine Operation & Maintenance & Monitoring	45,000
Los Prietos Mercury Mine	135,000
Juniper Uranium Mine Operation & Maintenance & Monitoring	50,000
Red Rock Mercury Mine Operation & Maintenance & Monitoring	25,000
Hanna Mill Site Operation & Maintenance & Monitoring	35,000
Ora Causby Hydraulic Mine Operation & Maintenance & Monitoring	15,000
French Camp Mine Site Removal Action	15,000
Walker Tailings.....	425,000
Phoenix Lake Stamp Mill	685,000
Kern Floodplain Site	120,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 5	\$2,050,000
<u>Region 6</u>	
Copper City Mill.....	85,000
Champion Mine	25,000
Sunset Mine and Mill.....	65,000
Bluebird/Blackjack Mine.....	25,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 6	\$700,000
<u>Region 8</u>	
Barren Fork	150,000
Wildcat Branch - Addison Branch.....	50,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 8	\$700,000
<u>Region 9</u>	
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 9	\$500,000
<u>Region 10</u>	
Salt Chuck Mine Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study	10,000
Duncan Canal Radio Relay Station.....	25,000
Ross-Adams Uranium Mine	25,000
Monarch Mine Area Mills	350,000
Base.....	<u>500,000</u>
Total Region 10	\$910,000
National Total	\$11,124,000

FY 2015 Compliance Audit Funding

<u>Region</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
1	2	57,000
2	2	57,000
3	2	57,000
4	2	57,000
5	2	57,000
6	2	57,000
8	2	57,000
9	2	57,000
10	0	0
Research	<u>1</u>	<u>24,000</u>
Total	17	\$480,000

BLI: Land Ownership Management (NFLM)

Program Priorities (errata)

Regions should emphasize activities that help meet the goals/objectives of the USDA Strategic Plan, particularly support to communities and restoration. Given the Administration’s emphases on energy and communications [(Executive Order 13616 (June 2012) and Executive Order 13604 (March 2012)], regions should give high priority to the following land use proposals and authorizations: transmission, renewable energy development, and communications.

Transmission permit work should focus on development and implementation of O & M plans in order to minimize risk of wildfire, improve grid reliability to communities, etc. Communication site permit work should focus on site plans and inspections in order to assure returns to the US Treasury, minimize adverse impacts in high alpine environments, and increase responsiveness.

Prioritize landownership adjustments that contribute to maintaining larger intact ecosystems, improve public access, reduce potential for encroachment and trespass and best utilize resources now and into the future. Land exchanges and other forms of adjustments have the ability to greatly enhance ecological restoration and mitigate the impacts of a changing climate. Actively work to improve access to the National Forest System and protect and defend existing rights-of-way. Utilize CMRD and CMTL to fund new road and trail rights-of-way.

Wherever feasible, continue to explore the use of zone teams and other non-traditional approaches for developing lands and realty skills within and between regions and forests.

Carry out actions recommended in the recent OIG special uses audit, including reducing the backlog of expired authorizations by 25% and increasing the number of existing authorizations administered to standard. Increase use of cost recovery authorities in order to maximize agency capabilities. Mark new boundary lines, and maintain previously marked boundary lines, in support of land and resource management objectives, litigation, encroachment resolution and restoration activities. Regions are encouraged to multi-fund landline location work completed solely or partially to facilitate project activities.

Ensure Automated Lands Program system data is accurate and use web based technology to publish data to internal and external customers. Automated mapping tools should be used in support of planning efforts.

Investigate, document (utilizing TCEMS) and take action to remove personal property and real property encroachments on NFS lands.

FY15 Targets include both real and personal property cases, as follows.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Real Property</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	2	9	11
2	15	17	32
3	6	12	18
4	3	12	15
5	5	19	24
6	7	21	28
8	12	44	56
9	7	17	24
10	5	6	11

FERC licensing and reporting

Assure timely and appropriately skilled participation in FERC administered proceedings and ensure appropriate coordination with the WO as outlined in the June 5, 2014 letter to the Regional Foresters. All Section 4(e) conditions for licensed projects and conditions in any special use permits covering Projects Exempted from Licensing will be necessary to protect and utilize National Forest System lands and resources, supported by substantial evidence, and directly attributed to the operation, maintenance, and/or occupancy of the project on National Forest System lands. Each region is to certify direct project costs for FY 2014 by **November 30, 2014**. This information will be used for submission of agency costs incurred to participate in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceedings.

Energy Transmission and Broadband Deployment

Regions are encouraged to prioritize planning and administration of energy and communications permits to advance Administration goals, using land ownership management funds as well as other funds, where appropriate. The Administration continues to be a strong advocate for developing domestic energy resources, particularly renewables, as well as expanding internet and communications in rural communities as critical to their development. A Presidential memorandum on broadband deployment supports increased responsiveness, such as faster processing, faster NEPA analyses, and streamlining processes for (a) expanding electric transmission capabilities from new sources and (b) increasing transmission reliability. With 15,000 miles of power lines, 6,600 miles of energy and over 4,000 communication sites on the NFS, the Forest Service continues to play a key role in advancing these Administration goals.

BLI: Law Enforcement (NFLE)

Program Priorities

The Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) program will continue to focus on protection of the public, employees, and natural resources. LEI program priorities continue to be investigation and prevention of theft and damage to cultural heritage resources, timber, and other forest products, as well as incidents related to wildland fire. LEI continue to emphasize employee and facility security and public safety in the wake of terrorist activity. Eco-terrorism is a priority issue and LEI will work in cooperation and partnership with other internal staff and external federal, state, and local agencies to prevent, detect, and investigate incidents of terrorism and drug trafficking organizations.

Law Enforcement program priorities include:

LEI will aggressively investigate illegal drug production and smuggling by Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO). To address the drug production and law enforcement problems on specific national forests, the past earmarks are part of each LEI subunit's funding allocation.

Drug enforcement results could likewise be affected as a result of LEI's reliance on military assets for aviation reconnaissance, intelligence analysis, and general support, because these resources have refocused their efforts on counter-terrorism.

Uniformed patrol presence will respond to public and employee safety incidents and violations of law and regulations. Common incidents on national forests include theft, assault, alcohol and drug use, unauthorized motor vehicle use, illegal occupancy, trespassing, and resource protection patrols.

Reserve law enforcement officers (RLEOs) who perform work at the same level as a full-time law enforcement officer are to be paid from NFLE. Exceptions to this would occur if the reserve officer is working on timber salvage sales, special recreation projects where funding has been identified for law enforcement support work, or on a fire assignment. The latter exception shall be paid from that program. Use of RLEOs must be coordinated with the SAC in each region.

For investigative activities performed at the request of Job Corps Centers, the State and Private Deputy Area, International Forestry, or the Research Deputy Area, it will be necessary for these units to reimburse the LEI unit performing the requested investigation.

Allocation Direction

Cooperative law enforcement agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies will be used where feasible. The patrol agreements are administered jointly by the special agent in charge (SAC) and the respective line officer. Drug enforcement agreements will be administered by the SAC. Funding for these agreements will be part of the direct allocations for law enforcement that are set up by LEI.

Upon occurrence of an incident that could result in a claim for or against the Government, law enforcement personnel shall conduct an initial investigation and provide any immediate follow-up action that is required. Subsequent requests for law enforcement personnel to provide further assistance on a claims investigation once the initial report has been prepared will require a determination of funding responsibility between LEI and fiscal and accounting services staffs.

