



United States Department of Agriculture

FY
2021

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION



Forest Service

February 2020

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Main Photo

View of the Milky Way over Cathedral Rock, seen from the Cathedral Rock Trailhead on Back O' Beyond Road, Sedona, Arizona.

Cathedral Rock is a prominent rock formation located on the Coconino National Forest between Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek, Arizona. Both towns are certified International Dark Sky Communities, abiding by lighting ordinances that help protect northern Arizona's dark skies for local observatories, astronomers, and star gazers. Forest Service photo by Deborah Lee Soltesz.

Smaller photos - left to right

A national forest guest participates in activities lead by Forest Service employees. Forest Service photo.

A Forest Service employee helps put out fires at the Happy Camp Complex on the Klamath National Forest. Forest Service photo.

Forest Service Fire Management Officer Patrick Scott, at a timber sale on the North Mills Area, Pisgah Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest. Forest Service photo by Cecilio Ricardo.

Top: A Forest Service employee interacts with a guest at a national forest. Photo by Gerald Heinrich, Midewin Interpretive Association.

Bottom: A Forest Service employee at First Creek Fire on Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Forest Service photo.

Top: A member of the Youth Conservation Corps explores a national park. Forest Service Photo.

Bottom: A man mountain bikes near Wade Lake on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. USDA Photo by Preston Keres.

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AGENCY-WIDE

BUDGET OVERVIEW

“The greatest good for the greatest number in the long run.”
Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service (1905-1910)

Mission

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

Budget Overview

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Forest Service budget for discretionary appropriations is \$5.3 billion, a decrease of \$155.6 million from the FY 2020 Enacted amount. It includes \$2.4 billion for Wildland Fire Management, an increase of \$58.8 million from the FY 2020 amount; \$2 billion for the management of National Forest System lands, an increase of \$47.6 million from the FY 2020 amount; \$453.2 million for Capital Improvement and Maintenance, a decrease of \$1.9 million from the FY 2020 amount; \$249.3 million for Forest and Rangeland Research, a decrease of \$55.7 million from the FY 2020 amount; and \$217.4 million for State and Private Forestry, a decrease of \$129.5 million from FY 2020. The Wildfire Suppression Cap Adjustment (“fire funding fix”) is \$2.04 billion, an increase of \$90 million from FY 2020.

Forest Service Priorities

The Forest Service is focused on maximizing results and outcomes to meet USDA Strategic Goal 6: “Ensuring Productive and Sustainable Use of our National Forest System Lands.” The FY 2021 Budget request prioritizes investments in risk-based wildland fire management and in improving forest conditions. Emphases on shared technology services and improvements in work culture support these priorities.

Risk-Based Wildland Fire Management

Wildland Fire Management is a top priority for the Forest Service and aligns with USDA Strategic Objective 6.3 “Mitigate Wildfire Risk.” With the amount requested, the agency will focus efforts on increasing the speed and efficiency of critical firefighter deployment and building capacity to use cutting-edge scientific tools to reduce the risk of wildland fire to people and places. With funding in this President’s Budget, the Forest Service will direct resources to expanding the Risk Management Assistance framework to enhance line officer capacity to make risk-informed wildfire response decisions. These efforts involve training, planning, and implementing new technologies and includes a \$10 million increase for priority investments: \$7.5 million of Preparedness and \$2.5 million of Forest and Rangeland Research funding. The Risk Management Assistance framework provides for a holistic and integrated approach to incident response and decision-making beginning in the planning cycle. This new approach, developed in concert with State, local, and county partners to increase the decision space for fire managers and to provide line officers with more opportunity to influence incident outcomes.

The President’s Budget also requests \$15 million in funding to implement the Wildfire Technology Modernization section of the Dingell Conservation and Management Act (2019). This includes \$5 million in Preparedness and \$10 million of Forest and Rangeland Research funding. Implementation includes the development of a common operating picture of all fire resources through data capture and systems development and will significantly increase accountability for how the agency uses assets and spends budgetary resources. A common operating picture will allow the agency to monitor, analyze, and evaluate how tactical decisions and resource utilization influences incident outcomes. This information will create a feedback loop, allowing the agency to learn where, when, and how resources are most effective.

Wildfire Suppression Cap Adjustment (Fire Funding Fix)

In FY 2021, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior will have budget authority of \$2.35 billion available (with \$2.04 available for the Forest Service) if Suppression funding is exhausted. This additional funding will be leveraged by the agency to strategically approach programmatic and fiscal management of non-fire land management programs.

Land Mobile Radio

Within USDA’s 27 agencies, there are multiple radio programs. The Forest Service Land Mobile Radio (LMR) has the largest inventory of equipment, people, and experience at the Department. In FY 2021, USDA will allocate \$23.5 million in priority investments toward an intra-agency (OneUSDA) LMR shared services model. By providing OneUSDA LMR

support services and merging radio operations with those across the Department, USDA aims to lower costs, improve operational efficiencies, and close gaps in delivery and security to better respond to emergencies, criminal activity, wildfires, and other disasters. This effort will be funded by \$15 million of Forest Service Preparedness funds. The remaining USDA investment of \$8.5 million is needed from the Agriculture Appropriations bill and will be requested by USDA's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). As managing partner for the other participating USDA agencies, OCIO will establish a reimbursable agreement with the Forest Service.

Improving Forest Conditions

The Forest Service will focus resources on activities that will result in improved forest conditions and, as such, this budget requests an increase of \$79.8 million for the following active management line items – Hazardous Fuels, Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management, Forest Products, Vegetation and Watershed Management, and Roads. The agency will invest \$10 million (\$3.3 million each from Hazardous Fuels, Forest Products, and the Forest and Rangeland Research funding) to build capacity to maximize cutting-edge scientific tools to conduct scenario planning to target wildland fire risk. The agency will model shared stewardship principles to work with States to target strategic acres at larger scales. Active management tools, including the Good Neighbor Authority, timber harvests, stewardship contracts, and planned and unplanned wildfire ignitions, will be used to treat 3.5 million acres to reduce hazardous fuels and increase the pace and efficiency of improving forest conditions by selling 4 billion board feet of timber in support of the President's Executive Order 13855 - Promoting Active Management of America's Forests Rangelands and Other Federal lands. These investments will increase the agency's ability to do the right work in the right places at the right scale. The Forest Service will also build coalitions of stakeholders that support investments to reduce risk and improve forest conditions.

Contributing to Rural Prosperity

The FY 2021 President's Budget request supports considerable economic activity in national, regional, and local economies through natural resource management, research and development, wildland fire management, and by providing sustainable use of the national forests and grasslands. Significant Forest Service economic activity benefits many rural forest and grassland dependent communities. The results of a recent economic analysis (2018) indicates Forest Service programs and work contributed to 380,000 jobs (average annual full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal) and \$31.9 billion in gross domestic product. Recreational visitor use, hunting and fishing, energy and minerals development, forest products, and livestock grazing generated nearly 64 percent of the economic activity.

Work Place Environment

The agency continues to proactively promote the importance of providing a safe, resilient, and harassment-free work culture where employees are treated with respect and dignity. Such an environment is paramount to carrying out the agency's mission and delivering needed services to the American public. The Work Environment and Performance Office is leading the agency's efforts to ensure accountability at multiple levels by strengthening internal reporting channels and providing training and support to all employees. The office seeks to diagnose and address the root causes and cultural barriers to emotional and physical safety, security, diversity, and inclusion in the work environment. Specifically, the Work Environment and Performance Office focuses on employee support, organizational learning and culture, and policy analysis and accountability. Through the "This is Who We Are" program, the agency is evolving as a values-based, purpose-driven, relationship-focused organization.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The USDA Forest Service was established within the Department of Agriculture in 1905, pursuant to the Transfer Act of 1905 (33 Stat. 628) and the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1906 (33 Stat.872). The mission of the agency is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service is composed of four Deputy Areas: (1) National Forest System, (2) Forest and Rangeland Research, (3) State and Private Forestry, and (4) Business Operations.

Statutory Program Authorization:

The Forest and Rangeland Research program is authorized in part by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641 *et seq.*) and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*). The program’s purpose is to develop and deliver knowledge and innovative technology, to reduce risk, and improve the health and use of the Nation’s public and private forests and rangelands.

The State and Private Forestry program is authorized in part by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 *et seq.*). The purpose of the program is to help sustain State and private forests and provide support to keep working forests intact. Through coordinated efforts in management, protection, conservation education, and resource use, the program helps facilitate sound stewardship of lands across all ownerships, on a landscape scale, producing ecological, social, and economic benefits for the American people.

The National Forest System program is authorized in part by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 551), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act (16 U.S.C. 528-531). The program’s purpose is to provide stewardship and management of over 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. The suite of National Forest Service programs support planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of activities that provide a wide variety of ecosystem services including water-quality protection, recreation opportunities for the public, energy for the Nation, food security, timber and non-timber forest products, maintenance of open space, and wildlife habitat and habitat connectivity.

The Capital Improvement and Maintenance program is authorized in part by the Forest Roads and Trails Act (16 U.S.C. 532-538), and the 23 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.* The program’s purpose is to maintain and improve the infrastructure which enables the agency to meet critical natural resource needs and provide safe access to public lands.

The Land Acquisition program is authorized in part by the Weeks Act (16 U.S.C. 515) and the General Exchange Act of 1922 (16 U.S.C. 485, 486). The program’s purpose is to reduce fragmented lands and connect important lands, waters, and access within National Forest System in order to support the creation of resilient landscapes and ecological and social benefits such as restoration, recreational access, habitat for wildlife and water quality and quantity protection.

The Wildland Fire Management program is authorized in part by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 551). The program’s purpose is to protect life, property and natural resources on the National Forest System and 20 million acres of adjacent State and private lands. The program ensures timely, appropriate, risk informed, and effective response operations to all wildland fires.

Other Appropriations:

- The Range Betterment Fund is authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751). The program’s purpose is to foster healthy, resilient rangeland ecosystems by funding range management and vegetation management activities.
- Gifts, Donations and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research is authorized by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641 *et seq.*). This special account is used for the acceptance of gifts, donations, and bequests for deposit to establish or operate any forest and rangeland research facility.
- Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Use is authorized by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 3111-3126). The purpose of the program is to provide subsistence management on National Forests in Alaska.

Business Operations provides direction, quality assurance, and customer service in carrying out agency activities associated with strategic planning, budget, human resource management, acquisition management, and the Chief Information Officer.

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

The Forest Service headquarters is located in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, 2019, there were 27,131 permanent full-time employees, including 512 in the headquarters office and 26,619 in regional and field offices.

OIG and GAO Reports

FY 2019 Issued GAO Reports (Forest Service Recommendations)

Audit Number	Date	Title	Results
19-436R	9/18/2019	Hardrock Mining Financial Assurances	Implementation of corrective actions in progress
19-643	9/25/2019	Federal Land Management Agencies: Additional Actions Needed to Address Facility Security Assessment Requirements	Implementation of corrective actions in progress

In-Progress Forest Service GAO Audits

Audit Number	Title	Results
102623	Job Corps Contractor Performance	Audit fieldwork in progress
102653	Wildland Fire Fuel Management Activities	Audit fieldwork in progress
102836	Issues Related to Hardrock Mining	Audit fieldwork in progress
102944	DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program	Audit fieldwork in progress
102965	Looting and Trafficking of Native American Culture Items	Audit fieldwork in progress
103305	Chetco Bar Fire	Audit fieldwork in progress
103556	Location of Forest Service Land Acquisition Using LWCF	Audit fieldwork in progress
103646	Hardrock Mining and the General Mining Law of 1872	Audit fieldwork in progress
103660	Re-evaluation of USDA Job Corps Centers	Audit fieldwork in progress

FY 2019 Issued OIG Reports

Audit Number	Date	Title	Results
08601-0009-41	12/18/2018	Forest Service Controls Over its Contract Close Out Process	Corrective actions completed
08601-0008-41	02/11/2019	Forest Service Initiatives to Address Workplace Misconduct	Implementation of corrective actions in progress
50501-0020-12	06/27/2019	Improper Usage of USDA's Information Technology Resources	Implementation of corrective actions in progress
08702-0001-41	9/10/2019	Forest Service Controls Over its 2018 Supplemental Disaster Appropriations	Corrective actions completed

In-Progress Forest Service OIG Reports

Audit Number	Title	Results
08601-0011-41	Forest Service Use of Settlement Funds	Audit fieldwork in progress
11601-0001-12	USDA's 2019 Compliance with the DATA Act	Implementation of corrective actions in progress
50701-0002-21	Department of Agriculture's Control to Prevent the Unauthorized Access and Transfer of Research Technology	Audit fieldwork in progress

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENTS**Lead-Off Tabular Statement (Discretionary Funding)****Forest Service (total of the following accounts)**

2020 Enacted	\$5,500,413,000
Change in Appropriation	-155,577,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	5,344,836,000

Forest and Rangeland Research

2020 Enacted	\$305,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-55,670,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	249,330,000

State and Private Forestry

2020 Enacted	\$346,990,000
Change in Appropriation	-129,547,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	217,443,000

National Forest System

2020 Enacted	\$1,957,510,000
Change in Appropriation	+47,552,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	2,005,062,000

Capital Improvement and Maintenance

2020 Enacted	\$455,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-1,827,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	453,173,000

Land Acquisition

2020 Enacted	\$79,748,000
Change in Appropriation	-79,748,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	0

Other Appropriations

2020 Enacted	\$5,545,000
Change in Appropriation	+4,839,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	10,384,000

Wildland Fire Management

2020 Enacted	\$2,350,620,000
Change in Appropriation	+58,824,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	2,409,444,000

Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund (not included in the above total of discretionary funding)

2020 Enacted	\$1,950,000,000
Change in Appropriation	+90,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	2,040,000,000

Lead-Off Tabular Statement (Mandatory Funding)**Forest Service (total of the following accounts)**

2020 Enacted	\$692,264,000
Change due to Proposed Legislation	+60,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-5,754,000
Net 2021 Request	746,510,000

Permanent Appropriations

2020 Enacted	\$528,550,000
Change in Appropriation	-8,027,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	520,523,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	520,523,000
Change Due to Proposed Legislation	+60,000,000
Net 2021 Request	580,523,000

Trust Funds

2020 Enacted	\$163,714,000
Change in Appropriations	+2,273,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	165,987,000

FOUR-YEAR SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND 2021 PAY, AWARDS AND FERS INCREASES

Four-Year Summary of Appropriations and 2021 pay, awards and FERS increases (dollars in thousands)

<u>Program/Activity</u>	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request	2021 Pay Cost ^a	2021 Awards ^a	2021 FERS ^a
Forest and Rangeland Research:							
Forest and Rangeland Research	\$220,000	\$223,000	\$228,000	\$170,876	\$1,092	\$789	\$995
Forest Inventory and Analysis	77,000	77,000	77,000	78,454	552	399	503
Total, Forest and Rangeland Research	297,000	300,000	305,000	249,330	1,644	1,188	1,498
State and Private Forestry:							
Landscape Scale Restoration	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,004	2	1	1
FHM - Federal Lands.....	55,500	56,000	56,000	50,879	334	241	304
FHM - Cooperative Lands	41,000	42,000	44,000	33,757	98	70	89
Working Forest Lands.....	20,500	20,500	21,000	20,656	59	43	54
Forest Legacy Program.....	67,025	63,990	63,990	0	0	0	0
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation.....	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0	0	0
Urban and Community Forestry.....	28,500	29,500	32,000	0	0	0	0
International Programs.....	9,000	9,000	12,000	0	0	0	0
National Fire Capacity	80,000	81,000	82,000	81,147	56	40	51
Rural Fire Capacity	16,000	17,000	18,000	17,000	0	0	0
Total, State and Private Forestry....	335,525	336,990	346,990	217,443	549	395	499
National Forest System:							
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration.....	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	0	0	0
Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring	179,263	180,000	180,000	179,864	228	165	208
Hazardous Fuels.....	430,000	435,000	445,310	510,000	2,944	2,128	2,684
Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness	257,848	260,000	262,000	263,629	2,195	1,586	2,000
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	136,430	137,000	138,000	139,619	1,210	875	1,104
Grazing Management.....	56,856	57,000	57,000	58,223	519	375	473
Forest Products	366,000	368,000	373,000	385,000	3,815	2,758	3,478
Vegetation and Watershed Management	180,000	180,000	182,000	183,849	1,461	1,056	1,332
Minerals and Geology Management	74,200	75,000	74,200	75,618	538	389	491
Land Use Authorization and Access	74,000	75,000	75,000	76,009	588	425	536
Law Enforcement Operations	129,153	131,000	131,000	133,251	854	618	779
Total, National Forest System	1,923,750	1,938,000	1,957,510	2,005,062	14,352	10,375	13,085
Capital Improvement and Maintenance:							
Facilities.....	151,000	148,000	154,000	152,501	570	412	519
Roads	218,000	218,000	220,000	221,864	1,467	1,060	1,337
Trails.....	80,000	80,000	81,000	78,808	686	496	626

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Program/Activity	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request	2021 Pay Cost ^a	2021 Awards ^a	2021 FERS ^a
Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....	449,000	446,000	455,000	453,173	2,723	1,968	2,482
Land Acquisition:							
Land Acquisition.....	64,337	72,564	78,898	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Land for National Forests Special Acts.....	850	700	700	0	0	0	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges.....	192	115	150	0	0	0	0
Total, Land Acquisition ^b.....	65,379	73,379	79,748	0	0	0	0
Other Appropriations:							
Range Betterment Fund	2,065	2,857	2,000	2,017	6	5	6
Gifts, Donations, & Bequest for Forest & Rangeland Research ..	45	0	45	45	0	0	0
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,322	14	10	13
Communication Site Administration.....	0	0	1,000	6,000	0	0	0
Total, Other Appropriations ^b.....	4,610	5,357	5,545	10,384	20	15	19
Wildland Fire Management:							
Preparedness	1,323,520	1,339,620	1,339,620	1,398,444	13,283	9,601	12,104
Suppression.....	1,556,818	1,665,366	1,011,000	1,011,000	0	0	0
Total, Wildland Fire Management .	2,880,338	3,004,986	2,350,620	2,409,444	13,283	9,601	12,104
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund:							
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.....	0	0	1,950,000	2,040,000	0	0	0
Total, Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.....	0	0	1,950,000	2,040,000	0	0	0
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund:							
FLAME.....	342,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund.....	342,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Discretionary Appropriations.....	6,297,602	6,104,712	7,450,413	7,384,836	32,571	23,542	29,687
Supplemental Appropriations:							
Disaster Relief (P.L. 115-72).....	184,500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief (P.L. 115-123).....	119,752	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief (P.L. 116-20).....	0	854,271	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Supplemental Appropriations.....	304,252	854,271	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Discretionary and Supplemental.....	6,601,854	6,958,983	7,450,413	7,384,836	32,571	23,542	29,687

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<u>Program/Activity</u>	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request	2021 Pay Cost ^a	2021 Awards ^a	2021 FERS ^a
Permanent Appropriations:							
Brush Disposal.....	7,595	9,432	10,357	10,520	0	0	0
Timber Salvage Sales.....	41,924	45,816	50,311	51,104	0	0	0
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration..	4,593	3,044	3,343	3,395	0	0	0
Forest Botanical Products	1,713	1,507	1,655	1,681	0	0	0
Stewardship Contracting.....	23,635	26,263	26,709	27,164	0	0	0
Recreation Fees, Forest Service	100,602	97,009	98,658	100,336	0	0	0
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0	0
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters	10,036	10,073	11,061	11,235	0	0	0
Roads and Trails for States	0	0	19,651	19,986	0	0	0
Land Between The Lakes Management	4,515	5,193	5,703	5,792	0	0	0
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees	725	696	764	776	0	0	0
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements.....	1,705	5,982	6,568	6,672	0	0	0
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention	653	626	687	698	0	0	0
Organizational Camps Program	497	542	596	605	0	0	0
Cost Recovery (Land Uses)	11,005	4,954	5,793	65,807	0	0	0
Licensee Program Smokey Bear	440	449	497	504	0	0	0
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl.....	33	12	25	26	0	0	0
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation).....	128	159	160	163	0	0	0
Conveyance of Administrative Sites	4,709	2,716	2,991	3,037	0	0	0
Site-Specific Lands Act	26	26	21	22	0	0	0
Payments to States Funds ^c	234,609	293,464	281,000	269,000	0	0	0
Total, Permanent Appropriations...	451,143	509,963	528,550	580,523	0	0	0
Trust Funds:							
Cooperative Work - Knutson- Vandenberg	187,239	253,638	83,000	84,411	0	0	0
Cooperative Work – Other.....	39,405	89,526	50,602	51,462	0	0	0
Reforestation Trust Fund	27,246	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0	0
Land Between The Lakes Trust Fund.....	84	109	112	114	0	0	0
Total, Trust Funds	253,974	373,273	163,714	165,987	0	0	0
Grand Total, Forest Service	7,306,971	7,842,219	8,142,677	8,131,346	32,571	23,542	29,687
Rescissions:							
State and Private Forestry	-5,938	-1,503	0	0	0	0	0
Land Acquisition.....	0	0	-2,000	0	0	0	0
Total, Rescissions	-5,938	-1,503	-2,000	0	0	0	0

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<u>Program/Activity</u>	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request	2021 Pay Cost ^a	2021 Awards ^a	2021 FERS ^a
Deferrals (CHIMP):							
Roads and Trails for States	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000	0	0	0	0
Total, Deferrals	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000	0	0	0	0

^a Amounts are included within each appropriations for FY 2021.

^b Appropriations for these programs are determined by collections and are not equal to enacted levels in the appropriations bill, which are estimates.

^c Payments to States amounts reflect budget authority; it does not include Treasury supplementals.

FOUR-YEAR SUMMARY OF STAFF YEARS (SY)

<u>Program/Activity</u>	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget
Forest and Rangeland Research:				
Forest and Rangeland Research	1,126	1,149	1,149	862
Forest Inventory and Analysis	458	436	436	436
Total, Forest and Rangeland Research	1,584	1,585	1,585	1,298
State & Private Forestry:				
Landscape Scale Restoration	1	0	0	1
FHM - Federal Lands.....	275	273	273	263
FHM - Cooperative Lands	126	77	77	77
Working Forest Lands	47	50	50	47
Forest Legacy Program.....	26	24	24	0
Urban and Community Forestry	48	49	49	0
International Programs.....	46	22	22	0
National Fire Capacity	0	56	56	44
Total, State & Private Forestry.....	569	551	551	432
National Forest System:				
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration	240	248	248	99
Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring.....	182	180	180	180
Hazardous Fuels.....	2,098	2,320	2,348	2,325
Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.....	1,715	1,742	1,742	1,733
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management	894	958	958	956
Grazing Management.....	413	411	411	410
Forest Products	2,881	2,979	2,979	3,013
Vegetation and Watershed Management ..	1,108	1,154	1,154	1,154
Minerals and Geology Management.....	431	428	428	425
Land Use Authorization and Access.....	454	468	468	464
Law Enforcement Operations	663	669	669	675
Total, National Forest System	11,079	11,557	11,585	11,434
Capital Improvement & Maintenance:				
Facilities	365	445	445	450
Roads	1,059	1,158	1,158	1,158
Trails.....	527	554	554	542
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	41	0	0	0
Total, Capital Improvement & Maintenance.....	1,992	2,157	2,157	2,150
Land Acquisition:				
Land Acquisition	48	48	49	49
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges.....	1	1	1	1
Total, Land Acquisition.....	49	49	50	50
Other Appropriations:				
Range Betterment Fund	9	6	6	5
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses	11	12	12	11

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<u>Program/Activity</u>	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget
Total, Other Appropriations	20	18	18	16
Wildland Fire Management:				
Preparedness	9,575	9,965	9,965	9,965
Suppression.....	2,030	522	522	522
Hazardous Fuels.....	0	28	0	0
Total, Wildland Fire Management	11,605	10,515	10,487	10,487
Total, Discretionary Appropriations	26,898	26,432	26,433	25,867
Supplemental Appropriations:				
Disaster Supplemental	0	42	0	0
Total, Supplemental Appropriations.....	0	42	0	0
Total, Discretionary and Supplemental...	26,898	26,474	26,433	25,867
Permanent Appropriations:				
Brush Disposal.....	74	62	63	66
Timber Salvage Sales.....	332	316	320	337
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration.....	44	36	36	38
Forest Botanical Products	20	18	18	19
Recreation Fees, Forest Service.....	705	681	687	726
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters	31	18	18	19
Land Between The Lakes Management....	10	11	11	12
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements.....	101	49	50	53
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention	8	4	4	4
Organizational Camps Program.....	9	5	5	5
Cost Recovery (Land Uses)	8	7	7	8
Licensee Program Smokey Bear	0	1	1	1
Conveyance of Administrative Sites.....	2	0	1	1
Payments to States Funds	43	20	20	21
Total, Permanent Appropriations	1,387	1,228	1,241	1,310
Trust Funds:				
Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg	360	266	198	202
Cooperative Work – Other.....	53	42	143	153
Reforestation Trust Fund	128	118	93	99
Total, Trust Funds	541	426	434	454
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Only:				
Allocation	1,223	1,209	1,209	1,208
Discretionary Reimbursable.....	887	887	887	887
Working Capital Fund	613	646	646	646
Total, FTE Only	2,723	2,742	2,742	2,741
Grand Total, Forest Service	31,549	30,870	30,850	30,372

REVENUE, RECEIPTS AND TRANSFERS*Fiscal Year 2018 - 2021 National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts Availability (dollars in thousands)*

Receipt Type	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Estimate	2021 Estimate
Class 1 - Timber.....	\$39,977	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Class 2 - Grazing East.....	128	81	81	81
Class 3 - Land Use.....	24,139	23,022	23,022	23,022
Class 4 - Recreation Spec. Uses.....	84,711	90,247	90,247	90,247
Class 5 – Power.....	8,281	8,266	8,266	8,266
Class 6 – Minerals.....	299	969	969	969
Class 8 - Grazing West	5,714	5,316	5,316	5,316
Class 9 – Quartz Crystals.....	0	1	1	1
Total NFF Receipts	163,249	149,902	149,902	149,902
KV Revenue.....	57,385	68,000	68,000	68,000
Specified Road Costs	14,639	17,585	17,585	17,585
Timber Salvage Sale	41,566	43,000	43,000	43,000
Timber Pipeline Revenue.....	1,088	2,888	2,888	2,888
Total Other Timber Related Receipts	114,678	131,473	131,473	131,473
Grand Total	277,927	281,375	281,375	281,375

Funding Additions and Reductions - Special Acts (dollars in thousands)

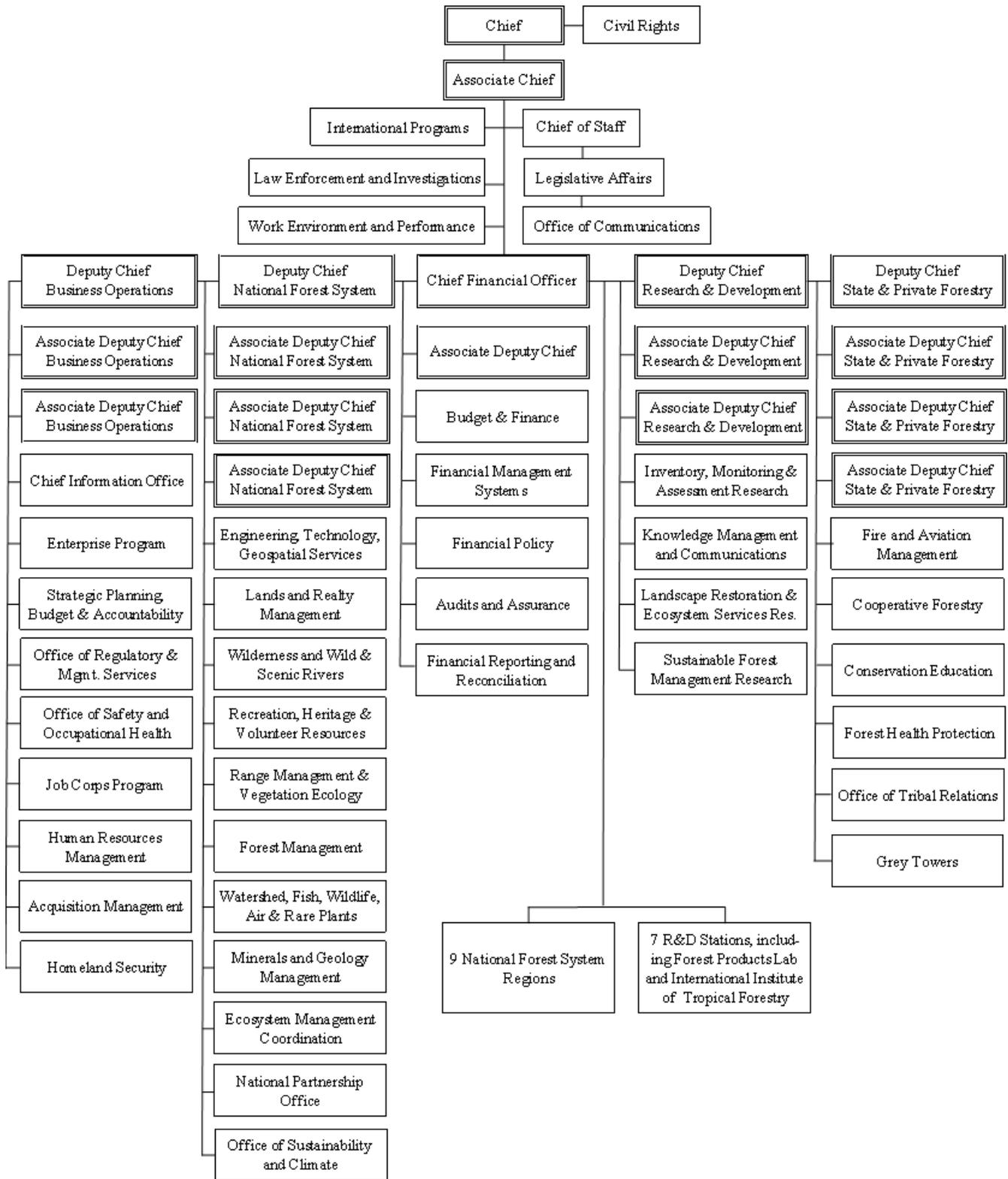
Receipt Type	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Estimate	2021 Estimate
Total NFF Receipts	163,249	149,902	149,902	149,902
DOI:ONRR/MMS Minerals Revenue NFF.....	19,702	14,160	14,160	14,160
Additions/Reductions other than Payments to States:				
Minnesota Boundary Water Canoe Area (BWCA) ^a	-6,150	-6,150	-6,150	-6,150
Timber Roads - Purch Elect Program	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Acquisition of Lands for Nat Forests-Spec Act	-700	-700	-700	-700
50% Grazing (Range Betterment Fund) - Est. ...	-3,804	-2,658	-2,658	-2,658
10% Roads & Trails - Est.	-15,000	-13,984	-13,984	-13,984
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Expansion.....	-725	-576	-576	-576
Other Special Act Payments (Arkansas Quartz and Quinault Special Management Area) Prior to Sequester	-51	-1	-1	-1
Subtotal Additions/Reductions other than Payments to States.....	-28,430	-26,069	-26,069	-26,069
Total Receipts Available for Payments to States	154,521	137,993	137,993	137,993

Funds Availability for Payments to States (PTS) under Current Legislation: 1908 Act or SRS (dollars in thousands)

Receipt Type	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Estimate	2021 Estimate
Total Receipts Available for Payments to States	154,621	137,993	137,993	137,993
PTS - 25% 7-year Rolling Average of Receipts Payment (Prior to Sequester).....	-12,217	-12,648	-12,648	-12,648
SRS - Title II Allocation - SRS2.....	-24,268	-23,153	-21,996	-20,896
SRS - Failure to Elect Allocation – SRSA.....	-185	-181	-172	-164
SRS - Allocation to Treasury	-117	-107	-102	-97
Initial Receipt Reductions for PTS	-36,787	-36,090	-34,918	-33,805
Receipts Available for SRS - Title I & III.....	117,834	101,903	103,075	104,188

^a At the time this document was submitted, the new current appraisal used to determine the FY 2019 and future payments was not yet finalized.

ORGANIZATION CHART



2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND STAFF YEARS

Available Funds and Staff Years (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Forest and Rangeland Research:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$297,000	1,584	\$300,000	1,585	\$305,000	1,585	\$249,330	1,298
Supplemental Appropriations	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
State and Private Forestry:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	335,525	569	336,990	551	346,990	551	217,443	432
Supplemental Appropriations	7,500	0	12,000	1	0	0	0	0
National Forest Systems:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	1,923,750	11,079	1,938,000	11,557	1,957,510	11,585	2,005,062	11,434
Supplemental Appropriations	20,652	0	84,960	7	0	0	0	0
Capital Improvement and Maintenance:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	449,000	1,992	446,000	2,157	455,000	2,157	453,173	2,150
Supplemental Appropriations	91,600	0	36,040	34	0	0	0	0
Land Acquisition:								
Discretionary Appropriations ^a	65,187	49	73,379	49	79,748	50	0	50
Other Appropriations:								
Discretionary Appropriations ^a	6,333	20	5,357	18	5,545	18	10,384	16
Wildland Fire Management:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	2,880,338	11,605	3,004,986	10,515	2,350,620	10,487	2,409,444	10,487
Supplemental Appropriations	184,500	0	720,271	0	0	0	0	0
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	0	0	0	0	1,950,000	0	2,040,000	0
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund:								
Discretionary Appropriations.....	342,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent Appropriations:								
Mandatory Appropriations.....	451,143	1,387	509,963	1,228	528,550	1,241	580,523	1,310
Trust Funds:								
Mandatory Appropriations.....	253,974	541	373,273	426	163,714	434	165,987	454
Adjustment for Change in Uncollected Payments.....								
Payments.....	10	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment for Expenditure Transfer from Trust Fund								
Trust Fund	234,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescission	-5,938	0	-1,503	0	-2,000	0	0	0
Sequestration.....	180	0	-4,644	0	2,000	0	17,000	0
Transfers In.....	878,295	0	428,487	0	244,000	0	1,113,000	0
Transfers Out	-879,383	0	-473,791	0	-244,000	0	-1,113,000	0
Adjusted Appropriation	7,536,166	28,826	7,790,758	28,128	8,142,677	28,108	8,148,346	27,631
Balance Available, SOY	813,211	0	667,366	0	2,253,046	0	3,383,356	0
Other Adjustments (Net).....	213,469	0	336,242	0	136,513	0	136,513	0
Total Available	8,562,846	28,826	8,794,366	28,128	10,532,236	28,108	11,668,215	27,631
Lapsing Balances	-289	0	-4,403	0	0	0	0	0
Balance Available, EOY	-667,366	0	-2,253,046	0	-3,384,277	0	-4,694,700	0
Total Obligations.....	7,895,191	28,826	6,536,917	28,128	7,147,959	28,108	6,973,515	27,631

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<u>Program/Activity</u>	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request	
	<u>B.A.</u>	<u>SY</u>	<u>B.A.</u>	<u>SY</u>	<u>B.A.</u>	<u>SY</u>	<u>B.A.</u>	<u>SY</u>
Other Funding:								
Discretionary Federal and Non-Federal Reimbursements and Working Capital Fund	586,892	2,723	644,676	2,742	650,000	2,742	655,000	2,741
Total, Forest Service	8,482,083	31,549	7,181,593	30,870	7,797,959	30,850	7,628,515	30,372

^a Appropriations for these programs are determined by collections and are not equal to enacted levels in the appropriations bill, which are estimates.

^b Sequestrations include mandatory appropriations previously unavailable.

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND STAFF YEARS

Permanent Positions by Grade and Staff Years

Item	2018 Actual			2019 Actual			2020 Enacted			2021 Budget		
	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total	D.C.	Field	Total
SES	27	46	73	37	35	72	37	35	72	37	35	72
SL.....	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
GS-15.....	48	391	439	89	347	436	89	347	436	89	347	436
GS-14.....	183	568	751	190	533	723	190	533	723	190	533	723
GS-13.....	201	2,168	2,369	145	2,164	2,309	145	2,164	2,309	145	2,164	2,309
GS-12.....	167	3,114	3,281	72	3,088	3,160	72	3,088	3,160	72	3,088	3,160
GS-11.....	65	4,838	4,903	50	4,729	4,779	50	4,729	4,779	50	4,729	4,779
GS-10.....	1	424	425	0	154	154	0	154	154	0	154	154
GS-9.....	59	4,806	4,865	37	4,327	4,364	37	4,327	4,364	37	4,327	4,364
GS-8.....	10	1,772	1,782	2	1,458	1,460	2	1,458	1,460	2	1,458	1,460
GS-7.....	23	4,338	4,361	9	4,288	4,297	9	4,288	4,297	9	4,288	4,297
GS-6.....	3	2,468	2,471	4	2,294	2,298	4	2,294	2,298	4	2,294	2,298
GS-5.....	3	5,024	5,027	7	4,926	4,933	7	4,926	4,933	7	4,926	4,933
GS-4.....	9	4,145	4,154	1	3,901	3,902	1	3,901	3,902	1	3,901	3,902
GS-3.....	2	1,526	1,528	0	1,241	1,241	0	1,241	1,241	0	1,241	1,241
GS-2.....	1	151	152	1	54	55	1	54	55	1	54	55
GS-1.....	1	15	16	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	5	5
Total Permanent.....	804	35,794	36,598	645	33,544	34,189	645	33,544	34,189	645	33,544	34,189
Unfilled, EOY.....	263	9,273	9,536	133	6,925	7,058	133	6,925	7,058	138	7,173	7,311
Total Perm. FT EOY...	541	26,521	27,062	512	26,619	27,131	512	26,619	27,131	507	26,371	26,878
Staff Year Est.....	693	30,856	31,549	582	30,288	30,870	582	30,268	30,850	573	29,799	30,372

VEHICLE FLEET

Motor Vehicle Fleet

The Forest Service uses a revolving Working Capital Fund (WCF) to finance its fleet operations. A monthly Fixed Ownership Rate and a per-mile use rate are assessed for each owned and GSA-leased vehicle. These expenses are then pooled from the agency's annual appropriated funds and are deposited into specific WCF accounts which make up the revolving fund. Funds are used to finance the cradle-to-grave management of the agency fleet operation, which includes repairs, fuel, maintenance, infrastructure support, program management costs, vehicle depreciation, and vehicle replacements.

The Forest Service vehicle fleet supports approximately 28,000 year-round full-time employees, and an additional 12,000 seasonal employees hired primarily for fire suppression activities. These vehicles are retained for an additional two-years beyond their minimum replacement standard and provide a cost-effective alternative to commercial leases or rentals. Both groups of vehicles are required to be reported annually through the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST).