Targets - Performance

Law Enforcement Investigations Management Attainment Reporting System (LEIMARS) Database:

Field units are to enter planned accomplishments in the Law Enforcement and Investigations Attainment Reporting System (LEIMARS) database for all incidents and closed investigations within 30 calendar days of receiving the FY 2015 Program Direction. All planned and actual accomplishments will be monitored on a quarterly basis based on the funding received.

BLI: Valles Caldera (VCVC)

Program Priorities (errata)

Valles Caldera National Preserve was designated a unit of the National Park Service System within the National Defense Authorization Act 2015, Section 3043 (Public Law 113-291). Transition of the Preserve will take place over the next 6 months with the statutory dissolution of the Trust occurring by June 19, 2015. Funding for the Preserve will be allocated to cover transition costs during this time. Additional guidance will be forthcoming.

Chapter 15 WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

BLI: Fire Preparedness (WFPR)

Program Priorities (errata)

Regions and field units will take advantage of opportunities to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate, risk informed, and effective operations. Line officers and regional leaders must communicate, 1) clear intent concerning roles and responsibilities and; 2) clear visions and goals, and ensure they are shared and understood. This includes establishing direction and expectations for managing costs, and oversight and accountability for actions and expenditures. All levels of leadership will be accountable for preparedness activities and expenditures. The Washington Office will provide national level oversight and analysis of preparedness activities and expenditures.

Regions and field units hosting Job Corps Centers shall provide resources to train, equip, and ensure leadership and dispatch support for Job Corps firefighters and staff. Job Corps crews, and capability, may be included in a unit's capability if the assets are pre-planned and supported with preparedness funding.

Regions shall consider preparedness base salary charged to suppression in their capability estimates. Within (90) days after the release of Final Program Direction, regions must submit an updated 5100.2 spreadsheet displaying the FY 2015 program and fiscal data to the Branch Chief, Fire Budget and Planning.

FS entities will collect, prepare, and enter complete, accurate fire perimeter GIS data in accordance with the current USFS GIS National Data Dictionary Standard no later than March 1, **of the year after discovery**, regardless of whether or not the fire is declared out.

Preparedness distributions include funding for regional programs and regionally hosted national resources. Units are to operate within their allocations. Regions will fund geospatial data collection and management to support fire planning, decision support, and fuel analysis processes and systems. Regions receiving multi-year special workforce diversity project funding will need to complete a status report prior to FY 2016.

Firefighter physicals that are required based on the results of a completed health screening questionnaire will be completed on an OF-178 Form and paid for through the Medical Standards Program within the Washington Office.

Cost Pool 9 facilities assessment funds **are included** in regional allocations. As was done for FY 2014, UCI will be paid at the national level by the WO.

Contract availability costs for nationally funded Type 1, 2, and 3 helicopters **are NOT included** in allocations. Region 8 fuels helicopters will use shorthand code WFPRH8 override 1325 for contract availability. Contract availability costs for nationally funded Air Tactical Group Supervisor fixed-wing aircraft **is NOT included** in Regional Allocations.

Region 5 is authorized to utilize shorthand code WFPRNF override 1325 in support of maintaining night air operations. Region 6 is authorized to utilize shorthand code WFPR23 override 1325 to fund two (2) C-23B+/SD3-60 Sherpa program maintenance positions. Region 6 is authorized to utilize shorthand code WFPR30 override 1325 for additional two (2) Air Tactical Group Supervisor positions to staff nationally funded Air Tactical aircraft. Specific program direction for these three (3) programs will be included in Washington Office letters to the regions.

Funding for these programs is included within Agency Off-The-Top projects and is **NOT included** in the Regional allocations.

During the locally established fire season, when conditions permit, it is acceptable to deploy preparedness resources to other Forest Service non-fire activities as long as preparedness resources are always able to respond to emergencies within an acceptable time limit.

At the point the Agency is expected to or goes into fire transfer, preparedness will be managed nationally.

Performance

Any reallocation of preparedness dollars to other activities requires national office approval.

Allocation Direction

Regional allocations will provide for readiness levels comparable to previous fiscal years. Any reallocation of preparedness dollars to other activities requires national office approval. Allocations will be provided in an Errata once the Final FY 2015 Appropriation Bill is enacted.

BLI: Fire Operations - Suppression (WFSU)

Reports

Regions will monitor large fire strategies and costs and document oversight and accountability actions. A subset of fires will be reviewed by Regions based on complexity and regional significance ensuring the selected fires provide a cross-section of risk management investment performance in fires of various final costs, sizes, and oversight complexity.

Nationally, the Washington Office will review an additional subset of fires, in coordination with the Region to avoid duplication, based on complexity and national significance ensuring the selected fires provide a national cross section of risk management investment performance in fires of various final costs, sizes, and oversight complexity. The national reviews will be performed by a team consisting of Regional and Headquarter representatives. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100-Fire Management, Chapter 5130, Wildland Fire Suppression is being updated to reflect the change in process.

Regions and the Washington Office will also complete an After Action Review (AAR) for the previous fiscal year which identifies and assesses the significant factors that influenced performance in all fire programs. Regional AARs will be submitted to the Washington Office no later than January 1st. The Washington Office will distribute their AAR to the Regions by the same date.

Timely and accurate completion of the Individual Wildland Fire Reports (5100.29) is essential to support Agency performance reporting, planning and budgeting activities, and program analysis.

Program Priorities

Regions and field units will take advantage of opportunities to improve efficiency while maintaining appropriate, risk informed, and effective operations.

Line officers and regional leaders must communicate, 1) clear intent concerning roles and responsibilities and; 2) clear visions and goals, and ensure they are shared and understood. This includes establishing direction and expectations for managing costs, oversight and accountability for actions and expenditures. All levels of leadership will be accountable for wildland fire suppression.

Funds will be spent in accordance with Service-wide Appropriation Use Handbook chapter on Wildland Fire Management, [FSH 6509.11g, chapter 50](#), and [FSH 5109.34](#) the Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook.

Fire Severity

A regional ceiling is established per the table below. Request for increasing the cap shall be made in writing via email or official correspondence to the Assistant Director for Planning and Budget.

Severity Ceiling (\$1,000)

R1	\$1,900
R2	\$1,400
R3	\$3,000
R4	\$1,900
R5	\$8,700
R6	\$3,400
R8	\$3,000
R9	\$600
R10	\$100

There is no longer a requirement for regions to request Severity funding from the WO for any amount. Regions will establish a process for approving requests from individual forests. Requests that include National Shared Resources: Very Large or Large Air Tankers, Type 1 or 2 helicopters, Type 1 Crews) and/or Smokejumpers are required to be coordinated in writing with the Deputy Assistant Director for Operations prior to regional approval. All requests must follow direction in FSM 5130 for documentation requirements. Approved severity requests that exceed \$250K must be sent to the WO for tracking purposes. Regions must also maintain the necessary records for dollar amounts expended by pay period. Regions will utilize all reasonable options with Preparedness funds to meet staffing needs prior to utilizing Severity. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100-Fire Management, Chapter 5130, Wildland Fire Suppression is being updated to reflect the change in the Severity process.

Burned Area Emergency Response

Regional Foresters have authority to approve BAER requests (BLI funding source is Fire Operations - Suppression [WFSU]), consistent with direction in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2500, Watershed and Air Management, Chapter 2520, Watershed Protection and Management, [Interim Directive 2520-2013-1](#) with a per incident cap up to the following amounts:

BAER Authority (\$1,000 per incident)

R1	\$500
R2	\$500
R3	\$500
R4	\$500
R5	\$500
R6	\$500
R8	\$100
R9	\$100
R10	\$100

There is no cumulative cap per region. For review purposes, Regional Foresters will forward to the Washington Office copies of all BAER requests approved within their authority. See Interim Directive 2520-2013-1 for direction regarding BAER policy. For BAER requests that exceed regional authority, Regions will forward the report to the WO for approval. BAER job codes will be established by the regions in accordance with the Interagency Fire Code System. BAER accomplishments must be reported in the system of record appropriate for each measure that was performed.