The Forest Service is structured into regions, forests/grasslands/stations, and districts. The line officers in charge of these different levels of the organization are responsible for determining the composition and quantity of vehicles required to meet their mission goals. Fleet composition is facilitated using a vehicle allocation methodology (VAM), which considers how often a vehicle is used, the total cost of ownership (TCO) lifecycle analysis, budgetary constraints, operating environment, and personnel supported. Line officers are responsible for assigning vehicles to drivers per specific mission requirements. Fleet program managers coordinate the certification and authorization of drivers with supervisors, monitor fleet composition and utilization rates through the TCO and VAM process, and recommend how to optimize fleet size.

The agency aims to manage its fleet program in the most cost-effective way possible. The agency strives to use alternative-fueled vehicles for mission needs such as transporting personnel, materials and equipment, where infrastructure for these vehicles is available and where the vehicles can meet agency mission needs. The agency also works to meet the required annual utilization rates for vehicles given the seasonality of agency work (many areas have a limited number of months per year to access remote sites or work areas within the forests). Even with the seasonal nature of the work, the Forest Service has found through financial analysis that it is still more cost effective to own or lease a vehicle year-round than to have a commercially leased vehicle. The Forest Service continues to share vehicles and explore other opportunities to increase utilization rates. Finally, as oversight of fleet programs increases, the agency is aligning and automating data, so the agency can respond to USDA Office of Property and Fleet Management oversight and audit requirements in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) established the GSA Federal Fleet Management System (FedFMS) as the official USDA Fleet Management Information System of record. The Forest Service completed a data interface with FedFMS in Spring 2019. The Forest Service will continue to use the WCF Fleet Equipment Database which provides the necessary interface with the Forest Service financial system, the Wright Express Fleet Card system, the USDA FedFMS system, and with the GSA AutoChoice vehicle ordering system.

Replacement Criteria

Passenger motor vehicles are replaced based on motor vehicle replacement standards which specify the minimum number of years in use or miles traveled. Agencies may keep a Government-owned motor vehicle longer than the standard shown if the motor vehicle can be operated without excessive maintenance costs or substantial reduction in resale value. The minimum replacement standards for passenger motor vehicles are:

Minimum Vehicle Replacement Standards

Vehicle/Equipment Type	Minimum Replacement Standards (miles)	Minimum Replacement Standards (age)
Passenger carrying vehicles – sedans, station wagons, mini-vans	60,000 mi	3 years

Reductions to Fleet

The Forest Service is committed to continuously evaluating our fleet composition and any underutilized assets to look for further reductions. As of the end of FY 2019, the agency's motor vehicle fleet, which includes both active inventory and vehicles sold, totaled 20,439 in FY 2019.

Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Fiscal Year	Sedans and Station Wagons	Light Duty Trucks, SUVs, and Vans (4x2)	Light Duty Trucks, SUVs, and Vans (4x4)	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles ^a	Annual Operating Costs ^b
2018	390	890	9,786	7,602	87	2,185	20,940	\$60,832,812
Change	-42	-69	-255	-145	+1	+9	-501	-2,806,699
2019	348	821	9,531	7,457	88	2,194	20,439	58,026,113
Change	-12	-31	-339	-263	-3	-75	-723	-1,377,966
2020	336	790	9,192	7,194	85	2,119	19,716	56,648,147
Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+943,018
2021	336	790	9,192	7,194	85	2,119	19,716	57,591,165

^a Vehicle count includes those owned by agency and leased from commercial sources or GSA and includes vehicles sold during the fiscal year. FY 2019 active inventory excluding vehicles sold was 18,120.

^b Annual Operating Costs (AOCs) include fuel, maintenance, accidental damage, overhead and GSA lease expenses. The AOCs do not include acquisition costs or proceeds from sales.

Statement of Proposed Purchase of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2018	477	112	25	0	25	390
2019	390	62	20	0	20	348
2020	348	31	19	0	19	336
2021	336	25	25	0	25	336

Wildland Fire Management Resource Summary FY 2019 to FY 2021 (Engines, Heavy Equipment Aviation fleet and personnel)

Resource	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget
Engines ^a	900	900	900
Heavy Equipment – Dozers, Tractor Plow Units, Tenders.....	210	210	210
Helicopters			
Type 1 ^b	28	28	28
Type 2 ^c	34	34	34
Type 3 ^d	46	46	46
Airtankers			
Next Generation Airtankers ^e	13	18	18
Scoopers.....	0	0	0
U.S. Coast Guard converted HC-130H airtankers ^f	0	0	0
Firefighters (FFTR) – Total is inclusive of categories below..	10,000	10,000	10,000
Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (20-person)	67 crews; 1,340 FFTR	67 crews; 1,340 FFTR	67 crews; 1,340 FFTR
Other Firefighters.....	7,940	7,940	7,940
Smoke Jumpers.....	320	320	320
Prevention Technicians.....	400	400	400

^a Refers to the suite of wheeled vehicles used to carry firefighters and water to the site of a fire.

^b Includes only agency owned/leased or exclusive use contracted assets. Type 1 are the heaviest class of helicopters.

^c Medium-sized helicopters.

^d Includes only helicopters whose primary purpose is wildland fire response. Type 3 are the lightest class of helicopters.

^e Numbers reflect maximum number of aircraft allowed under the exclusive use contracts.

^f The program to transfer HC-130H airtankers from the U.S. Coast Guard and convert them to firefighting capable resources was terminated at the end of FY 2018.

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Shared Funding Projects (dollars in thousands)

Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget
Working Capital Fund:				
Administration:				
Mail and Reproduction Services	\$469	\$580	\$820	\$832
Material Management Service Center	697	717	928	941
Integrated Procurement Systems	7,814	8,269	8,235	8,233
Procurement Operations Division	147	124	126	94
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems.....	838	1,094	1,154	1,204
Subtotal, Administration	9,965	10,784	11,263	11,304
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center.....	644	317	496	173
Subtotal, Communications.....	644	317	496	173
Correspondence Management:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	787	506	509	546
Subtotal, Correspondence Management.....	787	506	509	546
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center.....	9,637	8,839	8,116	8,167
Financial Shared Services	48,745	48,738	47,085	46,674
Internal Control Support Services	398	277	489	404
Subtotal, Finance and Management	58,780	57,854	55,690	55,245
Information Technology:				
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	18,469	19,198	41,791	39,786
Client Technology Center	13,553	20,168	23,159	23,697
Enterprise Network Services	7,308	4,659	16,940	17,023
Subtotal, Information Technology	39,330	44,025	81,890	80,506
Total, Working Capital Fund	109,507	113,486	149,848	147,774
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	216	209	210	210
Agency Partnership Outreach	2,350	2,406	2,374	2,374
Honor Awards	7	3	3	3
Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard	184	186	181	0
Human Resources Transformation	279	0	0	0
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network.....	979	994	976	976
Medical Services	35	37	25	0
Office of Customer Experience	605	813	903	903
People’s Garden	150	0	0	0
Personnel and Document Security	577	537	535	535
Physical Security	0	0	1,779	1,287
Security Detail.....	1,395	1,349	1,402	1,402
Security Operations	3,272	3,286	1,762	1,925
TARGET Center.....	413	384	351	351
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services.....	0	0	1,639	1,639
Virtual University	317	0	0	0
Total, Department-wide Shared Cost Programs	10,779	10,204	12,140	11,605

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business.....	30	30	30	18
Enterprise Human Resource Integration.....	616	616	0	0
Financial Management Line of Business.....	100	100	100	100
Human Resource Management Line of Business	90	90	90	90
Integrated Acquisition Environment.....	786	786	573	573
E-Rulemaking.....	50	49	9	9
Geospatial Line of Business	13	13	12	12
Grants.gov	1	1	5	5
Total, E-Gov	1,686	1,685	819	807
Agency Total	\$121,971	\$125,375	\$162,807	\$160,186

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$305,000,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-55,670,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>249,330,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, [~~\$305,000,000~~]\$249,330,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023]2024: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, [~~\$77,000,000~~]\$78,454,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program: *Provided further*, That all authorities for the use of funds, including the use of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, available to execute the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation, are also available in the utilization of these funds for Fire Science Research.

PROJECT STATEMENT*Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))*

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Forest and Rangeland Research...	\$220,000	1,126	\$223,000	1,149	\$228,000	1,149	\$170,876	862	-\$57,124	-287
Forest Inventory and Analysis	77,000	458	77,000	436	77,000	436	78,454	436	1,454	0
Subtotal, Direct Appropriations	297,000	1,584	300,000	1,585	305,000	1,585	249,330	1,298	-55,670	-287
Supplemental Appropriations:										
Disaster Relief (P.L. 116-20).....	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers In:										
Fire Transfer Repayment	1,362	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers In	1,362	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Discretionary Funding.....	298,362	1,584	301,000	1,585	305,000	1,585	249,330	1,298	-55,670	-287
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Forest and Rangeland Research...	796	0	4,224	0	5,899	0	4,248	0	-1,651	0
Forest Inventory and Analysis	327	0	234	0	1,456	0	1,048	0	-408	0
National Fire Plan.....	176	0	29	0	70	0	50	0	-20	0
Joint Fire Science	310	0	0	0	15	0	11	0	-4	0
Forest Products	23	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Forest and Rangeland Research – Other	167	0	-1,605	0	404	0	291	0	-113	0
Disaster Supplemental	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	720	0	-280	0
Subtotal, Carryover	1,799	0	2,883	0	8,845	0	6,369	0	-2,476	0
Transfers Out:										
Fire Transfer	-1,436	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-1,436	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries, Other	2,865	0	3,087	0	4,124	0	4,124	0	0	0
Total Available.....	301,590	1,584	306,970	1,585	317,969	1,585	259,823	1,298	-58,146	-287
Balances, Available End of Year	-2,883	0	-8,845	0	-6,369	0	-5,204	0	1,165	0
Total Obligations	\$298,707	1,584	\$298,125	1,585	\$311,600	1,585	\$254,619	1,298	-\$56,981	-287

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

Forest and Rangeland Research: A decrease of \$57,124,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of 287 staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$1,092,000 for pay costs (\$500,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$592,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow Forest and Rangeland Research (Forest Service R&D) to provide scientific information and new technology that supports the sustainable management of the Nation's forests and grasslands.

- b. An increase of \$789,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$995,000 for the Department's increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$52,000,000 for facility closures, consolidations, and termination of lower-priority research portfolios.

This funding decrease will eliminate of 287 staff years, and terminate lower priority research activities. The agency would close the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) (-\$18.5 million) and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) (-\$2.5 million). Remaining priority research from those stations would be reorganized and managed by the Pacific Northwest Research Station and Southern Research Station, respectively. The closures of the PSW and the IITF would streamline Forest Service R&D's research enterprise and reduce administrative overhead. These closures would require the use of reduction in force authority, voluntary early retirement authority and voluntary separation incentive authority. Nationally, the agency would eliminate recreation research (-\$8.5 million) and wildlife and fish research (-\$22.5 million).

- e. A decrease of \$8,000,000 for reductions in other Forest Service R&D programs.

The funding decrease will necessitate research reductions in in forest and grassland health, forest soils, air quality, hydrology, silviculture, and forest ecology, as well as in applied science to improve forest conditions, forest inventory and trend analysis, and wood product and market innovations.

Forest Inventory and Analysis: An increase of \$1,454,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$552,000 for pay costs (\$253,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$299,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support the Forest Service's national priority to improve the conditions of forests and grasslands.

- b. An increase of \$399,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$503,000 for the Department's increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

Compared to the FY 2020 Enacted level, base funding for Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) is the same. Funding will focus on providing reliable data, analysis, and tools to identify current status and trends of the Nation's forests and rangelands, management options and impacts, and threats and effects of fire, insects, disease, and other natural processes. The FIA data enables the natural resource community to determine the magnitude of changes in forest conditions and trends, and to make projections of future conditions - information which is vital to the long-term health of forests and the sustained availability of multiple uses from forests.

The FY 2021 President's Budget will allow the Forest Service to focus on our most critical research priorities; including investing more than \$12.5 million in initiatives to strengthen the link between research and wildfire suppression operations. Upgrading decision support systems and new analytic tools will help fire incident managers better consider alternative strategies and the inherent tradeoffs in cost and risk to firefighter exposure, protection of highly valued infrastructure and natural resources, and opportunities for fire benefits, including managing fire for the reduction of hazardous fuels. These tools will support spatial fire management planning, track and monitor fire and fire-related resources, and increase suppression resource efficiency. In addition, to enhance firefighter safety, researchers will develop a mobile app that allows firefighters to determine safety zones and escape routes in real time using their smart phones. Supporting research into fuel characterization, fire response to meteorological conditions, and smoke and fire behavior modeling will also continue, undergirding progressive improvements to the tools and applications described above.

Focusing our R&D on our most critical research priorities requires difficult decisions. The Pacific Southwest Research Station and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry facilities are proposed for closure to reallocate resources for critical science needs. The proposed closures of the Pacific Southwest Research Station and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry will streamline Research and Development's research enterprise and will reduce administrative overhead. Forest Service scientists will continue to work in the affected geographies (California, Hawaii, U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico) to conduct priority research and to deliver the most critical science needed to inform the management of public and private lands. The Wildlife and Fish Research and Recreation Research programs are proposed for elimination. These proposed eliminations are also necessary to achieve the cost savings needed to sustain research programs that are currently higher priority for informing Forest Service management responsibilities. Scientists with expertise in the programs proposed for elimination and who are currently doing this research will shift to other programs.

The proposed consolidation of units and the proposed elimination of a portion of Research and Development's current research portfolio will make it possible for the Forest Service to sufficiently allocate funds to the remaining research programs and units to produce strategic research deliverables that support the agency's current priority research needs.

Pacific Southwest Research Station Proposed Closure: The Pacific Southwest Research Station, whose boundaries include the States of California and Hawaii, and the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands, has the fewest personnel and the smallest budget of R&D's five research stations, facilitating its proposed merger with Pacific Northwest Research Station. Moreover, the Pacific Southwest Research Station does not host a Forest Inventory and Analysis program. Forest Inventory and Analysis, the Nation's forest census, is Research and Development's largest single research program and Forest Inventory and Analysis activities in California are already managed by the Forest Inventory and Analysis program located at Pacific Northwest Research Station. The proposed closure of the administrative headquarters of the Pacific Southwest Research Station will not result in the cessation of Forest Service research in California, Hawaii, and the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands. Instead, an administrative restructuring is proposed and Forest Service scientists conducting priority research will continue to work in the station's geographic footprint and will continue to deliver valuable science to inform the management of public and private lands.

International Institute of Tropical Forestry Proposed Closure: The International Institute of Tropical Forestry is Research and Development's smallest research unit. The proposed restructuring of the Research and Development organization so that the Southern Research Station has oversight responsibility for the priority research conducted in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean will cause relatively few disruptions. A significant portion of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry's funding comes from the State & Private Forestry mission area of the Forest Service and the proposed restructuring of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry will allow the agency to re-align aspects of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry's program of work with the Southern Region of the National Forest System and State & Private Forestry, as well as the El Yunque National Forest.

Wildlife and Fish Research Program Proposed Elimination: The Wildlife and Fish Research program is proposed for elimination because it has less correspondence to the Forest Service's current national research priorities and management

responsibilities than Research and Development's other research programs. This elimination will allow Research and Development to achieve the cost savings necessary to sustain current national priority research, including fire and fuels science, forest inventory and assessment, and forest products and operations. Although it will be a significant change to the overall research agenda, wildlife and fish research contributions from academic institutions, and the Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management Budget request, will continue to inform habitat management programs.

Recreation Research Program Proposed Elimination: The Recreation Research program is proposed for elimination because it has less correspondence to the Forest Service's current national research priorities and management responsibilities than Research and Development's other research programs. The proposed elimination of the Recreation Research Program will allow Research and Development to achieve the cost savings necessary to sustain current national priority research. Although it will be a notable change to the overall research agenda, the Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness Budget request will continue to inform land management decisions agency communication with the public about recreational opportunities. .

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$913	\$865	\$892	\$730
	Personnel Compensation, Field	143,359	135,931	140,145	114,768
11.0	Total personnel compensation	144,272	136,796	141,037	115,498
12.0	Personal benefits.....	50,424	50,176	51,731	42,364
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	936	853	879	720
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	195,632	187,825	193,647	158,582
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	6,032	6,787	7,258	5,909
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1,224	1,482	1,585	1,290
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	3,511	2,066	2,209	1,799
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	3,407	2,066	2,209	1,799
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	5,895	10,332	11,049	8,996
24.0	Printing and reproduction	412	222	237	193
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	138	89	95	77
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	15,206	14,464	15,471	12,595
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	14,630	20,082	21,475	17,485
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	365	494	528	430
25.5	Research and development contracts	33,387	28,929	30,936	25,188
25.6	Medical care	3	4	4	3
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	1,083	550	588	479
26.0	Supplies and materials	4,940	5,049	5,399	4,396
31.0	Equipment.....	4,252	5,656	6,048	4,925
32.0	Land and structures.....	15	2	2	2
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	8,575	11,965	12,795	10,418
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	0	61	65	53
	Total, Other Objects	103,075	110,300	117,953	96,037
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	298,707	298,125	311,600	254,619
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$25	\$20	\$20	\$21
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$179,539	\$182,104	\$184,836	\$187,608
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$85,180	\$86,083	\$87,374	\$88,685
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	10.8	10.5	10.5	10.5

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5 percent increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS**Forest and Rangeland Research**

Forest Service R&D provides scientific information and innovative technology to support sustainable management of the Nation's diverse forests and rangelands. Four priority research areas align with and inform agency land management priorities: (1) applied science to support shared stewardship and improve forest conditions; (2) forest inventory and trend analysis; (3) wood product and market innovations; and (4) enhanced prediction, planning, decision support, impact assessment, and recovery guidance for the wildland fire system. Examples of recent notable projects include:

Enhanced wildland fire system.

Fire and Smoke Model Evaluation Experiment (FASMEE), is a large-scale interagency effort designed to collect observations from large prescribed fires. In June 2019, FASMEE completed data collection during a prescribed burn on the Fishlake National Forest in Utah. More than 40 scientists participated using ground sampling methods, drones carrying state of the art imagery and air quality sampling instrumentation, fire hardened video and still cameras, and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to collect a suite of data including fuel loading, fuel consumption, fire behavior, plume dynamics, and smoke data.

Wood product and market innovations

Since 2015, Forest Service Research and Development has been working on projects to accelerate the adoption of cross-laminated timber (CLT) in the U.S. market. The projects are in the areas of life cycle and economic assessments, fire performance, performance in different moisture conditions, blast resistance, structural properties, wood adhesives and providing technical assistance. Project costs through FY 2019 total \$9.4 million with \$7 million from Forest Service investments and \$2.4 million from industry and university partners. Investments in these projects will provide data for building code consideration of cross-laminated timber, determine its environmental advantages over competitive products, and educate builders and architects about how to build with CLT. In 2018 in the U.S., CLT to 57.8 million square feet of wood project construction, 511 million board feet of incremental lumber use, and \$421 million incremental lumber sales.

Forest Inventory and Analysis

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is the Nation's foremost continuous forest census covering all 50 States. FIA generates data on past, current, and projected tree numbers by species; the size and health of trees; tree growth, mortality, and harvest removals; loss of forested lands due to disturbances, such as hurricanes and wildland fires; wood production and utilization; and forest landownership. Working with State forestry agencies and other partners, FIA leverages one partner dollar for every six Federal dollars spent.

The FIA program is delivering authoritative information on the status and trends of the forests of the U.S. in response to evolving partner and customer requirements. The One-Click Factsheet is available to the public through dashboard software (Tableau) to display and distribute current, State-level, annual forest inventory estimates across the entire Nation to better inform decision making.

As requested by Congress, FIA continues to expand the Urban FIA program from 26 cities to now include 35 cities in collaboration with State and local partners. FIA and partners are realizing the goal of a seamless reporting system that uses the existing FIA protocols to provide new information on trees in previously unmeasured urban trees and forests.

Forest and Rangeland Research Primary Authorities

Title of Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration Date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	U.S.C. Reference
Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978	An Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out forest and rangeland renewable resources research, and for other purposes.		R&D	P.L. 95-307	16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.
Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998	Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to inventory and analyze, in a timely manner, public and private forests and their resources in the United States.		R&D	P.L. 105-185	16 U.S.C. 1642(e)

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Title of Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration Date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	U.S.C. Reference
Agricultural Act of 2014	Amends the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a forestry and forest products research and extension initiative to develop and disseminate science-based tools that address the needs of the forestry sector. Activities must be carried out in coordination with the Forest Service, including the Forest Product’s Laboratory.	09/30/2023	R&D	P.L. 113-79	7 U.S.C. 9013
Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974	Requires preparation of a renewable resource assessment, program plans, inventories, and budget request, and an update to these plans every 10-years.		R&D	P.L. 93-378	16 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.
Global Change Research Act of 1990	Establishes the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences to carry out the United States Global Change Research Program, including the Forest Service Global Change Research Program.		R&D	P.L. 101-606	15 U.S.C. 2931
Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990	Establishes a Global Climate Change Program at USDA to study the effects of global climate change on agriculture and forestry. The Program Director shall coordinate policy analysis, long range planning and research across the Department and with other agencies. The Act also establishes the Office of International Forestry to be responsible for the international forestry activities of the Forest Service and establishes the Institutes of Tropical Forestry; authorizes the creation of a pilot project in urban forestry.	09/30/2018	International Forestry; R&D	P.L. 101-624; P.L. 107-171; P.L. 110-234	7 U.S.C. 6701 to 6710
Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950	This Act authorizes cooperation with other parties to perform work for permittees, agencies, organizations, and persons for work that the Forest Service is authorized to do on lands of the United States. Also allows for research funds to be advanced to cooperators. Authorizes assistance for work on lands other than Forest Service jurisdictions.		ALL	P.L. 81-478	16 U.S.C. 572

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Title of Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration Date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	U.S.C. Reference
McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate and assist State colleges and universities in forestry research on a matching funds basis. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to a State agricultural experiment station, college, or university, research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, or corporation with the demonstrable capacity to conduct forestry, natural resource, and environmental research; and to update research facilities and equipment available for this type of research.		R&D and SPF	P.L. 87-788; P.L. 101-624	16 U.S.C. 582a and 582a-1-582a-7
Research Facilities Act of 1963	This Act authorizes support for agricultural research (including forestry) at eligible institutions through Federal grant funds, on a matching funds basis, to help finance physical facilities and equipment as required for the effective conduct of agricultural research and related academic programs.		R&D	P.L. 88-74; P.L. 95-113; P.L. 99-198	7 U.S.C. 390 - 390c
Research Grants Act of 1958	Provides, authorized agencies to enter into contracts for basic scientific research with nonprofit institution and organizations, authority to make grants to such institutions and organizations; title to equipment purchased with such grants being vested with the nonprofit organization or institution. Such sums as are necessary; no expiration date.		R&D	P.L. 85-934	42 U.S.C. 1891-1893

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STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$346,990,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-129,547,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>217,443,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, and others, and for forest health management, [and conducting an international program as authorized, \$346,990,000]\$217,443,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023]2024, as authorized by law[; of which \$63,990,000 is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to be used for the Forest Legacy Program, to remain available until expended].

Change Description

The first change (first paragraph) removes reference to the Forest Legacy program as funding is not proposed.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands), staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$14,000	1	\$14,000	0	\$14,000	0	\$14,004	1	\$4	1
FHM - Federal Lands.....	55,500	275	56,000	273	56,000	273	50,879	263	-5,121	-10
FHM - Cooperative Lands	41,000	126	42,000	77	44,000	77	33,757	77	-10,243	0
Working Forest Lands.....	20,500	47	20,500	50	21,000	50	20,656	47	-344	-3
Forest Legacy Program.....	67,025	26	63,990	24	63,990	24	0	0	-63,990	-24
Community Forest and Open										
Space Conservation	4,000	0	4,000	0	4,000	0	0	0	-4,000	0
Urban and Community Forestry...	28,500	48	29,500	49	32,000	49	0	0	-32,000	-49
International Programs.....	9,000	46	9,000	22	12,000	22	0	0	-12,000	-22
National Fire Capacity	80,000	0	81,000	56	82,000	56	81,147	44	-853	-12
Rural Fire Capacity	16,000	0	17,000	0	18,000	0	17,000	0	-1,000	0
Subtotal, Direct Appropriations	335,525	569	336,990	551	346,990	551	217,443	432	-129,547	-119
Supplemental Appropriations:										
Disaster Relief (P.L. 115-123)	7,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief (P.L. 116-20).....	0	0	12,000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	7,500	0	12,000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers In:										
Agency for International Development	1,300	0	1,124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of the Navy.....	0	0	117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Transfer Repayment	21,249	0	19,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Forest System.....	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers In.....	22,549	0	20,641	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	0
Total, Discretionary Funding.....	365,574	569	369,631	552	361,990	551	232,443	432	-129,547	-119
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Landscape Scale Restoration	88	0	208	0	126	0	114	0	-12	0
FHM - Federal Lands.....	417	0	1,150	0	1,583	0	1,428	0	-155	0
FHM - Cooperative Lands	556	0	1,774	0	1,069	0	965	0	-104	0
Working Forest Lands.....	472	0	930	0	1,450	0	1,308	0	-142	0
Forest Legacy Program.....	7,077	0	3,030	0	28,594	0	25,800	0	-2,794	0
Community Forest and Open										
Space Conservation	212	0	226	0	29	0	26	0	-3	0
Urban and Community Forestry...	459	0	584	0	967	0	873	0	-94	0
International Programs.....	1,748	0	1,449	0	1,130	0	1,020	0	-110	0
National Fire Capacity	0	0	0	0	3,041	0	2,744	0	-297	0
Rural Fire Capacity	0	0	0	0	14	0	13	0	-1	0
State and Private Forestry – Other	8,782	0	15,317	0	9,636	0	8,695	0	-941	0
Disaster Supplemental	0	0	5,189	0	14,920	0	13,463	0	-1,457	0
Subtotal, Carryover.....	19,811	0	29,857	0	62,559	0	56,449	0	-6,110	0

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Transfers Out:										
Department of the Interior.....	0	0	-171	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Transfer	-22,773	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-22,773	0	-171	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescissions.....	-5,938	0	-1,503	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries, Other.....	13,957	0	13,033	0	15,900	0	15,900	0	0	0
Total Available	370,631	569	410,847	552	440,449	551	304,792	432	-135,657	-119
Balances, Available End of Year	-29,857	0	-62,559	0	-56,449	0	-38,792	0	17,657	0
Total Obligations.....	\$340,774	569	\$348,288	552	\$384,000	551	\$266,000	432	-\$118,000	-119

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

Landscape Scale Restoration: An increase of \$4,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and an increase of one staff year, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$2,000 for pay costs (\$1,000 for the annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$1,000 for the 2021 pay increase).
This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the Landscape Scale Restoration program to award competitive grants that carry out science-based, landscape-scale restoration work.
- b. An increase of \$1,000 for performance awards.
This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.
- c. An increase of \$1,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

Compared to the FY 2020 Enacted level, base funding for the Landscape Scale Restoration program is the same. Funds will be used for competitive grants that support collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. Projects will cover agency priorities such as reducing risk of unwanted wildfire; improving fish and wildlife habitats; maintaining or improving water quality and watershed function; mitigating invasive species, insect infestation, and disease; improving important forest ecosystems; and measure economic and ecological benefits, including air quality and soil quality and productivity. Funding will support 55-60 landscape-scale projects across the Nation, one staff year, and associated operating expenses necessary to achieve program success.

Forest Health Management - Federal Lands: A decrease of \$5,121,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of 10 staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$334,000 for pay costs (\$153,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$181,000 for the 2021 pay increase).
This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow Forest Health Management-Federal Lands to provide technical knowledge and applied science innovations to assist forest managers in making treatment decisions and taking actions to improve forest health.
- b. An increase of \$241,000 for performance awards.

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$304,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.
- d. A decrease of \$6,000,000 for Forest Health Management-Federal Lands program activities.

Funding for FHM-Federal Lands will continue to inform appropriate and timely responses that protect the Nation’s forests from insects and diseases. Funding will support the most pressing needs of forest restoration and treatment and reducing communities’ risk to catastrophic fire. For example, about \$1.5 million will be used to treat at least 7,000 acres of southern pine forests at high risk for southern pine beetle outbreaks on National Forest System lands. This will increase the health and resilience of these forests, support rural economies, and reduce infestation risk to adjacent lands and communities. The reduced funding level eliminates ten staff years, and would result in a marginal decrease in acres treated to suppress or prevent pest infestations. The table below highlights funding for major insects, diseases, and invasive plants.

Funding for selected insects, diseases, and invasive plants by Fiscal Year (dollars in thousands)

RD - (Research Appropriation) SPF – (State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Appropriation)	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Budget Request
Asian Longhorned Beetle (Total)	\$119	\$119	\$98	\$119
SPF	0	0	0	0
RD	119	119	98	119
Douglas-fir Tussock Moth (Total)	33	33	0	0
SPF	33	33	0	0
RD	0	0	0	0
Emerald Ash Borer (Total)	1,758	1,633	1,436	1,577
SPF	512	512	500	426
RD	1,246	1,121	936	1,151
Gold Spotted Oak Borer, Thousand Canker Disease, Laurel Wilt (Total)	552	552	57	69
SPF	483	483	0	0
RD	69	69	57	69
Gypsy Moth (Total)	8,272	8,172	5,466	4,747
SPF	7,846	7,846	5,200	4,426
RD	426	326	266	321
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Total)	2,624	2,657	1,601	1,633
SPF	1,770	1,770	900	766
RD	854	887	701	867
Invasive Plants (Total)	3,185	3,308	2,185	2,456
SPF	1,755	1,755	1,000	851
RD	1,430	1,553	1,185	1605
Oak Wilt (Total)	499	499	274	245
SPF	425	425	200	170
RD	74	74	74	75
Port Orford Cedar Root Disease (Total)	20	20	0	0
SPF	20	20	0	0
RD	0	0	0	0
Sirex Woodwasp (Total)	365	336	185	222
SPF	80	80	0	0
RD	285	256	185	222

RD - (Research Appropriation) SPF – (State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Appropriation)	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Budget Request
Southern Pine Beetle (Total)	4,898	4,843	3,998	3,532
SPF	4,500	4,400	3,500	2,979
RD	398	443	498	553
Subterranean Termites (Total)	1,202	1,200	827	1,000
SPF	0	0	0	0
RD	1,202	1,200	827	1,000
Sudden Oak Death (Total)	1,848	1,500	1,041	929
SPF	1,560	1,210	750	638
RD	288	290	291	291
Western Bark Beetles (Total)	4,875	4,725	3,540	3,093
SPF	4,325	4,200	3,000	2,553
RD	550	525	540	540
Whitebark Pine Pests (Total)	100	100	0	0
SPF	100	100	0	0
RD	0	0	0	0
White Pine Blister Rust (Total)	580	360	129	266
SPF	360	360	0	0
RD	220	0	129	266
Total Funding	\$30,930	\$30,057	\$20,837	\$19,888
SPF Total	\$23,769	\$23,194	\$15,050	\$12,809
RD Total	\$7,161	\$6,863	\$5,787	\$7,079

Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands: A decrease of \$10,243,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$98,000 for pay costs (\$45,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$53,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands to coordinate activities with States, local, and private land owners to maintain and restore non-Federal forest lands damaged by insects, disease, and invasive plants.

- b. An increase of \$70,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$89,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$10,500,000 for Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands program activities.

At this funding level, the agency will provide financial assistance to States to treat State and private lands for insect, disease, and invasive plant issues. This supports State Forest Action Plan priorities and addresses management needs determined at the State level through shared decision-making. For example, the gypsy moth Slow-the-Spread program works with States to treat low populations of the invasive gypsy moth before they spread into new un-infested forests. Approximately \$4 million will be used to treat about 250,000 acres of State and private lands in priority landscapes and watersheds. This program utilizes a species-specific virus and pheromone that has low impact on non-target species. Once gypsy moth populations increase, other insecticides are needed to minimize forest damage. FHM – Cooperative Lands funds will also ensure that stewards of State and local public lands, and private forest partners, continue to have capacity to successfully manage their forested lands for the good of all public and private forests in the

Nation. This funding decrease will marginally reduce the extent of acres treated to prevent the spread of insects and disease and. Funding will be prioritized to high risk areas will support 77 staff years, the same as in FY 2020.

Working Forest Lands: A decrease of \$344,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of three staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$59,000 for pay costs (\$27,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$32,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow Working Forest Lands to assist landowners with private forestland management and conservation concerns.

- b. An increase of \$43,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels,.

- c. An increase of \$54,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$500,000 for Working Forest Lands program activities.

At this funding level, the agency will focus on priority areas identified in State Forest Action Plans to ensure family forests continue to provide numerous public benefits. These public benefits include wildland fire risk reduction, water security, and rural economic development achieved through local collaboration across public and private lands. Reduced funding means three staff years will be eliminated.

Forest Legacy Program: A decrease of \$63,990,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of twenty-three staff years.

Elimination of the program is proposed in FY 2021, because the Forest Service will focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response. Twenty-four staff years would be eliminated.

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation: A decrease of \$4,000,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level.

Elimination of the program is proposed in FY 2021, because the Forest Service will focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response.

Urban and Community Forestry: A decrease of \$32,000,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of forty-nine staff years.

Elimination of the program is proposed in FY 2021, because the Forest Service will focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response. Forty-nine staff years would be eliminated.

International Programs: A decrease of \$12,000,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of twenty-two staff years.

Elimination of the program is proposed in FY 2021, because the Forest Service will focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response. Twenty-two staff years would be eliminated.

National Fire Capacity: A decrease of \$853,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of 12 staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$56,000 for pay costs (\$26,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$30,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the National Fire Capacity program to provide financial assistance through partnership agreements with State Foresters for the prevention, mitigation, control, and suppression of wildfires on non-Federal lands.

- b. An increase of \$40,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$51,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.
- d. A decrease of \$1,000,000 for National Fire Capacity program activities.

At this funding level, 12 staff years will be eliminated, and funding will be targeted to support activities on fire-affected landscapes to sustain forest health, reduce the risk of damaging wildland fires, and ensure firefighter safety. Funding will support risk assessments and fire management planning projects in communities nationwide. Hazardous fuels treatments in the wildland-urban interface, firefighter training, and prevention and education programs are also provided by this program. Additionally, program funds aid in the purchase, maintenance, and rehabilitation of needed firefighting equipment for State agencies. Rural Fire Capacity: A decrease of \$1,000,000 from the FY 2021 Enacted level

At this funding level, funds will be prioritized to assist local communities in rural areas to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to wildfires, and to reduce the risk, cost, and impact of wildfires. Funds will be used to provide grants for equipment, training, and technical assistance in organizing or expanding rural fire departments where little or no fire protection is available.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$3,339	\$2,729	\$2,809	\$2,202
	Personnel Compensation, Field	58,011	47,409	48,790	38,253
11.0	Total personnel compensation	61,350	50,138	51,599	40,455
12.0	Personal benefits.....	20,919	23,585	24,272	19,030
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	266	226	233	182
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	82,535	73,949	76,104	59,667
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	4,807	4,162	3,671	3,130
22.0	Transportation of things.....	673	752	844	566
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	2,735	1,000	1,122	752
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	1,455	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	1,938	3,999	4,488	3,008
24.0	Printing and reproduction	589	213	239	160
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	16	2	2	2
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	19,981	10,996	12,342	7,269
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	8,701	10,996	12,341	8,270
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	58	26	29	20
25.5	Research and development contracts	38	6	7	5
25.6	Medical care	4	3	3	2
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	293	326	366	245
26.0	Supplies and materials	2,363	2,585	2,901	1,944
31.0	Equipment.....	1,473	318	357	239
32.0	Land and structures.....	8	1	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	213,066	238,922	269,147	180,696
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	41	32	36	24
	Total, Other Objects	258,239	274,339	307,896	206,333
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	340,774	348,288	384,000	266,000
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$10	\$11	\$11	\$11
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$171,080	\$177,178	\$179,836	\$182,533
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$87,496	\$90,019	\$91,369	\$92,740
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	10.7	11.1	11.1	11.1

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5 percent increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Landscape Scale Restoration

The Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program funds competitive cross-boundary projects in high-priority areas by leveraging State capacity with strategic Federal investments. The program helps ensure the Nation's non-Federal forestlands continue to provide public benefits by enabling States to develop innovative landscape-scale projects that focus on priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans and deliver on-the-ground results.

In FY 2019, the LSR program restored healthy, resilient landscapes and communities within State priority areas via \$12.5 million in competitive grants to accomplish 49 projects in 31 States and one territory. By addressing threats to forest sustainability, such as damaging wildfires or the spread of insects and disease, these projects also benefit adjacent National Forest System lands, creating healthier, more resilient landscapes overall.

The Gallatin Headwaters Landscape Restoration Partnership targets 15 impaired streams within the Gallatin Valley for riparian forest management, assessment, and conservation planning with willing private landowners. Projects will restore deciduous forests, improve water quality and habitat connectivity, and provide public benefits. Vibrant riparian vegetation will shade streams and enhance the agricultural, scenic, and economic value of a landscape that has experienced significant land use change and fragmentation. To date, project partners have developed three restoration plans with landowners, treated 472 acres, and established 6.6 miles of fencing to create 106 acres of floodplain pastures. This project also planted 46 deciduous trees to stabilize banks and shade streams.

Michigan is home to over 36,000 miles of streams, and nearly one-third of those miles are designated trout waters. While much of Northern Michigan streams are relatively intact, invasive species (e.g., emerald ash borer), stream bank erosion and sedimentation, and a changing climate all threaten the integrity of cold-water streams and adjacent riparian forests. This multi-county effort will conserve and protect cold-water streams and surrounding forests and support efforts to conserve and restore native forest and stream communities. This project also builds upon existing programs, such as the Trout Unlimited Home Rivers Initiative and Great Lakes Stream Restoration. To date, project partners have enhanced approximately 25 acres of high priority ecosystems, planted nearly 5,000 trees in riparian areas, and restored approximately 3 linear miles of stream habitat.

The Forest Service is adapting the LSR program to implement the 2018 Farm Bill. The agency has finalized 2020 interim national guidance, is working on 2021 national guidance, and has developed a strategic map viewer to identify geographically eligible and strategic landscapes for project development. Program changes will focus public and private resources on the collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes.

Forest Health Management on Federal Lands

Damage to forests from insects and diseases is costly, especially when uncontained or improperly managed. Reduced timber volume, loss of recreation opportunities, adverse watershed and water supply impacts, increased safety hazards on forested lands, and increased chance of abnormally severe wildland fire can all be mitigated through efficient, effective forest health management.

The Forest Health Management on Federal Lands program (FHM-Federal Lands) helps the National Forest System and other Federal lands in active management to suppress forest insects and diseases. FHM-Federal Lands' work includes technical assistance, suppression and eradication efforts, as well as long-term management strategies, to slow the spread of certain forest insects and diseases. FHM-Federal Lands program funds support forest insect and disease detection surveys and long-term monitoring activities which gather data and review forest health conditions across Federal forested lands in the United States. The program also produces annual reports for agency decision makers and partners.

FHM-Federal Lands works with partners at the Department of the Interior (DOI)'s Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service, and the Department of Defense (DOD) to provide technical assistance, survey, and treat lands that have infestations of insects and diseases. In FY 2019, FHM-Federal Lands provided \$1.8 million to DOI and DOD agencies to treat infestations at more than 30 facilities.

A recent outbreak of the southern pine beetle (SPB) on national forests in Mississippi was addressed by the FHM-Federal Lands program. From 2013 to 2018, nearly 11,000 acres were treated to suppress infestations of SPB on national forest lands in the State. Treatment success in managing the outbreak has been observed, and in FY 2019, only 1,500 acres needed

treatment. As the infestation wanes, treatments will shift to forest management activities (as part of the SPB Prevention Program) that will make forests less susceptible to future outbreaks. Stewardship agreements with The Nature Conservancy and National Wild Turkey Federation have already treated several thousand acres as part of the prevention program.

Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands

Pest management methods are more effective in an all-lands approach. Threats do not stop at the wildland-urban interface, a State line, or property boundary. Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands (FHM-Cooperative Lands) works with States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Freely Associated States to provide technical and financial assistance to monitor, assess, and mitigate forest health threats on non-Federal lands. Investments in this program are typically matched dollar for dollar by partners.

FHM-Cooperative Lands works in partnership with State land management agencies to conduct aerial detection surveys on forested lands, recording approximately 5,000 flight hours and surveying about 500 million acres in FY 2019. Aerial survey work includes sketch mapping – observation and mapping of forest health conditions on the ground – and other forms of remote sensing, such as satellite imagery and aerial photography. The equipment and technical expertise required to conduct these surveys provide job opportunities and economic benefits to rural communities. The program produces an annual conditions report for agency decision makers and partners and maintains a website with yearly and historical maps, data, and trends.

The gypsy moth Slow-the-Spread program continues to be an effective program that reduces the spread of gypsy moths from North Carolina to Minnesota. The Slow-the Spread program targets low populations of gypsy moths along the leading edge of the infestation before they develop into larger populations that require more costly suppression methods. In FY 2019, the program monitored gypsy moth levels in 13 States and worked with eight States to treat more than 270,000 acres.

The FHM-Cooperative Lands program has been working closely with the State of Alaska to address the growing spruce beetle infestation on state and private lands outside of Anchorage. Since 2015, more than 1 million acres have been infested by spruce beetle, including more than 100,000 acres in FY 2019. The FHM-Cooperative Lands program has worked closely with partners and landowners including the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks to protect high-value trees, mitigate infested sites, and address tree mortality to reduce fire risk. The program has also worked closely with the State to survey more than 30 million acres to identify areas of infestation and increase public awareness of the outbreak.

Working Forest Lands (Previously Forest Stewardship Program)

Actively-managed State and private forests provide timber, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreational opportunities, and many other benefits for landowners, communities, and nearby national forests and grasslands at a landscape scale. More than half of the forest land in the United States (441 million acres) is owned and managed by 11 million private forest owners. The Working Forest Lands program focuses on active management and conservation, providing non-industrial private forest landowners with comprehensive technical assistance, forest management plans, and tools to access other Federal, State, and private programs that deliver on-the-ground results to help sustain the productivity, health, and resilience of their land and forest resources. The program works at meaningful scales to address key resource issues (fire, water, jobs, and wildlife habitat) identified in State Forest Action Plans. The program creates jobs in rural communities by sustaining local forest product markets and increasing demand for qualified private forestry consultants, loggers, and State agency field foresters.

Assistance offered through the Working Forest Lands program qualifies landowners to access multiple services and incentives, such as USDA conservation programs, forest certification programs, forest product and ecosystem service markets, and tax incentives. The Forest Service maintains longstanding partnerships to coordinate and streamline technical assistance and address diverse landowner needs. The Working Forest Lands program also supports forest products markets by offering grants, agreements, and market development support to landowners. Supporting these markets, such as mass timber products, can reduce wildfire risk by removing and utilizing hazardous fuels, support rural economic development, and contribute to a more sustainable building sector. Landowners with access to markets are more inclined to keep their forests as forests rather than convert the land to other uses. See the Biomass and Wood Innovations Special Exhibit for additional information on wood products, energy, markets, and more.

The Forest Stewards Guild, in partnership with the Working Forest Lands Program, is strategically expanding the national Women Owning Woodlands network to strengthen the connections between women woodland owners and

their land to advance the stewardship of America’s privately-owned forestlands. This project has targeted and invested in an underserved constituency: women woodland owners who have the potential to influence the decisions on more than 290 million acres of family-owned forest lands. The project supports these women across the country by providing education and technical assistance through websites, workshops, and outreach. In FY 2019, the Forest Stewards Guild expanded this program to 20 States (threefold increase), offering field trips, chainsaw safety workshops, conference calls, event planning efforts, webinars, articles, and an online networking group. As a result, coordinated and informed decisions are being made by forest landowners that will impact the amount and vitality of forested lands for decades to come.

Through a Working Forest Lands grant, American Forest Foundation (AFF) is collaborating with The Nature Conservancy, multiple State agencies and national, State, and local non-government organizations to focus efforts in locations where family forest landowners can play a substantial management role by addressing threats to their working forests. The AFF and partners are using innovative approaches to engage landowners with forester visits, workshops, and outreach to maintain landowner interest and move them towards active forest management. In FY 2019, the Forest Service and its partners worked with more than 11,000 landowners, with over 1.1 million acres analyzed and ready for the implementation of restoration projects. Of those landowners, nearly 3,000 previously unengaged landowners owning 283,748 acres are working with foresters to develop forest management plans, and 761 landowners have restored over 81,000 acres of forests. The AFF is sharing lessons learned and strategies for improving landowner outreach and engagement with Federal and State agencies and non-governmental organizations.

In FY 2019, a team of external partners and Forest Service staff worked on the development of options for modernizing the Working Forest Lands program to better focus and prioritize the Federal investment, achieve outcomes on priority lands, serve landowners, and leverage partnerships. Implementation of the restructured Working Forest Lands program is anticipated in 2020.

Forest Legacy Program

Two-thirds of the Nation’s 445 million acres of Forests are privately owned. Conservation across landscapes and ownerships is essential to addressing large-scale conservation issues, including watershed protection, reduced wildfire risk, and protection of at-risk species. Intact private forests provide clean drinking water, access for recreation opportunities, and revenue from ranching, hunting leases, forest products, and outdoor tourism.

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) protects critical forest landscapes threatened by land conversion through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases in partnership with State agencies and private landowners. The program does not add to the Federal estate, but rather assists landowners to conserve and actively manage private working forests. To select projects for funding, the FLP uses a competitive process. By the end of FY 2019, the FLP had conserved a total of 2.8 million acres, including 66,000 acres in that fiscal year. The conserved acres include more than 176,000 acres of water bodies and 3,300 miles of streams. Historically, the FLP leverages more than one dollar for every Federal dollar spent.

A conservation easement completed in FY 2019 conserves 22,275 acres of highly productive timberland in northwest Montana, including habitat for grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout, while allowing Stimson Lumber Company to continue sustainable forest management. An extensive network of public roads provides easy access and allows timber management activities to be conducted in a cost-effective manner. The project complements the FY 2012 FLP-funded 27,992-acre Stimson Forestlands Conservation Project and shares 133 miles of border with the Kootenai National Forest. Development of this land could have resulted in 139 independently owned parcels and had major impacts to management of the surrounding Federal lands. The conservation easement allows Stimson Lumber to retain these actively managed timberlands, protect critical wildlife habitat and landscape connectivity, and provide permanent public access to extraordinary recreation lands.

Forest Service-funded research¹ examining the economic contributions of the FLP indicated an average of \$140 per acre in annual contribution to the gross regional product from forest management and recreation. Compared to the \$350 average up-front cost per acre of conserving the lands in the study, the annual return on investment is very compelling. The Forest

¹ “Economic Contributions of Land Conserved by the Forest Service’s Forest Legacy Program”
https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/media_wysiwyg/flp-economiccontributionsreportfullresolution.pdf

Service is continuing research to evaluate the impact of FLP projects on local economies to ensure the selection and funding of projects that promote rural prosperity and collaborative efforts to address cross-boundary landscape conservation.

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation program (CFP) provides financial assistance grants to local governments, Tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations to acquire and establish working community forests that provide public benefits. The CFP was authorized in 2008, and the first grants were awarded in FY 2012. Projects are selected through a competitive process that evaluates community benefits, contribution to landscape conservation initiatives, and likelihood of land conversion. In FY 2019, 15 new grants were awarded, and the program protected five tracts of land totaling 3,574 acres. Since the first grant in FY 2012, the program has protected over 16,400 acres. Like national forests, community forests provide many benefits, including clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, public access and recreation opportunities, economic benefits from timber and non-timber products, and educational opportunities to local communities.

The 978-acre Bethel (Maine) Community Forest project, completed in FY 2019, provides multiple benefits including drinking water supply, access to recreation, and revenue from the forest products industry. With 40 acres of wetlands and 1.4 miles of streams, including 2,500 feet of Chapman Brook, which served as Bethel's primary drinking water supply until 2007, the Forest is important for water quality and quantity. The 13 miles of existing roads on the forest and three miles of a well-used, regionally-recognized snowmobile trail make it a popular destination for hiking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, skiing, and other recreational activities. Adjacent to two existing parcels of conserved land, including a property owned by the Town of Bethel, the acquisition of the Forest helps to stabilize the land base for the local forest products industry. Bethel Community Forest is projected to generate approximately \$10,000 a year in sustainable timber harvest revenue.

In FY 2019, the Forest Service completed the 7.1-acre Browns Mill Food Forest project in Georgia. This project provides a model for community forests in an urban setting. This underserved community in Atlanta now has access to outdoor classrooms for educators and students, a gathering place for the community to enjoy forested and stream-side areas, picnic sites, a community garden, and carefully planned nature trails to play and explore the forest. Over 100 fruit trees have been planted since the community forest was established.

National interest in the CFP continues to grow annually. To address the increased demand and select projects that best address conservation and community benefit objectives, the Forest Service developed a robust process to evaluate and prioritize projects, including an updated request for applications, as well as project scoring for the selection process. There were 15 Community Forests funded FY 2019, the largest number in a single year, including the first community forest projects in Arizona and Texas.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is delivered in a model of shared stewardship with State forestry agencies and other national and local partners to provide funding and technical assistance for communities to conserve, protect, and enhance trees across jurisdictional boundaries. Urban and community forests can serve as a gateway for invasive pests and diseases. Maintaining the health of these forests protects the Nation's forests, including the national forests. The Forest Service works with State forestry agencies and other partners to support science-based management of urban and community forest resources in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and affiliated Pacific Island Nations. In FY 2019, the program assisted more than 7,750 communities to better manage their trees to produce public benefits. With limited exceptions, the program requires a 1:1 match to Federal funds, but this value is often far exceeded.

In FY 2019, the UCF program awarded challenge cost-share grants that will further how research, technology, and policy assist communities in monitoring and addressing threats to their urban forests. These projects are expected to produce findings that improve the quality of life for American communities of all sizes and assist community leaders in making science-based decisions to protect and maintain robust urban and community forests. The 2019 selected grants include: cost-effective tree inventory software, a rapid assessment and response tool to address emerging tree diseases, a statistical model to forecast high-impact insect invasions, a management planning model for catastrophic flooding using forest inventory and analysis data, and a cost-effective satellite mapping tool to respond to high priority tree threats. A 2017 analysis of the national challenge cost-share grants found that \$1 of Federal funds invested in these projects was leveraged by an additional \$4.92 in additional investment.

In the wildland-urban interface, UCF is leading the charge to expand the use of Urban Tree Canopy data by publishing the first-ever [interactive viewer that shows urban tree canopy in California](#). The viewer allows communities to capture public benefits from trees and highlight any environmental or public health risks potentially affecting communities without urban tree cover. Through this collaboration with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, forest practitioners and fire personnel can directly download the geographic information system data through the site. The i-Tree system, an online software suite of assessment tools developed by Forest Service Research and Development, can help strengthen forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying forest structure and the environmental benefits that trees provide.

International Programs

Forest Service International Programs promote sustainable forest management globally and brings important technologies and innovations back to the United States. The program represents the interests of the entire U.S. forestry community and its stakeholders through international engagement. Effective forest management at the global level is necessary to protect American trade interests, such as the ability of domestic timber producers to compete on a level playing field, and to ensure the sustainability of critical domestic and global natural resources. International Programs provide technical assistance to other countries to combat illegal logging, which costs the U.S. forest products industry \$1 billion annually due to lost export opportunities and depressed wood prices. International Programs also improve the management of forest invasive species, which cause \$4.2 billion in loss and damage annually in the forest products industry, by supporting collaborative work to control and prevent invasions.

International Programs' Wood Identification and Screening Center (WISC) is developing wood identification technologies and databases, providing wood screening and forensic services, and serving as an educational hub on wood identification. WISC is using a technology called Direct Analysis in Real Time/Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry to support identification of timber species by chemical profiling. The goal is to have a comprehensive global reference database of timber species that can be used by customs agents world-wide to quickly and affordably distinguish between legal and illegal timber products. U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are already using WISC services to test imported wood samples for suspected Lacey Act violations.

Through a partnership with the University of Florida, International Programs is working with partners throughout Asia, where the majority of forest related invasive species originate, to proactively identify potential pests that could accidentally enter the U.S. through trade. This project is training forest health specialists across Asia to support data collection on overseas wood borers that could threaten U.S. tree commodities. By improving the data available on these emerging threats from Asia, earlier detection and more rapid response to the most damaging invasive insects becomes possible, mitigating the environmental and economic impacts on U.S. forests.

National Fire Capacity (Previously State Fire Assistance)

More than 46 million homes in the United States (representing 40 percent of the Nation's housing units) are located in fire-prone wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. The first responders on almost 75 percent of wildfires are local fire departments or State agencies. Collaboration between the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and non-Federal government entities is important to an effective, all-lands approach to wildland fire management.

Through the National Fire Capacity program, the Forest Service supports and assists State Foresters and local communities in building capacity for the prevention, mitigation, control, and suppression of wildfires on non-Federal lands. The program helps State agencies create more fire-adapted communities by implementing pre-fire prevention and mitigation programs described in State Forest Action Plans. The program emphasizes pre-fire planning in the WUI and hazardous fuel mitigation near communities at risk of catastrophic wildfire. Training funded by the program provides for effective and safer initial attack response to wildfire. Additionally, the program improves capacity to assist other Federal, State, and local agencies in aiding communities affected by fire and non-fire emergencies, such as hurricanes and floods.

Working under the umbrella of shared stewardship and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, the Forest Service works collaboratively to build the capacity of local fire departments, reduce the number of human-caused fires, and support interagency fire preparedness planning to reduce wildfire risk to communities through cross-boundary hazardous fuel treatments. The State of Utah, in cooperation with private property owners, local government, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service completed a multi-year hazardous fuel reduction project on over 1,000 acres to reduce wildfire risk in a highly prone fire area. The project also contributed to enhanced grazing, improved wildlife habitat, promoted aspen regeneration, and paved the way to increased collaboration for future projects in central Utah.

Rural Fire Capacity (Previously Volunteer Fire Assistance)

The Rural Fire Capacity program provides technical and financial assistance to qualifying local volunteer fire departments that protect communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer. There are over 26,000 rural and predominantly volunteer fire departments nationwide. In many rural areas across the nation, the local volunteer fire department is the first responder to protect local communities and actively supports community mitigation efforts.

Focus areas of the Rural Fire Capacity program include providing critical community mitigation programs and services to support local mitigation and community planning efforts. Recipients match grants dollar-for-dollar to maximize the value of the Federal investment. Rural fire departments also play a key role in educating constituents about fire adaptation and the need for mitigation and help meet expanded fire protection needs within the wildland-urban interface. Together, these initiatives combine to create more fire-adapted communities.

In addition to the distribution of Rural Fire Capacity funds to local fire departments, the State of Oregon began awarding funds to Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA). The RFPAs organize and authorize rancher participation in fire suppression alongside Federal agency firefighters, including the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. There are 23 RFPAs in Eastern Oregon. The RFPAs have used Rural Fire Capacity funds for training, acquiring personal protective equipment, compatible radios, hoses, pumps, retrofitting firefighting equipment, and more.

State and Private Forestry Primary Authorities

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Carlson-Foley Act of 1968	This Act authorizes use of noxious plant control funds to reimburse States for such activity on Federal land.		NFS, SPF	P.L. 90-583	43 U.S.C. 2701-2703
Community Wood Energy Program	The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 authorizes \$25,000,000 in annual appropriations for a Community Wood Energy Program through FY 2023. Grants of up to \$1,500,000 to State and local governments or biomass consumer cooperatives to develop plans for, or to acquire or upgrade community wood energy systems.	09/30/2023	SPF	P.L. 113-79	7 U.S.C. 8113
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978	Authorizes cooperation and assistance to non-Federal forest landowners and communities in rural forest management, urban and community forest management, production of timber and other forest resources, insect and disease control, rural fire prevention and control, forest management and planning assistance, and technology implementation. Includes authorization for many State and Private Forestry programs, including the Working Forest Lands (previously Forest Stewardship) Program, the Forest Legacy Program, and the Urban and Community Forestry Program. Codifies the Landscape Scale Restoration Program and authorizes appropriations through FY 2023.	09/30/2023	SPF	P.L. 95-313	16 U.S.C. 2101-2114

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002	Authorizes the Wood Innovation Grant Program and expands authority for wood innovation grants. Authorizes appropriations for the community wood energy program.		SPF	P.L. 107-171	7 U.S.C. 8113
Food and Agriculture Act of 1977	Designates the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the lead agency of the Federal government for agricultural research, extension, and teaching. Removes restrictions on the use of cooperative agreements with universities and permits cost reimbursable agreements with State cooperating institutions without competition.		ALL	P.L. 95-113	7 U.S.C. 3318-3319d
Hawaii Tropical Forestry Recovery Act of 1992	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to treat invasive plants on Federal and non-Federal ownerships in Hawaii and in tropical forests on Federal lands in other States.		International Forestry	P.L. 102-574	16 U.S.C. 4501-4505
International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990	Authorizes support (including cooperation, financial, and technical assistance, without reimbursement) for international forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories. Authorizes expansion of the research capabilities of the Institute of Tropical Forestry in Puerto Rico.		International Forestry	P.L. 101-513; P.L. 102-574	16 U.S.C. 4501-4505
Rural Revitalization Technologies	Authorizes \$5,000,000 in annual appropriations for forestry rural revitalization technologies to: (A) accelerate adoption of technologies using biomass and small-diameter materials; (B) create community-based enterprises through marketing activities and demonstration projects; and (C) establish small-scale business enterprises to make use of biomass and small-diameter materials.	09/30/2023	SPF	P.L. 101-624, P.L. 110-246; P.L. 113-79	7 U.S.C. 6601
Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of 1975	Authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into Cooperative Agreements which benefit certain Forest Service programs and to advance or reimburse funds to cooperators for work performed, and for other purposes.		ALL	P.L. 94-148	16 U.S.C. 565a1-a3, as amended

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1992 – Using Cooperative Agreements	“Notwithstanding the provisions of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. 6301-6308), the Forest Service is authorized hereafter to negotiate and enter into cooperative agreements with public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals to print educational materials and to continue the Challenge Cost-Share Program.”		ALL	P.L 102-154	31USC 6305

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$1,957,510,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+47,552,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>2,005,062,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, and for hazardous fuels management on or adjacent to such lands, [~~\$1,957,510,000~~]\$2,005,062,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023]2024: *Provided*[], That of the funds provided, \$40,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f); *Provided further*[], That of the funds provided, [373,000,000] \$385,000,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, [~~\$445,310,000~~]\$510,000,000 shall be for hazardous fuels management activities, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 may be used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry" appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands: *Provided further*, That \$20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities, and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land, or on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That funds made available to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106–393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry" appropriations: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 33 of the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012), the Secretary of Agriculture, in calculating a fee for grazing on a National Grassland, may provide a credit of up to 50 percent of the calculated fee to a Grazing Association or direct permittee for a conservation practice approved by the Secretary in advance of the fiscal year in which the cost of the conservation practice is incurred[. And, that]; *Provided further*, That the amount credited pursuant to the previous proviso shall remain available to the Grazing Association or the direct permittee, as appropriate, in the fiscal year in which the credit is made and each fiscal year thereafter for use on the project for conservation practices approved by the Secretary.

Change Description

The first change (first paragraph) removes language pertaining to the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund as no funding is proposed for that program.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration.....	\$40,000	240	\$40,000	248	\$40,000	248	0	99	-\$40,000	-149
Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring.....	179,263	182	180,000	180	180,000	180	\$179,864	180	-136	0
Hazardous Fuels.....	430,000	2,098	435,000	2,320	445,310	2,348	510,000	2,325	64,690	-23
Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.....	257,848	1,715	260,000	1,742	262,000	1,742	263,629	1,733	1,629	-9
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management.....	136,430	894	137,000	958	138,000	958	139,619	956	1,619	-2
Grazing Management.....	56,856	413	57,000	411	57,000	411	58,223	410	1,223	-1
Forest Products.....	366,000	2,881	368,000	2,979	373,000	2,979	385,000	3,013	12,000	34
Vegetation and Watershed Management	180,000	1,108	180,000	1,154	182,000	1,154	183,849	1,154	1,849	0
Minerals and Geology Management.....	74,200	431	75,000	428	74,200	428	75,618	425	1,418	-3
Land Use Authorization and Access.....	74,000	454	75,000	468	75,000	468	76,009	464	1,009	-4
Law Enforcement Operations.....	129,153	663	131,000	669	131,000	669	133,251	675	2,251	6
Subtotal, Direct Appropriations.....	1,923,750	11,079	1,938,000	11,557	1,957,510	11,585	2,005,062	11,434	47,552	-151
Supplemental Appropriations:										
Disaster Relief (P.L. 115-123).....	20,652	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief (P.L. 116-20).....	0	0	84,960	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	20,652	0	84,960	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers In:										
Communication Site Administration.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0
Fire Transfer Repayment.....	10,040	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers In.....	10,040	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0
Total, Discretionary Funding.....	1,954,442	11,079	2,022,960	11,564	1,957,510	11,585	2,011,062	11,434	47,552	-151
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot....	629	0	1,009	0	528	0	212	0	-316	0
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration.....	1,928	0	1,287	0	3,070	0	1,232	0	-1,838	0
Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring.....	1,043	0	3,897	0	4,904	0	1,968	0	-2,936	0
Hazardous Fuels.....	0	0	9,122	0	8,684	0	3,484	0	-5,200	0
Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.....	1,407	0	5,774	0	8,413	0	3,376	0	-5,037	0
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management.....	969	0	2,141	0	1,357	0	545	0	-812	0
Grazing Management.....	137	0	1,032	0	682	0	274	0	-408	0
Forest Products.....	163	0	4,023	0	4,750	0	1,906	0	-2,844	0
Vegetation and Watershed Management	1,189	0	3,093	0	2,816	0	1,130	0	-1,686	0
Minerals and Geology Management.....	2,599	0	3,010	0	4,469	0	1,793	0	-2,676	0
Land Use Authorization and Access.....	761	0	2,977	0	2,313	0	928	0	-1,385	0
Law Enforcement Operations.....	-731	0	2,366	0	3,074	0	1,233	0	-1,841	0
National Forest System – Other.....	740	0	7,887	0	6,582	0	2,641	0	-3,941	0
Disaster Supplemental.....	0	0	16,246	0	96,317	0	38,647	0	-57,670	0
Subtotal, Carryover.....	10,834	0	63,864	0	147,959	0	59,369	0	-88,590	0

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Transfers Out:										
Department of the Interior.....	-1,871	0	-1,861	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Transfer	-740	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State and Private Forestry	0	0	0	0	-15,000	0	-15,000	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-2,611	0	-1,861	0	-15,000	0	-15,000	0	0	0
Recoveries, Other.....	23,873	0	28,571	0	35,900	0	35,900	0	0	0
Total Available.....	1,986,538	11,079	2,113,534	11,564	2,126,369	11,585	2,091,331	11,434	-35,038	-151
Balances, Available End of Year.....	-63,864	0	-147,959	0	-59,369	0	-64,331	0	-4,962	0
Total Obligations	\$1,922,674	11,079	\$1,965,575	11,564	\$2,067,000	11,585	\$2,027,000	11,434	-\$40,000	-151

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration: A decrease of \$40,000,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of one hundred forty-nine staff years.**

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program promotes collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. Elimination of this program will reduce duplication among Federal programs, as other Forest Service programs also do restoration work on National Forest System lands. The agency will leverage the lessons learned in the CFLR program and apply those lessons to existing programs that do similar work. At this funding level, 149 staff years would be eliminated. Remaining staff years are assumed to be funded by carryover balances.

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring: A decrease of \$136,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$228,000 for pay costs (\$104,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$124,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the program to provide for the creation, revision, and amendment of land management plans (LMPs) required under the National Forest Management Act and the associated regulations.

- b. An increase of \$165,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$208,000 for the Department's increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$737,000 in base program funding.

This decrease in base program funding reflects the agency's priority to focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response. Funding will be used for land management plans, revisions to plans, plan amendments, and associated assessment and monitoring work.

The reduced funding request assumes implementation of significant National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulatory reform, rule-making, and streamlining. The agency is streamlining processes to reduce the time and staff effort needed to complete environmental analysis through the Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) process. To keep pace with current planning accomplishment levels under the proposed funding level, the agency's goal is a 30 percent reduction in processing time on environmental analysis processes by FY 2022.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction: An increase of \$64,690,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of 23 staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$2,944,000 for pay costs (\$1,348,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$1,596,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the Hazardous Fuels Reduction program to manage hazardous fuel loads to reduce the risk of severe fires, improve forest health, and ensure the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands.

- b. An increase of \$2,128,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$2,684,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.
- d. An increase of 56,934,000 for Hazardous Fuels Reduction activities.

Funding for this program will be used to mitigate wildfire risk on 3.5 million acres of hazardous fuels in high priority and high-risk areas around the Nation, an increase of 200,000 acres from the FY 2020 target. The Forest Service will focus investments on changing conditions on the landscape to mitigate wildfire risk to lives and property while improving forest conditions. Further, \$50 million will not be allocated to the regions, but will be for the Chief to direct to highest priority projects to surge capacity where it is needed most. At this funding level, the program will support 2,325 staff years, a decrease of 23 from FY 2020.

The investments in FY 2021 will be informed by a scientific, outcome-based national investment model targeted at a larger, more meaningful geographic scale. Priorities will also be informed by the active management investments made by neighbors and partners to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and reducing exposure to firefighters and the public. Hazardous fuel removal is pivotal in ensuring Federal forests and watersheds are sustainable, healthy, and productive, which helps to make them safer and more resilient to the destructive impacts of wildfire. The treatment of high priority acres in the wildland urban interface typically requires high-cost mechanical methods based on location, terrain, and proximity to communities and structures. However, research has shown that fuel treatments result in benefits with values two to three times the costs.² This includes structures and infrastructure saved and avoided suppression and post-fire rehabilitation costs. When practical, the agency will integrate hazardous fuels program work with forest products activities by planning, designing, and delivering on projects that meet multiple objectives on the ground.

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness: An increase of \$1,629,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of nine staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$2,195,000 for pay costs (\$1,005,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$1,190,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the program to continue supporting nearly 150 million annual visits for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other activities on the National Forests and Grasslands.

- b. An increase of \$1,586,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$2,000,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.
- d. A decrease of \$4,152,000 in base program funding.

Program funding at this level reflects the agency’s priority to focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response. Funding will be used to continue efforts to improve program delivery efficiency and prioritize work. The Forest Service is working to accelerate and simplify our permitting process for outfitters and guides, maintain and grow strong collaborations with partners and volunteer groups, and find innovative ways to address the recreational needs of today’s public who want year-round activities on National Forest System lands.

² Buckley, M., N. Beck, P. Bowden, M. E. Miller, B. Hill, C. Luce, W. J. Elliot, N. Enstice, K. Podolak, E. Winford, S. L. Smith, M. Bokach, M. Reichert, D. Edelson, and J. Gaither. 2014. “Mokelumne watershed avoided cost analysis: Why Sierra fuel treatments make economic sense.” A report prepared for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Auburn, California. Online: <http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/mokelumne>.

This request assumes reauthorization of Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). If reauthorized, FLREA would allow the Forest Service to continue current levels of recreation fee collections that are used to fund recreation sites and amenities, support water monitoring and testing, support restoration and hazardous fuels management at recreation sites, provide interpretive and visitor services, and build capacity for increased volunteerism and partnerships.

Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management: An increase of \$1,619,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of two staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$1,210,000 for pay costs (\$554,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$656,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the program to continue maintaining robust wildlife and fish populations and creating conditions for clean, abundant water to support hunting and fishing.

- b. An increase of \$875,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$1,104,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$1,570,000 in base program funding.

Program funding will be used for managing wildlife and fish habitat. The agency will continue to focus on completing the highest priority habitat improvements, maintaining important partnerships, and sustaining support for other key program areas. The agency is working to maintain and enhance wildlife and fish habitat while increasing the efficiency of environmental analysis to help accelerate the accomplishment of effective management activities on the ground.

Grazing Management: An increase of \$1,223,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of one staff year, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$519,000 for pay costs (\$238,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$281,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the program to continue maintaining healthy rangelands and restoring historically depleted rangelands to maintain a sustainable supply of forage for livestock, open space, and wildlife habitat.

- b. An increase of \$375,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$473,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$144,000 in base program funding.

Funding will be used to administer grazing permits and complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. However, this funding level will limit our ability to fully support grazing activities, which is a significant economic driver of many rural economies. The agency will focus on basic stewardship to ensure grazing is maintained at appropriate levels and to use funds as effectively as possible on permit administration and serving permittees.

The request assumes implementation of significant National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulatory reform, rulemaking, and streamlining. The agency anticipates efficiencies in processing time will be gained through the Environmental Analysis Decision Making (EADM) initiative. Reforms will have to result in a 30 percent reduction in processing time on environmental analysis processes in order to keep pace with current planning accomplishment levels under the proposed funding level.

Forest Products: An increase of \$12,000,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and an increase of 34 staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$3,815,000 for pay costs (\$1,747,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$2,068,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the program to continue promoting healthy forests, improving forest conditions, and contributing to rural prosperity through the sale and disposal of timber.

- b. An increase of \$2,758,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a one percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$3,478,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. An increase of \$1,949,000 in base program funding.

Funding will be used to support an increase in timber sales and to achieve a timber output target of 4.0 billion board feet in fiscal year 2021. The agency will advance its forest products modernization efforts to improve efficiency in timber sales. The forest products modernization initiative is designed to make the agency more agile, allowing us to better meet current and future market demand for forest products in ways that simultaneously improve forest conditions. Efforts are underway to improve program efficiency by updating policies, practices, tools, and technologies needed to fully implement authorities for offering forest products for sale. The agency is also encouraging the use of cross-laminated timber technology to construct tall buildings from mass timber derived from small-diameter trees, which can include materials removed to reduce wildfire fuels and improve forest health.

Vegetation and Watershed Management: An increase of \$1,849,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$1,461,000 for pay costs (\$669,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$792,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the program to continue planting, forest thinning, and invasive species management activities to improve the growth and health of timber stands and to improve water quality.

- b. An increase of \$1,056,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$1,332,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$2,000,000 in base program funding.

Program funding at this level reflects the agency's priority to focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response.

Program funding will be used for reforestation and vegetation management to restore, maintain, and protect water and soil resources. The agency will emphasize post-wildfire restoration work to stabilize soils and restore appropriate forest cover to impacted lands. The agency will also continue to treat existing timber stands to increase resilience to wildfires and insects and improve the quality of timber for future sales.

Minerals and Geology Management: An increase of \$1,418,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of three staff years which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$538,000 for pay costs (\$246,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$292,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow the program to continue encouraging the development of industries and domestic resources to meet the Nation's energy and mineral requirements while providing jobs and protecting National Forest System watersheds and resources.

- b. An increase of \$389,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$491,000 for the Department's increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

Compared to the FY 2020 Enacted level, the total requested change represents no change in program funding. The increase of \$1,418,000 would be used for pay costs, awards, and Federal Retirement System contributions. Program funding will be prioritized for the processing of mineral applications and high priority projects, particularly those associated with proposed mineral withdrawals and large scale mine permitting which are inherently controversial and complex, as well as maintaining general operations with enhanced customer service.

This request assumes passage of a FY 2021 mandatory legislative proposal for "Use of Minerals Receipts from National Forest System Lands to Accelerate Minerals Permitting-Cost Recovery." Enactment of the new authority would allow the Secretary to recover the costs of processing applications for, and monitoring compliance with, locatable mineral plans of operation, surface use plans of operation, and other written Forest Service authorizations relating to the disposal of locatable and leasable minerals on National Forest System lands. Enactment of the authority would greatly enhance customer service and expedite those activities that normally occur within the limits of appropriated funding. Enactment of the cost recovery authority would not provide additional funding for the majority of the program of work normally funded by the Minerals and Geology Management budget line item beyond those minerals related activities listed above.

Land Use Authorization and Access: An increase of \$1,009,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of four staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$588,000 for pay costs (\$269,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$319,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels that will enable the Forest Service to manage permits for uses like cell towers, oil and gas pipelines, internet fiber optic lines and electric transmission lines and to host emergency communications facilities, road rights-of-way, and other infrastructure that provide critical services to the public.

- b. An increase of \$425,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$536,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.
- d. A decrease of \$540,000 in base program funding.

Program funding at this level reflects the agency’s priority to focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response. The agency will prioritize efforts to modernize and streamline special use processes, development of an “ePermit” system to expedite the permitting process, and deployment of regional and national “strike teams” to increase permitting efficiency and reduce backlogs.

Law Enforcement Operations: An increase of 2,251,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and an increase of six staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$854,000 for pay costs (\$391,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$463,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will allow Law Enforcement Operations to protect natural resources, the public, Forest Service employees, and visitors to National Forest System lands.

- b. An increase of \$618,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$779,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

Compared to the FY 2020 Enacted level, the requested change in funding represents no change in program funding (the net increase is due to \$2,251,000 in increases for pay costs, awards, and FERS contributions). Law Enforcement Operations will continue to provide protection to the public, to employees, and for natural resources on National Forest System lands. As visitor rates and other non-recreation activities on National Forest System lands are expected to continue to rise, Law Enforcement Operations activity is increasingly critical for enforcing laws and regulations, investigating crimes, and minimizing risks to public and employee health and safety

Additionally, these funds will support marijuana eradication operations and marijuana grow site clean-up and reclamation on National Forest System lands. Many of these marijuana sites have extremely toxic chemicals and pesticides that significantly impact the environment, including the water sources that many communities rely on for clean, safe drinking water.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$3,960	\$4,020	\$4,152	\$4,098
	Personnel Compensation, Field	854,953	867,895	896,425	884,741
11.0	Total personnel compensation	858,913	871,915	900,577	888,839
12.0	Personal benefits.....	337,190	342,287	353,539	348,931
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	11,064	1,412	1,458	1,439
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	1,207,167	1,215,614	1,255,574	1,239,209
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	34,457	38,005	41,120	39,922
22.0	Transportation of things.....	17,227	11,182	12,098	11,746
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	17,685	3,001	3,247	3,152
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	25,753	2,001	2,165	2,102
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	35,537	77,038	83,352	81,924
24.0	Printing and reproduction	3,106	2,001	2,165	2,102
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	196	91	98	96
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	209,078	209,103	235,745	225,373
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	183,377	195,448	214,678	210,282
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	1,816	141	153	148
25.5	Research and development contracts	1,267	60	65	63
25.6	Medical care	158	120	130	126
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	9,747	5,002	5,412	5,254
26.0	Supplies and materials	49,640	40,018	43,298	42,037
31.0	Equipment.....	28,699	19,361	20,948	20,338
32.0	Land and structures.....	831	367	397	386
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	95,848	146,195	145,460	141,871
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	1,085	827	895	869
	Total, Other Objects	715,507	749,961	811,426	787,791
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	1,922,674	1,965,575	2,067,000	2,027,000
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$218	\$228	\$231	\$235
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$179,273	\$181,073	\$183,789	\$186,546
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$65,834	\$53,518	\$54,321	\$55,136
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5 percent increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration

By working closely with communities, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) projects are identifying innovative techniques for getting work done, increasing community support for restoration projects, leveraging capacity, and expanding the scale of restoration. Through its place-based investments in restoration, the CFLRP program also supports local rural communities through the generation of forest products such as timber and biomass for bioenergy production, as well as the creation and maintenance of jobs.

With its focused investment on priority landscapes, partner capacity, and community support, CFLRP projects are expanding the pace and the scale of treatments implemented to reduce the risk of widespread, high-mortality fires. Annually, CFLRP projects treat an average of 458,000 acres to reduce hazardous fuels and produce 412 million board feet of timber volume sold.³

The program continues to advance community engagement and shared stewardship. Projects involve over 200 local partners investments to support shared priorities and coordinate work across landscapes. These partner investments average \$19 million per year in partner match on National Forest Service lands and an additional \$44 million per year in investments across the full CFLRP landscape boundary.⁴ This leveraged capacity and support extends beyond CFLRP efforts to influence the overall operating environment in communities.

In FY 2019, CFLRP projects contributed 14 percent of the agency's overall hazardous fuels reduction accomplishments. These treatments are reducing wildfire risk. For example, the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative CFLRP has experienced wildfires either igniting or burning in previous fuels treatment units. In all cases, the rate of spread and fire intensity was noticeably reduced where the fire met these areas. In recent examples – the Bethlehem fire in 2015 and the Mount Hall fire in 2017 – treatment allowed firefighters to bring these fires under control during initial attack and while still small. As a testament to fuels reduction effectiveness, if this area had not been treated, extended attack would have been likely, significantly driving up suppression costs.

By promoting shared leadership, shared capacity, and shared risk, CFLRP projects generate social consensus, durable decisions, and the ability to solve problems when challenges arise. The majority of CFLRP participants have reported reduced conflict and improved decision-making processes.⁵ For example, the Dinkey Landscape Restoration Project in California brings together diverse perspectives around the common goals of protecting resources and reducing fire risk. The collaboration has had strong payoffs in creating social license and reducing the risk of litigation. The collaborative approach has expanded beyond the CFLRP landscape and has become a standard business practice across the agency.

Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring

Land management plans (LMPs) guide management activities on the 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in the National Forest System. Managing lands requires a continuous cycle of assessing, planning, implementing, and adjusting programs and projects based on new information. In FY 2019, Forest Service researchers prioritized the use of collaborative science with resource managers on National Forest System lands to identify and accomplish mutually beneficial goals and further common interests to study and to improve forest and grassland conditions.

In FY 2019, the agency continued to revise 26 LMPs (22 under the 2012 Planning Rule and four under the 1982 Planning Procedures). During FY 2019, the agency released 10 land management plans (six draft, two final and two final Records of Decision) and one national monument plan.

In FY 2019, 18 units representing all regions participated in the first of a two-year pilot to develop more clear and concise monitoring evaluation reports that fulfil the 2012 Planning Rule's requirement to provide information to responsible officials and the public about the success of land management plans. A Data Stewardship community of practice was initiated to improve the quality of data available for USDA monitoring and performance dashboards, and the Regional Analysts Cadre will work to promote more consistent analysis methods.

³ Average based on 2013-2019 data.

⁴ Average based on 2012-2018 data, as 2018 is the most recent year for which data is currently available. Partner investments includes through agreement and in-kind contributions.

⁵ Schultz et al (2017). Strategies for Success Under Forest Service Restoration Initiatives. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper Number 81.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

The Nation’s forests and grasslands are stressed by extended drought, severe wildfires, and large outbreaks of insects and diseases. These stressors and disturbances impact forests, grasslands, and watersheds, and threaten rural communities, timber, and other forest products, utility corridors, and more, causing millions of dollars in damage each year. Hazardous fuel treatments include any vegetation manipulation, removal, or modification of wildland fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition, reduce potential fire intensity and rate of spread, lessen potential damage, or limit the spread of invasive species and diseases. These treatments promote the natural role of fire by reducing the likelihood of uncharacteristically intense wildland fire and increase the agency’s capabilities to protect life and property (including communities-at-risk and sensitive municipal watersheds), sensitive natural resources (including native plant communities and threatened and endangered species), and other socially important cultural resources.

In FY 2019, the Forest Service treated about 2.9 million acres of National Forest System lands and adjacent areas to mitigate wildfire risk. Over 1.6 million of the treated acres were in high risk wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. The treated areas that were not in the WUI were identified as high priority for other important values at risk to wildfire, including protection of municipal watersheds; avoiding wildfire side effects like poor air quality, loss of habitat, and area closures; and other objectives such as harvesting forest products and ecosystem restoration occurring outside of WUI areas. Nearly one million acres treated were categorized as having a high to very high hazard of a large wildfire that would be difficult to contain. About 60 percent of the total acres were treated with prescribed fire, one of the most cost-effective methods of treatment. Seven out of nine regions exceeded their target in FY 2019, however, the national total acreage was below FY 2018, and about 20 percent below the target. The national shortfall was primarily a result of an unusually wet spring in the southeast that reduced the number of days suitable for prescribed fire. The agency will continue to prioritize the use of authorities provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141), and take the necessary steps to reach the goal of treating 3.5 million acres of National Forest System lands and adjacent areas in FY 2021.

The Hazardous Fuels program prioritizes treating areas with high potential for damaging wildfires within the WUI using a scenario planning tool and by identifying areas where there is high and very high wildfire hazard potential adjacent to communities. Mitigating wildfire risk to these communities requires an all-lands approach to be effective. Working with community partners across boundaries allows the agency to leverage resources and work efficiently to reduce wildfire risk while creating resilient landscapes and encouraging fire-adapted communities. Hazardous fuels treatments also focus on fire-adapted ecosystems that require periodic fire to maintain forest health and resilient landscapes.

In August 2019, multiple fires were reported on the Umatilla National Forest in Oregon. A total of 12 new fires were identified and managed as the “HK Complex”. Hot and dry conditions, as well as strong winds, contributed to rapid fire growth. Driven by the strong winds, the Little Bear incident within the complex burned into the Wildcat Fuels Reduction and Vegetation Management Project area. Once in the treated area, the wildfire behavior moderated and flame lengths were reduced. This allowed firefighters to more safely and effectively suppress the wildfire. The fire interrupted and reset natural ecological succession, providing high quality forage for big game and good brood rearing habitat for upland game birds, like grouse and wild turkeys. Additionally, 59 percent of the entire area burned at low severity, and only one percent was deemed a high severity fire.

Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness

The national forests and grasslands receive over 150 million visits annually for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other activities. To sustain and grow this level of use, the Forest Service is investing resources in simplifying the permitting process for outfitters and guides, maintaining and encouraging strong collaborations with partners and volunteer groups, and working to meet the recreational desires of today’s public, who want year-round activities on National Forest System lands. This program provides public recreational access to over 193 million acres of scenic lands, with 158,000 miles of trails, 27,000 developed recreation sites, 220,000 miles of fishable streams, 122 ski areas, and over 450,000 heritage sites.

On October 1, 2018, the Forest Service launched the updated Recreation.gov to the public. As part of the Recreation One-Stop E-Gov initiative, Recreation.gov offers a single point of access to comprehensive information about Federal recreation activities. Site services include reservation and trip planning for 100,000 individual sites and activities, and 3,500 recreation areas managed by seven Federal agencies. The new site also offers new and improved features for managers. In FY 2019, Recreation.gov had over 19 million users, 162.9 million page views, and processed over 4.7 million transactions and reservations. Customer Service Satisfaction Survey scores for this past fiscal year indicate that the site is on par with leading e-commerce websites and stands as a new benchmark in how the Federal government can interact with citizens in a digital age. The Forest Service will continue modernizing Recreation.gov in FY 2020.

FY 2018 was the pilot year for 29 Wilderness Areas across the National Forest System to establish baseline assessments. Wilderness Character Monitoring (WCM) uses existing performance data to help the agency understand how wilderness character is changing over time. Wilderness quality trends will be characterized as stable, improving or degrading, and this information can be used in the future to help inform decisions and manage impacts to wilderness character. In FY 2019, 50 units began WCM Baseline Assessment reports, which we anticipate completing in FY 2020. All Wilderness areas are on a five-year cycle to repeat the monitoring program and determine trends for each measure.

Following the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 2018, the Forest Service strengthened shared river stewardship efforts through various interagency collaborations and nongovernmental partnerships to engage local communities. In 2019, the Forest Service continued to prioritize collaborative legacy projects that will support updating and completing comprehensive river management plans, implementing water quality enhancement in wild and scenic river basins, and developing a sustainable training program for river management.

Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management

The Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management program works toward keeping wildlife and fish populations robust, and fosters conditions for clean, abundant water to help ensure the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands. The program emphasizes reforestation and revegetation efforts in support of ecological restoration and post-wildfire recovery. Restoring ecosystems ensures that vital amenities such as clean water and recreational opportunities are available to society. In the lower 48 States, National Forest System lands contain 80 percent of elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat habitat; the majority of habitat remaining for rare and wide-ranging carnivores such as grizzly bear and Canada Lynx; greater than 28 million acres of wild turkey habitat; and 50 percent of the Nation's premier trout and salmon habitat.^{6,7}

The agency implemented the third year of a strategic approach, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, to accelerate improving Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) at road-stream crossings. Through this ongoing partnership the Forest Service accomplished approximately 120 AOP projects in FY 2019, keeping the agency on track to accomplish its goal of making another 1,000 culverts fish-passage friendly by 2020.

In FY 2019, the agency targeted investments in the National Best Management Practices (BMP) Program and completed nearly 500 BMP monitoring evaluations to improve how the agency meets its requirements under the Clean Water Act to protect clean water. The program made advancements to increase the effectiveness of its monitoring to improve the sharing of important information with State water quality agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other partners.

Grazing Management

The Grazing Management program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands for grazing and supports the U.S. ranching community's use of National Forest System lands by maintaining a sustainable supply of forage for their livestock. This program manages rangeland ecosystems that provide secure food sources, sustain water resources, and provide wildlife habitat and ecosystem services.

Providing forage for livestock promotes economic stability for rural communities, while using livestock grazing as a management tool to reduce fine fuels, invasive plant populations and enhance habitat for native plants and animals. To find the best solutions and monitoring strategies for vegetation management, the agency works with livestock permittees and the relevant regulatory agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service).

Grazing management practices are also informed by Forest Service research. Our scientists recently completed a model to investigate different climate and grazing scenarios for New Mexico, and the results predicted accelerated changes in vegetation composition. With rangelands in New Mexico and other semiarid ecosystems already facing challenges, such as invasions by exotic species, the expansion of woody vegetation, altered fire regimes, and drought, this and similar Forest Service research contribute to the development of long-term risk management strategies to improve rangeland management. In FY 2019, the agency continued its focus on building and maintaining good working relationships with livestock grazing permittees, recognizing them as partners who share a stewardship to maintain and improve America's forests and grasslands. Significant partners in FY 2019 included the Society for Range Management, the Public Lands Council, the Sustainable

⁶U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. "Grizzly bear recovery plan." Missoula, MT. 181 pp. Online: https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/species/mammals/grizzly/Grizzly_bear_recovery_plan.pdf.

⁷Interagency Lynx Biology Team. 2013. "Canada lynx conservation assessment and strategy. 3rd edition." Forest Service, DOI Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI Bureau of Land Management, and DOI National Park Service. Forest Service Publication RI-13-19, Missoula, MT. 129 pp. Online: https://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/wildlife/LCAS_revisedAugust2013.pdf.

Rangeland Roundtable, and numerous local livestock producer organizations. The agency is in the process of revising the Grazing Handbook and Manual, which will modernize business processes and make doing business with permittees easier. The revisions will be out for public review and comment in FY 2020.

The effort to maintain and sustain current levels of livestock grazing has been largely tied to agency site-specific allotment analysis and NEPA efforts on thousands of active grazing allotments for over 25 years. These efforts have been in compliance with existing and revised Forest and Grassland Management Plans as required by passage of the 1995 Rescissions Act. While drought and fires can and do reduce the number of livestock grazing on allotments in some years, the Forest Service has successfully maintained and sustained livestock numbers on National Forest System lands.

Forest Products

The Forest Products program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands by supporting healthy and resilient forests and communities. This program generates timber jobs in rural America through the sale of billions of board feet of timber annually.

In FY 2019, the Forest Service completed more than 259,000 forest product sales, including over 900 timber sales or stewardship contracts. In total, these sales of timber, firewood, Christmas trees, mushrooms, and other forest products had a value of just over \$186.7 million. In addition to meeting subsistence and personal use needs, the Forest Products program is critical to local economies, generating over 43,000 jobs and about \$3.2 billion of gross domestic product as reported in the agency's FY 2017 economic analysis.

The agency sold about 3.272 billion board feet in FY 2019, a slight increase over FY 2018, and an amount last reached in 1997. This includes 2.8 billion board feet of timber sold with Forest Products funding, and over 486 million board feet sold using salvage sale funds, other permanent and trust funds, and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration funding. This achievement was, in part, made possible by use of tools authorized or amended in the 2014 Farm Bill and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141), including the Good Neighbor Authority, insect and disease designations, stewardship contracting, and the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program. The agency will continue to prioritize the use of authorities provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141), and take the necessary steps to increase capacity to reach the output goal of 4.0 billion board feet of timber in FY 2021.

The agency continues to grow relationships with State partners using the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), which allows States to restore watersheds and manage forests on National Forest System lands via agreements or contracts. There are a total of 244 different GNA agreements in place in 38 States, with 66 new agreements and one additional State added in FY 2019. Agreements cover a variety of activities. There are 67 agreements for forest health, 39 for watershed management, 28 for wildlife management, 27 for timber management, 18 for ecosystem management, 18 for fire management, and 47 other agreements. Timber Volume Sold under Good Neighbor Authority in FY 2019 was 182 million board feet, up from 89 million in FY 2018.

Many GNAs are long-term agreements up to 10-years and all rely on the permanent authority provided in the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bill. With the 2018 Farm Bill, this authority has expanded to allow counties and Tribes to participate in the program. This expansion was implemented in 2019 with a signed GNA agreement with Crawford County in Missouri for a watershed management project. Tribes have expressed interest in working with the agency on GNA projects, so the agency is exploring opportunities to develop such agreements. Training has been provided to both employees and interested States, counties and Tribes.

In FY 2019, the Forest Products program finalized and published a five-year strategy to modernize and improve the policies, authorities, practices, and tools that drive how the agency plans and implements projects that deliver forest products. During the year, the agency made measurable progress across the strategy's four key areas: recruitment, retention, and training; technology; business practices; and policy. Over 230 new positions, primarily forester and forestry technicians, were approved for hiring in calendar year 2019. The agency launched several new training courses including basic timber sale preparation, timber sale administration and Designation by Prescription, and developed a desk guide for use of virtual boundaries for sale layout. The Forest Products program also revised and updated Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks for timber cruising, timber sale administration, timber appraisal, Knutson-Vandenberg authority, stewardship contracting and a new chapter on Good Neighbor Authority.

Vegetation and Watershed Management

Vegetation and Watershed Management ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands by improving the growth and health of both forested stands and rangelands, controlling the spread of invasive species, reducing the risk of severe flooding and erosion in areas affected by severe fire, and helping to keep water clean.

The Forest Service tracks improvements to landscapes through the Terrestrial Condition Assessment, which identifies the ecological integrity and health of terrestrial ecosystems. The landscape condition is integrated with management activities tracked through the Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) to determine the outcomes of work accomplished. In FY 2019, across all funding sources, restoration treatments included establishing more than 171,056 acres of new forest vegetation, improving over 207,289 acres of forest vegetation, improving over 494,494 acres of soil and water, improving nearly 771,865 acres of rangeland vegetation, and treating about 274,277 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds.

The Forest Service has been using the Watershed Condition Framework to focus watershed restoration work on priority areas since FY 2011. In FY 2019, the Forest Service completed work necessary to improve or maintain conditions in 12 priority watersheds. The total area soil and water resources restored or enhanced in FY 2019, including those in priority watersheds, was 494,497 acres. In addition, in FY 2019, 49,833 acres of lakes and 3,518 miles of rivers and streams were restored or enhanced.

Minerals and Geology Management

The Minerals and Geology Management program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands for energy production and mineral development, contributes almost \$5 billion to the Nation's economy, and supports approximately 32,000 jobs.⁸ The program also secures and protects unique resources, such as fossils, caves, groundwater, wildlife habitat, and places of scientific, cultural, and recreational interest; protects people and the environment by monitoring and mitigating geologic hazards like landslides; and cleans, restores, and monitors environmentally compromised lands contaminated by mines or other hazards. In FY 2019, the agency continued to revise our Oil and Gas Resource regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart E). Revisions to these regulations are intended to streamline oil and gas leasing for approximately 44 national forests or grasslands that have ongoing Federal oil and gas interest or operations. The agency anticipates publishing the Draft regulations in spring 2020. The revision of the locatable mining regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart A) is proceeding with a contracted Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A draft EIS and proposed rule will be published in October 2020.

In FY 2019 the agency administered operations on over 6,700 Federal mineral leases covering over 5.3 million acres of National Forest System lands. Lands are currently leased for oil, natural gas, coal, phosphates, and other mineral commodities. Federal mineral, oil, and gas operations include approximately 4,000 wells on these leases, as well as a variety of coal and other mineral mines. Royalties are paid to the government on any production. The agency also managed approximately 15,000 oil and gas wells for privately owned minerals on National Forest System lands in FY 2019.

Approximately 75,000 mining claims were in place on National Forest System lands in FY 2019, resulting in administration of Plans of Operations for extraction of hard rock (e.g., gold, silver, cobalt), and critical minerals mines (deemed by use, geography, and availability of supply), including both small operations and world-class mines. In addition, the agency processed approximately 2,300 mineral material (e.g., sand, gravel) sale contracts and permits in FY 2019.

Land Use Authorization and Access (Previously Landownership Management)

The Land Use Authorization and Access program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands for rural and national infrastructure and lays the foundation for all land and natural resource management activities on National Forest System lands. The program secures and protects National Forest System lands and land interests. The Forest Service is surveying lands in advance of timber sales, acquiring rights-of-ways, and administering road agreements necessary for public and agency access for activities including timber production, transportation, recreation, and utility inspection.

This program oversees permit processing, administration, and surveying for energy infrastructure and commercial interests on national forests and grasslands. Energy, utility, and communications infrastructure on National Forest System lands provides approximately \$30 billion annually to the gross domestic product, supports approximately 120,000 private sector jobs, and generates \$70 million in land use authorization fees to the U.S. Treasury. Current agency permits include about 2,700 power line authorizations, supporting approximately 18,000 miles of powerlines and carrying electricity to 70 million

⁸ FY 2017 Energy & Mineral Production Information for National Forest System Lands.

homes; 1,600 oil and gas pipelines covering 6,600 linear miles; 300 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed facilities; 14,000 recreation residences; 1,530 designated communications sites for cellular and broadband technology; and significant water delivery infrastructure for communities.

The agency is continuing the use of strike teams and strategic project funding to improve permit approval efficiency and reduce the permitting backlog. Regional strike teams continue to improve the efficiency of processing special use cases and continue to reduce the backlog of cases needing approval or closure. The ePermitting/Open Forest project delivered the Christmas tree pilot on four forests in FY 2019. Overall, in FY 2019, the regional strike teams reduced the permitting backlog by an additional 28 percent over the prior year.

The Forest Service and BLM are working together to update our land status records, to make them more accurate and aligned, by using BLM's CADNSDI (Cadastral National Spatial Database Infrastructure) and aligning it with the Forest Service LSRS (Land Status Records System). The final result of this effort will be to improve our ability to provide accurate landownership records and mapping products. The Forest Service has added easements and rights-of-way to its publicly available Lands Status and Encumbrance map, which will be updated in real time as new easements and rights-of-way are acquired and as historical rights are mapped. This ongoing effort also improves implementation of the Dingell Act, passed in 2018, that requires the Forest Service to prepare a public list of priority Federal lands where hunting, fishing or other recreational uses are allowed, but where public access is not available or is significantly restricted.

Law Enforcement Operations

Law Enforcement Operation's primary focus is the protection of natural resources, the public, Forest Service employees, and visitors on National Forest System lands. Forest Service law enforcement staff provide a critical presence on a vast amount of public lands, roads, and recreation sites. Enforcement activities and criminal and civil investigations involve incidents of theft, assault, alcohol and drug use; unauthorized motor vehicle use; illegal occupancy; trespassing; wildland fire arson; drug smuggling and manufacturing; fraud; and assaults and threats to employees. The program maintains numerous cooperative partnerships with local agencies and communities to provide a wide range of services.

Under FEMA's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13, Public Safety and Security Annex, the Forest Service partners with the Department of Justice and other partners to help with law enforcement emergencies during the fiscal year. Nearly \$5 million in funding has been dedicated to maintaining approximately 500 Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements with State, county, and local partners. The agreements provide funding to law enforcement cooperators to enhance law enforcement coverage on National Forest System lands and ensure public safety. During FY 2019, Law Enforcement Operations teams were deployed to North Carolina, Florida, and Puerto Rico to assist with assessment and recovery efforts following hurricane Dorian. The teams were qualified to operate in these types of disaster areas with little or no support and were capable of self-sustaining operations for 72-96 hours.

In FY 2019, the Forest Service continued to conduct multi-agency eradication operations and investigations to target marijuana cultivated on National Forest System lands and adjacent public lands and to prioritize clean up and reclamation activities in support of the National Drug Control Strategy. Drug trafficking organizations produce large amounts of trash, hazardous materials, and toxic chemicals that create a significant risk to wildlife, water, and habitat near grow areas. The Law Enforcement Operations program continues to partner with Forest Service Research and Development to introduce tools to detect these highly destructive, illegal marijuana cultivation sites using satellite imagery and innovative machine-learning algorithms. FY 2019, over 780,000 marijuana plants were eradicated from approximately 270 grow sites on National Forest System and adjacent lands.

Also, in coordination with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's and the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Forest Service conducted Operation Forest Watch II, a multi-agency operation with Federal, State, and local partners to investigate, eradicate, and reclaim illegal marijuana grow sites on public lands. The operation provided a surge in resources to aggressively deter and disrupt Drug Trafficking Organizations and reclaim public lands from illegal occupation and marijuana grows.

National Forest System Primary Authorities

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979	Authorizes the use of appropriated funds for the preservation and protection of historical and archaeological resources.		NFS	P.L. 96-95	16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.
Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018	Authorizes the use of various wildfire/fuels management and forest management practices.	Various	NFS	P.L. 115-334	16 U.S.C. 6513-6591 et seq.
Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937	Authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program of land conservation and land utilization, in order to assist in controlling soil erosion, reforestation, preserving natural resources, and to cooperate with Federal, State, Territorial, and other public agencies in development and implementation of plans.		NFS	P.L. 75-210	7 U.S.C. 1011-1013a
Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914	Authorizes the acceptance of contributions for cooperative work in forest investigations, protection, management, and improvement of the National Forest System.		NFS	38 Stat. 430	16 U.S.C. 498
Endangered Species Act of 1973	The Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. Section 7 requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the NOAA Fisheries Service to ensure that actions they authorize, fund or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of such species.		NFS	P.L. 93-205	16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.

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Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act	Authorizes a fee retention program for certain recreation sites on Federal lands. Fees collected from users of recreation facilities are used to pay for on-the-ground operation, maintenance, and improvements of recreation sites and services to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities, visitor experiences, and related habitat.	09/30/2020	NFS	P.L. 108-447; P.L. 113-235; P.L. 114-53; P.L. 114-223; P.L. 115-56; P.L. 115-245	16 U.S.C. 6801-6814
Good Neighbor Authority	Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, via cooperative agreement or contract, to allow State, County and Tribal agencies to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System lands when similar and complementary restoration services are being performed on adjacent non-Federal or private lands.		NFS	P.L. 113-79; P.L. 115-141; P.L. 115-334	16 U.S.C. 2113a
Grazing Permits / Rescissions Act of 1995	The terms and conditions contained in the expired, transferred, or waived permit or lease shall continue in effect under the renewed permit or lease until such time as the Secretary completes processing of such permit or lease in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations or until the expiration of the renewed permit, whichever comes first. At which time such permit or lease may be canceled, suspended or modified, in whole or in part, to meet the requirements of such applicable laws and regulations.	09/30/2016	NFS	P.L. 108-108, Sec. 325; P.L. 111-88; P.L. 112-74; P.L. 113-46; P.L. 113-76; P.L. 114-113; P.L. 104-19, Sec. 504	43 U.S.C. 1752

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Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003	Authorizes \$20 million annually for cross-boundary fuels reduction appropriations and \$660 million annually for hazardous fuel reduction through FY 2023. Authorizes various forest health restoration programs including the Water Source Protection Program, the Watershed Condition Framework, and hazardous fuels reduction. Provides for expedited environmental review, a pre-decisional Forest Service administrative review process, and other measures on National Forest lands that are at-risk of catastrophic fire. Authorizes various forest health restoration programs, including promoting the use of woody biomass, creating the Health Forest Reserve Program, and providing watershed forestry assistance.		ALL	P.L. 108-148; P.L. 110-246; P.L. 113-79; P.L. 115-141; P.L. 115-334	16 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.
Historic Preservation Act of 1966	This Act authorizes use of appropriated funds for the preservation and protection of historical and archaeological resources.		NFS	P.L. 89-665	54 U.S.C. 100101 et seq.
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965	Created by Congress in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides money to Federal, State, and local governments to purchase land, water and wetlands for the benefit of all Americans. The Fund receives money from fees paid by companies drilling offshore for oil and gas. Other funding sources include the sale of surplus Federal real estate and taxes on motorboat fuel.	09/30/2018	NFS	P.L. 113-287; P.L. 114-113	54 U.S.C. Ch. 2003
Mineral Materials Act of 1947	This Act provides authority to: (a) dispose of mineral material and (b) approve and issue permits to explore and develop oil and gas leases.		NFS	P.L. 96-470	30 U.S.C. 226, 601-602, and 611

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960	Provides that forest lands are to be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife, and fish. Authorized and directed the development and administration of the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for multiple use and sustained yield of the several products and services obtained there from.		NFS	P.L. 86-517	16 U.S.C. 528-531
Mutually Beneficial Agreements	Authority for the Forest Service to enter in to mutually beneficial agreements with public or private agencies, organizations, institutions, or persons.		ALL	P.L. 111-11 sec. 3001	16 U.S.C. 1011; 16 U.S.C. 565a-1
Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1976 as amended by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976	Requires that the Forest Service prepare and revise land management plans (LMP) for national forests to provide for multiple use and sustained yield of the products and services obtained from the forest. Directs the Secretary to develop regulations to set out the process for the development and revision of land management plans.		NFS	P.L. 94-588	16 U.S.C. 472a, 1061 et seq.
National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986	Authorizes the issuance of permits for use and occupancy of suitable lands within the National Forest System for construction and maintenance of buildings, structures, and other facilities for hotels, resorts, summer homes, stores, industrial or commercial purposes, education or other public use, alpine and Nordic skiing operations, and so forth.		NFS	P.L. 99-522	16 U.S.C. 497 and 497b
Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009	Authorizes the Collaborative Forest Management Program to select and fund ecological restoration treatments for priority forest landscapes for up to \$80 million annually and for proposals up to 10 years.	09/30/2023	CFLRP	P.L. 111-11	16 U.S.C. 7303

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Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Organic Administration Act of 1897	Authorizes the administration, protection, and management of the National Forests, for the purposes of improving and protecting the forest, securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States. The Act also directs the Secretary of Agriculture to protect National Forests against destruction by fire and depredations.		NFS; WFM		16 U.S.C. 473-478, 479-482, and 551
Pipelines Act of 1920, Mineral Leasing Act	Rights-of-way through any Federal lands may be granted by the Secretary of the Interior or appropriate agency head for pipeline purposes for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product.		NFS	P.L. 66-146	30 U.S.C. 185
Service First	Establish a program for Federal land management agencies to conduct projects, planning, permitting, leasing, contracting and other activities, either jointly or on behalf of one another.		ALL	P.L. 106-291; P.L. 109-54; P.L. 111-8; P.L. 112-74	43 U.S.C. 1703; 43 U.S.C. 1701 note
Cooperative Law Enforcement	Authorizes cooperation with States and political subdivisions in enforcement of State and local laws on National Forest System lands, and reimbursement of States and political subdivisions for expenditures incurred in such activities.		NFS; SPF	85 Stat. 303	16 U.S.C. 551a

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004, Ecological Restoration Institutes	Establishes institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior west. If the Secretary determines that an Institute does not qualify for further Federal assistance under this Act, the Institute shall receive no further Federal assistance under this Act until such time as the qualifications of the Institute are re-established. Authorizes \$15 million annually.		NFS	P.L. 108-317	16 U.S.C. 6701-6707
Small Tracts Act of January 12, 1983	This Act authorizes the sale, exchange, or interchange of various categories of National Forest System lands of forty acres or less and of \$500,000 or less in value.		NFS	P.L. 97-465; P.L. 115-334	16 U.S.C. 521e
U.S. Mining Laws Act of May 10, 1872	This Act governs mining activities for valuable minerals on public domain lands.		ALL		30 U.S.C. 22 and 28
Weeks Act of 1911	Sections 1 and 2 authorize land acquisition for watershed protection and timber production. One of the primary authorities for land acquisition with Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys.		NFS	P.L. 61435	16 U.S.C. 516, 521b
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968	Sections 6 and 16 authorize land acquisition, exchange, and donation of land for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.		NFS	P.L. 890-542	16 U.S.C. 1277
Wilderness Act of 1964	Sections 5 and 6 provide authority for acquisition, exchange, and donation of land for inclusion in the Wilderness System.		NFS	P.L. 88-577	16 U.S.C. 1131-1136

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$455,000,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-1,827,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>453,173,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [~~\$455,000,000~~]\$453,173,000, to remain available through September 30, [~~2023~~]2024, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance and acquisition of buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; and for construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system[.]; and for maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C 532-538 and 23 U.S.C 101 and 205[; *Provided*, that funds becoming available in fiscal year 2020 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated].

Change Description

The change removes the CHIMP to defer this amount by remittance to the Treasury, thereby making the Roads and Trails (Ten Percent) Fund set aside available for obligation.

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Facilities.....	\$151,000	365	\$148,000	445	\$154,000	445	\$152,501	450	-\$1,499	5
Roads	218,000	1,059	218,000	1,158	220,000	1,158	221,864	1,158	1,864	0
Trails.....	80,000	527	80,000	554	81,000	554	78,808	542	-2,192	-12
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Direct Appropriations...	449,000	1,992	446,000	2,157	455,000	2,157	453,173	2,150	-1,827	-7
Supplemental Appropriations:										
Disaster Relief (P.L. 115-123)	91,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief (P.L. 116-20).....	0	0	36,040	34	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	91,600	0	36,040	34	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers In:										
Fire Transfer Repayment	5,917	0	15,662	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers In.....	5,917	0	15,662	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Discretionary Funding.....	546,517	1,992	497,702	2,191	455,000	2,157	453,173	2,150	-1,827	-7
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Facilities.....	554	0	20,447	0	21,344	0	11,397	0	-9,947	0
Roads	484	0	3,877	0	3,984	0	2,127	0	-1,857	0
Trails.....	155	0	1,734	0	3,139	0	1,676	0	-1,463	0
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement.....	6	0	44	0	91	0	49	0	-42	0
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	115	0	1,002	0	952	0	508	0	-444	0
Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Other	1,106	0	2,365	0	2,785	0	1,487	0	-1,298	0
Disaster Supplemental	0	0	60,728	0	64,464	0	34,422	0	-30,042	0
Subtotal, Carryover.....	2,420	0	90,197	0	96,759	0	51,666	0	-45,093	0
Transfers Out:										
Fire Transfer	-15,662	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-15,662	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries, Other.....	7,273	0	7,437	0	9,500	0	9,500	0	0	0
Total Available	540,548	1,992	595,336	2,191	561,259	2,157	514,339	2,150	-46,920	-7
Balances, Available End of Year	-90,197	0	-96,759	0	-51,666	0	-47,347	0	4,319	0
Total Obligations.....	\$450,351	1,992	\$498,577	2,191	\$509,593	2,157	\$466,992	2,150	-\$42,601	-7

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**Facilities: A decrease of \$1,499,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and an increase of five staff years which includes the following:**

- a. An increase of \$570,000 for pay costs (\$261,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$309,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will enable the Forest Service to continue operating its recreational, research, and administrative facilities. This program provides the largest number and widest range of accessible recreation facilities in the country, including campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor centers, target ranges, and observation sites.

- b. An increase of \$412,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$519,000 for the Department's increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$3,000,000 in base program funding.

At this reduced funding level, the Forest Service will continue to address health and safety issues, operations and maintenance of high priority facilities that support fire suppression and fuels management, administration of national forests, recreation and research. In addition, investment will continue in the oversight needed to ensure compliance of Forest Service owned dams with Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety. Investments will also focus on critical repairs for High Hazard dams.

The agency will continue implementation of its comprehensive capital improvement plan (CCIP) which will guide investments in capital improvement projects that will address repairs and rehabilitation of mission critical buildings and decommissioning projects and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog. However, after fixed costs and maintenance, there are only about \$40 million available for projects at the requested funding level.

Per Congressional directive, the Forest Service was asked to provide a list of planned national capital improvement projects over \$1 million. The below list is a pre-decisional list with cost estimates based on the FY 2021 funding request. This list may change upon review by the national Asset Management Review Board's recommendations.

FY 2021 - FY 2025 Capital Improvement Projects over \$1 Million Selected in FY 2021

Project Name	Region	Estimated FY 2021 Cost	Estimated Total Cost FY 2021 - FY 2025
Facilities:			
R615 Supervisor's Office Colocation	R6 Pacific Northwest	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
Spirit Lake Tunnel Gate Dewatering Structure	R6 Pacific Northwest	5,000,000	5,000,000
Fishlake SO Purchase	R4 Intermountain	3,250,000	3,750,000
Cow Creek South Boat Launch Site	R2 Rocky Mountain	2,700,000	2,700,000
Minidoka RD Office and Warehouse Purchase	R4 Intermountain	2,300,000	2,300,000
Devil's Nose Developed Shooting Area	R2 Rocky Mountain	1,324,257	1,324,257
BTNF Vault Toilet Replacement Project	R4 Intermountain	1,010,000	1,010,000
0804 Tellico River Corridor Facilities & Access	R8 Southern	838,000	1,551,000
R607 Lamonta Interagency Fire Operations Building	R6 Pacific Northwest	351,000	5,651,000
Kenai Lake Work Center Site Development and Decommissioning	R10 Alaska	275,000	1,495,000

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Project Name	Region	Estimated FY 2021 Cost	Estimated Total Cost FY 2021 - FY 2025
Timberline Lodge Hydrant Loop Replacement: Phase II and III	R6 Pacific Northwest	250,000	2,415,000
DM08 - Upper Letts Lake Dam Rehabilitation	R5 Pacific Southwest	250,000	2,770,000
R601 Sisters Ph2 District Warehouse/Fire Cache	R6 Pacific Northwest	175,000	1,610,000
Total, Facilities		24,723,257	38,576,257
Roads:			
0806 Kisatchie - Multiple Bridges Replacement	R8 Southern	1,869,060	4,076,225
Little Joe Road BMP, AOP, and Safety Improvements	R1 Northern	1,418,450	2,389,005
R4 Bundled Road Surfacing and Pavement Maintenance	R4 Intermountain	1,069,800	4,695,200
Manti-La Sal Road Improvement	R4 Intermountain	1,000,000	1,000,000
CVRD Camp and Covell Creek AOP	R6 Pacific Northwest	23,000	1,023,000
Total, Roads		5,380,310	13,183,430
Decommissioning Projects:			
Nez Perce - Clearwater NFs Decommissioning	R1 Northern	1,419,000	1,419,000
DC15 - Forest Wide Building Demolition Project	R5 Pacific Southwest	1,250,000	1,250,000
R6 Frewin Lakeview Ranger Station Complex Decommissioning	R6 Pacific Northwest	1,100,000	1,100,000
Total, Decommissioning Projects		3,769,000	3,769,000
Grand Total		\$33,872,567	\$55,528,687

Roads: An increase of \$1,864,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$1,467,000 for pay costs (\$672,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$795,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will enable the Forest Service to manage, protect, and provide safe public access to National Forest System lands, and to meet the agency’s goal of offering 4.0 billion board feet of timber in FY 2021. Virtually all agency and public use of national forests and grasslands require travel over the roads system. Roads provide critical access for first responders in emergencies, improving forest conditions, harvesting timber, and reducing hazardous fuels.

- b. An increase of \$1,060,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$1,337,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$2,000,000 in base program funding.

At this level, the Forest Service will continue to provide access to National Forest System lands for public recreation and for rural communities whose local economies are comprised of timber, mining, grazing, and other natural resource benefits provided by these lands would be reduced.

Program funding will be used for the operations and maintenance of existing roads and reconstruction of existing roads. Funds will also be used to invest in road and bridge projects that support timber production and fuel reduction, enhance or improve safe access to high-use recreation areas, rehabilitation of bridges in poor condition, and protection water quality and

natural resources. A pre-decisional list of road and bridge projects proposed for FY 2021 is found in the Capital Improvement Projects table above.

Trails: A decrease of \$2,192,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of 12 staff years, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$686,000 for pay costs (\$314,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$372,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will enable the Forest Service to continue providing 158,000 miles of trails, which serve more than 50 million hikers annually, and to address the \$300 million in trail and trail bridge deferred maintenance backlog.

- b. An increase of \$496,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$626,000 for the Department's increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$4,000,000 in base program funding.

As the public demand for trails to access and recreate on National Forest lands continues to grow, funding will be used to maintain priority trail facilities to provide for public safety. The agency will also use the funding to implement recommendations in the National Forest System Trail Stewardship Act of 2016 and the agency's 2017 National Trail Strategy, if those activities can be funded after maintaining priority trail facilities. At this request level, 12 staff years and associated operating expenses would be eliminated.

This funding request, in part, assumes that the FY 2020 budget request proposal for the Forest Service to retain roads and trails funds (10 percent fund) now returned to the Treasury is passed by Congress, which would make an extra \$15 million available for roads and trails work. This funding request also assumes that the Department of Interior's FY 2020 legislative proposal for the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund (PLIF) is passed by Congress. This fund would support infrastructure improvements including deferred maintenance for roads and trails through an allocation of 10 percent for national forests.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$117	\$118	\$120	\$119
	Personnel Compensation, Field	149,665	149,867	152,115	151,621
11.0	Total personnel compensation	149,782	149,985	152,235	151,740
12.0	Personal benefits.....	55,931	56,981	57,836	57,648
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	2,883	356	361	360
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	208,596	207,322	210,432	209,748
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	6,033	5,641	5,791	4,979
22.0	Transportation of things.....	2,960	1,957	2,009	1,728
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	3,511	948	973	837
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	5,417	948	973	837
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	7,911	13,276	13,630	11,720
24.0	Printing and reproduction	593	315	324	278
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	54	37	38	32
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	104,141	145,101	148,961	128,087
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	57,921	53,601	55,028	47,318
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	4,473	8,605	8,834	7,597
25.5	Research and development contracts	47	-153	0	0
25.6	Medical care	23	27	27	23
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	5,163	5,099	5,235	4,502
26.0	Supplies and materials	11,575	12,996	13,342	11,473
31.0	Equipment.....	5,596	7,186	7,377	6,344
32.0	Land and structures.....	7,212	17,350	17,811	15,316
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	19,052	18,200	18,684	16,067
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	73	121	124	106
	Total, Other Objects	241,755	291,255	299,161	257,244
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	450,351	498,577	509,593	466,992
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$45	\$41	\$42	\$42
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$181,055	\$184,223	\$186,986	\$189,791
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$68,190	\$69,191	\$70,229	\$71,282
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.2

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5 percent increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

In FY 2019, the Forest Service completed a Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan report that establishes a data-driven framework to prioritize capital improvement projects which directly support agency priorities. The framework emphasizes a new, comprehensive process which standardizes across all asset types in order to prioritize and select projects and develop long-term program schedules.

Facilities

The Facilities program manages assets that serve recreation, research, fire and aviation management, nurseries, and administrative program areas. The program manages the largest number, and widest range, of accessible recreation facilities in the country, including campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor centers, trails, shooting ranges, and interpretive sites. Additionally, the program manages infrastructure used for fire suppression and fuels management, including aircraft maintenance and operations facilities, air-tanker bases, retardant facilities, fire cache warehouses, and fire lookouts. Facilities managed by the agency also include administrative offices, communication sites, dams, warehouses, bunkhouses, employee housing, fire engine bays, and fleet management and maintenance buildings.