For all Coding Direction - Reference link will be provided once FY 2015 Incident Job Codes are available from ASC Budget and Finance.

Allocation Methodology

Authorizations are issued for use of Suppression for Severity and BAER activities and for priority projects. Funds are not allocated to the regions for fire suppression activities. Regions must ensure a high level of accountability and oversight of all WFSU expenditures.

BLI: Hazardous Fuels Reduction (WFHF)

Program Priorities

WFHF funding will be spent on the highest priority projects in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and other high priority areas that protect communities that are also investing in their own protection. Appropriate investment also includes identifying and providing assistance to communities that want to help themselves but lack either the resources to invest in, or the knowledge how to effectively prioritize treatments in these areas. Regions 1, 3 and 4 shall also refer to Chapter 14 for more direction on IRR emphasis.

The intent of the hazardous fuels and fire ecology program is to restore fire-adapted landscapes (consistent with Land Management Plan Direction); reduce risk to people, communities and values; support the three objectives of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (CS), restore resilient landscapes, maintain fire adapted communities, and provide for effective, safe fire response; and address climate change through landscape scale collaboration and coordination. The wood utilization efforts are intended to reduce the cost of forest management activities by creating higher value uses of trees removed to accomplish the program intent and reduce the air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions generated from disposal where possible. The Climate Action Plan preserves the role of forests in mitigating climate change by reducing wildfire risk and managing forests to be more resilient; and restoring forest and rangeland to make natural areas and communities less vulnerable to catastrophic fire. Regions will coordinate hazardous fuel reduction projects with federal, state, tribal, and local partners, including cost-shared projects funded through the Cooperative Fire - State Fire Assistance program and Community Wildfire Protection Plan activities.

Determining Fuel Treatment Priorities

WFHF Investments help restore resilient ecosystems, by creating fuel conditions that will burn at manageable intensity under all but the most extreme burning conditions. Fuel treatments reduce risk by reducing fire severity in areas of high fire probability and high values. Priority is given to areas where communities are actively engaged in reducing risk and fuel treatments will effectively reduce risk.

Targets - Performance

Hazardous fuel reduction program performance is measured in three categories: 1) reduction of hazardous fuel on NFS lands within wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas; 2) reduction of hazardous fuels on NFS lands outside the WUI; 3) reduction of hazardous fuel on non-federal lands where fuel reduction activities on NFS lands (prescribed fire projects) may put communities at risk (described below). Meeting performance measures requires a combination of these three categories. Non-WUI hazardous fuel treatments, including those accomplished with NFRR funds in Regions 1, 3, and 4 are included. When using authorities provided by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA), no less than 50 percent of WFHF funds will be used on WUI projects on Federal lands, as defined in the HFRA.

The following Performance Measure has targets assigned to the regions. Refer to Chapter 3, Performance Management for the target assignments.

<u>Performance Measure</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Report Where:</u>
Number of acres treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire (MULTI)	FP-FUELS-ALL	FACTS

The following performance measures do not have targets, but are the component pieces of the unified regional targets described above. Report fuels reduction accomplishments from all participating programs in order to monitor performance toward hazardous fuel reduction and restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems.

<u>Performance Measure</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Report Where:</u>
Number of WUI acres treated	FP-FUELS-WUI	FACTS
Number of non-WUI acres treated	FP-FUELS-NONWUI	FACTS

Reporting Direction

All WFHF core activities, integrated activities (secondary fuels treatments), partnership accomplishments, and unplanned wildland fire with resource benefits, which count toward the unified hazardous fuels reduction target, are reported in FACTS and include spatial data along with the tabular record. Full details on reporting fuels accomplishments can be found in the [Hazardous Fuels Reporting Direction 2015](#) document. Fuel treatment effectiveness is reported according to Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100, Fire Management, Chapter 5140, Fire Use.

Hazard Mitigation Treatments on Non-Federal Lands (WFHF)

To maximize benefits across the landscape, ensure proper sequencing of treatments, and leverage collaborative resources, the Regions will coordinate hazardous fuel reduction projects with federal, state, tribal, and local partners, including cost-shared projects funded through the Cooperative Fire - State Fire Assistance program and Community Wildfire Protection Plan activities. Per Congressional direction, the USFS will use \$15,000,000 on non-federal lands for hazardous fuels reduction projects to implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans (or equivalent) and benefit resources on federal land. Priorities are areas that have the highest risk to communities.

<u>Non-Federal Lands (\$1,000)</u>	
R1	\$1,141
R2	\$1,582
R3	\$2,192
R4	\$1,365
R5	\$3,226
R6	\$1,753
R8	\$2,789
R9	\$802
<u>R10</u>	<u>\$150</u>
TOTAL	\$15,000

Fire Preparedness Funded Fuel Treatment (WFPR and WFSU)

Fire preparedness resources, and in limited circumstances fire suppression resources, perform fuel treatment while on standby for fire suppression or other emergencies. Acres are reported as integrated fuels accomplishment if the outcomes meet the definition of a hazardous fuel reduction.

Woody Biomass (errata)

The USDA Wood to Energy Initiative identified State level teams comprised of Federal and State agencies, nonprofits, and private sector experts providing technical, financial, and communication assistance as a critical element in support of expanded project development. Communities and businesses often need support to reach the decision to convert to wood energy. The combination of \$10 million from the Hazardous Fuels program and \$800,000 from the Integrated Resource Restoration program proposed in FY 2015 will target this type of energy development. Cooperative Agreements will provide State, Tribal, and local governments with support to develop wood energy projects through a variety of techniques such as preliminary engineering assessments and workshops on financing, air quality, wood sourcing.

Allocation Direction

The Allocation to regions is informed by Hazardous Fuels Prioritization Allocation System (HFPAS) process. The Regions are directed to allocate hazardous fuels funds to their units using methods consistent with the national model, finer scale data, response effects functions, and partner collaborations where appropriate.

BLI: Cooperative Fire Protection – State Fire Assistance (WFCF)**Program Priorities**

Regions will work with States to prioritize hazardous fuel mitigation projects, maximize benefits across the landscape, and coordinate with National Forest fuels managers on projects in the WUI with an emphasis on creation of more fire adapted communities and resilient landscapes. Funds will provide financial assistance and technical training to ensure delivery of a coordinated response to wildfire. Funds may be used to support the establishing or growing of a market for woody biomass material. Specifically, State Foresters may use funds to help accomplish preliminary engineering assessments for facilities to determine if a conversion to wood energy is a reasonable option to consider. An additional use of funds would be conducting education/outreach to communities to help them better understand the opportunity wood energy might have for them as an alternative source of energy.

Reports

The FS 3100-8, Annual Wildfire Summary Report by State is due on February 2, 2015. Enter the FS 3100-8 data directly using the web-based reporting system which is located under the national Fire and Aviation Management Web Applications website, [FAMWEB](#).

The Community Assistance--State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Report is due on **October 31, 2015**. SFA data will be drawn from the Community Assistance (Key Point 4) component of the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) database. Reporting will involve 2015 planned SFA data. Enter all planned Community Assistance data prior to **September 30, 2015**. The NFPORS database will be locked to data entry at the end of **October 2015**. To receive assistance in the data entry process, work with your regional NFPORS point of contact. Planned and actual accomplishments will be reported through NFPORS.