In FY 2019, the Forest Service dedicated \$39.5 million to facilities' capital improvement and decommissioning projects. Of that, \$30.5 million was used for capital improvement projects that renovate and replace existing infrastructure assets that deliver agency-wide benefits, and \$9 million was used to decommission 69 unneeded structures. The investment reduced facility deferred maintenance by \$8.1 million and the gross footprint by 70,000 square feet.

The Forest Service is continuing to implement an interagency agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform structural safety inspections for all communications towers within the next five years. The agreement will improve compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration and American National Standards Institute requirements for periodic safety inspections. The agency owns, operates, and maintains more than 1,700 communications assets nationwide that are used to facilitate law enforcement, wildland fire suppression, public safety, and routine forest management. In FY 2019, the FAA inspected 428 communication towers and lookouts on behalf of the Forest Service.

The agency is developing national facilities strategies and processes that will support the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan. This includes identifying a multi-year program of work for facilities: identifying projects to decommission facilities assets, improving consistency and transparency in facilities asset management, and updating facilities data management processes to improve data quality, and accuracy. The 2017 OIG Audit Report 08601-0004-31 investigated Forest Service management and controls associated with the \$5.2 billion backlog of deferred maintenance, specifically: reducing deferred maintenance; mitigating threats to public health and safety; and accurately and consistently reporting deferred maintenance costs. The agency continues to implement the *Forest Service Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Management Strategy 2018-2022*, and it is incorporated into the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan. The strategy and plan are helping the agency right-size the portfolio of agency-owned assets, improve planning and decision-making for capital investments, decrease the deferred maintenance backlog, and reduce the overall demand for facilities maintenance.

Roads

The Roads program enables access for the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands for many purposes, including hunting, fishing, and hiking, use by first responders in emergencies, timber harvests, and access for rural communities. The Roads program is essential for the management, protection, public use, and enjoyment of 193 million acres of National Forest System lands, as well as meeting the FY 2020 timber target.

The Forest Service addressed the backlog of road and bridge rehabilitation and replacement needs in FY 2019 by directing \$8 million towards projects to improve access to support agency restoration goals and recreation opportunities. The agency continued to implement comprehensive bridge construction and inspection programs to improve bridge quality. These actions help to ensure public safety, adequate access, and resource protection.

In FY 2019, the Forest Service also continued improving access by maintaining the quality of Forest Service roads. This provides safe and improved access to recreation, restoration, timber harvest, and other uses while protecting water quality and natural resources. The agency also continued the removal of fish passage barriers where Forest Service roads, bridges, and trails may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies that support threatened, endangered, and sensitive species or community resources.

Trails

With 158,000 miles of trail, the Forest Service manages the largest system of trails in the country. Trails provide access and connect people to their public lands, foster partnerships and volunteerism, and generate health and economic benefits to communities through shared stewardship. The Forest Service is the lead agency responsible for trail-wide coordination and administration of six congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails. Two prevailing efforts guided and catalyzed improved trail conditions and access agency-wide in FY 2019: (1) implementation of the agency’s National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System; and (2) implementation of the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. Both efforts provide solutions to enhance agency capacity through focus on increasing the role of partners and volunteers in trail maintenance. Through these and associated efforts, the agency continued to support outdoor recreation and tourism by supporting 148,000 jobs, contributing over \$11 billion to GDP, and providing access for 94.5 million people to enjoy National Forest System trails annually.

In FY 2019, the 15 national trail maintenance priority areas, established per the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, resulted in innovative solutions and improvements to on-the-ground trail conditions, with multiple coalitions of partners and volunteers providing a wide array of trail maintenance assistance. These large geographic areas are the focus of the agency’s targeted trail maintenance and improvement efforts across nearly 30,000 miles of trails. The agency delivered trail maintenance and improved trail conditions in all 15 areas including, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and Adjacent Lands, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Northern California Wilderness Areas, Angeles National Forest, White Mountain National Forest Partner Complex, and Iditarod National Historic Trail ‘Southern Trek’ trail maintenance priority areas. The FY 2019 accomplishments in these areas included over 9,700 miles maintained, including over 5,000 miles (52 percent) maintained by partners and volunteers.

In FY 2019, the Trails program enhanced and sustained the National Forest trail system by improving the operation, maintenance, capital improvement, and management of 158,000 miles of trails, including nearly 7,200 trail bridges. Specific FY 2019 accomplishments across the trail system included 59,400 miles maintained, including 48 percent maintained by partners and volunteers, and 1,500 miles improved, resulting in 24 percent of the trail system meeting standard.

Capital Improvement and Maintenance Primary Authorities

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
General Exchange Act of 1922	Authorizes the exchange of lands within the boundaries of National Forests and cutting of timber in National Forests for exchange of lands.		NFS	42 Stat. 465; 43 Stat. 1098	16 U.S.C. 485, 486
Weeks Act	Authorizes the purchase land for National Forests if the purchase was deemed necessary to protect rivers, watersheds, and headwaters in the eastern United States.		NFS	36 Stat. 961	16 U.S.C. 515

LAND ACQUISITION

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$79,748,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-79,748,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>0</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

[LAND ACQUISITION]

[For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code, including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the Forest Service, \$78,898,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.]

[Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for Forest Service and derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, \$2,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded from projects with costs savings or failed projects or partially failed that had funds returned: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

[ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS]

[For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California; and the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests, Arkansas; as authorized by law, \$700,000, to be derived from forest receipts.]

[ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES]

[For acquisition of lands, such sums, to be derived from funds deposited by State, county, or municipal governments, public school districts, or other public school authorities, and for authorized expenditures from funds deposited by non-Federal parties pursuant to Land Sale and Exchange Acts, pursuant to the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), to remain available through September 30, 2023 (16 U.S.C. 516–617a, 555a; Public Law 96–586; Public Law 76–589, 76–591; and Public Law 78–310).]

Change Description

The first change (first paragraph) proposes elimination of funding for the Land Acquisition program and removes cancellation language as no cancellations are proposed.

The second change (second paragraph) proposes elimination of funding for the Acquisition of Lands for National Forest Special Acts program.

The third change (third paragraph) proposes elimination of funding for the Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges program.

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Land Acquisition.....	\$64,337	48	\$72,564	48	\$78,898	49	0	49	-\$78,898	0
Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts.....	850	0	700	0	700	0	0	0	-700	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges.....	0	1	115	1	150	1	0	1	-150	0
Subtotal, Direct Appropriations...	65,187	49	73,379	49	79,748	50	0	50	-79,748	0
Transfers In:										
Fire Transfer Repayment	25,038	0	40,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers In.....	25,038	0	40,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Discretionary Funding ^a.....	90,225	49	113,979	49	79,748	50	0	50	-79,748	0
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Land Acquisition.....	18,782	0	32,899	0	84,702	0	\$69,708	0	-14,994	0
Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts.....	1,094	0	935	0	935	0	769	0	-166	0
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges.....	936	0	936	0	1,051	0	865	0	-186	0
Subtotal, Carryover.....	20,812	0	34,770	0	86,688	0	71,342	0	-15,346	0
Transfers Out:										
Fire Transfer	-40,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-40,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rescissions.....	0	0	0	0	-2,000	0	0	0	2,000	0
Recoveries, Other.....	7,682	0	3,724	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0
Total Available	78,119	49	152,473	49	166,436	50	73,342	50	-93,094	0
Lapsing Balances	-289	0	-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balances, Available End of Year	-34,770	0	-86,688	0	-71,342	0	-31,438	0	39,904	0
Total Obligations.....	\$43,060	49	\$65,778	49	\$95,094	50	\$41,904	50	-\$53,190	0

^a Appropriations for these programs are determined by collections and are not equal to enacted levels in the appropriations bill, which are estimates.

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

Land Acquisition: A decrease of \$78,898,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level.

The Land Acquisition program funds the acquisition and donation of lands, waters, and related interests within the National Forest System to further agency goals for restoration, outdoor recreation and public access, habitat for wildlife, and to protect water quality.

Elimination of the program is proposed in FY 2021 because the Forest Service will focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response.

Remaining staff years are assumed to be funded by carryover balances.

Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts: A decrease of \$700,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level.

This program provides for the acquisition of lands to protect watersheds, minimize soil erosion, and rehabilitate specified national forests in Nevada, Utah, California, and Arkansas. Elimination of the program is proposed in FY 2021, because the Forest Service will focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response.

Remaining staff years are assumed to be funded by carryover balances.

Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges: A decrease of \$150,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level.

This program provides for the acquisition of lands with funds collected from the exchange or sale of National Forest System lands with State, county, or municipal governments, public school authorities, or other non-Federal parties, allowed under various authorities. Elimination of the program is proposed in FY 2021 because the Forest Service will focus on active forest management, maintaining and improving infrastructure, and effective wildfire response.

Remaining staff years are assumed to be funded by carryover balances.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Personnel Compensation, Field.....	\$4,210	\$3,970	\$4,177	\$4,133
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	4,210	3,970	4,177	4,133
12.0	Personal benefits	1,532	1,394	1,467	1,451
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	13	8	8	8
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	5,755	5,372	5,652	5,592
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	115	91	135	55
22.0	Transportation of things	97	9	13	5
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	55	68	101	41
23.2	Rental payments to others	91	97	144	58
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	98	126	187	76
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	4	46	68	28
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	3	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	510	580	859	348
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	437	595	881	358
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	4	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	21	7	10	4
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	53	54	80	32
31.0	Equipment	39	25	37	15
32.0	Land and structures	35,764	58,609	86,781	35,232
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	14	98	145	59
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities.....	0	1	1	1
	Total, Other Objects	37,305	60,406	89,442	36,312
99.9	Total, new obligations	43,060	65,778	95,094	41,904
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	\$182,853	\$184,223	\$186,986	\$189,791
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$85,176	\$82,075	\$83,306	\$84,556
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	11.5	11.0	11.0	11.0

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5 percent increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Land Acquisition

The Forest Service uses Federal land acquisition funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 to acquire land within or adjacent to the boundaries of national forests and within Wilderness Areas, and to acquire inholdings. Land acquisitions improve recreational access and create efficiencies for priority stewardship activities such as hazardous fuels treatments and watershed protection. The LWCF appropriations also support land exchanges by funding cash equalization payments and needed staff.

Acquisitions completed in 2019 supported new and improved recreational access for a wide array of outdoor activities across all regions. In 2019, the average acquisition size across all projects was 383 acres. In the same year, the Forest Service completed seventeen land exchanges totaling 6,256 acres of high-value lands to the national forests and transferred lands of nearly equal value to members of the public.

The Forest Service acquired Fall Creeks, Montana in FY 2019, which is located on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest about 30 miles southwest of Augusta. Its entire eastern boundary is bordered by more than one mile of Falls Creek, including the scenic Falls Creek waterfall at the back of the acreage, while the western and northern boundaries are bordered by private lands and the Dearborn River. The landscape provides quality habitat for many species of wildlife including elk, whitetail deer, grizzly and black bears, and mountain lions, and provides important spring, summer and fall range for elk in a hunting district. The acquisition permanently opened access to 26,000 acres of public land along the majestic Rocky Mountain Front.

In FY 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) completed an audit of the agency's LWCF-funded Land Acquisition work. The audit's final report had no recommendations for changes to the Forest Service program. A secondary GAO audit focused on the 100th Meridian provision in LWCF, which requires that not more than 15 percent of the acreage acquired using LWCF funds and added to the National Forest System be west of the 100th meridian.

Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts

The Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts provides for the acquisition of lands to protect watersheds, minimize soil erosion, and rehabilitate specific national forests in Nevada, Utah, California, and Arkansas.

In FY 2019, the San Bernardino National Forest began the process of purchasing approximately 150 acres of the Coyote Rock property, which is important for its open space, wildlife and unique habitat values for the southern rubber boa, the San Bernardino flying squirrel, and the California spotted owl, which are some of the more rare and critical indigenous species that depend on a healthy forest for their survival. Also, its primarily north- and west-facing slopes feature sugar, ponderosa, Jeffrey and Coulter pines; incense cedar; white fir; and California black oak.

Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges

The Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges provides for the acquisition of lands with funds collected from the exchange or sale of National Forest System lands with States, county, or municipal governments, public school authorities, or other non-Federal parties. The Forest Service utilizes the authority granted in the Sisk Act, which allows certain parties to deposit cash in lieu of land, to complete land exchanges. The funds are then utilized by the Secretary to acquire non-Federal properties.

By connecting fragmented landscapes, the Forest Service can effectively promote the long-term health and sustainability of the Nation's forests and grasslands, provide greater recreation access, and manage lands more effectively and efficiently. Connecting fragmented landscapes enhances restoration and protects watersheds, especially in the wildland-urban interface where wildfire can cause economic and ecological losses, and can pose threats to people, property, and communities.

Revenues received from the sale of agency land or structures are deposited into the Sisk Act Fund and are available without further appropriation. In FY 2019, the Forest Service initiated inholding acquisitions in Mississippi, Arizona, and New Mexico that are eligible to receive Sisk Act funds.

Land Acquisition Primary Authorities

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	USC Reference
General Exchange Act of 1922	Authorizes the exchange of lands within the boundaries of National Forests and cutting of timber in National Forests for exchange of lands.		NFS	42 Stat. 465; 43 Stat. 1098	16 U.S.C. 485, 486
Sisk Act	An exchange authority that allows certain parties to deposit cash, in lieu of land, to complete a land exchange.		NFS	P.L. 90-171	16 U.S.C. 484a
Weeks Act	Authorizes the purchase land for National Forests if the purchase was deemed necessary to protect rivers, watersheds, and headwaters in the eastern United States.		NFS	36 Stat. 961	16 U.S.C. 515

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$5,545,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+4,839,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>10,384,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

COMMUNICATION SITES ADMINISTRATION

Amounts collected in this fiscal year pursuant to section 8705(f)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), as amended [by this Act], shall be deposited in the special account established by section 8705(f)(1) of such Act[.];Provided, That up to 6,000,000 of such amounts collected shall be available to cover the costs described in subsection (c)(3) of such section of such Act[,] and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That [such] amounts made available under this heading shall be transferred to the "National Forest System" account.

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year[,] as fees for grazing domestic livestock on National Grasslands and lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States[,] pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94–579, as amended, to remain available through September 30, [2023]2024, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR RANGELAND RESEARCH

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), \$45,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023]2024, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service to manage Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.), [\$2,500,000]\$2,322,000, to remain available through September 30, [2023]2024.

Change Description

The first change (first paragraph) proposes changes to the language as specified above.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Range Betterment Fund	\$3,804	9	\$2,857	6	\$2,000	6	\$2,017	5	\$17	-1
Gifts, Donations and Bequest for Forest and Rangeland Research	29	0	0	0	45	0	45	0	0	0
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses	2,500	11	2,500	12	2,500	12	2,322	11	-178	-1
Communication Site Administration ^a	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	6,000	0	5,000	0
Total, Discretionary Funding ^b.....	6,333	20	5,357	18	5,545	18	10,384	16	4,839	-2
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Range Betterment Fund	2,002	0	2,339	0	2,383	0	2,045	0	-338	0
Gifts, Donations and Bequest for Forest and Rangeland Research	125	0	119	0	116	0	100	0	-16	0
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses	126	0	47	0	88	0	76	0	-12	0
Subtotal, Carryover.....	2,253	0	2,505	0	2,587	0	2,221	0	-366	0
Transfers Out:										
National Forest System.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6,000	0	6,000	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	-6,000	0	6,000	0
Recoveries, Other.....	80	0	95	0	89	0	89	0	0	0
Total Available	8,666	20	7,957	18	8,221	18	6,694	16	-1,527	-2
Balances, Available End of Year	-2,505	0	-2,587	0	-2,221	0	-2,694	0	-473	0
Total Obligations.....	\$6,161	20	\$5,370	18	\$6,000	18	\$4,000	16	-\$2,000	-2

^a Enacted appropriations are \$1 million; however OMB scores it as \$6 million.

^b Appropriations for this program are determined by collections and are not equal to enacted levels in the appropriations bill, which are estimates.

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

Range Betterment Fund: An increase of \$17,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of one staff year, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$6,000 for pay costs (\$3,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$3,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will enable the Forest Service to provide range management and vegetation management activities important to grazing permittees for effective livestock management. The program is authorized to allocate one-half of grazing receipts from National Forest System lands in 16 Western States for rangeland rehabilitation, protection, and improvements on the lands from which the receipts were collected.

- b. An increase of \$5,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$6,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

Compared to the FY 2020 Enacted level, the total requested change represents no change in program funding. The increase requested would be used for pay costs, awards, and FERS contributions. Program funds will be used to carry out non-structural rangeland improvement activities, such as removing noxious weeds and invasive plants, controlling brush, and reducing fire risk on rangelands by limiting plant densities and/or by changing species composition.

Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses: A decrease of \$178,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level and a decrease of one staff year, which includes the following:

- a. An increase of \$14,000 for pay costs (\$6,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$8,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and will enable the Forest Service to continue providing rural Alaskan residents a subsistence priority to harvest fish and wildlife on Federal lands above sport and commercial uses. This program provides vital employment in remote rural areas, keeps fish and wildlife harvests sustainable, enforces regulations, and educates subsistence users.

- b. An increase of \$10,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President’s Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$13,000 for the Department’s increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA’s contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. A decrease of \$215,000 in base program funding.

The Forest Service will continue to focus on managing fish and wildlife populations for sustainability and on providing vital employment in remote rural communities for the many Alaskans that rely on subsistence resources for their livelihoods. Funding will be used for analyzing and implementing special actions to address conservation and subsistence use issues.

Communication Sites: An increase of \$5,000,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level.

This program provides funding for administration of communication site uses on National Forest System lands by providing telecommunications capabilities, including cellular coverage and broadband access, to rural communities.

Increased funding will be used to better manage the growing use of Forest Service land for communications facilities. The agency will use the funds to improve services to its customers, emergency responders, and visitors by providing expanded telecommunications capabilities, including cellular coverage and broadband access. These expanded capabilities will benefit rural communities and areas where little or no capability currently exists, enable greater coordination in emergency response situations, and increase overall safety for visitors, agency staff, and first responders.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Personnel Compensation, Field	\$1,481	\$1,249	\$1,288	\$1,145
11.0	Total personnel compensation	1,481	1,249	1,288	1,145
12.0	Personal benefits.....	548	487	502	446
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	2,029	1,736	1,790	1,591
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	94	116	134	77
22.0	Transportation of things.....	8	13	15	9
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	1	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	16	13	15	9
24.0	Printing and reproduction	3	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	1,491	1,250	1,450	827
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	176	165	191	109
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	0	3	3	2
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	8	28	32	19
26.0	Supplies and materials	1,879	1,802	2,088	1,195
31.0	Equipment.....	158	65	75	43
32.0	Land and structures.....	14	0	0	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	284	179	207	119
	Total, Other Objects	4,132	3,634	4,210	2,409
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	6,161	5,370	6,000	4,000
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$64,694	\$68,500	\$69,528	\$70,570
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	8.9	8.7	8.7	8.7

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Range Betterment Fund

This program allocates one-half of grazing receipts from National Forest System lands in 16 western States to rehabilitate, protect, and improve rangelands on the National Forest System lands from which the receipts were collected. Funds are used to carry out non-structural rangeland improvement activities, such as removing noxious weeds and invasive plants, controlling brush, and reducing fire risk on rangelands by limiting plant densities and/or by changing species composition.

The program is currently addressing proper range management, including range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement of lands on national forests in western States, which are essential to grazing permittees. The program also continues to manage vegetation to foster healthy, resilient rangeland ecosystems by removing invasive plants and reducing fire risk.

In FY 2019, the Range Betterment program conducted over 169,000 acres of rangeland vegetation improvement work and treated over 16,200 acres of noxious weeds.

Gifts, Donations and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research

Gifts, Donations and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research is a special account that holds gifts, donations, and bequests that are used to establish or operate any forest and rangeland research facility. The Forest Service continues to receive donations from individuals and businesses for research work units and other organizational sub-units to further their research and development programs.

Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Use

This program provides vital employment and reliable food supply to rural Alaska residents; monitors fish and wildlife populations and adjusts regulations to keep harvests sustainable; enforces regulations; and educates subsistence users. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3101) provides a subsistence priority to harvest fish and wildlife over sport and commercial uses on Federal lands. ANILCA envisioned that the State of Alaska would manage this rural priority, as was the case for 10 years. However, the statute was found to conflict with the Alaska State Constitution, which prohibits granting subsistence priority to only rural residents. As a result, the Federal government assumed responsibility for subsistence management on Federal public lands in 1990. Alaska is the only State in which Federal agencies have a direct role in managing the harvest of fish and resident wildlife populations on Federal lands. By hiring local residents, the program builds capacity in Tribal governments to participate in State and Federal regulatory decisions regarding fish and wildlife issues.

In FY 2019, Forest Service staff completed 10 regular-cycle wildlife regulatory management analyses to determine current population and appropriate harvest levels, and to determine appropriate management actions to provide for subsistence uses on the national forests in Alaska. Through delegation of authority from the Federal Subsistence Board, Forest Service in-season managers implemented 17 special actions to conserve subsistence resources. Twelve of these in-season actions were for wildlife and five were for fish. At the State level, Forest Service Interagency Staff Committee personnel helped to evaluate 11 special action requests to address immediate conservation and subsistence use issues, including eight for wildlife and three for fish. The Forest Service Regional Advisory Council Coordinator facilitated four Council meetings in 2019, as well as a public hearing for the Moose Pass non-rural proposal and public hearings for three Temporary Special Action Requests.

In FY 2019, the Tongass National Forest oversaw six salmon stock assessment projects through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP). Through the FRMP, the Forest partnered with five Tribal groups and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). The FRMP supported about 30 local jobs with tribal organizations in rural communities. The Chugach National Forest also funded a fish wheel FRMP project with the Native Village of Eyak and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About \$890,000 was distributed in FRMP funding in 2019. The Chugach National Forest completed its fourth year of a black bear monitoring project in partnership with the ADFG. In combination, both National Forests completed 26 deer surveys and six population surveys for moose and mountain goats. Most monitoring was implemented through contracts and agreements. The Forest Service subsistence projects continue to be vital to effective conservation of harvested species while managing subsistence uses.

Other Appropriations Primary Authorities

Title of the Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration Date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	U.S.C. Reference
Acquisition of Lands, Special Acts, Ozark and Ouachita National Forest Land Exchange	Provides authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis, Ouachita National Forests Nevada, Utah, California and Arkansas to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites.		NFS	P.L. 108-350	
Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018	Authorizes the Forest Service to establish, collect, and retain a new administrative fee to cover costs incurred by the Forest Service to manage communication site uses on National Forest System lands.	09/30/2023	NFS	P.L. 115-334	
Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980	Authorizes management of Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife, providing the opportunity for rural residents to continue their subsistence way of life.		NFS	P.L. 96-487	16 U.S.C. 3111-3126
Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976	Established the Range Betterment Fund consisting of 50 percent of all monies received by the United States as fees for grazing livestock on the National Forests in the 16 contiguous western States.		NFS	P.L. 94-579	43 U.S.C. 1751
Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978	Authorizes the improvement of range conditions of the public rangelands. Also authorizes the allocation of one-half of grazing receipts from National Forest System lands in the 16 Western States for rangeland rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.		NFS	P.L. 95-514	43 U.S.C. 1901
Special Acts	Authorizes acquisition of land within the boundaries of certain national forests and, to pay for the acquisitions, authorizes the appropriation of receipts derived from the sale of natural resources within the particular national forest.		NFS	58 Stat. 227; 58 Stat. 227; 58 Stat. 228; 54 Stat. 297; 54 Stat. 299; and 54 Stat. 402; 58 Stat. 228; 54 Stat. 46	

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WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$2,350,620,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+58,824,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>2,409,444,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

For necessary expenses for forest fire presuppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency wildland fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands, under fire protection agreement, and for emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, [~~\$2,350,620,000~~]\$2,409,444,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds, including unobligated balances under this heading, are available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for hazardous fuels management may be transferred to the “National Forest System” account: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to reimburse State and other cooperating entities for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or disasters to the extent such reimbursements by the Forest Service for non-fire emergencies are fully repaid by the responsible emergency management agency: *Provided further*, That funds provided shall be available for support to Federal emergency response: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$1,011,000,000, shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(F)(ii)(I) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Preparedness	\$1,323,520	9,575	\$1,339,620	9,965	\$1,339,620	9,965	\$1,398,444	9,965	\$58,824	0
Suppression.....	1,556,818	2,030	1,665,366	522	1,011,000	522	1,011,000	522	0	0
Subtotal, Direct Appropriations.....	2,880,338	11,605	3,004,986	10,515	2,350,620	10,487	2,409,444	10,487	58,824	0
Supplemental Appropriations:										
Disaster Relief (P.L. 115-72)	184,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disaster Relief (P.L. 116-20)	0	0	720,271	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations	184,500	0	720,271	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers In:										
Fire Transfer	505,953	0	0	0	229,000	0	1,092,000	0	863,000	0
Subtotal, Transfers In	505,953	0	0	0	229,000	0	1,092,000	0	863,000	0
Total, Discretionary Funding	3,570,791	11,605	3,725,257	10,515	2,579,620	10,487	3,501,444	10,487	921,824	0
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Preparedness	54,306	0	68,483	0	134,809	0	52,653	0	-82,156	0
Suppression.....	99,104	0	26,940	0	706,391	0	275,896	0	-430,495	0
Hazardous Fuels.....	5,908	0	6,737	0	7,522	0	2,938	0	-4,584	0
National Fire Capacity	2,382	0	288	0	476	0	186	0	-290	0
Rural Fire Capacity.....	0	0	28	0	33	0	13	0	-20	0
Wildland Fire Management – Other.....	2,504	0	-7,625	0	3,010	0	1,176	0	-1,834	0
Subtotal, Carryover	164,204	0	94,851	0	852,241	0	332,862	0	-519,379	0
Transfers Out:										
Department of the Interior.....	-4,686	0	-45,988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Transfer	-99,507	0	-425,771	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-104,193	0	-471,759	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment for Expenditure Transfer from Trust Fund.....										
Trust Fund.....	234,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries, Other	146,153	0	240,588	0	65,000	0	65,000	0	0	0
Total Available.....	4,011,455	11,605	3,588,937	10,515	3,496,861	10,487	3,899,306	10,487	402,445	0
Balances, Available End of Year.....	-94,851	0	-852,241	0	-332,861	0	-669,306	0	-336,445	0
Total Obligations	\$3,916,604	11,605	\$2,736,696	10,515	\$3,164,000	10,487	\$3,230,000	10,487	\$66,000	0

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**Preparedness: An increase of \$58,824,000 from the FY 2020 Enacted level, which includes the following:**

- a. An increase of \$13,283,000 for pay costs (\$6,083,000 for annualization of the 2020 pay increase and \$7,200,000 for the 2021 pay increase).

This critical increase is needed to support staffing levels and contracting actions to enable the Preparedness program to support wildfire prevention, mitigation, education, and response operations, including initial and extended attack.

- b. An increase of \$9,601,000 for performance awards.

This increase will support a 1 percentage point increase in awards spending, consistent with objectives outlined in the President's Management Agenda, to enhance workforce development. Without this additional funding, the Forest Service will be unable to absorb these costs in FY 2021, resulting in reductions to planned hiring levels.

- c. An increase of \$12,104,000 for the Department's increased contribution to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This increase will cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS. These increases were effective January 1, 2020.

- d. An increase of \$23,836,000 for Preparedness activities.

The agency response to wildfire has shifted from seasonal to year-round fire activity with the incidence of larger and more complex fires increasing each year. The Nation is experiencing more extreme fire behavior and high risk, high cost wildfire suppression operations in the wildland-urban interface have progressively become the new normal over the last two decades. It is estimated that 63 million acres of National Forest System lands and 70,000 communities are at risk from uncharacteristically severe wildfires. Annually, there are typically more than 5,000 fires on National Forest System lands.

The Forest Service utilizes the Preparedness program with 10,000 firefighters and 900 fire engines, and a robust aviation program (up to 18 exclusive use airtankers and 108 exclusive use helicopters) to maintain an organization that ensures safe, timely, appropriate, and effective response. Increased funding for Preparedness will be used to expand the Land Mobile Radio (LMR) program, Risk Management Assistance framework, and to implement wildfire technology modernization.

An increase of \$15.1 million for the LMR program will support implementation of an intra-agency shared services model. The Forest Service LMR program has the largest inventory of equipment, people, and experience within the USDA. By providing LMR support services to other USDA agencies and merging radio operations with those across the Department, the Forest Service aims to help USDA lower costs, improve operational efficiencies, and close gaps in delivery and security to better respond to emergencies, criminal activity, wildfires, and other disasters.

Increased funding of \$7.5 million for the Risk Management Assistance framework will enhance line officer capacity to make risk-informed wildfire response decisions by providing training and exploring, planning, and making initial progress on new technologies and analytical products being developed. The Risk Management Assistance framework provides for a holistic and integrated approach to incident response and decision-making beginning in the planning cycle. The framework is developed with State, local, and county partners and is leveraged to create operational tools that increase the decision space for fire managers and provide line officers with more opportunity to influence incident outcomes. Increased funding will be utilized to develop Risk Management Assistance frameworks and provide the data analytics support to leverage tools for decision-making.

Increased funding of \$5 million will be used to implement the Wildfire Technology Modernization section of the Dingell Conservation and Management Act (2019). Implementation includes the development of a common, single display of all fire resources and will significantly increase accountability for how the agency uses assets. This will allow the agency to monitor, analyze, and evaluate how tactical decisions and resource utilization influences incident outcomes. This information will create a feedback loop, allowing the agency to learn where, when, and how resources are most effective. Combined, the Risk Management Assistance framework and technology modernization for fire resources will ensure funds are used efficiently through early, risk-based decision-making with State and local partners and through transparent deployment of assets.

Decreased funding of \$3.764 million for the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) reflects the transition away from the current resource status and dispatching system to the new Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) system,

which has been under development for several years. The IROC system provides a modernized resource dispatching and tracking system that will replace ROSS entirely in FY 2021.

Forest Service Research and Development will continue to contribute to improvements in wildfire preparedness and response through innovative projects such as the Wildland Fire Dynamics Simulator and the Fire and Smoke Model Evaluation Experiment. These tools predict risk of structure ignition based on building materials and adjacent fuels and evaluate operational fire and smoke modeling systems, respectively, reducing health and safety risks for firefighters and the public, and improving decision-making for incident command teams.

Suppression:

The Suppression program is the primary funding source for wildfire extended attack suppression response and large fire support. The Suppression program allows the Forest Service to maintain a strong emergency response role, working alongside other Federal, state, tribal, and local government partners to protect life and property in suppression response operations. In addition, this program helps improve forest conditions and maintain resilient landscapes by managing naturally ignited, unplanned wildfires to accomplish resource management goals. Over the last 10 years, across all jurisdictions, an average of more than 64,000 wildfires burned about 6.9 million acres of Federal, Tribal, State, and private land and more than 4,600 structures. Of these wildfires, about 85 percent are human caused. The cost of suppression varies greatly between fires based on a variety of factors, including fuels, weather, and topography.

Base program funding of \$1.011 billion is established in Division O of Public Law 115-141, the Stephen Sepp Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act. The increase in base Suppression funding in this Budget request compared to the FY 2020 Enacted level is due to pay costs, awards, and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions.

In FY 2021, the Forest Service will continue to implement actions that ensure accountability in spending Suppression funds. The agency will continue to employ specialized teams that provide enhanced analytics for better decision-making on key wildfire incidents (Risk Management Assessment Teams), and will continue to implement risk management training for line officers. The Forest Service will continue prioritized investments to highest risk areas and, working with partners in the early stages to plan for the best co-management strategies ahead of a fire. The agency also continues to pursue increased cost recovery and equitable cost-sharing arrangements for firefighting assets with partners.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$294	\$236	\$238	\$240
	Personnel Compensation, Field	1,005,731	808,239	813,946	819,382
11.0	Total personnel compensation	1,006,025	808,475	814,184	819,622
12.0	Personal benefits.....	313,945	282,569	289,963	292,212
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	23,308	39,380	39,853	41,166
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	1,343,278	1,130,424	1,144,000	1,153,000
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	99,550	88,978	116,154	119,184
22.0	Transportation of things.....	19,563	11,997	15,087	15,513
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	16,728	2,999	3,771	3,878
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	35,870	18,995	23,888	24,562
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	46,342	66,983	89,118	92,143
24.0	Printing and reproduction	910	496	624	641
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	6,770	37	47	48
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	1,536,438	592,853	685,909	710,099
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	233,215	378,906	503,668	513,795
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	1,555	311	391	402
25.5	Research and development contracts	254	15	19	19
25.6	Medical care	267	261	328	337
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	7,751	5,596	7,037	7,236
26.0	Supplies and materials	140,292	116,971	151,200	155,240
31.0	Equipment.....	28,237	22,994	31,041	31,048
32.0	Land and structures.....	297	38	48	49
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	398,368	296,926	390,518	401,622
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	919	916	1,152	1,184
	Total, Other Objects	2,573,326	1,606,272	2,020,000	2,077,000
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	3,916,604	2,736,696	3,164,000	3,230,000
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$257	\$177	\$180	\$182
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$180,331	\$181,402	\$184,123	\$186,885
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$53,515	\$54,185	\$54,998	\$55,823
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5 percent increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

In FY 2020, the Forest Service will initiate a new process for reviewing and documenting a sample of large fires, generating an annual report to Congress that examines the effectiveness of risk management strategies, beneficial ecological impacts of fire on the landscape, levels of exposure experienced by firefighters, effectiveness of fuel treatments, and efforts to modernize the wildland fire program and operational effectiveness. In FY 2019, the agency began coordinating with the Department of the Interior to develop and pilot Continuous Improvement Assessments for large fires to ensure evaluating and understanding decision-making on fire incidents through research-based principles and analytics is transparent and intentional. The new Continuous Improvement Assessments will be applied to large fire incidents for the FY 2020 wildland fire season.

As directed by Congress in the FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a detailed table of actual and proposed estimated funding for fire operations, including aviation resources, is listed below:

Preparedness and Suppression Costs (dollars in millions)

Preparedness	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Firefighters.....	\$600	\$600	\$600
Firefighting Equipment and Support.....	265	265	288
Aviation Contracts/Support.....	145	145	145
Agency Cost Pools.....	330	330	330
Total Preparedness ^a	\$1,340	\$1,340	\$1,363 ^b

Suppression	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Firefighters	\$368	\$326	\$326
Fire Suppression Operations and Logistics.....	306	271	271
Aviation Operations.....	267	236	236
Interagency (DOI) and State Fire Support	188	166	166
Burned Area Emergency Response.....	14	12	12
Agency Cost Pools.....	0	0	0
Total Suppression ^c	\$1,143	\$1,011 ^d	\$1,011 ^d

^a The Preparedness program ensures that fire management assets, such as large airtankers, helicopters, hot shot crews, and smoke jumpers are available to support initial attack response operations on the National Forest System, other Federal, State, and private lands.

^b Total Preparedness funding requested in FY 2021 (\$1.397 billion) includes pay costs, awards, and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions. Base funding is \$1.363 billion.

^c The Suppression program ensures that fire management assets, such as large airtankers, helicopters, hot shot crews, and smoke jumpers are available to support extended attack and large fire support operations at fires on the National Forest System, other Federal, State, and private lands.

^d Established funding level for Suppression of \$1.011 billion within the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141). Total Suppression funding requested in FY 2021 (\$1.013 billion) includes pay costs, awards, and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions.

Resource Summary FY 2019 to FY 2021 (aviation fleet and personnel)

Resource	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Engines ^a	900	900	900
Heavy Equipment – Dozers, Tractor Plow Units, Tenders.....	210	210	210
Helicopters			
Type 1 ^b	28	28	28
Type 2 ^c	34	34	34
Type 3 ^d	46	46	46
Airtankers			
Next Generation Airtankers ^e	13	18	18
Scoopers.....	0	0	0
U.S. Coast Guard converted HC-130H airtankers ^f	1	0	0

Resource	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Firefighters (FFTR) – Total is inclusive of categories below..	10,000	10,000	10,000
Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (20-person)	67 crews; 1,340 FFTR	67 crews; 1,340 FFTR	67 crews; 1,340 FFTR
Other Firefighters.....	7,940	7,940	7,940
Smoke Jumpers.....	320	320	320
Prevention Technicians.....	400	400	400

- ^a Refers to the suite of wheeled vehicles used to carry firefighters and water to the site of a fire.
- ^b Includes only agency owned/leased or exclusive use contracted assets. Type 1 are the heaviest class of helicopters.
- ^c Medium-sized helicopters.
- ^d Includes only helicopters whose primary purpose is wildland fire response. Type 3 are the lightest class of helicopters.
- ^e Numbers reflect maximum number of aircraft allowed under the exclusive use contracts.
- ^f The program to transfer HC-130H airtankers from the U.S. Coast Guard and convert them to firefighting-capable resources was terminated at the end of FY 2018.

Preparedness

Annually, there are more than 5,000 fires on National Forest System lands, and in FY 2019, Forest Service firefighters had an initial attack success rate – the percent of fires that were suppressed before they reached 300 acres in size – of 97 percent.

The Preparedness program ensures that fire management assets, such as large airtankers, helicopters, hot shot crews, and smokejumpers, can support timely, risk-informed, and effective initial attack response operations on National Forest System, other Federal, State, and private lands. This program supports internal and external training and education; development and advancement of firefighting technology; and organizational learning.

The Dingell Conservation and Management Act (2019) directed the Forest Service to utilize the best available technology to ensure effective and cost-efficient response to wildland fires. In FY 2019, the agency coordinated with private industry to identify and pilot several emerging technologies to address hazard risk mapping, adoption of unmanned aerial systems, location tracking for wildland firefighters, risk management for firefighters and the public, and improved wildland fire decision support. These pilot technologies are being assessed to inform the adoption of the most effective technologies that will facilitate improved decision-making to protect the health and safety of both wildland firefighters and the public as well as cost efficiency gains in suppression response operations.

Over the last several fiscal years, the Forest Service wildland fire program has been implementing a standard module configuration of ground-based firefighting resources. Standardized configurations for the number of people, pay grade, and skill level for each type of fire suppression asset provides for greater uniformity across individual teams, increases confidence in capability between resource teams, and creates a more predictable cost model for the Preparedness program. The agency is currently developing a broader strategy to address workforce capacity requirements within the Preparedness program by standardizing the use of specific hiring appointments for wildland firefighters within these standardized modules.

Suppression

The Suppression program is the primary funding source for wildland fire extended attack and large fire support operations. It protects forests and watersheds from the impacts of catastrophic fire, helping maintain clean water, wildlife and fish habitat, recreational opportunities, and forest products. The Suppression program also maintains the agency’s strong role of working with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local government partners to protect life and property against wildfire and other natural disasters. The agency continues to evolve how it applies analytical systems to the decisional framework to answer questions related to how fire suppression resources are currently allocated, which suppression resources are effective, and whether practices currently employed by incident managers are efficient. The FY 2019 fire season saw over 4.3 million acres burned in wildland fires, with over 540,000 of those acres occurring on National Forest System lands.

The Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act included in Division O of the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, (P.L. 115–141) amended the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to authorize the appropriation of additional budget authority that is not subject to discretionary spending caps (a wildfire cap adjustment). This additional authority should eliminate the need for ‘fire transfers’, or the borrowing of funds from non-fire programs to cover the full cost of fire suppression operations. The budgetary stability provided by the additional budget authority will be leveraged by the agency to more strategically approach programmatic and fiscal management of the fire program. In addition, the Forest Service is standardizing State-level agreements for cooperative response to wildland fires, developing and fielding new fire analytic tools and resources to inform tactical decision-making on fire incidents, and adopting modern spatial and

data analytics technologies to provide real time information to incident commanders on complex incidents. The Forest Service is also seeking to establish appropriate cost-share agreements and pursue 100 percent cost recovery from Federal, State, and local entities to equitably balance these costs.

Utilizing the Risk Management Assistance framework, the Forest Service continues to identify, develop, and implement new decision support tools and products for incident management teams and agency administrators that leverage new research and data analytics. These decision support tools are intended to provide real time information to incident command teams to assist in evaluating risk to firefighters, effectiveness of aviation resources, smoke impacts, fire progression, and when to release firefighting resources to an incident. The products and tools being provided and developed are changing annually to reflect the needs of incident management teams and agency administrators as the Forest Service remains committed to using the best available science and data to inform decision makers.

Wildfires can create situations that require special efforts to prevent further problems after the fire is over. For example, loss of vegetation exposes soil to erosion leading to increased runoff causing flooding downstream that can damage infrastructure, fill reservoirs, and put endangered species and community water supplies at risk. The Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program, funded under Suppression, provides for immediate emergency post-fire response to manage unacceptable risks to people and resources triggered by landscape conditions caused by the fire. The BAER program also manages access to ensure the safety of visitors and employees through posting of warning signs, temporary gate and fence construction, and hazard tree removal. All emergency stabilization actions must be taken within one year. In FY 2019, 64 fires across six Forest Service Regions resulted in landscape-level disturbances in need of immediate rehabilitation activities to prevent further degradation. A total of \$10.8 million was spent in FY 2019 on BAER activities to provide for public safety, stabilize the soil, and reinforce the structural integrity of infrastructure that is now at risk of post-fire degradation, including the seeding of over 12,300 acres, mulching of 300 acres, storm proofing of 800 miles of roads and trails, and stabilization of 25 cultural resource and hazard mitigation sites.

Wildland Fire Management Primary Authorities

Title of Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration Date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	U.S.C. Reference
Cooperative Firefighting Funds Retention	Any money collected from the States for fire suppression assistance rendered by the Forest Service on non-Federal lands not in the vicinity of National Forest System lands shall hereafter be used to reimburse the applicable appropriation and shall remain available until expended.		SPF	P.L. 105-277	16 U.S.C. 2106b
Department of Agriculture Organic Act - Aviation, Lookout Towers, & Fire Management	Authorizes the Forest Service, by contract or otherwise, to provide for procurement and operation of aerial facilities and services for the protection and management of the national forests and other lands administered by the agency.		WFM	P.L. 91-435	16 U.S.C. 579a
FLAME Act of 2009	Establishes a second discretionary appropriation account for wildfire suppression operations.	9/30/2021	FLAME	P.L. 111-88	43 U.S.C. 1748a

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Title of Act or Program	Summary of Authority	Expiration Date (if applicable)	Programs Affected	Public Law Citation	U.S.C. Reference
Reciprocal Fire Protection Act, Fire Protection Agreements and Mutual Aid Agencies	Authorizes agreements between agencies of the United States Government and other domestic agencies, including State and local entities and instrumentalities for mutual aid in fire protection and allows for reimbursements for costs incurred by the Department of Agriculture for fire protection rendered to be credited to the same appropriation or fund from which the expenses were paid.		WFM	P.L. 84-46	42 U.S.C. 1856a-d;
Temporary Emergency Wildfire Suppression Act	This Act authorizes reciprocal agreements with foreign fire organizations for mutual aid in wildfire protection.		WFM	P.L. 100-428, P.L. 101-11, P.L. 112-74	42 U.S.C. 1856m et seq.
Stephen Sepp Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act	This Act adds a new adjustment to the discretionary spending limits for wildfire suppression.	9/30/2027	WFM	P.L. 115-141	<u>2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(F)</u>

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WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$1,950,000,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+90,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>2,040,000,000</u>

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading “Department of Agriculture-Forest Service-Wildland Fire Management” for wildfire suppression operations, [~~\$1,950,000,000~~]\$2,040,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority as specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings “Department of the Interior-Department-Wide Programs-Wildland Fire Management” and “Department of Agriculture-Forest Service-Wildland Fire Management” for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the “Wildland Fire Management” accounts in the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture only upon the notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
Wildfire Suppression Operations										
Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0	1,950,000	0	2,040,000	0	90,000	0
Total, Discretionary Funding	0	0	0	0	1,950,000	0	2,040,000	0	90,000	0
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Wildfire Suppression Operations										
Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,721,000	0	1,721,000	0
Subtotal, Carryover	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,721,000	0	1,721,000	0
Transfers Out:										
Fire Transfer	0	0	0	0	-229,000	0	-1,092,000	0	-863,000	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	0	0	0	0	-229,000	0	-1,092,000	0	-863,000	0
Total Available.....	0	0	0	0	1,721,000	0	2,669,000	0	948,000	0
Balances, Available End of Year.....	0	0	0	0	-1,721,000	0	-2,669,000	0	-948,000	0
Total Obligations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

The Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund was established by the fire funding fix enacted in Division O of Public Law 115-141, the Stephen Sepp Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act. This fire funding fix includes a new adjustment under section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA) for wildfire suppression activities. BBEDCA permits this adjustment up to a maximum amount specified in the law if the underlying appropriations bill first funds a base level for these activities. The overall cap increases by \$100 million each year. The base level is defined as the average costs over ten years for wildfire suppression operations that was requested in the President's FY 2015 Budget. This amount has been determined to be \$1.011 billion for the Forest Service and was appropriated beginning in FY 2020, along with a \$1.95 billion adjustment. The 2021 Budget requests the same base amount for Suppression and seeks a \$2.04 billion adjustment authorized in BBEDCA for 2021.

FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

<u>Program/Activity</u>	2018		2019		2020		2021		Change from	
	Actual		Actual		Enacted		Budget		2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Direct Appropriations:										
FLAME ^a	\$342,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Direct Appropriations.....	342,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out:										
FLAME.....	-342,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-342,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Available.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Obligations.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

^a FLAME funding in 2017 was designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. FLAME funding in 2018 provided as Emergency Supplemental (P.L. 115-72), as shown on the Available Funds and Staff Years.

JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

No funding is proposed in FY 2021.

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PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Lead-Off Tabular Statement

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$528,550,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-8,027,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>520,523,000</u>
Budget Estimate, 2021	\$520,523,000
Change Due to Proposed Legislation	<u>+60,000,000</u>
Net 2021 Request.....	<u><u>580,523,000</u></u>

Note: The 2021 proposed legislation includes the following: The program change for the Permanent Funds is due to cost recovery for minerals permitting, which would provide \$60,000,000. Please note that FLREA was reauthorized for two-years and therefore \$65 million was reflected in FY 2020. The Forest Botanical Products authority expires September 30, 2021.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Mandatory Funds:										
Brush Disposal.....	\$7,595	74	\$9,432	62	\$10,357	63	\$10,520	66	\$163	3
Timber Salvage Sales.....	41,924	332	45,816	316	50,311	320	51,104	337	793	17
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration..	4,593	44	3,044	36	3,343	36	3,395	38	52	2
Forest Botanical Products	1,713	20	1,507	18	1,655	18	1,681	19	26	1
Stewardship Contracting.....	23,635	0	26,263	0	26,709	0	27,164	0	455	0
Recreation Fees, Forest Service	100,602	705	97,009	681	98,658	687	100,336	726	1,678	39
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters	10,036	31	10,073	18	11,061	18	11,235	19	174	1
Roads and Trails for States	0	0	0	0	19,651	0	19,986	0	335	0
Land Between The Lakes Management	4,515	10	5,193	11	5,703	11	5,792	12	89	1
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees	725	0	696	0	764	0	776	0	12	0
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements.....	1,705	101	5,982	49	6,568	50	6,672	53	104	3
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention	653	8	626	4	687	4	698	4	11	0
Organizational Camps Program	497	9	542	5	596	5	605	5	9	0
Cost Recovery (Land Uses)	11,005	8	4,954	7	5,793	7	65,807	8	60,014	1
Licensee Program Smokey Bear	440	0	449	1	497	1	504	1	7	0
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl.....	33	0	12	0	25	0	26	0	1	0
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation).....	128	0	159	0	160	0	163	0	3	0
Conveyance of Administrative Sites	4,709	2	2,716	0	2,991	1	3,037	1	46	0
Site-Specific Lands Act	26	0	26	0	21	0	22	0	1	0
Payments to States Funds ^a	234,609	43	293,464	20	281,000	20	269,000	21	-12,000	1
Subtotal, Mandatory Funds ^b	451,143	1,387	509,963	1,228	528,550	1,241	580,523	1,310	51,973	69
Transfers In:										
Department of the Interior.....	2,618	0	312	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Transfer Repayment	304,586	0	351,272	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Park Service	232	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers In.....	307,436	0	351,584	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total, Mandatory Funding.....	758,579	1,387	861,547	1,228	528,550	1,241	580,523	1,310	51,973	69
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Brush Disposal.....	7,647	0	9,231	0	27,580	0	30,311	0	2,731	0
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research.....	336	0	335	0	142	0	156	0	14	0
Timber Salvage Sales.....	26,885	0	26,106	0	77,740	0	85,437	0	7,697	0
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration..	10,085	0	7,372	0	6,342	0	6,971	0	629	0

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget Request		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Forest Botanical Products	3,486	0	1,914	0	3,418	0	3,756	0	338	0
Stewardship Contracting.....	24,608	0	21,121	0	35,701	0	39,236	0	3,535	0
Recreation Fees, Forest Service	63,031	0	81,347	0	111,274	0	122,291	0	11,017	0
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction	127	0	392	0	30,852	0	33,907	0	3,055	0
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters	19,852	0	4,188	0	26,180	0	28,772	0	2,592	0
Roads and Trails for States	52	0	52	0	52	0	57	0	5	0
Land Between The Lakes Management	5,304	0	1,954	0	4,975	0	5,468	0	493	0
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees	3,783	0	920	0	3,895	0	4,281	0	386	0
Quinault Special Management Area	17	0	17	0	17	0	19	0	2	0
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements.....	105,483	0	20,319	0	220,640	0	242,487	0	21,847	0
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention	-578	0	-1,238	0	-1,189	0	0	0	1,189	0
Organizational Camps Program	4,933	0	4,796	0	4,926	0	5,413	0	487	0
Cost Recovery (Land Uses)	15,259	0	20,348	0	20,045	0	22,029	0	1,984	0
Licensee Program Smokey Bear	989	0	1,438	0	1,343	0	1,476	0	133	0
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl.....	117	0	110	0	123	0	135	0	12	0
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation).....	394	0	447	0	566	0	622	0	56	0
Conveyance of Administrative Sites	20,885	0	17,386	0	17,980	0	19,760	0	1,780	0
Site-Specific Lands Act	6,087	0	5,691	0	6,710	0	7,374	0	664	0
Payments to States Funds.....	87,975	0	42,695	0	57,363	0	63,042	0	5,679	0
Subtotal, Carryover ^b	406,757	0	266,941	0	656,675	0	723,000	0	66,325	0
Transfers Out										
Fire Transfer	-350,108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, Transfers Out.....	-350,108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sequestration ^c	-110	0	-4,637	0	2,000	0	12,000	0	10,000	0
Recoveries, Other ^b	6,997	0	35,275	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Available	822,115	1,387	1,159,126	1,228	1,187,225	1,241	1,315,523	1,310	128,298	69
Lapsing Balances	0	0	-4,396	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balances, Available End of Year	-266,941	0	-656,675	0	-723,000	0	-778,523	0	-55,523	0
Total Obligations.....	\$555,174	1,387	\$498,055	1,228	\$464,225	1,241	\$537,000	1,310	\$72,775	69

^a Payments to States amounts reflect budget authority; it does not include Treasury supplementals.

^b Amounts include reimbursables.

^c Sequestrations and pop ups previously unavailable.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$228	\$196	\$204	\$216
	Personnel Compensation, Field	77,116	66,303	69,138	72,979
11.0	Total personnel compensation	77,344	66,499	69,342	73,195
12.0	Personal benefits.....	25,567	21,159	22,064	23,289
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	23	0	0	0
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	102,934	87,658	91,406	96,484
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	2,974	2,838	2,578	1,984
22.0	Transportation of things.....	770	491	446	527
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	376	347	315	372
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	723	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	1,206	2,015	1,830	2,163
24.0	Printing and reproduction	498	562	511	603
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	4	84	76	90
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	96,783	68,513	55,907	79,344
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	25,295	23,058	15,973	57,525
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	635	1,008	916	1,082
25.5	Research and development contracts	1	57	52	61
25.6	Medical care	13	6	5	6
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	1,236	599	544	643
26.0	Supplies and materials	12,611	11,220	7,987	8,926
31.0	Equipment.....	4,564	2,358	2,142	2,531
32.0	Land and structures.....	3,688	0	0	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	300,801	297,230	283,527	284,647
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	62	11	10	12
	Total, Other Objects	452,240	410,397	372,819	440,516
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	555,174	498,055	464,225	537,000
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$6	\$5	\$5	\$5
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$182,853	\$184,223	\$186,986	\$189,791
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$50,919	\$50,787	\$51,549	\$52,322
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5% increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Brush Disposal

This program provides for the disposal of un-merchantable brush and other debris resulting from timber harvest operations. Timber harvest activities create logging slash, which, when left untreated, can increase the risk of fire, impair reforestation, and contribute to the buildup of insect populations. Logging slash can be mechanically treated by scattering, chipping, or crushing it down with logging equipment and allowed to decay. The treatment selected depends upon the amount of debris generated, as well as the relative fire hazard created. Slash can also be subjected to broadcast burning or collected into piles and burned during non-hazardous weather conditions. Timber sale operators can perform the required work, or they can request that the agency complete this work by depositing funds to cover these costs. Brush Disposal funding comes from deposits required of timber purchasers if they select the second option, and it is used only on timber sale areas.

Timber Salvage Sales

The Timber Salvage Sales program facilitates the timely removal of fire or insect-damaged and diseased trees to aid in maintaining healthy and resilient forest stands and ensuring community safety. The Timber Salvage Sale program collects revenues from the sale of timber from dead and dying trees to prepare and administer future salvage timber sales, including obtaining Forest Service engineering support. These revenues are deposited into the Timber Salvage Sale fund and are available to immediately respond to timber salvage opportunities. The removal of fire-damaged, diseased and insect-infested timber through timber sale contracts is a valuable tool to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fires and other hazards associated with dead or dying trees. Timely salvage sales also help maximize the recovery of timber product value that would otherwise be lost. Through the collection of Knutson-Vandenberg Act funds, timber salvage sales can also provide for restoration of an affected area.

Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration

The Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration fund contributes to several land and resource management objectives. These objectives include improving forest health, restoring wildlife habitat, and providing forest products to meet local and national needs. In addition, the fund helps address health and safety issues in recreation facilities and on system trails, benefiting the public by addressing maintenance issues that may cause harm or detract from their outdoor experience. These activities are aligned with the agency's integrated watershed improvement goals, and ensure forests and grasslands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient.

Timber Sale Pipeline Sale Preparation - Seventy-five percent of the Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration funds are used for the preparation of future non-salvage timber sales to restore the timber sales pipeline volume. This activity provides for the National Environmental Policy Act analysis to meet long-term forest health and desired condition objectives, determination of the volume and value of the trees to be removed, and timber sale layout and design necessary for future timber sales. Expenditures may also include the necessary planning and design for the associated timber roads.

Recreation Backlog - Twenty-five percent of the Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration funds are expended on backlog recreation facility projects and system trails. This activity includes maintenance and improvement of recreation sites, system trails, bridges, and trailheads.

Forest Botanical Products

This authority provides a mechanism for collecting fees from persons who harvest forest botanical products. The term "forest botanical products" refers to any naturally occurring mushrooms, fungi, flowers, seeds, roots, bark, leaves, and other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grow on National Forest System lands. Fees collected are available to cover costs associated with granting, modifying, or administering permits for harvesting, including costs for environmental analyses. Work activities include inventory, analysis, and sustainability determinations for harvest levels, permit issuance and administration, and monitoring to facilitate the sale and harvest of forest botanical products. The objectives of this program are to maintain, enhance, or restore forest ecosystems to desired conditions, and to provide for the sale and harvest of forest botanical products in a sustainable manner that contributes to meeting the Nation's demand for these products and services.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76) extended this authority beyond a pilot program until September 30, 2019. This budget proposes extending it through September 30, 2021.

Stewardship Contracting

Stewardship contracting permits the Forest Service to apply the value of timber or other forest products from stewardship contracts as an offset against the costs to accomplish additional land and resource management objectives. If the offset value exceeds the value of the resource improvement treatments, those receipts are retained and deposited in the Stewardship Contracting fund and are available until expended for other authorized stewardship projects. Detailed information about the program's recent accomplishments can be found in the Stewardship Contracting special exhibit.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service

When recreation fees are collected by the Forest Service, all fees collected are deposited in the Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund, and are spent on maintaining and improving the area, site, or projects that directly relate to visitor enjoyment, access, and health and safety. Work activities include: annual operation and maintenance, interpretation, signage, wildlife habitat restoration, resource preservation, and law enforcement. The agency executes a large amount of work in this program through contracts.

There are four programs within the Recreation Fees, Forest Service fund:

- Recreation Fees, Forest Service Site Specific – Under authority of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the Forest Service collects approximately \$100 million annually to maintain and improve recreation facilities and services for which the fees are collected. Five percent goes to the regional offices to support strategic program oversight, financial management, training, and grants to forests for improvements/special projects on the ground, the remaining 95 percent remain where the fees were collected.
- Recreation Fees, Forest Service Agency Specific - The Forest Service is the contracting agency for the National Recreation Reservation Service, part of Recreation.gov, an e-government initiative. The \$120 million interagency funded contract supports reservations for all recreation facilities on public lands that allow reservations.
- Recreation Fees, Forest Service Grey Towers National Historic Site Fees - Recreation fees are used for annual operations and maintenance of the historic mansion and 102 acre landscape; interpretive and education programs and projects that perpetuate the legacy of Gifford Pinchot for general public and youth; public programs that foster stewardship of natural resources; safety of the visitor and security of the resource; and support for the conference facility that provides conservation leadership development programs and enhances the dialogues taking place within the natural resource community.
- Shasta-Trinity Marina Fees - Fees received from the marina project provide funding needed in the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area to meet critical health and safety standards; address portions of the maintenance backlog; provide for many noteworthy, innovative projects including high quality interpretive and environmental education programs; installation and maintenance of over 300 underwater obstacle markers and 100 safety-related floating directional signs; establishment and maintenance of the National Recreation Area Boating Safety Program; implementation and administration of the program's Marina Standards; maintaining a floating toilet program; and the construction of accessible facilities to provide greater access for persons with disabilities. The goal of these projects is to meet the National Recreation Area's intent, which is to showcase recreation opportunities in the agency.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6806 and 6807). This authority was most recently reauthorized through October 1, 2021, pursuant to P.L. 116-94. This budget requests extension of this authority through October 1, 2023.

Shasta Trinity Marina Fees (Public Law 110-161). This authority was most recently reauthorized through September 30, 2020. This budget requests extension of this authority through September 30, 2021.

Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction

The Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction program supports the construction and reconstruction of any permanent road or bridge as required under the terms and conditions of a timber sale contract. When a small business timber purchaser is awarded a contract, the purchaser may elect to pay the Forest Service to construct or reconstruct specified roads in the timber sale contract area to a standard necessary to harvest and remove timber and other forest products. The agency then uses the funds to contract for the required roadwork and administer the contract. This program benefits small timber contractors who might otherwise be unable to bid on Forest Service timber sales, and provides for appropriate road improvements to prevent soil degradation, stream sedimentation, or other damages.

Purchaser Election Vegetative Treatment – This program supports activities to improve forest health through vegetative treatments in timber stands at high risk of fire due to insect, disease, and drought; road work in support of vegetative treatments to support forest health objectives; and provides maintenance of infrastructure for the processing of woody fiber in regions where it is critical to fulfilling forest health objectives and sustaining local economies.

Forest Service Quarters Operation and Maintenance

The Forest Service is authorized (5 U.S.C. 5911, Other Provisions), to collect rental income from employees living in government owned or leased residences. Such rents and charges are deposited in a special Treasury fund and remain available for obligation for operation and maintenance of quarters until expended.

Roads and Trails for States

Ten percent of all National Forest Fund receipts, which is inclusive of both fees and other types of revenue, are used by the Forest Service without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived, to repair or reconstruct roads, bridges, and trails on National Forest System lands. Funds are directed towards correcting road and trail deficiencies that adversely affect ecosystems.

Beginning in FY 1999 and continuing in subsequent appropriation acts, the authority was expanded to allow the use of funds for improving forest health conditions and repairing or reconstructing roads and bridges on National Forest System lands in the wildland-urban interface, where there is an abnormally high risk of fire. The program reduces risk to human safety and public health and property, and enhances ecological functions, long-term forest productivity, and biological integrity. Beginning in FY 2008, appropriations acts have directed collections to be transferred to Treasury. The FY 2021 budget proposes to make these funds available for obligation.

Land Between the Lakes Management

The Land Between the Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area provides public recreational opportunities; conserves fish and wildlife and their habitat; provides for a diversity of plants and animals; and offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, and environmental education. LBL hosts an average of 1.6 million visits annually from all over the Nation and more than 30 foreign countries.

Section 524 of the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act established a special fund known as the LBL Management fund. All amounts received from charges, user fees, and natural resource use, including timber and agricultural receipts, are deposited into the fund. Funds are available for management of LBL, including payment of salaries and expenses.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 established Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP) Rental Fees to be managed as part of the National Forest System. The Act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to issue agricultural special use authorizations and grazing permits. After appropriate payments to the State of Illinois and Will County, pursuant to the act of May 23, 1908, and Section 13 of the act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 500), available receipts from rental fees may be used to cover the cost of ecosystem restoration, prairie improvements, and administrative activities directly related to those activities. These funds provide for maintenance of native plant communities and grassland bird habitat at the MNTP. The ability to collect funds from grazing and agricultural uses enables MNTP managers to continue to restore ecosystems and habitats in order to enhance biodiversity; promote scientific, environmental, and educational research; and develop best practices for land management.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Restoration

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 established the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP) to be managed as part of the National Forest System. There are two separate funds: the agricultural rental fund used for prairie restoration, and the salvage fund used for all other activities. Receipts from grazing fees, agricultural leases for row crops, sales of surplus equipment, and the salvage value proceeds from the sale of any facilities and improvements can be used to cover the cost of ecosystem restoration; construction of a visitor center, recreational facilities, trails, and administrative office; prairie improvement; and operation and maintenance.

Quinault Special Management Area Fund

This program and budget line item for the Quinault Special Management Area (QSMA) is unique to the Forest Service. The QSMA is over 5,400 acres, prescribed and defined by law (The Act of November 8, 1988, see below), which the Olympic

National Forest manages for the Quinault Indian Nation. All receipts from use of this land, including timber sales, firewood, botanicals, special use permits, and minerals, are divided with 45 percent going to the State of Washington, 45 percent to the Quinault Tribe, and 10 percent towards management of the lands by the Olympic National Forest. Quarterly, the Olympic National Forest processes the receipts and sends a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribal Chair, documenting the receipts that will be transferred to Bureau for disbursement to the Tribe.

Restoration of Forest Lands & Improvement

This authority protects the interests of the Forest Service in situations where work is to be done by a permittee or timber purchaser. This fund receives monies from forfeiture of a bond or deposit by a permittee or timber purchaser for failure to complete performance of improvement, protection, or rehabilitation work required under the permit or timber sale contract; or the result of a judgment, compromise, or settlement of any claim, involving present or potential damage to lands or improvements. Funds are available until expended to cover the costs of performing the required work. Any funds received in excess of the amount expended in performing the work shall be transferred to miscellaneous receipts.

Commercial Filming & Photography Land Use Fee

Fees retained by the Forest Service in this fund are used to manage and respond to film/photo use requests on National Forest System lands in an expedited manner. For example, forest units use these funds to assess popular film/photo locations in advance of requests, and to develop and post information on film/photo procedures specific to the unit. Regional and national units use these funds to provide management oversight, develop policy, and coordinate inter-regional or inter-forest film/photo requests prior to accepting a proposal as a formal application.

Organizational Camp Program

Organizational camp fees are available until expended for program administration; performing oversight, inspection, and monitoring of existing special use authorizations to ensure compliance with terms and conditions; interpretive programs; environmental analysis and restoration activities; and similar purposes. The Forest Service administers approximately 300 permits for organizational camps.

Organizational camps have a three-part fee system:

- Land Use Fees – Fees are based on a percentage of the agricultural land value, adjusted downward for services provided to disabled individuals and at-risk youth. The land use fee may be offset by work performed pursuant to Section 3 of the Federal Timber Contract Payment Modification Act (16 U.S.C. 539f).
- Facility Use Fees – If an organizational camp uses a Federally-owned facility, a fee is assessed based on five percent of the facility's appraised value.
- Fees Based on Other Revenue – If permit holders earn revenue from activities other than providing youth services, a fee is assessed based on five percent of the organizational camp's revenue.

Cost Recovery (Land Use)

Each year, the Forest Service processes thousands of applications for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands and administers tens of thousands of authorizations for a wide variety of non-occupancy purposes, including energy-related uses, broadband and communication facilities, and campground management. Processing and authorizing these uses are an important component of facilitating the development and transmission of affordable and reliable energy and communication services, supporting national security, supporting economic development, and promoting the public health and safety of populations within or in proximity to national forests and grasslands throughout the Nation.

Work activities include:

- Evaluating applications to use Federal land for other than government uses; commercial and private requests to assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, land use plans; evaluating the technical and financial capability of applicants to conduct activities on National Forest System land; conducting appropriate environmental, social, and economic analyses on requests to use National Forest System land pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act; developing special use authorizations with appropriate terms and conditions that ensure the protection of public health and safety, and resource protection measures; and performing oversight and inspection of certain authorization activities associated with construction/reconstruction activities.
- All determinations are subject to dispute, allowing the applicant or holder to question the validity of the estimated cost recovery fee in the initial determination. Disputes must provide a written rationale and evidence that the estimated fee is

in error and suggest alternative fee estimations based in fact. Waivers of cost recovery fees are provided for local, State, or Federal governmental applicants, and for recreation use authorizations taking 50 hours or less to process.

Categories of projects included in this fund are:

Cost Recovery Lands Major Projects - All applicants proposing recreation and non-recreation (land) uses that require more than 50 hours of agency time to process or monitor are charged a fee. Uses involving construction/reconstruction are deemed to be major categories for which the agency collects all appropriate administrative costs.

Cost Recovery Lands Minor Projects - Excluding recreation uses, all non-recreation (land) uses not subject to exemption or waiver that require 50 hours or less of agency time to process or monitor are deemed Minor Categories. These categories use a flat fee schedule established in four different tiers, subject to annual indexing.

Licensee Program Smokey Bear

The Smokey Bear program supports national initiatives, programs, educational materials and products that help increase public awareness about wildfire prevention. The licensee contractor manages the marketing and administration of the commercial license program and receives 35 percent of the royalties collected. The national Wildfire Prevention program provides oversight for the licensing contract and program. The Smokey Bear royalties also support the National Smokey Bear Award program and the national wildfire prevention public service campaign managed by the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Committee. The Chief of the Forest Service has discretionary authority to use money from the royalties for special wildfire prevention projects, such as Smokey Bear birthday celebrations and attendance in parades, which support the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention message.

Licensee Program Woodsy Owl

The Woodsy Owl program supports national initiatives, programs, and products to increase public awareness of activities and issues related to improvement and maintenance of the environment. The Conservation Education program identifies funding for the Woodsy Owl conservation program initiative to develop products, enhance partnerships and manage the licensing program. For the management of the licensing program, the licensing contractor receives 35 percent of the royalties reported. In FY 2020, a share of the licensing royalty funds will be used to costumes and shipping charges to allocate Woodsy costumes to existing Woodsy Owl Conservation Corps sites and identified field units..

Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)

The Forest Service prompted the implementation of the “Go Green” program on the national forests and grasslands in FY 2009 to help meet the agency’s recycling and waste reduction goals. Go Green funds are collected not only from recycling simple items such as cans, but also from recycling abandoned vehicles and appliances, which makes this funding essential for land management. This funding enables field units to accomplish clean-up activities they otherwise might not be able to accomplish.

Since FY 2009, the implementation of the authority to collect revenue resulting from waste prevention and recycling programs has increased significantly. The funding level in this program depends on the proceeds collected. As information on Go Green is more widely shared, funding levels are expected to increase. In FY 2021, the Forest Service anticipates that its Go Green program will continue to grow, given increasing awareness through the Sustainable Operations peer learning series. Every dollar collected under this authority offsets funding from other programs.

Conveyance of Administrative Sites

The Administrative Site Conveyances Program allows the agency to convey unneeded administrative sites and retain the proceeds for building maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction. The program provides for the realignment of the agency’s facility portfolio by providing an incentive for local managers to liquidate obsolete or underutilized assets and reinvest in assets that best support the agency’s mission. This authority provides the opportunity to efficiently address current and future needs, reduce annual lease costs, and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog. In addition to operational benefits, the program provides substantial economic and social benefits, including providing local communities with an additional tax base and opportunities for redevelopment to align with community plans and economic stimulus strategies.

Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005, (FSFREA), Title V of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 109-54) authorizes conveyance of unneeded administrative sites and retain the proceeds for building maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction provided certain criteria contained in Title V are met. FSFREA has been reauthorized multiple times, most recently in the FY 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act which reauthorized it through September 30, 2019. Authority to initiate new conveyances expires as of Oct. 1, 2020 but work on ongoing conveyances is still permitted. This budget requests reauthorization through October 1, 2021.

Revenues received from the sale of land or structures are deposited into the Sisk Act Fund and are available without further appropriation.

Site Specific Lands Act

This program enables the collection of receipts from the sale of National Forest System lands pursuant to special acts passed by Congress. The proceeds are used for specific improvements to lands and facilities within the same national forest or State.

The legislated project may include work functions such as: notification, analysis, valuation, and realty case processing services; construction of new facilities; alteration of existing facilities to change their functions; and expansion of facilities to meet the needs of changing mission critical functions. Projects are identified annually through the legislative process. As a result, benefits and funds collected vary each year based on legislation.

PAYMENTS TO STATES

National Forest Fund Payments to States Available, Title I & III

The National Forest Fund Payment to States Available is an account where all receipts are deposited that will be used for Title I and Title III payments under Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS Act) Payments to States. These funds, combined with a Payments to States U.S. Treasury transfer, are the source of payments to States under the SRS Act, most recently reauthorized by P.L. 116-94 on December 20, 2019.

The SRS Act of 2000, as amended (16 U.S.C. Ch. 90) directs that Title I funds be used to fund county schools and roads. Title III may be used on county projects, including (1) to carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program (2) to reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols (3) to cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency services described in paragraph 2; and (4) to develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans. FY 2018 receipts payments to each State were completed in May of 2019 (the program has a one-year lag in timing of payments). Information about FY 2018 receipt year payments can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/pts/home>.

Payments to Minnesota Counties

This Authority derives from the Thye-Blatnik Act of June 22, 1948, as amended (16 U.S.C. 577g), Payment for Additional Lands Acquired in Northern Minnesota. This Act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire resorts, cabins, and private lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Permanent residents were prohibited after 1974. Additionally, payments lieu-of-taxes were authorized to Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties for Federal wilderness land from any national forest receipts not otherwise appropriated. At the close of each fiscal year, the State of Minnesota is paid three-fourths of one percent of the appraised value of certain Superior National Forest lands in the counties of St. Louis, Cook, and Lake for distribution to those counties. The land value is reappraised every 10-years. New appraisals were last completed in 2008. A new appraisal is in process, but a final determination of value has not yet been made. A post-sequestration reduction payment for 2018 of over \$5.7 million was transmitted to the State of Minnesota beginning in April of 2019 (the program has a one-year lag in timing of payments).

Payments to Counties, Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act

This authority derives from Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1012). This Act pertains primarily to national grasslands and land use projects. Annual payments are authorized to counties that contain Forest Service lands acquired under the Bankhead-Jones Act. Twenty-five percent of the revenues received during the year, excluding receipts from the sale of land, from each national grassland or land utilization project, are paid to the counties in which such lands are located. The funds are restricted to uses that benefit public schools or roads. A post-sequestration reduction payment for 2018 of nearly \$35.1 million was transmitted to eligible States in June of 2019 (the program has a one-year lag in timing of payments).

Secure Payments for State, Title II

The SRS Act provides choices to counties for funding resource improvement projects on the national forest where the county is located. The authority to initiate SRS Title II projects will terminate on September 30, 2021. Any SRS Title II project funds not obligated by September 30, 2023, will be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Title II funds are used by the Forest Service to carry out projects in eligible counties to further protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resource objectives consistent with the purposes of the SRS Act on Federal land, and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit the resources on Federal land. Title II funds are used for projects such as active forest management, road maintenance, trail maintenance, invasive weed control, and restoration of wildlife habitat, streams and watersheds. These projects often provide opportunities to promote youth and volunteer engagement in our national forests and grasslands.

Secure Rural School Resource Advisory Committees

A Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides recommendations to the Forest Service on the development and implementation of special projects on federal lands as most recently reauthorized under the Secure Rural Schools Act and Community Self-Determination Act in Public Law 116-9. Each RAC consists of 15 people representing

varied interests and areas of expertise, who work collaboratively to improve working relationships among community members and national forest personnel.

The SRS program was evaluated by the USDA Office of Inspector General beginning in 2015, with the final report issued in August of 2017. This evaluation found that of Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) nationwide, 52 of the then 117 established RACs (44 percent) did not have the required number of members to reach a quorum and therefore were unable to review and recommend Title II projects. The Forest Service is taking steps to reduce timeframes for vetting requests, provide additional outreach resources and training to all SRS RAC points of contact, and provide additional one-on-one consultation to RACs as needed. The USDA filed a new charter for the RACs on October 17, 2019, and is working to recruit members for the RACs by taking full advantage of Section 8702 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) (the Farm Bill), which modified the requirements for RACs to reach a quorum by lowering the members required to reach a quorum to not fewer than nine. In June 2019, the Forest Service issued a Federal Register notice seeking nominations for RACs pursuant to the SRS Act in accordance with the changes in the Farm Bill. In addition, the Act directed the Forest Service to conduct a pilot program for Regional Foresters to appoint RAC members in Montana and Arizona. Using this pilot program, the Forest Service has already filled 9 of the 12 RACs in Montana and 2 of the 4 RACs in Arizona.

Secure Payments for States Failure to Elect and Return to Treasury Option

The SRS Act (16 U.S.C. sec. 7112) required an eligible county that received a share of the SRS formula payment greater than \$100,000 to submit its election to allocate its share among titles of the SRS Act not later than September 30 of each year. Under the most recent reauthorization of the SRS Act, P.L. 116-9, elections are locked in. Prior to P.L. 116-9, an eligible county that failed to make a timely election was considered to have elected to expend 80 percent of the funds in accordance with the provisions of the 1908 Act. The remaining funds would then become available to the Forest Service to carry out projects in the eligible county to further protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resource objectives consistent with the purposes of the SRS Act on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit the resources on Federal land. In the FY 2018 receipt year, 2019 payment year, the remaining funds, per 16 U.S.C. 7112(d)(3)(B)(ii), totaled \$123,032. A county may also opt to return its SRS Act formula allocation, in whole or part, to the U.S. Treasury per U.S.C. 7112(d)(1)(C)(ii).

TRUST FUNDS**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT****Lead-Off Tabular Statement**

Item	Amount
2020 Enacted.....	\$163,714,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+2,273,000
Budget Estimate, 2021	<u>165,987,000</u>

PROJECT STATEMENT**Project Statement (dollars in thousands, staff years (SY))**

Program/Activity	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Enacted		2021 Budget		Change from 2020 Enacted	
	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY	B.A.	SY
Mandatory Funds:										
Cooperative Work - Knutson- Vandenberg	\$187,239	360	\$253,638	266	\$83,000	198	\$84,411	202	\$1,411	4
Cooperative Work – Other.....	39,405	53	89,526	42	50,602	143	51,462	153	860	10
Reforestation Trust Fund	27,246	128	30,000	118	30,000	93	30,000	99	0	6
Land Between The Lakes Trust Fund.....	84	0	109	0	112	0	114	0	2	0
Total, Mandatory Funding ^a.....	253,974	541	373,273	426	163,714	434	165,987	454	2,273	20
Carryover from Prior Years:										
Cooperative Work - Knutson- Vandenberg	57,656	0	10,583	0	213,408	0	226,807	0	13,399	0
Cooperative Work – Other.....	113,898	0	57,265	0	111,302	0	118,290	0	6,988	0
Reforestation Trust Fund	6,875	0	7,729	0	8,120	0	8,629	0	509	0
Land Between The Lakes Trust Fund.....	5,892	0	5,921	0	5,903	0	6,274	0	371	0
Subtotal, Carryover ^a	184,321	0	81,498	0	338,733	0	360,000	0	21,267	0
Adjustment for Change in										
Uncollected Payments	10	0	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sequestration ^b	290	0	-7	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0
Recoveries, Other ^a	4,589	0	4,432	0	4,000	0	4,000	0	0	0
Total Available	443,184	541	459,186	426	506,447	434	534,987	454	28,540	20
Balances, Available End of Year	-81,498	0	-338,733	0	-360,000	0	-388,987	0	-29,987	0
Total Obligations.....	\$361,686	541	\$120,453	426	\$146,447	434	\$146,000	454	-\$447	20

^a Amounts include reimbursables.^b Sequestrations include mandatory appropriations previously unavailable.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS*Classification by Objects (dollars in thousands)*

Item No.	Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	\$6	\$5	\$5	\$5
	Personnel Compensation, Field	43,589	34,760	36,511	38,193
11.0	Total personnel compensation	43,595	34,765	36,516	38,198
12.0	Personal benefits.....	15,289	11,505	12,084	12,641
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	38	0	0	0
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	58,922	46,270	48,600	50,839
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	5,255	804	1,060	1,031
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1,742	181	239	232
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	2,216	582	768	747
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	3,100	857	1,130	1,099
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	4,112	1,243	1,640	1,595
24.0	Printing and reproduction	246	56	74	72
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	6	168	222	216
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	171,437	38,353	50,587	49,197
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	34,233	9,778	12,897	12,543
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	29	10	13	13
25.5	Research and development contracts	60	55	73	71
25.6	Medical care	3	1	1	1
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	2,335	195	257	250
26.0	Supplies and materials	33,236	15,273	20,145	19,592
31.0	Equipment.....	4,331	866	1,142	1,111
32.0	Land and structures.....	8,336	611	806	784
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	32,046	5,137	6,776	6,590
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	41	13	17	17
	Total, Other Objects	302,764	74,183	97,847	95,161
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	361,686	120,453	146,447	146,000
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) ^a	\$9	\$8	\$8	\$8
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$182,853	\$184,223	\$186,986	\$189,791
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$57,591	\$57,889	\$58,757	\$59,639
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1

^a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) security payments for FY 2019 were calculated by distributing total DHS payments across each Deputy Area based on their percent cost pool contributions. Outyear DHS payments were estimated assuming a 1.5 percent increase each fiscal year.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V)

This program uses funds derived from timber sale revenues to accomplish improvement work within the timber sale area. Planned resource project work is documented in the sale area improvement plans as determined by the project environmental analysis. The first priority for K-V program funds is reforestation of harvested areas. These funds can also be used to perform timber stand improvement and protection, and for the improvement of other resource values, including wildlife, soil, watershed, range, and recreation.