Allocation Direction

After priority allocations and administrative costs are set aside, a base-level of funding will be provided to each State (The term "State" refers to the 50 federated States of the United States as well as Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the freely associated States).

After subtracting amounts for priority projects, direct costs, cost pools and base-level funding, the amount available for allocation will be divided with 35% being designated for hazard mitigation grants and the remaining 65% being designated for addressing response needs for State Forestry agencies.

The 35 percent of funding designated for hazard mitigation grants will be allocated as determined by an allocation methodology (currently in process) with appropriate amounts being provided to the geographic areas (West, South and Northeast). Competition for the hazard mitigation grants will be carried out within the three designated geographic areas and funds distributed based on the outcome of that competitive process in the following categories:

- Hazardous fuels mitigation
- Prevention and Mitigation education
- Community hazard mitigation and planning

BLI: National Fire Plan - State Fire Assistance (SPS2)

Based on the FY 2014, Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 113-76, SPS2 is now in the Cooperative Fire, State Fire Assistance section (WFCF).

BLI: National Fire Plan - State Fire Assistance (SPCF)

Based on the FY 2014, Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 113-76, SPS2 is now in the Cooperative Fire, State Fire Assistance section (WFCF).

BLI: Cooperative Fire Protection – Volunteer Fire Assistance (WFVF)

Program Priorities

Funds will be focused to address critical preparedness needs for firefighter safety, increased initial attack capability, and training. Funds provide financial assistance, technical training, and equipment to ensure that Federal, State, and local fire agencies can deliver a coordinated response to wildfire. The emphasis is on the implementation of fire adapted communities activities in the wildland urban interface, improving fire planning, initial attack capabilities, adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and providing wildland fire techniques training for local fire agencies.

The community share (50% match) of the financial assistance must be available at the time of application. Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of Federal assistance. The community share of the financial assistance can be in the form of cash or "in-kind" contributions. Examples of in-kind contributions include volunteer labor, such as installation of dry fire hydrants, and donation of services, such as the use of volunteer instructors to present a training course.

Reports

The FS 3100-8, Annual Wildfire Summary Report by State is due on **February 2, 2015**. The preferred method of reporting the Annual Wildfire Summary is to enter the FS 3100-8 data directly using the web-based reporting system. This system is online and located under the national Fire and Aviation Management Web Applications website, [FAMWEB](#).

The Community Assistance--State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Report is due on **October 31, 2015**. 2015 Planned VFA data will be pulled from the Community Assistance (Key Point 4) component of the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) database. Enter all planned Community Assistance data prior to **September 30, 2015** and the NFPORS database will be locked to data entry at the end of **October 2015**. To receive assistance in the data entry process, work with your regional NFPORS point of contact. Planned and actual accomplishments will be reported through NFPORS.

Allocation Direction

The program allocates funding considering the following factors:

- The number of volunteer and mostly volunteer fire departments serving communities with populations under 10,000 in each State.

The basis of risk from catastrophic fires to communities in the WUI.

Forest Service RSA's receive a fixed percentage of funds which they allocate to States and Territories

BLI: National Fire Plan - Volunteer Fire Assistant (SPS3)

Based on the FY 2014, Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 113-76; SPS3 is now in the Cooperative Fire Protection - Volunteer Fire Assistance section (WFVF).

BLI: National Fire Plan - Cooperative Fire Protection – Volunteer Fire Assistance (SPVF)

Based on the FY 2014, Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 113-76; SPVF is now in the Cooperative Fire Protection - Volunteer Fire Assistance section. (WFVF)

Chapter 16 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

As outlined in the FY 2015 President's Budget request, the priority for Capital Improvement and Maintenance programs is to provide safe and healthful environments for all users that are in compliance with all applicable regulations and codes. Funding has been prioritized to provide infrastructure that supports safe public, administrative, and recreation uses.

Within that context, FY 2015 priorities for the Capital Improvement and Maintenance include:

- Ensuring the safety of employees and all users.

- Protecting and restoring the environment.

- Rightsizing and reducing the environmental footprint of our infrastructure.

- Providing and maintaining mission critical infrastructure and high priority assets in support of agency mission and operations.

- Complying with all applicable legal, regulatory, and policy requirements.

Programs will provide reporting details and due dates, as needed; via email, letter and/or other appropriate means related to recurring requirements for updating database(s) of record, status of current program of work, and year-end accomplishments including success stories.

BLI: Cooperative Facilities (CMFC)

Program priorities are to support the health and safety of all users of our infrastructure. Focus on maintaining first facilities that house employees for long periods of time, store mission-critical equipment, and provide unique recreation experiences. Other priorities are to reduce the agency footprint through consolidation, space utilization and value engineering studies, and elimination of underutilized, non-mission critical facilities, and when possible, reduce critical deferred maintenance and make our facilities more sustainable.

An agency priority is to reduce critical deferred maintenance on agency high priority assets. For FY 2015, we will continue our focus on High Hazard Dams. Regions will focus on work identified in mitigation plans that address critical maintenance and the WO will complete the emergency action plans on high hazard dams.

Capital Investment Projects (errata)

Obligate all funding associated with maintenance or capital improvement projects on the Capital Investment Project list prior to September 30, 2015. Planning and design within Capital Investment includes funding for Preliminary Project Analyses (PPA) for future acquisition projects.

Capital Investment Projects ⁽¹⁾

<u>R/S/A</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Project Name and Type</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Deferred Mtce Eliminated</u>	<u>(\$000) Project Cost</u> ⁽²⁾
<u>National Priority Projects</u>					
1	MT	Regional Office Rehabilitation at Fort Missoula – Phase 3	Regional Office	0	1,200
3	AZ	Prescott Aviation Fire Center Improvements	Prescott NF	167	1,000
10	AK	CoLocated Sitka Office Renovation	Sitka RD	<u>474</u>	<u>800</u>
Total National Priority					\$3,000
<u>Regional Priority Projects</u>					
1	MT	Regional Office Rehabilitation at Fort Missoula – Phase 2	Regional Office	0	1,600
2	WY	Cook Lake Dam Repair	Black Hills NF	86	1,225
2	CO	Gunnison Office Renovation (Phase 2)	GMUG NF	769	600
4	ID	Salmon-Challis NF Seasonal Housing Relocation (Phase 1)	Salmon –Challis NF	314	920
8	GA	Morganton Point Water/Wastewater Replacement	Chattahoochee NF	129	713
9	IN	Deer Creek Dam Rehabilitation	Hoosier NF	1,250	1,500
10	AK	Sitka Energy Retrofit	Tongass NF	95	650
Research	HI	Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest Infrastructure Improvements Phase 7	PSW	0	1,000
Research	WI	Forest Products Lab Building 33 Fume Hood Replacement	FPL	603	603
Research	WI	Forest Products Lab Building 29 and 34 Fume Hood Replacement	FPL	579	579
SDTDC	CA	Replace SDTDC Electrical & Test HVAC System	SDTDC	820	<u>820</u>
Total Regional Priority					\$10,210
Total National & Regional Facilities Projects					\$13,210

Notes:

- 1) Do not make any substitutions, omissions, or additions to this list without prior approval of the WO Director of Engineering and Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteers, and through the Committees on Appropriations, where applicable (see reprogramming guidelines under the Financial Management Chapter.
- 2) Includes facility maintenance assessment (Cost Pool 9).

BLI: Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement (CMII) (errata)

FY 2015 projects listed below address the most critical health and safety infrastructure needs, particularly in areas that are heavily used by the public and employees.

FY 2015 Deferred Maintenance & Infrastructure Improvement Projects ⁽¹⁾

R/S/A	State	Project Name	Forest	Project Cost ⁽²⁾
3	AZ	Railroad Tank Dam Decommissioning	Kaibab NF	350
4	WY	Cottonwood Dam Lower Notch	Bridger-Teton NF	82
5	CA	Hume Lake Dam Repairs	Shasta-Trinity NF	2,120
8	TX	Houston Dam Decommissioning	NFs in Texas	438
8	NC	Skitty Creek Dam Repairs	NFs in North Carolina	<u>160</u>
		Total		\$3,150

¹Do not make any substitutions, omissions, or additions to this list without prior approval of the WO Director of Engineering and Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteers, and through the Committees on Appropriations, where applicable (see reprogramming guidelines under the Financial Management Chapter).

²Includes facility maintenance assessment (Cost Pool 9)

BLI: Facility Maintenance Assessment (CMFM)

For maintenance activities less than \$250,000, use facility maintenance (CMFM) funds for maintenance, repair, and disposal of buildings (administrative, fire, research, major visitor centers, nurseries, communication towers, and other), dams, and associated drinking water, wastewater and other utility systems for the purpose of user health and safety, resource protection, and Forest Service mission accomplishment.

Maintenance and repair activities associated with all other recreation facilities and FA&O line-item projects

Focus on:

Mitigating health and safety hazards first at facilities that house employees for long periods of time, store mission-critical equipment, and provide unique recreation experiences.

Right-sizing the portfolio of owned assets, maintaining mission dependent facilities, and decommissioning underutilized/obsolete facilities.

Eliminating critical deferred maintenance on the agency’s mission critical facilities, as defined in the USDA-Asset Management Plan (AMP) and the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP) reporting process.

Reducing energy consumption and increasing renewable energy (wind, biomass, solar, etc.) use in facilities, and on reducing fugitive emissions from landfills, wastewater treatment plants and refrigeration equipment.

Major Visitor Centers

<u>Region</u>	<u>Visitor Center Name</u>
1	Lolo Pass
1	Earthquake Lake Geologic Area
1	Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center
2	National Grasslands
3	Sabino Canyon
4	Red Canyon (Dixie)
4	Upper Mesa Falls
5	Mono Lake Scenic Area
5	Bristlecone
5	Big Bear Discovery Center
6	Lava Lands
6	Coldwater Ridge
6	Johnston Ridge Observatory
6	Cape Perpetua
8	Gladie Learning Center
8	Brasstown Bald
8	Ocoee Whitewater Center
8	Blanchard Springs Caverns
8	Cradle of Forestry in America
8	El Portal
9	Cranberry Mountain Nature Center
9	Seneca Rocks Discovery Center
10	Begich Boggs Visitor
10	Mendenhall Glacier
10	SE Alaska Discovery Center

BLI: Legacy Roads and Trails (CMLG) (errata)

Focus on mitigating environmental impacts, implementing BMPs to reduce sedimentation, and providing for aquatic organism passage at stream crossings. Road decommissioning remains a priority for the Legacy Roads & Trails/IRR. Focus in areas where Forest Service roads and trails may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies which support threatened, endangered or sensitive species.

Note that a new Categorical Exclusion (#20) is now available for road and trail restoration (including decommissioning) for restoring lands impacted by unauthorized roads and trails that are not needed, not maintained, and/or where public access is prohibited.

These funds may also be used to complete small scale Travel Analysis Process (TAP), as well as planning and design of projects that meet the program priorities. Complete the process in the year it was initiated, and identify the analysis area in the project name. Include a list of implementing projects in the final document.

BLI: Roads (CMRD) (errata)

Place greatest emphasis on maintaining and improving the Passenger Car road system with appropriated CMRD funds. Continue to de-emphasize maintenance and reconstruction work on high clearance and closed roads in order to focus our CMRD funds on maintaining the safety of, and mitigating environmental impacts from, the passenger car road system, including needed bridge repairs and replacements.

A priority in FY 2015 for the agency / regions is to complete the multiple Plans of Corrective Action identified for FY 2015, to address NBIS bridge inspection deficiencies.

Complete most work on High Clearance roads through the Legacy Roads and Trails/Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) program, Timber Sale Purchasers and other program and partnership funds. Refer to the Legacy Roads and Trails/Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) programs for additional direction.

All National Forest System Roads must be covered by a Travel Analysis or Roads Analysis by the end of FY 2015.

Adjustments to unit allocations include the following:

- \$20,000 was held for the Infra Road Maintenance Planning Module Training in FY 2015
- \$375,000 is included in Region 1's allocation in support of their CMFC CIP project (Companion Road Funds).
- \$236,000 is included in Region 2's allocation in support of their CMFC CIP project (Companion Road Funds).

BLI: Trails (CMTL)

Program Priorities (errata)

The FY 2015 Trails program direction is aligned with the 2010 Forest Service Framework for Sustainable Recreation (Framework). Four of the ten focus areas outlined in the Framework form the basis of the Trails Program Priorities:

Focus Area 1: Restore and Adapt Recreation Settings

Focus Area 5: Forge Strategic Partnerships

Focus Area 6: Promote Citizen Stewardship

Focus Area 8: Provide the Right Information

Within FY 2015 funding, key priorities for the Trails program are: 1) working with partners and volunteers to maintain and improve trails to provide socially, environmentally and economically sustainable trails while addressing critical safety and resource damage issues, 2) completing Trail Management Objectives for all NFS trails, 3) meeting trail data requirements to support effective trail management and public information, including the interactive visitor map and 4) providing quality open source trails data for development of recreation trail apps.

The Forest Service will implement the Statement of Action to respond to the 2013 GAO Trails Maintenance Report. Regions shall set priorities for trail maintenance and improvement in consultation with the forests, with special emphasis on meeting requirements for National Scenic and Historic Trails. Managers shall foster and expand partner and volunteer opportunities to assist with trail maintenance and improvement, especially during this challenging budget environment.

Allocations include the WO recommendation of minimum allocations for the National Scenic and Historic Trails. Regions may shift funds between these amounts with approval by the National Trails Program Manager.

National Scenic and Historic Trails
(\$000s)

<u>NS&HT</u>	<u>R1</u>	<u>R2</u>	<u>R3</u>	<u>R4</u>	<u>R5</u>	<u>R6</u>	<u>R8</u>	<u>R9</u>	<u>R10</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Pacific Crest				11	1,561	257				1,829
Continental Divide	303	791	336	247						1,677
Florida										1,300
Nez Perce	800									800
Arizona			495							495
Pacific Northwest						838				838
Appalachian							183	100		283
North Country	9							84		92
Iditarod									149	149
Others	<u>59</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>461</u>
TOTAL ^{1,2}	1,171	846	907	317	1,616	1,150	1,534	235	149	7,924

¹ Region 1 will receive the funds for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and work with Regions 2, 4, and 6 on identifying priorities for the trail.

² Regions 1, 3, and 6 will receive supplemental funds for working on Comprehensive Management Plans and establishing Federal Advisory Committees in accordance with the National Trails System Act.