Knutson-Vandenberg Regional Work

The FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-54) expanded the authority to allow for the expenditure of unused funds not needed to accomplish work on the timber sale area, on another area "...within the Forest Service region in which the timber sale occurred." Unused collections are generated when actual costs are less than planned costs. This authority is used to accomplish watershed restoration; wildlife habitat improvement; control of insects, disease, and noxious weeds; community protection activities; and the maintenance of forest roads. The work can be performed through the use of contracts, forest product sales, and cooperative agreements. If forest product sales are used to accomplish these objectives, K-V Regional Work program funds may be utilized for timber sale planning, preparation, administration, engineering support, and landline location.

Cooperative Work – Other

The Cooperative Work, Other fund is used to collect deposits received from partners and cooperators for protecting and improving resources of the National Forest System as authorized by cooperative agreements. The deposits are for a wide variety of activities that benefit and support programs in Forest and Rangeland Research, on National Forest System lands, and for other agency activities.

Cooperative Work, Agreement Based – This is a direct project-to-customer relationship, typically involving long-term liability on the part of the Forest Service to perform work for the contributor. An example of this work is a special use permit with collection provisions under the Granger-Thye Offset where the Forest Service has a liability to perform work for the permit holder specially tied to the permit. These agreements should typically be accompanied by a collection agreement.

Cooperative Work, Non-Agreement Based – These deposits occur when the terms of the authorizing instrument, such as a permit or sale contract, allow for deposits from multiple contributors to be pooled and expended for the intended purpose. The majority of these pooled collections are not subject to refunds in accordance with the provisions of the respective authorizing instrument.

Cooperative deposits are received from a vast assortment of local, regional, and national organizations and individuals; State and other public agencies; industrial associations; and other private sources. The deposits are made under a variety of cooperative instruments that specify the mutual benefits of the work. Cooperative deposits leverage appropriated funds to increase effectiveness and complement the objectives of Forest Service appropriated resource management programs and cooperative research projects. These programs and projects may involve any aspect of forestry and vary widely in scope and duration.

Cooperative road maintenance deposits can be made by commercial users of the National Forest Road System in lieu of actually performing their commensurate share of road maintenance. These deposits are used in conjunction with the other road maintenance appropriations to provide maintenance of National Forest System roads by the Forest Service.

Deposits for administering and protecting non-Federal land within or near the national forests can be made by owners of non-Federal lands that are intermingled with, or adjacent to, National Forest System lands. These deposits help landowners manage their lands in accordance with good forest management practices and provide for wildfire protection on State and private lands intermingled with Federal ownership.

Land Between the Lakes

The Land Between the Lakes Protection Act (LBL), called for an area in western Kentucky and Tennessee, to be managed as a unit of the National Forest System. Section 531 of the Act established a special interest-bearing fund known as the LBL trust fund, to be available for public education, grants, and internships related to recreation,

conservation, and multiple-use land management, as well as regional promotion in cooperation with development districts, chambers of commerce, and State and local governments.

In accordance with the terms described in the act, beginning September 30, 2000, the Tennessee Valley Authority began depositing \$1 million annually into the fund for five consecutive years, for a total of \$5 million. The Forest Service has allowed the fund balance to grow, and LBL has now begun to use the interest earned for the purposes intended by Congress. This includes providing additional funding to further assist in the promotion and support of the successful school grant program for environmental education.

Reforestation Trust Fund

A maximum of \$30 million is transferred to the Reforestation Trust Fund by the U.S. Treasury each fiscal year to reduce the backlog in reforestation and timber stand improvement work. Reforestation activities include site preparation for planting or seeding of the appropriate tree species, site preparation to encourage natural regeneration, and certification of acres naturally regenerated without the need for site preparation. In addition, as part of the reforestation activity, various treatments are applied to improve initial seedling survival rates. Benefits of reforestation include regeneration of forest vegetation on areas impacted by wildfire, floods, and hurricanes; increased carbon sequestration capacity; establishment of resilient forest vegetation; and improved habitat diversity for many wildlife species.

Timber stand improvement activities include release treatments through removal of competing vegetation; pre-commercial thinning to regulate stand density, composition and structure; pruning treatments that reduce ladder fuels, reduce the effects of pathogens (such as white pine blister rust) and improve future wood product quality; and fertilization treatments to maintain and improve soil productivity and enhance rapid stand development to improve carbon storage capacity. Benefits of timber stand improvement include improved forest health and productivity; hazardous fuel reductions; improved forest resilience to the impacts of drought, insects and disease; and diversified wildlife habitat. In addition, timber stand improvement generates woody biomass that is available to meet renewable energy needs.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

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

Not more than \$50,000,000 of funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of Interior for wildland fire management, hazardous fuels management, and State fire assistance when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Forest Service may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated to the Forest Service by this Act to or within the National Forest System Account, or reprogram funds to be used for the purposes of hazardous fuels management and urgent rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, [2023]2024: *Provided*, That none of the funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That this section does not apply to funds derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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

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

None of the funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year shall be subject to transfer under the provisions of section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257), section 442 of Public Law 106–224 (7 U.S.C. 7772), or section 10417(b) of Public Law 107–171 (7 U.S.C. 8316(b)).

Not more than \$82,000,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture and not more than \$14,500,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture for Department Reimbursable Programs, commonly referred to as Greenbook charges. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit or limit the use of reimbursable agreements requested by the Forest Service in order to obtain information technology services, including telecommunications and system modifications or enhancements, from the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture.

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to \$5,000,000 shall be available for priority projects within the scope of the approved budget, which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps and shall be carried out under the authority of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1721 et. seq.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Forest Service shall not assess funds for the purpose of performing fire, administrative, and other facilities maintenance and decommissioning.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of 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 matters unrelated to civil litigation. Future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the sums requested for transfer.

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

Notwithstanding any other provisions if this Act, through the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, the Forest Service shall report no later than 30 business days following the close of each fiscal quarter all current and prior year unobligated balances, by fiscal year, budget line item and account, to the House and senate Committees on Appropriations.

GENERAL PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS]

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

OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

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

DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

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

MINING APPLICATIONS

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

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

(c) **REPORT.**—On September 30, [2021]2022, the Secretary of the Interior shall file with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on actions taken by the Department under the plan submitted pursuant to section 314(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208).

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

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, PRIOR YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. [405]404 Sections 405 and 406 of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235) shall continue in effect in fiscal year [2020]2021.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR 2021 LIMITATION

SEC. [406]405. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year 2021 [2020] under the headings "Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Contract Support Costs" and "Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, Contract Support Costs" are the only amounts available for contract support costs arising out of self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements for fiscal year 2021 [2020] with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service: Provided, That such amounts provided by this Act are not available for payment of claims for contract support costs for prior years, or for repayments of payments for settlements or judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. [407]406. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered to be in violation of subparagraph 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years have passed without revision of the plan for a unit of the National Forest System. Nothing in this section exempts the Secretary from any other requirement of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) or any other law: *Provided*, That if the Secretary is not acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding available, to revise a plan for a unit of the National Forest System, this section shall be void with respect to such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS

SEC. [408]407. No funds provided in this Act may be expended to conduct preleasing, leasing and related activities under either the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) within the boundaries of a National Monument established pursuant to the Act of June 8, 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) as such boundary existed on January 20, 2001, except where such activities are allowed under the Presidential proclamation establishing such monument.

LIMITATION ON TAKINGS

SEC. [409]408. Unless otherwise provided herein, no funds appropriated in this Act for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands may be expended for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints in condemnation without the approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to funds appropriated to implement the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989, or to funds appropriated for Federal assistance to the State of Florida to acquire lands for Everglades restoration purposes.

PROHIBITION ON NO-BID CONTRACTS

Sec. [410]409. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to executive branch agencies may be used to enter into any Federal contract unless such contract is entered into in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 33 of Title 41, United States Code, or Chapter 137 of Title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulations, unless-

- (1) Federal law specifically authorizes a contract to be entered into without regard for these requirements, including formula grants for States, or Federally recognized Indian Tribes;
- (2) Such Contract is authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638, 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) or by any other Federal laws that specifically authorize a contract within an Indian Tribe as defined in Section 4e of that Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)); or
- (3) Such contract was awarded prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

POSTING OF REPORTS

SEC. [411]410. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

- (1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or
- (2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. [414]411. The Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, and the Indian Health Service shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of appropriations including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds in each program and activity within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

[FOREST SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION]

[SEC.416. Subsection (f) of section 8705 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR FEES COLLECTED,-

Fees collected by the Forest Service under sub-section (c) (3) shall be-

“(A) collected only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts;

“(B) based on the costs described in sub-section (c) (3); and

“(C) competitively neutral, technology neutral, and nondiscriminatory with respect to other users of the communications site”.]

EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS

SEC. [417]412. The terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108–108 (117 Stat. 1307), regarding grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on any lands not subject to administration under section 402 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752), shall remain in effect for fiscal year [2020]2021.

FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. [418]413. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

HUMANE TRANSFER AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

SEC. [419]414. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the “Secretary concerned”), may transfer excess wild horses and burros that have been removed from land administered by the Secretary concerned to other Federal, State, [and] local, and Tribal government agencies for use as work animals.

(b) The Secretary concerned may make a transfer under sub- section (a) immediately on the request of a Federal, State, [or] local government agency.

(c) An excess wild horse or burro transferred under subsection (a) shall lose status as a wild free-roaming horse or burro (as defined in section 2 of Public Law 92–195 (commonly known as the “Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act”) (16 U.S.C. 1332)).

(d) A Federal, State, [or] local, or Tribal government agency receiving an excess wild horse or burro pursuant to subsection (a) shall not—

(1) destroy the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro into a commercial product;

(2) sell or otherwise transfer the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro for processing into a commercial product; or

(3) euthanize the horse or burro, except on the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian in a case of severe injury, illness, or advanced age.

(e) Amounts appropriated by this Act shall not be available for—

(1) the destruction of any healthy, unadopted, and wild horse or burro under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned (including a contractor); or

(2) the sale of a wild horse or burro that results in the destruction of the wild horse or burro for processing into a commercial product.

(f) Consistent with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burrows Act of 1971, the Secretary of the Interior shall implement a program that uses a combination of techniques or treatments to achieve appropriate management levels for wild horses and burros—

(1) Techniques and treatments should include removals, humane temporary fertility control, humane non-lethal surgical sterilization, humane non-surgical sterilization, and humane chemical sterilization techniques.

(2) Humane temporary fertility control techniques include but are not limited to short-term immunocontraceptive vaccines and intrauterine devices.

(3) Humane, non-lethal sterilization techniques include, but are not limited to, long-term immunocontraceptive vaccines, castration, tubal ligation, occlusion of the oviduct, and ovariectomy.

FOREST SERVICE FACILITY REALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 420. Section 503(f) of Public Law 109–54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note) shall be applied by substituting “September 30, [2020]2021” for “September 30, 2019”.

[RECISSION OF FUNDS]

[SEC. 422. Any amounts made available for fiscal year 2020 pursuant to section 8705(f)(2) of Public Law 115-334 as amended by this Act, are hereby rescinded.]

LOCAL COOPERATOR TRAINING AGREEMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR WILDFIRES

SEC. [424]421. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with volunteer fire departments, rural fire departments, rangeland fire protection associations, and similar organizations to provide for wildland fire training and equipment, including supplies and communication devices. Notwithstanding 121(c) of title 40, United States Code, or section 521 of title 40, United States Code, the Secretary is further authorized to transfer title to excess Department of the Interior firefighting equipment no longer needed to carry out the functions of the Department's wildland fire management program to such organizations.

RECREATION FEE

SEC. [425]422. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) shall be applied by substituting “October 1, [2021] 2023” for “October 30, 2019”.

[REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES]

[SEC. 426. None of the funds made available in this Act, in this and prior fiscal years, may be reprogrammed without the advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures contained in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).]

[PROJECT INFORMATION]

[SEC. 427. (a) Within 60 days of the submission of the fiscal year 2021 budget or by April 2, 2020, whichever comes first, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate prioritized and detailed lists of Federal land acquisition projects, and Forest Legacy projects, that have been identified by each land management agency.

(b) The Federal land acquisition project lists required by each Agency in subsection (a) shall include individual projects for the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service, and shall total for each agency no less than 150 percent of the amount enacted for that agency for the previous fiscal year.]

LOCAL CONTRACTORS

SEC. [428]423. Section 412 of Division E of Public Law 112–74 shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2020] 2021” for “fiscal year 2019”.

SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEE AUTHORITY

SEC. [429]424. Section 422 of division F of Public Law 110-161(121 Stat. 1844), as amended, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2020]2021 for fiscal year 2019”.

INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION AUTHORITY

SEC. [430]425. Section 426 of division G of Public Law 113-76 (16 U.S.C. 565a-1 note) [shall be applied by substituting “September 30, [2020]2021” for “September 30, 2019”.

PUERTO-RICO SCHOOLING

SEC. [431]426. The authority provided by the 19th unnumbered paragraph under heading “Administrative Provisions, Forest Service” in title III of Public Law 109-54, as amended shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2020]2021” for “fiscal year 2019”.

FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS FEE COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. [432]427. Section 339 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note), as amended by section 335(6) of Public Law 108–108 and section 432 of Public Law 113– 76, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2020]2021” for “fiscal year 2019”.

ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL HEALTH ENTITIES AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. [433]428. Section 424(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76), as amended by section 428 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), shall be applied by substituting "October 1, 2021 [2020]" for "October 1, 2020 [2019]".

CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE

SEC. [434]429. Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-312); 54 U.S.C. 320101 note) shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2020]2021” for fiscal year 2019”.

[FOREST SERVICE BUDGET RESTRUCTURE]

[SEC. 435. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the "Forest Service Operations" account not later than October 1, 2020, for the necessary expenses of the Forest Service: (1) for the base salary and expenses of employees in the Chief's Office, the Work Environment and Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer's Office to carry out administrative and general management support functions; (2) for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites; (3) for the costs of utility and communication expenses, business services, and information technology, including cybersecurity requirements; and (4) for such other administrative support function expenses necessary for the operation of the Forest Service.

(b) Subsequent to the establishment of the account under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture may execute appropriations of the Department for fiscal year 2021 as provided pursuant to such subsection, including any continuing appropriations made available for fiscal year 2021 before enactment of a regular appropriations Act.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer any unobligated balances made available to the Forest Service by this or prior appropriations Acts to the account established under subsection (a) to carry out such subsection, and shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives within 5 days of such transfer: *Provided*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were made available for wildfire suppression operations pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(F) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(d) (1) Not later than November 1, 2020, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the preliminary baseline for application of transfer authorities and submit the report specified in paragraph (2) to the Committees on Appropriations for the Senate and the House of Representatives. (2) The report required in this subsection shall include–

(A) a delineation of the amount and account of each transfer made pursuant to subsection (b) or (c);

(B) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the fiscal year 2020 enacted levels, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and adjustments made pursuant to the transfer authority in subsection (b) or (c), and the resulting fiscal year level;

(C) a delineation in the table for each appropriation, adjusted as described in paragraph (2), both by budget activity and program, project, and activity as detailed in the Budget Appendix; and

(D) an identification of funds directed for a specific activity.]

TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS

SEC. [436]430. No timber sale in Alaska’s Region 10 shall be advertised if the indicated rate is deficit (defined as the value of the timber is not sufficient to cover all logging and stumpage costs and provide a normal profit and risk allowance under the Forest Service’s appraisal process) when appraised using a residual value appraisal. The western red cedar timber from those sales which is surplus to the needs of the domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 United States at prevailing domestic prices. All additional western red cedar volume not sold to Alaska or contiguous 48 United States domestic processors may be exported to foreign markets at the election of the timber sale holder. All Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at prevailing export prices at the election of the timber sale holder.

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. [437]431. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate or implement any regulation requiring the issuance of permits under title V of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.) for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.

GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RESTRICTIONS

SEC. [438]432. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement any provision in a rule, if that provision requires mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems.

EXTEND FTCA COVERAGE TO URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS

SEC. 433. Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: "SEC. 519. Urban Indian organizations deemed part of Public Health Service. "

(a) Definitions. In this section: "(1) Contract or agreement. The term contract or agreement means a contract, grant agreement, or cooperative agreement entered into under this title. "(2) Covered claim. The term covered claim means a claim by any person initially filed on or after the date of enactment of this section for personal injury, including death.

"(b) Liability protection. For purposes of section 224 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 233), with respect to a covered claim resulting from the performance prior to, including, or after the date of enactment of this section, of medical, surgical, dental, or related functions, including the conduct of a clinical study or investigation, performed while carrying out a contract or agreement, or for purposes of section 2679, title 28, United States Code, with respect to a covered claim resulting from the operation of an emergency motor vehicle pursuant to a contract or agreement– "(1) an urban Indian organization is deemed to be part of the Public Health Service in the Department while carrying out the contract or agreement; and "(2) any officer, governing board member, or employee of the urban Indian organization (including any contractor or individual that provides health care services pursuant to a personal services contract) is deemed to be an employee of the Public Health Service while acting within the scope of their employment in carrying out the contract or agreement."

CONCURRENT FEDERAL AND STATE JURISDICTION AT IHS FEDERAL ENCLAVE PROPERTIES

SEC. 434. (a) IN GENERAL. - The Secretary of Health and Human Services, on behalf of the United States may, whenever the Secretary deems desirable, relinquish to a State all or part of the jurisdiction of the United States over lands and properties encompassing Indian Health Service facilities that are under the supervision or control of the Secretary. (b)TERMS.

Relinquishment of jurisdiction under this section may be accomplished, under terms and conditions that the Secretary deems advisable, (1) by filing with the Governor of such State a notice of relinquishment to take effect upon acceptance thereof; or (2) as the laws of such State may otherwise provide. INCOME TAX EXCLUSION FOR IHS SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM SEC. 430. INCOME TAX EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS RECEIVED UNDER

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS. (a) IHS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. Section 117(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended - (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking or; (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting ", or"; and

(3) by adding the following new subparagraph: "(D) the Indian Health Service Health Professions Scholarship program under section 104 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act." (b) IHS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. - (1) EXCLUSION. Section 108(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows: "(5)

PAYMENTS UNDER INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. In the case of an individual, gross income shall not include any amount received under section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act." (2)

CONFORMING AMENDMENT FOR TAX WITHHOLDING. Section 3401(a)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting 108(f)(5), after 108(f)(4)..

HALF-TIME BASIS SERVICE OBLIGATION OPTION

SEC. 436. HALF-TIME BASIS SERVICE OBLIGATION OPTION FOR INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.- Section 104(b) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a(b)) is amended - (1) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting after "full-time" the following: ", or, pursuant to paragraph (6), half-time"; and (2) by adding at the end the following paragraph: "(6) HALF-TIME SERVICE OPTION. In carrying out paragraph (3), the Secretary may, in accordance with this paragraph, allow an individual to meet the individual's service obligation through half-time practice if "(A) the Secretary has determined that assignment of a health professional who would serve half-time would be appropriate for the location where, or the program in which, the individual will be performing his or her service; "(B) the individual agrees in writing to fulfill all of the service obligations under this section through half-time clinical practice and double the period of obligated service that would otherwise be required; and "(C) the individual agrees in writing that if the individual begins providing half-time service but fails to begin or complete the period of obligated service, the method stated in section 108(l) for determining the damages for breach of the individual's written contract will be used after converting periods of obligated service or of service performed into their full-time equivalents."

(b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. Section 108 of such Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a) is amended (1) in subsection (f)(1)(B)(iii), by inserting after "may agree to serve" the following: ", or, pursuant to subsection (o), 4 years or such longer period as the individual may agree to serve."; and (2) by adding at the end the following subsection: "(o) HALF-TIME SERVICE OPTION. - In carrying out this section, the Secretary may, in accordance with this subsection, allow an individual to meet the individual's service obligation through half-time practice if - "(1) the individual agrees in the written contract that the period of obligated service under subsection (f) shall be 4 years or such longer period as the individual may agree to serve, in place of the period otherwise prescribed in paragraph (1)(B)(iii) of such subsection; "(2) the maximum loan repayment for each year of obligated service shall be 50 percent of the amount that would otherwise be payable, under subsection (g)(2)(A), for full-time service; and "(3) the individual agrees in writing that if the individual begins providing half-time service but fails to begin or complete the period of obligated service, the method stated in subsection (l) for determining the damages for breach of the individual's written contract will be used after converting periods of obligated service or of service performed into their full-time equivalents."

FTCA AND FECA COVERAGE FOR IHS VOLUNTEERS

SEC. 437. FTCA AND FECA COVERAGE FOR IHS VOLUNTEERS. Section 224 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 233) is amended by adding a new subsection as follows: (r) TORT CLAIMS AND WORK INJURY COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS IN INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FACILITIES. (1) IN GENERAL. If under section 223 and regulations pursuant to such section, and through an agreement entered into in accordance with such regulations, the Secretary accepts volunteer and uncompensated services from an individual to provide health care services at a facility of the Indian Health Service during a specified period, such individual shall, during such period, have the coverages described in paragraphs (2) and (3). (2) FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT COVERAGE. Such individual shall, during such period, (A) be deemed to be an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services, for purposes of claims under sections 1346(b) and 2672 of title 28, United States Code, for money damages for personal injury, including death, resulting from performance of functions under such agreement; and (B) be deemed to be an employee of the Public Health Service performing medical, surgical, dental, or related functions, for purposes of having the remedy provided by such sections of title 28 be exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding by reason of the same subject matter against such individual or against the estate of such individual. (3) COMPENSATION FOR WORK INJURIES. Such individual shall, during such period, be deemed to be an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services, and an injury sustained by such an individual shall be deemed in the performance of duty, for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, pertaining to compensation for work injuries.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS COMPREHENSIVE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. 438 The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered to be in violation of Section 3(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act solely because more than three years have passed since designation prior to the completion of a comprehensive river management plan; Provided, that if more than three years have passed since designation without the completion of a comprehensive river management plan, then said plan must be completed or appropriately updated no later than during the next forest plan revision process

TRIBAL LEASES

SEC. 439. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any lease under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l))– (1) the initial lease term shall– (A) be consistent with the calendar year or fiscal year basis of the funding agreement or annual funding agreement between the Secretary and Indian tribe or tribal organization under that Act; (B) commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal; and (2) any lease that is renewed in accordance with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) and the terms of the lease of the tribe shall have a term of one calendar year or fiscal year, as appropriate. (b) None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to compensate an Indian tribe or tribal organization for any lease under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) that is on a calendar year or fiscal year basis and that is received during the 120 day period ending on the last day of the calendar year or fiscal year. (c) None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to compensate an Indian tribe or tribal organization for any portion of a lease under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) that exceeds the square footage necessary for the operation of the Federal programs under the lease, as determined by the Secretary.

TRIBAL AGREEMENTS

SEC. 440. Notwithstanding sections 106(b)(2) and 516(a) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5325(b)(2), 5396(a)), the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of the Interior may reduce the amount of funds provided under the terms of a self-determination contract or compact entered into under that Act if– (1) the approval of an increase to the amount of funds that would otherwise be required under the terms of such contract or compact was made pursuant to section 507(b) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5387(b)) or section 900.18 or 1000.179 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations; and (2) the amount of the reduction does not exceed the amount of the increase.

Change Description

The first change removes the restriction on use of funds

The second change removes the approval requirement from the Committees on Appropriations in the House and Senate.

The third change disallows the use of funds appropriated for mining applications to be used for patent applications.

The fourth change removes the amendment to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 regarding Communications Site Administration fee collection.

The fifth change includes tribal government agencies into the provision for the humane treatment of animals.

The sixth change removes the rescission of 2020 funds provision.

The seventh change removes the reprogramming guidelines provision.

The eighth change removes the project information provision.

The ninth change removes the forest service budget restructure provision.

The tenth change adds a provision to extend FTCA coverage to urban Indian organizations.

The eleventh change adds a provision to allow concurrent federal and State jurisdiction at IHS federal enclave properties.

The twelfth change adds a provision to allow a half-time basis service obligation option for Indian health service scholarship and loan repayment programs.

The thirteenth change adds a provision to allow FTCA and FECA coverage for IHS volunteers.

The fourteenth change adds a provision to allow comprehensive river management plans under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to be submitted during the next forest plan revision process after 3 years have lapsed from its designation.

The fifteenth change adds a provision to clarify the initial lease terms for Tribal leases under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

The sixteenth change adds a provision to allow for changes in the amounts provided under a self-determination contract under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

DISCRETIONARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Dense undergrowth has amassed across much of the public lands, providing fuel for catastrophic wildfires and worsening insect infestation, invasive species, and disease. These conditions adversely impact the Nation’s forests, rangelands and watersheds, and contribute to increased wildfire risk to surrounding communities. Active management of timber and vegetation is necessary to combat these threats, save lives, and protect property. The Administration proposes a package of forest management legislative reforms coupled with a strong 2020 budget to kick start a solution to this serious risk. The proposed legislation would provide categorical exclusions on national forest lands for active forest management, including the ability to harvest dead, dying, or damaged trees as well as proactive fuels management, including the use of fuel breaks. These changes are much needed to help reduce fire risk, improve forest health, minimize after fire impacts, prevent re-burn of fire impacted areas, and improve safety for wildland firefighters.

GRAZING PERMITS- FLPMA AMENDMENT

The proposal would provide an amendment to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to correct the National Defense Appropriations Act (NDAA) amendment to FLPMA Section 402. For this section only, all National Forest System lands would be included so that those lands in the eastern States and National Grasslands are covered by the NDAA and are treated equally in National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis of grazing permits.

PUBLIC LANDS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

The Forest Service manages a capital asset portfolio with over \$5 billion in deferred maintenance, and an estimated replacement value of \$119 billion. This infrastructure includes 40,000 buildings, 4,700 water systems, 4,700 wastewater systems, almost 30,000 recreation sites, more than 490 Forest Service-owned dams, over 370,000 miles of road, 6,200 road bridges, and 158,000 miles of trails. To address deferred maintenance needs, the Department of the Interior FY 2021 Budget requests \$6.5 billion over five-years for a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund (PLIF). The Fund will be supported by the deposit of 50 percent of all federal energy development revenue that would otherwise be credited or deposited as miscellaneous receipts to the Treasury over the 2020-2024 period, subject to an annual limit of \$1.3 billion. The proposed allocation for infrastructure maintenance and improvements on public lands is 70 percent for national parks, 10 percent for national forests, 10 percent for wildlife refuges, five percent for Bureau of Indian Education schools, and five percent for lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Interior and Agriculture would prioritize projects, monitor implementation and measure results. This investment will significantly improve many of America's most visible, visited, and treasured places.

Proposed Forest Service Allocation of PLIF Collections (dollars in thousands)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Budget Authority.....	\$130,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$260,000
Outlays.....	130,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000

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MANDATORY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

USE OF MINERALS RECEIPTS FROM NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS TO ACCELERATE MINERALS PERMITTING-COST RECOVERY

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section “the Secretary”) shall deposit into a special account established in the Treasury all fees collected by the Secretary to recover the costs of processing applications for, and monitoring compliance with, locatable mineral plans of operation, surface use plans of operation, and other written Forest Service authorizations relating to the disposal of locatable and leasable minerals on National Forest System lands.

(b) USE OF DEPOSITED AMOUNTS.—Amounts deposited pursuant to subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, until expended to cover costs for the purposes for which the fees were collected.

(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may deposit a total amount of not more than \$60,000,000 annually into the special account under subsection (a).

ROADS AND TRAILS FUND

Amounts deposited during fiscal year 2021 in the roads and trails for States fund provided for in the fourteenth paragraph under the heading “FOREST SERVICE” of the Act of March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 843; 16 U.S.C. 501), shall be used by the Secretary of Agriculture, without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived, to repair or reconstruct roads, bridges, and trails on National Forest System lands or to carry out and administer projects to improve forest health conditions, which may include the repair or reconstruction of roads, bridges, and trails on National Forest System lands in the wildland-community interface where there is an abnormally high risk of fire.

FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS - REAUTHORIZATION

The Forest Service is proposing to extend its existing authority for one year, to September 30, 2021. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-94) extended this authority beyond a pilot program through September 30, 2020. This legislation is necessary to reauthorize the Program for charging and retaining fees for the harvest of forest botanical products. The objective of the program is to provide for the sale and harvest of forest botanical products in a sustainable manner that contributes to meeting the Nation’s demand for these goods and services.

Proposed Forest Botanical Collections (dollars in thousands)

Item	2020	2021	2022	10 Year Total
Budget Authority.....	-\$1,600	-\$1,600	-\$1,600	-\$16,000
Outlays.....	-800	-800	-800	-8,000

CASH EQUALIZATION WAIVER – LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT

The goal of this proposal is to reduce the land exchange administrative burden by approximately 70 percent and increase quantity of land exchange proposal eligibility by approximately 30 percent. This is a new proposal in FY 2021. The purpose of this waiver was to allow projects with relatively very minor value differences, to skip the extra step of providing a cash equalization payment to the sale proponent. When FLPMA was amended to reflect the waivable values for land exchanges in August 1988 (P.L. 100-409), \$15,000 was considered an appropriate figure. The inflation adjusted value of that threshold is \$32,211.93 today (ref: Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator). By updating that amount to reflect present value and increasing the percentage from three percent to five percent, the total change is approximately \$45,096, rounded down to \$45,000 in this proposal. Because this section in FLPMA has the net effect of metering the amount of total exchange projects the Forest Service can do in one year, without cash equalization, updating the amount to compensate for inflation will improve program effectiveness and return the land exchange program to the project volume levels contemplated when this statute was enacted. This proposed change will help to ensure the original intent of the Congress continues to be carried out as enacted.

APPRAISED THRESHOLD WAIVER - LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT

The goal of this proposal is to reduce the government wide land exchange administrative burden by approximately 70 percent and to increase the quantity of land exchange proposal eligibility by approximately 30 percent. In addition, this proposal would reduce the legislative burden on Congress of having to direct individual land exchanges to overcome this limitation. This proposal would result in a decreased number of legislated exchanges that must be carried out in accordance with

statutory direction that conflicts with standard authorities,⁹ indicating an update to these authorities is in order. Modification of this threshold amount from \$150,000 to \$500,000 will enable up to 30 percent more land exchanges to be completed without a full and formal appraisal. This proposed change would effectuate this Act by reflecting present day value thresholds and ensuring that those thresholds remain at the same functional level in terms of case processing volume as intended when those thresholds were set in August of 1988 (P.L. 100-409 §3, Aug. 20, 1988).

⁹ This is explained in the Government Accountability Office report, GAO-09-611 Federal Land Management, June 2009.

AGENCY-WIDE PERFORMANCE

The Forest Service was established February 1, 1905 within the Department of Agriculture. The agency was given a unique mission to sustain healthy, diverse, and productive forests and grasslands for present and future generations. The Forest Service is composed of the following major program areas; Business Operations, National Forest System, State & Private Forestry, Research & Development and International Programs. The Forest Service contributes to Goal 6 of the Department's Strategic Goals. The following tables summarize the results for the Departmental Key Performance Indicators for which Forest Service is responsible.

	2018 Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual	2020 Target	2021 Target
Percent of customers satisfied with recreation facilities, services, and settings on National Forests.....	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
Dollars (in thousands).....	0	0	0	0	0

In FY 2019, visitor satisfaction with Forest Service recreation facilities and services was rated at 95 percent, reflecting the result of our continued efforts to provide access to quality landscapes, offer a variety of recreation opportunities and settings, and maintain recreation facilities to acceptable standards.

An example of our continuous improvement in providing superior services to the recreating public includes the October 1, 2018 launch of the new Recreation.gov website. Recreation.gov services include reservation and trip planning for 100,000 individual recreation sites and activities and 3,500 recreation areas managed by seven Federal agencies. Over 3.6 million reservations are made annually on Recreation.gov. As part of the new Recreation.gov, call center services were improved and enhanced including extended hours seven days a week. Lastly, Recreation.gov site users can provide feedback to staff through visitor reviews and online comments to improve service to the public. The Forest Service will continue to test and provide up-to-date recreation and permitting tools to maintain our high visitor satisfaction rate, building on pilot programs tested in 2019 that will prepare the Forest Service to expand these online services to more locations.

	2018 Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual	2020 Target	2021 Target
Timber Volume sold (Billion Board Feet)	3.20	3.70	3.27	3.70	4.00
Dollars (in thousands).....	0	0	0	0	0

In FY 2019 the agency sold about 3.27 billion board feet of timber. This achievement was made possible by the use of tools authorized or amended in the 2014 Farm Bill, 2018 Omnibus, and 2018 Farm Bill including: Good Neighbor Authority, insect and disease National Environmental Policy Act categorical exclusions, stewardship contracting, and the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program. National forests are typically located near rural and low-income communities making forest products industry employment an important contributor to local economies. Forest products include timber and pulp for construction materials, paper products, and fuel. The Forest Service timber target for FY 2021 is 4.0 billion board feet. This increase will allow the agency to continue work towards the President's goals established in Executive Order 18355 issued on December 21, 2018 that promotes Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk.

	2018 Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual	2020 Target	2021 Target
Annual Acreage Treated to Reduce or Maintain Fuel conditions on National Forest System and non-Federal lands (million acres, annually).....	3.40	3.40	2.90	3.40	3.50
Dollars (in thousands).....	0	0	0	0	0

In FY 2019 the agency treated about 2.90 million acres of land to reduce or maintain fuel conditions. The key challenges have included unfavorable weather conditions that limited prescribed fire treatments. The generally wet conditions across much of the nation allowed for opportunities to accomplish some high priority hazardous fuels projects in the wildland urban interface. The Forest Service continues to prioritize funding to best achieve all resource goals while reducing wildfire risk.

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

The Forest Service currently has a backlog of 80 million acres in need of active management, with 50 million acres at high risk of wildfire, insects, and disease. To treat those acres, the Forest Service will leverage every tool available, including maximum use of new authorities from the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act and 2018 Farm Bill; continuing to use science-based tools for decision making; improving processes for the way the agency conduct environmental analysis and decision making to increase efficiency and reducing costs.

	2018 Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual	2020 Target	2021 Target
Annual Acreage of National Forest System lands where final treatment effectively mitigated wildfire risk (million acres, annually).....	1.04	1.10	0.85	1.10	1.10
Dollars (in thousands).....	0	0	0	0	0

In FY 2019 the agency treated about 0.85 million acres of National Forest System land to effectively mitigate wildfire risk. The key challenges have included unfavorable weather conditions that limited prescribed fire treatments and balancing risk between treating high cost areas within the wildland-urban interface versus lower cost landscape projects.

	2018 Actual	2019 Target	2019 Actual	2020 Baseline	2021 Target
Percent of National Forest System landscape ecosystems improved, maintained or recovering due to management actions.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	42%	42%
Dollars (in thousands).....	0	0	0	0	0

In FY 2020, the Forest Service adopted a new indicator to assess how agency management actions improve or maintain conditions on the landscape. The measure is based on a model that provides a data-driven, nationally consistent assessment of ecological condition across national forests and grasslands. For each landscape ecosystem, a current score that is higher than an established baseline score will indicate improvement; a current score that is neither higher nor lower than the baseline will indicate maintenance. Scores will be calculated from the Terrestrial Condition Assessment (TCA) indicators. Improvement and maintenance are measured in landscape ecosystems where management activities have been completed. The annual metric is based on management activities that affect the TCA indicator scores. The agency’s FY 2020 target is to maintain 42 percent of and improve 10 percent of landscape TCA indicator scores.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY AND MODERNIZATION (FORMERLY CALLED “BUDGET REFORM”)

Background

In the [FY 2020 Congressional Budget Justification](#), the USDA Forest Service responded to Congressional direction and proposed to simplify its budget structure to improve mission delivery while providing greater financial accountability and operational transparency to Forest Service customers, visitors, taxpayers, Congress, and other stakeholders.

In the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress partially accepted some of the USDA Forest Service’s recommendations presented in the FY 2020 Budget Justification, which are specified in Section 435 of the General Provisions (outlined here and presented in Exhibit 1):

- (1) The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish the ‘Forest Service Operations’ account not later than October 1, 2020, for the necessary expenses of the Forest Service:
 - a. for the base salary and expenses of employees in the Chief’s Office, the Work Environment and Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer’s Office to carry out administrative and general management support functions;
 - b. for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites;
 - c. for the costs of utility and communication expenses, business services, and information technology, including cybersecurity requirements; and
 - d. for such other administrative support function expenses necessary for the operation of the Forest Service.

In Division D – the Statement of Managers for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, additional information on budget modernization was requested. Specifically, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, is directed to transmit to the Committees a proposal for an alternative budget structure within 45 days of enactment of this Act (presented in Exhibit 2). Subsequent to the transmittal of this proposal, the Service shall consult with the Committees to develop a finalized alternative budget structure. Recommendation for structural changes (in addition to the Congressionally established Forest Service Operation account) are below.