Chapter 17 LAND ACQUISITION**BLI: Land Acquisition (LALW) (errata)****Allocations (errata)**

<u>Region</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Funding Request</u>
1	Tenderfoot	MT	Lewis and Clark	2,000,000
3	Wilderness Inholdings	NM	Gila Wilderness	500,000
3	Wilderness Inholdings	NM	White Mountain Wilderness	100,000
3	Miranda Canyon	NM	Carson	2,600,000
4	Wasatch Watersheds – Bonneville Shoreline Trail	UT	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache	2,600,000
5	CLP: California Southwest Desert	CA	San Bernardino	2,100,000
5	CLP: California Southwest Desert	CA	Pacific Crest NST	1,265,000
5	Sierra Nevada Checkerboard Royal Gorge	CA	Tahoe	2,200,000
5	Wilderness Inholdings	CA	Ventana Wilderness	240,000
5	Hurdygurdy	CA	Six Rivers	1,300,000
6	CLP: National Trails System	WA	Pacific Northwest NST	2,700,000
6	CLP: National Trails System	WA	Pacific Crest NST	1,320,000
6	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Siuslaw	150,000
6	Pacific Northwest Streams	OR	Rogue River-Siskiyou	350,000
6	Washington Cascades - Yakima River Watershed	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee	2,700,000
8	CLP: National Trails System	TN	Appalachian NST	330,000
8	North Carolina Threatened Treasures	NC	Pisgah	2,100,000
8	Wilderness Inholdings	KY	Beaver Creek Wilderness	50,000
8	CLP: Florida-Georgia Longleaf Pine Initiative	FL	Osceola	5,000,000
8	CLP: South Carolina’s Longleaf Legacy	SC	Francis Marion	2,000,000
8	Mid-America’s Great Rivers	IL	Shawnee	2,200,000
9	Great Lakes Northwoods	MI	Ottawa	650,000
9	Great Lakes Northwoods	MI	Chequamegon-Nicolet	2,500,000
10	Wilderness Inholdings	AK	Stikine LeConte Wilderness	145,000

Program Priorities

Pursue acquisition strategies for inholdings/recreational access and exchange that enhance public access, create management efficiencies, and protect critical resources, including wilderness. Utilize opportunities to highlight acquisitions which support 2015 LWCF reauthorization.

Focus on directing resources and implementing actions in the following key areas for FY 2015:

Develop and strengthen relationships with partners at the local, state, tribal and federal level to identify potential Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisitions that support agency goals as either strategic “core” properties, or those that contribute to landscape-level conservation goals, such as the Interagency Collaborative Landscape Planning program. Respond to local planning efforts that support

Federal acquisitions and conservation. Develop Federal, State and local partnerships that provide financial leverage.

Acquire parcels that: provide public access for outdoor recreation, support the goals of the watershed condition framework, and agency goals for ecological restoration; improve and maintain ecological conditions for threatened and endangered species and protect cultural and heritage resources on National Forest System (NFS) lands; respond to local planning efforts that enhance Federal acquisition and conservation. Examples include acquisitions that reduce boundary management costs, improve management and restoration options for activities such as invasive species and fuels reduction, and improve or maintain access.

BLI: Acquisition of Lands for National Forests, Special Acts (ACAC)

All ACAC allocations are statutorily directed to a limited number of forests in Utah, Nevada and California. These forests are: Cache, Uinta and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; Angeles, Cleveland, San Bernardino and Sequoia National Forest, California. Funds are derived from forest receipts collected from the occupancy of public land or from the sale of natural resources other than minerals and must be spent on acquisitions which reduce soil erosion and flood damage. The two affected regions will continue to coordinate with the Washington Office on distribution of available funds.

Up to 10 percent of the land value can be used to cover administrative costs for planning and processing cases associated with each land acquisition. Administrative costs include costs associated with appraisal, title clearance, survey, and salaries to process cases.

BLI: Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges (EXEX)

This BLI is commonly referred to as Sisk Act funds. Regions may request allocation of unobligated balances that may be expended to purchase same-purpose lands in the same state as the conveyed lands. These funds may also be used for cash equalization payments in qualified land exchanges (same state, same purpose, non-federal lands).

In addition, unless prohibited by law, an amount up to 10 percent of the land value can be used to cover administrative costs for planning and processing cases associated with each land acquisition. Administrative costs include costs associated with appraisal, title clearance, survey, and salaries to process cases.

Sisk Act Funds can be combined with, or used in place of, NFLM and LALW, to assist in land adjustment projects.

Chapter 18 OTHER APPROPRIATIONS**BLI: Range Betterment Fund (RBRB)**

Give priority to vegetative improvements (non-structural improvements) and the construction of essential structural improvements identified as needed through National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) based decisions that benefit livestock and wildlife and are designed to accomplish objectives of enhanced or stable soils and vegetative conditions, improved water quality, and the conservation of plant and animal species.

Funds will be allocated based on 50 percent of prior year fees collected. Of the funding provided, do not use more than six percent for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground rangeland rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

BLI: Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses (SMSM)

This program is unique to Region 10. Funds are to be used for necessary expenses to manage federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487).

Continue to adjust program to reflect trends in Congressional budget support. Maintain a strong emphasis on funding monitoring and data collection through contracts which support employment in isolated rural communities. Coordinate data collection with the needs of other National Forest System (NFS) programs to integrate data collection, optimize efficiencies, and obtain key information necessary to manage the subsistence program.

Chapter 19 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

For detailed information on authorities and regulations regarding usage of Forest Service permanent accounts, please see the Service-wide Appropriation Use Handbook, FSH 6509.11g, Chapter 60 on [Permanent Appropriations](#).

BLI: Brush Disposal Fund (BDBD)

Each region with a Brush Disposal program will follow direction in the Renewable Resources Handbook, (FSH) 2409.19, Chapter 40. The directive requires that each national forest conduct an annual analysis of their FY 2015 brush disposal fund balance and forward it to their regional office. Each regional office will summarize the forest's balance analyses, and submit a regional FY 2015 balance analysis to the WO by December 11, 2015. Each analysis shall include the unobligated cash balance, the anticipated collections, and the funding needed to complete all approved projects. FY 2015 surplus funds will be returned to the WO by March 15, 2016, for consideration for transfer to the U.S. Treasury. When transferring funds to the WO, the proper destination for excess funds is region 15, unit 08, reporting category (RPTG) 999. Detailed instructions for completion of the regional annual cash balance analysis and national support and inflation rates will be provided separately and posted on the [Forest Management Staff website](#).

When feasible, projects shall be planned to minimize contributions to carbon release by avoiding the need for excess biomass removal through prescribed fire. Evaluate mechanical treatment opportunities and pursue opportunities for biomass utilization as a renewable energy source.

Field units and regional offices shall continue efforts to reduce indirect costs attributable to the BD program.

BLI: Stewardship Contracting (SSCC)

The 2014 Farm Bill, Title VIII - Forestry Section 8205 granted the Forest Service permanent authority for Stewardship End Result Contracting.

The regions should complete and submit to the WO Forest Management Director by November 15, 2015 the Annual Stewardship Contracting Retained Receipts report, per the Renewable Resources Handbook, FSH 2409.19 Chapter 67.21. The analysis shall be region-wide rather than individual analyses provided by each forest within the region. The analysis of the receipts and expenditures in stewardship contracts shall be completed in conjunction with the annual review of trust fund balances.

Regions are to utilize the appropriate database of record to complete the required reporting items and provide to the third-party monitoring contractor for completion of the FY 2015 Stewardship Contracting accomplishment report. This report, in accordance with Title 16, United States Code, section 2104 Note (g), shall include:

- The status of development, execution, and administration of agreements or contracts,
- The specific accomplishments that have resulted, and
- The role of local communities in the development of agreement or contract plans.

Annually, each Regional Forester should prepare an analysis which is due to the Washington Office (attention: Forest Management Director) by December 15. Regions should provide a [regional balance analysis](#) rather than submitting the annual accomplishment report (see the Renewable Resources Handbook, FSH 2409.19 Chapter 60, Section 67.21). The Chief will submit an annual report to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate on the three items specified in section 69 of this handbook. The Chief will also report contributions of stewardship projects to performance and workload measures consistent with the Government Performance and Results Act.

District Rangers should support national accomplishment reporting by completing information for each project at the time of project initiation and annually updating this information, according to the instructions issued by the Washington Office, Director of Forest Management. Regional Foresters should ensure that accomplishment reports are completed and updated annually by October 31st. Detailed instructions for completion of the regional accomplishment reports and the returned receipt analysis will be provided separately and posted on the [Forest Management Staff website](#).

BLI: Salvage Sale Fund (SSSS)

Each region should follow direction in Renewable Resources Handbook, FSH 2409.18, Section 52.49; each national forest within the region is to conduct an annual analysis of their FY 2015 salvage sale fund balance and forward it to their regional office. Each regional office should summarize the forests' FY 2015 balance analyses, and submit a regional balance analysis to the WO by December 11, 2015. The regions should review the salvage sale fund balance in conjunction with the K-V balance analysis and other trust fund deposit needs so that appropriate adjustments can be made. FY 2015 surplus funds will be returned to the WO by March 15, 2016, for consideration for transfer to the U.S. Treasury. Excess funds should be transferred to Region 15, Unit 08, reporting category (RPTG) 999.

Field units and regional offices should continue efforts to reduce indirect costs attributable to the Salvage Sale program. Detailed instructions for completion of the regional annual cash balance analysis of the salvage sale fund including national support and inflation rates will be provided separately and posted on the [Forest Management Staff website](#).

BLI: Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund - Sale Preparation (TPPS)

Accomplishments using Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration funding should be reported as part of the regular timber sale program when reporting volume accomplishments in the Timber Information Manager (TIM).

Generally, use funds to pay for the costs associated with planning and preparing regular program timber sales (Gates 2 and 3). See Renewable Resources Handbook, FSH 2409.19, Sections 52 and 53 for specific details.

Seventy-five percent of the total net receipts are directed towards new timber sale pipeline preparation projects and 25 percent are directed towards recreation backlog projects.

BLI: Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund - Backlog Recreation Improvements (TPCD)

The goal is to address backlog recreation maintenance projects, focusing primarily on reducing deferred maintenance on recreation facilities and trails. The emphasis of the program is to address health and safety deficiencies at priority recreation sites as identified on the forests' Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) and on trails.

Chapter 20 TRUST FUNDS

For detailed information on authorities and regulations regarding usage of Forest Service Trust Funds, please see the Service-wide Appropriation Use Handbook, FSH 6509.11g, Chapter 70 on [Trust Funds](#).

BLI: Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg Fund (CWKV)

Public Law 109-54 of August 2, 2006, Title IV General Provisions Sec 412 amended the 1930 K-A Act to allow that excess K-V collections not needed to meet the Sale Area Improvement (SAI) plan be retained by the region where the timber sale occurred. Nevertheless, the regions need to comply with the requirement established in FSH 2409.19, Chapter 30, which directs each national forest to conduct an annual analysis of their K-V fund balance and forward it to their regional office. Each regional office should summarize the forests FY 2015 balance analyses and submit a regional balance analysis to the WO by December 11, 2015. Each analysis will include the unobligated cash balance, the anticipated collections, and the funding needed to complete all approved projects. The regions should review the K-V fund balance in conjunction with the salvage sale balance analysis and other trust fund deposit needs so that appropriate adjustments can be made. Regions should use documentation provided by the Albuquerque Service Center (ASC) to facilitate completion of the annual K-V balance analyses.

The Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) is the database of record for all planned and accomplished K-V funded activities. The K-V Plan Profiles, Parts A and B, the K-V Plan Profiles, Part B as well as the national summaries for the planned programs of work for FY 2016 and 2017 will be extracted from FACTS by the WO on December 4, 2015. Regions need to ensure their data is correct in FACTS prior to the December 4 report extraction. Detailed instructions for completion of the annual cash balance analysis, transfer of excess CWKV to the regional CWK2 account annual national support and inflation rates will be provided separately and posted on the [Forest Management Staff website](#).

BLI: Cooperative Work Knutson-Vandenberg, K-V Regional Projects (CWK2)

Following the annual cash balance analysis of the K-V program the regions are authorized to convert the declared K-V excess to their needs into the CWK2 Regional Projects program. The Regional Forester is responsible for the development of CWK2 Inventory of Work based on national, regional and forest priorities to identify the annual CWK2 program of work and request spending authority request. The CWK2 program expenditures can only take place within the Forest Service Region where the timber sale occurred that generated the funds. Detailed instructions for completion of the Regional analysis and proposed CWK2 program of work for FY 2016 will be provided separately and posted on the [Forest Management Staff website](#).

BLI: Reforestation Trust Fund (RTRT)

Reforestation continues to be the highest priority for RTRT funds available for Forest Vegetation Management. This emphasis will continue to increase as the demand to mitigate and adapt to the effects of global climate change increases.

Priority for the use of this fund includes: 1) treatment of reforestation needs arising from unplanned natural or man caused disturbance events where timely reforestation is required to meet specified land management objectives, and 2) reforestation work needed to ensure suitable lands are reforested within 5 years of harvest on those lands where appropriated or CWKV funds are not available to finance this work.

Emphasis is on reducing increasing reforestation needs; however, deforested areas on low productivity sites that have had one or more unsuccessful reforestation treatments should be given a careful analysis before treating again. Survival examination, stocking surveys, and certification are essential and must be implemented. Consider the impacts of a changing climate and the opportunity to facilitate adaptation to projected changes in environmental conditions when determining the appropriate species mix for reforestation efforts.

Chapter 21 TRANSFER ACCOUNTS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Program managers who carry out activities funded through transfer accounts are reminded that it is their responsibility to learn and comply with the financial policies and guidelines of the originating agency. In many cases, funds must be obligated in the fiscal year in which they are transferred. Funds do not necessarily remain available for use in subsequent fiscal years. Additionally, under a Continuing Resolution (CR) spending limits may be applied by the originating agency therefore limiting availability of these funds.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Before any new commitment or expenditure occurs, we must receive restatement authority from Federal Highways.

Direct questions related to these funds to the National FHWA program manager in the Washington Office, National Forest System, Engineering staff.

The Forest Service currently receives funds from the Department of Transportation under two authorities:

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21th Century Transportation Act (MAP-21), Public Law 112-141.

SAFETEA-LU

Under SAFETEA-LU the Forest Service received the following funds:

- HTAE - Federal Highway Administration Expense
- HTAP - Road Aquatic Species Passage
- HTBW - Federal Highway Scenic Byways
- HTCN - Federal Highway Construction
- HTFB - Federal Highways National Forest Scenic Byways Program
- HTRP - Federal Highway Public Roads Transportation Planning Program
- HTTI - Federal Highway Construction Technology Improvements
- US90 – Federal Highway STP – Transportation Enhancements

In FY 2015, most of SAFETEA-LU funds will lapse and units shall work to obligate any restatements of SAFETEA-LU funds by September 30, 2015.

MAP-21

Forest Service receives the following funds with associated Forest Service programs under MAP-21:

Fund	Program(s)
G310-Federal Land Transportation Program	G350-FLTP, USFS G360-FLTP, CTIP
G420-FLTP-Environmental	G420-FLTP-Env.
G510-FLTP-Planning	G510-FLTP-Planning
G200-Federal Land Access Program	G200-FLAP
ERFO - Emergency Relief Federally Owned	HTER (contract authority) ERBA, ER40, ER30 (Budget Authority)

The Washington Office will establish new program codes as needed.

Business Direction

Project identifiers and program codes will be listed on individual spreadsheets and updated as budget execution documents are issued on the [WO Engineering website budget page](#).

Information and direction for job code structure can also be found at the [ASC Field Procedures website page](#).

When capitalization of real property is required, follow the directions of the Chief Financial Officer and set up “Q or Y codes” according to financial direction. In these instances, notify the WO headquarters of the change in job code.

August Redistribution

Federal Lands Highway Programs require that programs be assessed in the third quarter for needs and expenditures to determine the amount of obligation limitation needed and to redistribute any excess.

Reports

Regions should submit an annual accomplishment report for MAP-21 FLTP fund codes by **December 30, 2015**. The format for the report will be transmitted at a later date.

The Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) Program is a component of the Federal Highway Administration’s Emergency Relief (ER) Program. Funds authorized by 23 U.S.C. 125(c), when transferred to the Forest Service, are available to repair seriously damaged Forest Highways, National Forest System roads and limited trails meeting specific eligibility criteria. Damages must have resulted from a natural disaster which occurred over a wide area and must be declared as a “Natural disaster or a catastrophic failure.” (FSM 1535.12 and FSM 7710, ERFO Manual April 2011 or latest revision).

Funding is identified on a site specific basis through a Damage Site Report (DSR) and the FS is required to track and report costs by site (refer to ERFO Manual pg. 30). Third character project identifiers are assigned by the WO and are shown on the job code spreadsheet. The unit should assign either the DSR number or some other approved unique site identifier as characters four through six in the job code where the program code is used in other job codes. Real Property capitalization may be required. In such cases, notify the WO Engineering Budget Coordinator of the change in job code noting the corresponding WO third character assignment.

Damage Site Report Job Codes

BLI	FHWA Program Code	First two characters of job code by WO
HTER	09W0	E3
ERBA	TR60	E4
ER40	ER40	E8
ER30	ER30	E5

Requests

Estimated annual requests are due to FHWA by Sept. 15, with initial and accelerated release on an as needed basis (refer to ERFO Manual pg. 26). Use the **FS ERFO Funding Needs Request** spreadsheet furnished by WO Engineering Headquarters to make these funding requests. Submit request for funds that can be obligated within this fiscal year. Disaster requests that are over \$1,000,000 per event require Congressional Notification. For these requests, provide the name of the State, county and congressional district.

Using CIM Roads Funds for Federal Highways Emergency Repairs

The enactment of the MAP-21 prompted Forest Service to develop a new accounting process for emergency repairs under Federal Highways’ Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads Program (“ERFO”). The new accounting process includes a new job code model for emergency repairs expenses, and high-level “repayment transfer” transactions, in lieu of job-code level accounting adjustments.

A new job code model has been established for immediate use, to segregate emergency repair costs financed with any one of the following BLIs:

CMRD - Capital Improvement and Maintenance - Roads

CMLG - Legacy Roads and Trails

CMII - Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement

When a unit has a disaster that causes damages to ERFO-eligible roads, the unit requests a job code using the following special model, to spend local CMRD, CMLG, or CMII funds for emergency repairs. These job codes have identifiers imbedded to link the emergency repair costs to the disaster event, as identified by the WO and the field unit.

This job code structure will enable the WO to track and/or retrieve the amount of actual emergency repairs to document a high-level Repayment Transfer back to the region and unit when the related Federal Highways’ funds arrive.

ERFO-Eligible Road Damage Job Code Structure

Job Code Positions	Requirements	Description
1-2	“RD”	Always use “RD” in positions 1 and 2 (represents the “Roads” program, whether financed by CMRD, CMLG or CMII).
3	Project Specific Identifier	<u>1 digit alpha/numeric code</u> unique to each project, assigned by the WO for each ERFO Disaster.
4-6	ERFO Specific Number	ERFO Site Specific Number - The Specific Number consists of a <u>unique</u> 3-digit alphanumeric code using all possible combinations of A-Z and 0-9 (e.g., AA1, 532, 556, CAE) that will be set up by each unit when authority is provided. Note: These character combinations are useful when tracking charges by each Disaster Survey Report at individual Districts (e.g. District # 52, DSR #5 may use 525 as the last three positions. Other units may simply use combinations for different expenditures (S&D/Const./CE/etc.) under a specific Disaster.

It is acceptable, and recommended, to begin tracking these costs before Federal Highways accepts an event as a “qualified disaster” because the special job codes will reduce the units’ need for separate tracking and the expenses are recorded in the correct program (CMRD, CMLG, or CMII). If Federal Highways repays FS for a portion of the expenses, then the balance is already charged to an appropriate program.

The Budget Officer or equivalent at the unit level will request these job codes from ASC as disasters occur that require ERFO program emergency repairs.

Project Specific Identifiers (Position 3) are assigned by the Washington Office, Engineering, for any new ERFO disasters. When Federal Highways transfers funds for permanent repairs, the related HTER or ERBA job codes will include the same project-specific identifier and ERFO Specific Number used in the initial CMRD/CMLG/ or CMII job code, thereby linking the job codes.

“ERFO Repayment” Accounting Process

Forest Service is developing accounting procedures for emergency repairs. RSAs will be informed about the procedures when they are finalized.

Forest Service has a backlog of emergency repairs expenses that must be matched up with FHWA ERFO funds already on hand for those specific disaster cases. Units will submit requests for ERFO Repayment through their Regional ERFO Program Coordinators to the WO Engineering Staff. Instructions on how to submit a request and required documentation can be found in the ERFO Repayment Transfer SharePoint at the [WO Engineering ERFO website page](#).

Department of Interior

Energy Policy Act (EPAP)

Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) provides direction and a funding source to improve coordination and timely processing of oil and gas use authorizations on Federal lands.

The Secretary of the Interior (BLM) currently transfers funds to the Forest Service for the following Forest Service units that participate in the pilot project:

- Region 2 White River NF, Glenwood Springs, Colorado
Thunder Basin Grasslands, Douglas, Wyoming
- Region 3 Jicarilla Ranger District, Bloomfield, New Mexico
- Region 4 Ashley NF, Vernal, Utah

The statutory authority for the EPAP fund will expire in August 2015 without Congressional action to renew or extend. In FY 2015, the Forest Service anticipates proportionately less funding than FY 2014. In 2013, Section 365 was amended to expand the number of BLM offices eligible to participate in the pilot project, which may further reduce funds available to transfer to the Forest Service in FY 2015. Units shall prepare for the eventual elimination of this funding source in outyears.

Energy Policy Act – Geothermal Steam Act (EGTH) (errata)

Section 225 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides direction to improve coordination and timely processing of geothermal lease applications, as well as activities that reduce geothermal backlog on federal lands.

FY 2015 is the last year the money in EGTH can be obligated. Balances were distributed in WorkPlan to Regions 3, 4, 5 and 6 on December 17, 2014 in budget period 13XX. No additional EGTH funds will be available since Congress did not renew EGTH or provide a replacement. Since the fund is closing, units need to closely monitor the remaining balances to avoid overspending and incurring an Anti-Deficiency Act violation. Forests must **not** over spend their remaining EGTH funds. For geothermal work above and

beyond the allocated EGTH level, regular NFMG should be considered. No shorthand codes will be established in FY 2015 as the regions should use existing FY 2013 shorthand codes.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Fund (SNPL)

The Secretary of the Interior transfers a portion of funds from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Fund to the Forest Service annually for various purposes within the State of Nevada, including acquisition of environmentally sensitive land and easements or rights of way necessary to develop parks, trails, and natural areas, according to a public process for prioritizing acquisition, restoration, and capital improvement projects. These funds can also be used for capital improvement of such projects and for Federal environmental restoration and improvement projects at Lake Tahoe.