Upon finalization of the alternative budget structure, the USDA Forest Service’s Office of Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability will submit the following to Congress (no later than June 1, 2020):

- (1) technical assistance on new legislative language for the account structure;
- (2) comparison tables of fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 in the account structure;
- (3) a copy of the interim financial management policy manual addressing changes made in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020;
- (4) an outline of the financial management policy manual changes necessary for the account structure;
- (5) proposed changes to transfer and reprogramming requirements, including technical assistance on legislative language;
- (6) certification by the USDA Chief Financial Officer that the Forest Service’s financial systems can report in the new account structure; and
- (7) a plan for training and implementation of the account structure.

Exhibit 1. USDA Forest Service budget structure as a result of the establishment of the Forest Service Operations Treasury Account in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020.

Treasury Account	Budget Line Item
Forest Service Operations	Salaries & Expenses
	Facilities Maintenance & Leases
	Information Management
	Management and Administrative Support
Forest & Rangeland Research	Forest and Rangeland Research
	Forest Inventory and Analysis

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Treasury Account	Budget Line Item
State & Private Forestry	Landscape Scale Restoration Forest Health Management - Federal Lands Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands Forest Stewardship Forest Legacy Program Community Forest & Open Space Conservation Urban and Community Forestry International Programs National Fire Capacity Rural Fire Capacity
National Forest System	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management Hazardous Fuels Grazing Management Forest Products Vegetation & Watershed Management Minerals & Geology Management Land Use Authorization and Access Law Enforcement Operations
Capital Improvement & Maintenance	Facilities Roads Trails
Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition Acquisition of Land for National Forests Special Acts Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges
Other Appropriations	Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses Range Betterment Fund Communications Site Administration Gift, Donations and bequests for Forest and Range Land Research
Wildland Fire Management	Preparedness Suppression

Exhibit 2. Proposed USDA Forest Service budget structure with additional restructuring.

Treasury Account	Budget Line Item
Forest Service Operations	Salaries & Expenses Facilities Maintenance & Leases Information Management Management and Administrative Support
Forest & Rangeland Research	Salaries & Expenses Forest and Rangeland Research Forest Inventory and Analysis
State & Private Forestry	Salaries & Expenses Landscape Scale Restoration FHM - Federal Lands

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Treasury Account	Budget Line Item
	FHM - Cooperative Lands
	Forest Stewardship
	Forest Legacy Program
	Community Forest & Open Space Conservation
	Urban and Community Forestry
	International Programs
	National Fire Capacity
	Rural Fire Capacity
National Forest System	Salaries & Expenses
	Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
	Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness, and Trails
	Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring
	Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management
	Hazardous Fuels
	Grazing Management
	Forest Products
	Vegetation & Watershed Management
	Roads
	Minerals & Geology Management
	Land Use Authorization and Access
	Law Enforcement Operations
Capital Improvement	Facilities - Capital Improvement Projects
Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition
	Acquisition of Land for National Forests Special Acts
	Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges
Other Appropriations	Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses
	Range Betterment Fund
	Communications Site Administration
	Gift, Donations and bequests for Forest and Range Land Research
Wildland Fire Management	Salaries & Expenses
	Preparedness
	Suppression

BIOMASS AND WOOD INNOVATIONS

Forest Service Funding for Wood Products, Wood Energy, and the Wood Education and Resource Center (dollars in thousands)

Activity	Budget Line Item	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Wood Innovations Program:				
Geographically Target Wood Utilization....	Hazardous Fuels.....	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Wood Innovation Grants.....	Hazardous Fuels.....	7,850	7,850	8,450
Other Market Development (Wood Products/Wood Energy).....	Hazardous Fuels.....	1,150	1,150	5,550
Subtotal, Wood Innovation Program		10,000	10,000	15,000
Biomass Production	Forest Products	0	0	0
Bio-economy Research	Research and Development.....	9,230	9,140	9,160
Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC).....	Working Forest Lands, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health Management, National Fire Capacity, and Hazardous Fuels ^a	960	2,000 ^b	2,000
Subtotal, Biomass Production.....		10,190	11,140	11,160
Total, Biomass and Wood Innovations		\$20,190	\$21,140	\$26,160

^a A mix of funds is provided to the Wood Education and Resource Center to address hardwood industry issues related to the 35-State eastern hardwood region and to develop markets for underutilized hardwoods and softwoods in the region.

^b Congressional direction for FY 2020 for Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) is \$2 million.

FY 2021

The Forest Service's emphasis on innovative new use of wood and wood fiber materials focuses on research and development (R&D) and post-R&D support to develop markets for trees and under-utilized woody materials, also referred to as biomass. The work planned for FY 2021 is structured around Forest Service R&D in forest-based bio-economy research (formerly known as Biomass and Bioproducts) and the Forest Service Wood Innovations Program. Biomass extraction is not specifically funded at the national level; however, it is a factor in the agency's national strategy for improving forest conditions. Whenever a commercially viable biomass project is identified, it is implemented. If a project is not commercially viable, it will be integrated into another revenue generating project or paid for with appropriated funds, such as hazardous fuel reduction or timber programs dollar. The following describes the work to be accomplished.

Biomass Production

In FY 2021, the National Forest System will continue to provide material for biomass markets as a by-product of restoration work.

In FY 2019, the agency sold over 2.2 million green tons (fresh cut woody material at a "green" moisture content of half water and half woody material) of biomass to bioenergy markets. The National Forest System will continue to work with State & Private Forestry, and Forest Service R&D to grow markets and infrastructure for biomass production and utilization across the country.

Bioeconomy Research (formerly Bioenergy and Biobased Products Research)

The agency continues to develop innovative new uses of wood, especially with technologies suitable for low-value woody biomass. Since the inception of the biomass-to-pharmaceutical project in early FY 2019, the multi-organization research team has successfully adapted low-cost inflatable pillows as bioreactors to produce glucosone from glucose. This is the first step in a four-step reaction to produce 3-hydroxybutyrolaceton (3-HBL), an important bioactive ingredient in Lipitor[®], from biomass. In FY 2019, the lignin-to-carbon-fiber project team has determined the lignin properties for producing activated carbon fiber of five different lignins and successfully demonstrated the validity of their technology. In the next phase of the project, the team will characterize the lignin-based activated carbon fibers and develop its application for capacitors. To demonstrate the readiness of cellulose nanocrystal as enhancing ingredients in concrete, in FY 2019, Siskiyou County, California decided to incorporate precast concrete beams with cellulose nanocrystals for their Moffett Creek Bridge repair project. Cellulose nanocrystals at addition of 0.05 percent by weight or less increased the strength of concrete by 20 percent, giving the county an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emission from concrete.

Wood Innovations Program

The Forest Service established the Wood Innovations Program in 2014 to strategically expand wood products and wood energy markets that support forest management and deliver economic and environmental benefits to communities. By providing technical assistance, funding, and high-quality data, this work informs business decisions. Annual Wood Innovations Grants fund diverse stakeholders across the country, such as for-profit entities; State, local, and Tribal governments; school districts; communities; not-for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education, and special purpose districts (e.g., public utilities districts, conservation districts, etc.). The maximum for each grant is generally \$250,000 and all grantees must match at least 50 percent of the requested Federal funds. This competitive funding opportunity will continue in 2021.

Through the Wood Innovations Program, 22 States have established Statewide Wood Energy Teams and 10 States have established Statewide Wood Utilization Teams to expand traditional and innovative wood products markets through cooperative agreements with the Forest Service. This funding has leveraged substantial private investment, created local jobs, supported forest health priorities, and improved local economies. These teams have been extremely effective in identifying successful opportunities in the highest priority areas of each State.

The agency continues to expand the use of wood in the commercial building sector. Engineered wood products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) for commercial mid- to high-rise buildings are opening extensive new markets that are reducing forest restoration and hazardous fuels removal costs. In addition to Wood Innovation Grants supporting the development of this sector, the Forest Service provides funding to Woodworks, an organization that has been instrumental and highly effective in helping architects, engineers, and developers understand how to take advantage of this significant opportunity. The agency anticipates a dramatic increase in the expansion of CLT use in commercial building construction in the United States.

Wood Education and Resource Center

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, West Virginia was founded through legislation in 1999. The WERC focuses on primary and secondary wood processing, woody biomass utilization using multidisciplinary approaches, efficient utilization of urban tree removals, and partnerships to solve forest products-related issues.

The WERC programs maintain and improve wood industry productivity and competitiveness in a sustainable manner within the 35 States of the eastern hardwood region. Viable wood products markets enable sustainable forest management on private, State, Tribal, and Federal lands.

The WERC is supporting the West Virginia Forest Products Cooperative through a Special Use Permit agreement that allows the Cooperative to use the WERC Rough Mill facility as a site for their training and manufacturing efforts. This supports the WERC strategy to encourage local economic development opportunities in the hardwood region.

Past Performance

The Forest Service has a long history of success in encouraging the expansion of wood products and wood energy markets and continues to support this expansion. Selected accomplishments include the following:

- In FY 2019, the Forest Service awarded approximately \$9 million in Wood Innovation Grants to expand wood products and wood energy markets to support the management of National Forest System lands and other lands with significant forest restoration needs, especially those with elevated hazardous fuels reduction needs. This funding supports traditional wood utilization projects, promotes using wood as a construction material in commercial buildings, and expands wood energy markets. These Federal funds leveraged approximately \$9 million in partner investments.
- The WERC plays a critical role in helping forest-related businesses thrive and promotes working forests by maintaining a forest industry infrastructure. In FY 2019, the WERC hosted numerous workshops and webinars primarily for industry, provided wood energy technical assistance to more than 35 facility owners interested in installing a wood energy system or in improving the performance of an existing wood energy system, and administered key portions of the national Wood Innovations Grants program.
- In FY 2019, the agency produced 2.2 million green tons of biomass from National Forest System lands for use in bioenergy production.
- Forest Service continues to partner with P³Nano, a public-private partnership between the Forest Service and the U.S. Endowment for Forests and Communities, to develop technologies that have shown promising results from previous laboratory research. In one of the projects, Forest Service, Georgia Tech and National Institute of Standards and

Technology scientists have teamed to develop light-weight automobile materials by coating the fiber glass in fiber-glass reinforced polymers with cellulose nanomaterials. The addition of cellulose nanomaterials can allow a seven percent weight reduction while maintaining mechanical properties.

- Forest Service experts has a long history of participating in international standards development as a mean to transfer our research results for industrial applications. As of FY 2019, Forest Service experts have actively led or participated in standards development in American Society for Testing and Materials, International Organization for Standardization, American Wood Council, American Institute of Timber Construction, International Code Council and many other standards development organizations.

CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR RECREATION ACCESS

Background

This exhibit responds to a Congressional Directive from Senate Report 116-123:

“The Committee believes increasing access to our public lands is important and provides funding to all four land management agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service—to complete projects that enhance access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The Committee expects recreational access projects to be selected based on their role in meeting key recreation needs, and the agencies should work with their respective regions, State offices, and/or management units to identify all potential projects. Further, the agencies are again directed to include in future budget justifications an explanation of the process and criteria used for allocating funds for recreational access in the previous year.”

Overview

Land Acquisition funds are used to secure access for the American public to their Federal lands for a variety of recreational purposes. The agency uses funding to meet public recreation access needs, such as large, intact areas for recreation, by working with willing landowners to secure rights-of-way, easements, or fee simple land acquisitions that provide or improve public access to existing public lands.

Congress appropriated \$5 million in FY 2019 for priority recreational access projects. In FY 2019, the Forest Service acquired 19,515 acres of land that provided or improved public access.

FY 2021 Criteria

The Forest Service prioritizes land acquisitions that have the broad support of stakeholders, local officials, and others at the local level who want to remove barriers to public access and attract more visitors to recreate in a safe, accessible environment. Congress requires the Forest Service to “annually develop a priority list for projects that, through acquisition of land (or an interest in land), secure recreational public access to Federal land under the jurisdiction of the applicable Secretary for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or other outdoor recreational purposes” (54 U.S. Code § 200306(c)).

The Secretary of Agriculture shall take into account—

- (1) the significance of the acquisition;
- (2) the urgency of the acquisition;
- (3) management efficiencies;
- (4) management cost savings;
- (5) geographic distribution;
- (6) threats to the integrity of the land; and
- (7) the recreational value of the land.

The agency evaluates proposed recreational access tracts for Land and Water Conservation Fund funding based on the following criteria:

- How does the acquisition solve a specific access problem or overcome a barrier to access?
- What is the size and configuration of the tract relative to the National Forest System lands around it?
- How much of the tract borders existing National Forest System or other publicly accessible lands?
- What types of recreational access would the land provide? Hunting, fishing, hiking, other?
- Has the public indicated that more or improved access is needed in this area?
- What is the level of local support for the acquisition?

Selected Example of Recent Progress

In FY 2019, the agency maintained and opened public access across the country. An example of a 2019 project can be found in the Land Acquisition Status of Programs.

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

Background

This special exhibit is included to address requirements of House Report 112-151 page 8; Conference Report 112-331, page 1046, which directed:

“Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) Fee Payments - The Committee has learned that the Forest Service does not comprehensively track EAJA fee payments, identify the funds used to pay EAJA fees, nor routinely make this information publicly available. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Forest Service to provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and make publicly available, and with each agency’s annual budget submission thereafter, the following information: detailed reports on the amount of program funds used; the names of the fee recipients; the names of the Federal judges; the disposition of the applications (including any appeals of action taken on the applications); and the hourly rates of attorneys and expert witnesses stated in the applications that was awarded, for all EAJA fee payments awarded as a result of litigation against the Forest Service, or their respective employees. The report shall also include the information listed above for litigation relating to the Endangered Species Act and the amounts, outside of EAJA awards, paid in settlement for all litigation, regardless of the statute litigated.”

Overview

The Equal Access to Justice Act was enacted in 1980 to provide individuals, small businesses and non-profit organizations with the means to ensure Federal agencies make their decisions transparent and in accordance with law. Since 2009, the Forest Service has tracked the payment of both EAJA and other attorney’s fees.

FY 2011 through FY 2019 Funding and Reporting

In FY 2012, the Forest Service provided EAJA information to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), in response to a request, on EAJA case names and docket/court number, the name of the award recipient, the amount of program funds used, and dates paid. The final EAJA report to Congress is available on the internet at the following link:

http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/requests/7105962_Equal%20Access%20to%20Justice%20Act_Letters%20and%20Report.pdf

The Equal Access to Justice Act Statistics table listed below reports EAJA information for FY 2017 to FY 2019.

The Forest Service does not track and therefore cannot report on the following information:

- the Federal judges making the awards,
- the disposition of the applications for EAJA fees (including any appeals of action taken on the applications), and
- the hourly rates of the attorneys and expert witnesses stated in the applications for which an award was made.

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Forest Service Equal Access to Justice Act Statistics for FY 2017 through FY 2019

Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
10/05/2016	1:16-CV-00025-ELJ	Idaho Conservation League	Golden Eagle Audubon Society	Advocates for the West	10/06/2016	Pool 4 Ongoing Bus SVS	\$60,000
10/12/2016	2:13-CV-02315-TLN-AC	FOIA-Phase I Upper Echo Lake	Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project	Nossaman LLP	10/18/2016	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	150,000
10/14/2016	5:16-CV-00175-JBG-DTB	FOIA	Story of Stuff Project	Greenfire Law PC	10/18/2016	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	17,900
10/27/2016	1:15-CV-1329-WBS-EPG	Sierra National Forest	French Fire Recovery and Reforestation Project	Center for Biological Diversity	10/27/2016	Forest Products	31,751
02/10/2017	9:16-CV-35-DWM-M	Leanne Marten	Moosehorn Ditch Timber Sale Contract	Public Interest Defense Center	02/10/2017	Integrated Resource Restoration	36,443
03/22/2017	2:15-CV-00027-BMM	Gallatin Wildlife Association	Gallatin Wildlife Association	Cottonwood Environmental Law Center	03/23/2017	Integrated Resource Restoration	104,000
04/25/2017	06-CV-187-J	BRANDT	352123-VI-BRANDT	Mountain States Legal Foundation	04/27/2017	Landownership Management	50,000
06/29/2017	15-VC-2176 (CKK)	FACA (Federal Advisory Committee)	“The Matter”. Attorney Fees. Civil Action Dismissal	Center for Biological Diversity	06/29/2017	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	6,000
07/03/2017	15-CV-00246-BLW	Keith B Lannom	Idaho Conservation League	Advocates for the West	07/03/2017	Minerals Geology MGT	70,000
07/31/2017	1:16-CV-00457-BLW	Watersheds Project	Western Watersheds Project	Advocates for the West	08/01/2017	Pool 5 Common SVS	22,686
Subtotal FY 2017							548,780
Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
01/25/2018	3:16-CV-00102-CWD	Johnson Bar	Johnson Bar Fire Salvage Project	Advocates for the West	01/25/2018	Forest Products	144,040
02/20/2018	6:16-CV-01095-JR	Loafer Timber Sale Project	Loafer Timber Sale Project	Western Environmental Law Center	02/21/2018	Forest Products	110,000
04/20/2018	1:14-CV-00737-CL	Attorney Fees	Western Watersheds Project	Advocates for the West	04/20/2018	Forest Products and Hazardous Fuel Reduction	136,478
07/25/2018	9:16-CV-00056DVM	Attorney Fees	Save Our Cabinets (SOC)	Western Mining Action Project	07/31/2018	Roads Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Salvage Sales, and Forest Products	142,910
07/25/2018	9:16-CV-00056DVM	Attorney Fees	Libby Mining Company	Morrison Sherwood Wilson & Deola CL	07/31/2018	Vegetation Watershed MGT and Forest Products	68,022
08/06/2018	1:17-CV-00434-CWD	Attorney Fees	Watersheds Project and Wild Earth Guardians	Advocates For the West Inc.	08/06/2018	LMP Assessment Monitoring and Grazing Management	80,000
08/20/2018	9:15-CV-148-DLC	Attorney Fees	Beetle Strategy	MSBT Law Chartered	08/21/2018	Hazardous Fuel Reduction	18,000
09/12/2018	3:17-CV-00416-SI	Attorney Fees	Wild and Scenic River	Volker Law Offices	09/13/2018	Recreation Heritage Wilderness	35,086

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Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
09/12/2018	1:18-CV-00653-DLF	FOIA	Attorney Fees	Immigration Reform Law Institute	09/14/2018	Law Enforcement OPS WO	1,168
09/12/2018	9:17-CV-00021-DLC	Attorney Fees	Stonewall Vegetation Project	Public Interest Defense Center PC	09/18/2018	Pool 5 Common Services, Vegetation Watershed MGT, and Mineral and Geology MGT	77,500
09/18/2018	1:17-CV-01277-JEB	FOIA	Attorney Fees	Public Employees For Environmental	09/19/2018	Forest Products	4,434
Subtotal FY 2018							817,638
Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
11/16/2018	17-CV-456 (DLF)	FOIA-Attorney Fees	56 RPM	Lewis & Clark College	11/28/2018	Recreation Heritage Wilderness. Forest Products	65,000
12/21/2018	2:14-CV-105	Sylvania motorboat	Herr Cost	Mountain States Legal Foundation	12/21/2018	Recreation Heritage Wilderness	2,539
2/5/2019	2:18-CV-0111-PHX-DLR	Attorney Fees	Livestock grazing on the Bar X Allotment	Advocates for the West	2/6/2019	Grazing Management	21,232
3/12/2019	4:18-CV-00402-JGZ-LAB	FOIA-Attorney Fees	18-00402 D Ariz	Center for Biological Diversity	3/14/2019	Recreation Heritage Wilderness	3,500
3/12/2019	2:16-CV-1648-MO	FOIA-Attorney Fees	Walton Lake Restoration Project	Lewis & Clark College	3/12/2019	Recreation Heritage Wilderness Forest Products Vegetation Watershed MGT	194,000
3/19/2019	3:15-CV-08286-DMF	Attorney Fees	Donald and Rebecca Routson	Donald Routson	3/19/2019	Pool 1 General Management	16,681
3/22/2019	9:19-CV-00030-DLC-JCL	FOIA-Attorney Fees	IDP1 IDP3 IDP5 Supplies Rents and Other	Public Interest Defense Center	3/22/2019	Pool 5 Common Services	400
4/4/2019	18-CV-00340-TUC-JGZ	FOIA	Attorney Fees	Center for Biological Diversity	4/4/2019	CFLR Matching NFWF Funds	6,000
4/24/2019	1:15-CV-00193-EJL	Attorney Fees	Lost Creek-Boulder Creek Landscape Restoration Project	Bricklin & Newman	4/24/2019	Pool 4 Ongoing Bus SVS	168,750
5/6/2019	18-CV-887-RBJ	FOIA	Attorney Fees	Energy & Conservation Law	5/7/2019	Recreation Heritage Wilderness	9,500
5/21/2019	1:15-CV-00193-EJL	Attorney Fees	Lost Creek-Boulder Creek Landscape Restoration Project	Bricklin & Newman	5/21/2019	Pool 4 Ongoing Bus SVS	168,750
6/4/2019	1:15-CV-00193-EJL	Attorney Fees	Lost Creek-Boulder Creek Landscape Restoration Project	Bricklin & Newman	6/4/2019	Pool 4 Ongoing Bus SVS	168,750

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Date Rec	Docket, Court	Case	Project Name	Vendor Name	Date Certified	Program	Amount
8/5/2019	2:17-CV-0202-NDF	Attorney Fees	Alkali Creek	Eubanks & Associates	8/5/2019	Pool Ongoing Bus SVS Wildlife Fisheries Habitat Grazing Management Vegetation and Watershed	145,000
8/12/2019	19-CV-01510-STV	FOIA	Attorney Fees	Friends of Animals	8/13/2019	Pool 1 General Management	1,330
Subtotal FY 2019							\$971,432

NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

Background

This special exhibit is included to address requirements of P.L. 111-88 House Report 111-180 page 132, which directed:

“The Committee recommendation retains previous base funding for maintenance, construction, and operation of the network of national scenic and historic trails but encourages additional funding for required work of the newly authorized national trails. Future budget justifications should continue to provide specific trail operation, maintenance and construction funding and accomplishment data for the national scenic and historic trails. The Forest Service should provide full time administrators and prepare the required comprehensive management plans for the newly authorized national trails.”

Overview

The Forest Service has designated trail administrators for six National Scenic and Historic Trails (NS&HT): Arizona, Continental Divide, Florida, Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo), Pacific Crest, and Pacific Northwest. The Appalachian Trail (AT) is managed in partnership with the National Park Service. The Forest Service manages portions of 15 additional NS&HTs on National Forest System lands, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior (DOI), State and county governments, and private partners. Funding for administration and management of these trails is included within the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Trails appropriation. The trail land acquisition is funded under the Land Acquisition appropriation.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

This 2,190-mile footpath crosses the Appalachian Mountains from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in northern Georgia, crossing through both the Southern and Eastern Regions of the Forest Service. The trail is protected along more than 99 percent of its course. The partnership that works to manage the AT is comprised of the Forest Service, National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, with the volunteer assistance of 31 Appalachian Trail Clubs, and other organizations. In FY 2019, the AT was maintained in a safe status for visitors along its entire length in both the Forest Service Southern Region and Eastern Region, with over 2,243 volunteers contributing nearly 83,331 hours of trail maintenance and repair. Three hundred and sixty-four acres were purchased to close gaps in the AT in 2019. The most significant was the acquisition on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee. The Chattahoochee National Forest working with Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and Amicolola State Park had 2,668 hikers pre-register to start the hike from the southern termini. Pre-registration allows the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Forest Service to work to disperse through hikers starting on their journey north in the spring and help educate them to make sure they are better prepared for their journey. The Green Mountain National Forest partnered with the Green Mountain Club to provide caretakers at the AT shelters to work with the Forest visitors and our Outfitter & Guide Special Use Permit holders to ensure everyone stays in designated areas and helped maintain privies, shelters, and water resources. The Green Mountain National Forest staff led volunteers on the Stratton Pond portion of the AT, worked 12 weeks with the Vermont Youth Conservation Crew on a variety of trail projects, and constructed two new moldering privies at Governor Clement and William Douglas shelters.

Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT)

This 800-mile trail showcases Arizona’s diverse landscapes, offering unparalleled backcountry experiences in settings ranging from the Sonoran Desert to alpine forests. It connects deserts, mountains, canyons, wilderness and communities, crossing four National Forests, four National Park units, two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) districts, and other lands. Partners include the Arizona Trail Association (ATA), Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, and youth corps. In FY 2019, over 753 volunteers contributed a total of 16,157 hours of work in support of the Trail. In addition to trail maintenance and construction, volunteers installed 11 super gates on National Forests and 1,580 feet of log fences at trailheads.

The Arizona Trail continues to be threatened by unusually large and destructive wildfires. The 29-mile Superstition Wilderness Passage was closed for 84 days due to the Woodbury Fire which grew to 123,875 acres. Monsoon rains followed, creating significant erosion damage. A survey by the ATA and the American Conservation Experience revealed 9.3 miles of trail suffered severe impacts and many more miles were moderately or lightly damaged. Signage throughout the passage was found to be damaged and in need of replacement.

Seventeen miles of the AZT was constructed in FY 2019 to move the Trail off roads in order to provide the optimal experience for trail users. In August, nine Arizona Trail Association volunteers installed a new rainwater collector on the driest section of the AZT. A first for the Trail, the collector catches and stores rainwater that will serve equestrian trail users.

The water will be cleaner than most natural water sources but must be filtered and/or treated if consumed by people. If successful, it will serve as a prototype for installations on other dry stretches of the Trail.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT)

The 3,100-mile CDT runs along the spine of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Canada. It connects 20 national forests, three national parks, one national monument, 13 BLM field offices, and historic sites. About 95 percent of the trail is located on public lands; however, many trail segments are currently co-located along open roads or motorized trails. Easements are lacking across numerous parcels of private and State land and are needed to secure a continuous route for permanent public use.

Partners include the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Montana Wilderness Association, Colorado Trail Foundation, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Montana Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Conservation Legacy, Backcountry Horsemen and numerous other Federal, State, and local nongovernmental organizations. In FY 2019, the Forest Service developed a new website for the CDT to provide improved information about the trail and help promote knowledge of and appreciation for the uniqueness of the Continental Divide as the headwaters of our nation. The Forest Service also developed a list of best management practices for planning and implementing vegetation treatments along the CDT and developed guiding principles for management of trail uses on the CDT. Both of these documents help to elevate awareness of the CDT as a special resource with specific management considerations and promote more consistent management to provide improved visitor experiences.

The CDT Coalition (CDTC) launched an initiative called “Faces of the Continental Divide: Sharing Stories, Connecting Communities.” With the help of numerous partners across the trail, CDTC began to collect untold stories that celebrate the ways the diverse communities located along the Continental Divide connect to the land. Throughout the summer, participants shared their stories at events along the trail, telling about their personal connections with the landscapes that they cherish and steward. This summer-long celebration inspired hundreds of individuals to explore the Trail and to connect to the CDT community. The CDTC also designated two new Gateway Communities and launched a new interactive online CDT map to provide improved information to trail visitors. Additionally, CDTC was instrumental in developing the first ever CDT visitor brochure. This brochure is available to the public free of charge. It contains photos and maps of the trail, information about the Native homelands, Federally-administered lands, and watersheds along the Continental Divide, as well as educational information about how to recreate responsibly.

Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST)

The FNST consists of a 1,500-mile planning corridor stretching from Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades to Gulf Islands National Seashore in the panhandle of Florida. There are 1,196 miles of certified FNST on the ground, and roughly 300 miles of gaps exist within the trail. Partners include the Florida Trail Association, Framing Our Community, National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Forest Service, Florida State Parks, and many other agencies and organizations. In FY 2019, volunteers maintained 100 percent of the FNST, contributing 22,000 hours. The Forest Service together with Florida Trail Coalition partners continue to carry out the goals of our Five-Year Strategic Plan for the Florida Trail. The program hosted a Public Land Corps-eligible intern who assisted with the planning and implementation of the five-year plan. Hurricane damage recovery had a substantial impact on volunteer hours, and work continues to rebuild trail in the impacted areas. Successfully adding four new land management partners and 15 miles of designated trail, the FNST continues to improve routing and protection throughout the State for a safer and more scenic experience.

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT)

In 1986, Congress acknowledged the significance of the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877 by establishing the 1,170-mile NPNHT. With the cooperation of the State Highway Department and County Commissioners in the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, over 2,991 miles of roads are designated as the NPNHT Auto Tour Route. The NPNHT includes a designated corridor encompassing 4,161 miles of roads, trails and routes. The route roughly parallels the course travelled by the five Nez Perce bands during their historic 1877 odyssey and offers opportunities for off-highway vehicles, biking, and snowmobile use. The NPNHT has 79 historic sites to be managed and seven high potential route segments which have historic tread from 1877 or were prehistoric travel routes. The NPNHT is currently revising its Comprehensive Plan for trail administration and management.

Partners include the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust,

Eastern Oregon University, and Montana Natural History Center. An ongoing exhibit, “The Journey of the Resilient Nez Perce People,” is designed to travel to other communities along the trail.

Much needed trail maintenance continues to be completed by the Forest Service, other agencies, and partner groups. A crew of five from the Nez Perce Tribe maintained 18 miles of trail in central Idaho. On the Bitterroot National Forest, the Trapper Creek Job Corps assisted the Forest trail crew in maintaining the Nee-Mee-Poo National Historic Trail. On the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest the Skinner Meadows interpretive signage was installed and the Forest funded AmeriCorps St. Louis to assist. On the Lolo National Forest, staff treated invasive plants to preserve the Trail’s natural condition, cleared trees from the Trail, and maintained markers and signs. On the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, work on the NPNHT by a Montana Conservation Corps crew included cutting wind felled trees, brush, limbs, and reconstructed waterbars, and replacing rotten and burned-out logs with rock. On the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, staff maintained 19.3 miles of the NPNHT and associated feeder trails.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

This 2,650-mile trail follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. The trail crosses 25 national forests; seven BLM field offices; six National Park Service units; five national monuments; and 48 designated wilderness areas. Over half of the PCT is in designated Wilderness, and nine Wild and Scenic Rivers cross its path. Partners include the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), American Conservation Experience (ACE), Washington Trails Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, California Conservation Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, Washington Conservation Corps, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Backcountry Horsemen of California, Oregon, Washington, and many other organizations.

FY 2019 was a year of significant environmental challenges with a Sierra snowpack 200 percent of normal, earthquakes (centered near Ridgecrest, CA), and continued fire restoration efforts on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, WA (Holman and Miriam fires) and San Bernardino National Forest, CA (Mountain Fire). Education efforts were increased to advise hikers and equestrians of snowpack and stream crossing dangers and to adjust itineraries according to conditions and their skills and abilities. The Crest Runner and Trailhead Host program (Cleveland National Forest) contacted 3,270 hikers and equestrians traveling on the PCT and the program expanded into the Inyo National Forest, gateway to the High Sierra, with increased wilderness patrols. As a result of increased education and contacts, the Crest Runners documented a decrease in trash, water caches, and toilet paper along the PCT’s southernmost 100 miles. The PCT program also continues to collaborate with wilderness managers in the southern Sierra for the fourth year on visitor use management concerns along the John Muir Trail 170-mile overlap with the PCT.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association partnered with Michigan-California Timber Company and The Trust for Public Land to acquire 10,300 acres in northern California along the Trinity Divide in the Shasta-Trinity and Klamath National Forests. That acquisition included 17 miles of the PCT over a 30-mile stretch and is one of the largest PCT protection projects. The PCTA’s volunteer trail maintenance and construction efforts focused on areas where fire and floods/mudslides have closed the trail. There was a significant flooding event in February 2019 that obliterated the trail for approximately six miles (15 crossings) of Mission Creek in southern California (San Bernardino National Forest and Palm Springs BLM). The Echo Summit (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Eldorado National Forest) and Sierra Buttes (Tahoe National Forest) trail relocation projects are further examples of partnerships with the Forests, PCTA, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and American Conservation Experience.

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNNST)

The PNNST begins at the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park in Montana and travels 1,200 miles through Montana, Idaho, and Washington before reaching the Pacific Ocean. The trail’s complex land ownership includes three national parks, seven national forests, six Washington State Parks, and other lands. Partners include the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA); Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Idaho, and Montana; Washington Trails Association; Student Conservation Association; University of Montana; Western Washington University; and other organizations. In FY 2019, volunteers from the PNTA performed over 21,530 hours of maintenance, a value of over \$547,507. Together, the Forest Service and partners maintained 435 miles of trail and improved 6 miles. The PNTA raised over \$234,000 in non-Federal funds for stewardship of the PNNST.

The Forest Service and PNTA collaborated to address several years of deferred maintenance and wildfire damage to the PNNST and other trails in the Methow Valley Ranger District, which is one of the 15 National Trails Strategy Trail Maintenance Priority Areas. In the district’s Pasayten Wilderness, two teams of youth participants in PNTA’s Performance

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Trail Crew program contributed 80 crew days of trail maintenance and rehabilitation. They coordinated with Forest Service crews and other local partners, such as the Back Country Horsemen of Washington, to reopen the east/west route across the Pasayten and restore access for stock by removing over 1,000 logs from the route.

In June, the Regional Foresters from the Pacific Northwest and Northern regions of the Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) at KTOI Tribal Headquarters in Bonners Ferry, ID. The KTOI is a federally-recognized Indian Tribal Government that is part of the Ktunaxa Nation that has inhabited Ktunaxa Territory since time immemorial. The KTOI possesses Treaty-reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights and exercises cultural and religious practices on National Forest System lands, including lands encompassing the PNNST. The MOU outlines roles and timeframes for regular communication and coordination between the Forest Service and KTOI, as well as two levels of Government-to-Government consultation, regarding the PNNST. Implementation of the MOU allows the Forest Service better awareness and understanding of issues that concern KTOI and provides opportunities for the parties to mutually identify possible solutions.

Other National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT)

The Forest Service coordinates management with other Federal public land agencies for an additional 15 national scenic and historic trails totaling over 6,700 miles. These trails are: California, Camino Real Tejas, Camino Tierra Adentro, De Anza, Ice Age, Iditarod, Lewis and Clark, Mormon Pioneer, North Country, Old Spanish, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, Pony Express, Santa Fe, and Trail of Tears.

Funding for National Scenic and Historic Trails (dollars in thousands)

Name	2019 Actual			2020 Enacted			2021 Budget Request		
	Trails	Land Acq.	Sub-total	Trails	Land Acq.	Sub-total	Trails	Land Acq.	Sub-total
Appalachian	\$280	\$820	\$1,100	\$300	\$820	\$1,120	\$300	\$0	\$300
Arizona	492	0	492	512	0	512	512	0	512
Continental Divide.....	1,675	0	1,675	1,694	0	1,694	1,694	0	1,694
Florida.....	1,300	0	1,300	1,317	0	1,317	1,317	0	1,317
Nez Perce.....	800	0	800	620	0	620	620	0	620
Pacific Crest.....	1,827	3,200	5,027	1,846	3,200	5,046	1,846	0	1,846
Pacific Northwest.....	836	0	836	855	0	855	855	0	855
All-others.....	700	2,700	3,400	782	2,700	3,482	782	0	782
Total	\$7,910	\$6,720	\$14,630	\$7,926	\$6,720	\$14,646	\$7,926	0	\$7,926

FY 2019 Partner Contributions and Associated Accomplishments

Location	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer In-kind Contributions	Non-Cash Contributions	Miles of Trail Maintained	Miles of Trail Improved	Acres Acquired	Major Structures Constructed
Appalachian	83,331	\$2,119,107	\$36,239	1,033	0	364	2
Arizona	16,157	403,925	45,156	270	\$19	0	25
Continental Divide.....	47,500	1,233,575	0	1750	27	0	5
Florida.....	21,917	557,349	12,000	1,296	16	1	1
Nez Perce.....	26,735	427,769	213,880	800	3	35	6
Pacific Crest.....	101,848	2,590,000	15,959	1,564	32.1	2,138	3
Pacific Northwest.....	21,350	547,507	1,980	435	6	0	0
Total	318,838	7,879,232	325,214	7,148	103	2,538	42

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REIMBURSEMENT

Background

This special exhibit is required by P.L. 110-161, page 121, Administrative Provisions, which directed:

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

Overview

The USDA Office of General Counsel bills the Forest Service quarterly for non-litigation travel and related costs. The table below reflects billings received to date.

Office of General Counsel Reimbursement FY 2018 to FY 2021

FY 2018 Actual Reimbursement	FY 2019 As of Oct 15, 2019	FY 2020 Planned Reimbursement	FY 2021 Planned Reimbursement
\$4,357	\$5,138	\$10,000	\$10,000

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FIELD UNIT BUDGET REPORT**Introduction**

This report was produced in accordance with the FY 2018 Congressional direction and is information presented with the Forest Service’s annual Budget Justification and related briefing materials. The report provides detailed information on Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) activities and expenditures undertaken at facilities across the country.

Congressional direction motivating this report:

“The Service is directed to update the report provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that describes its research program in detail. The report should be transmitted as part of the fiscal year 2018 budget request. It should include information on each research laboratory, including their relationship to the research stations, their goals and purpose, the funding provided for each of the previous five fiscal years, the funding proposed to be provided in fiscal year 2018, the allocation of funding between research and administrative costs, the allocation of funding and projects between in-house and extramural research, and the number of scientists and support staff. The report also should include similar information for each research station.” --*Joint Explanatory Statement, Division G, for the Fiscal Year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 2029.*

Overview and Budget Summary

America’s forested ecosystems are a major national strategic asset that provide many social, ecological and economic benefits. The Forest Service’s broad and complex portfolios of natural resources and policy issues span across public and private lands. The foundation of these efforts and decisions are grounded in sound science that is primarily conducted by Forest Service Research and Development (R&D). Science-based management is fundamental to restoring, enhancing and sustainably reaping ecological, social, environmental benefits from the Nation’s forest and grasslands.

Forest Service R&D installations are distributed across the 50 States and Puerto Rico. This research is administered by a national laboratory, an international institute, and five research stations. The national laboratory and international institute are the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, respectively. The five stations include:

- Northern Research Station, headquartered in Madison, WI
- Pacific Northwest Research Station, headquartered in Portland, OR
- Pacific Southwest Research Station, headquartered in Albany, CA
- Rocky Mountain Research Station, headquartered in Fort Collins, CO
- Southern Research Station, headquartered in Asheville, NC

This report provides detailed actual and estimated information on Forest Service R&D expenditures in the field units from FY 2018 – FY 2021.

Forest Service R&D allocations by Research Station and fiscal years (dollars in thousands)

Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Forest Products Laboratory:				
Research.....	\$22,103	\$22,103	\$22,937	\$22,075
Total, Forest Products Laboratory.....	22,103	22,103	22,937	22,075
International Institute of Tropical Forestry:				
Research.....	2,670	2,670	2,843	2,664
Other ^a	1,903	1,903	1,903	1,902
Total, International Institute of Tropical Forestry	4,573	4,573	4,746	4,566
Northern Research Station:				
Research.....	51,828	51,828	53,784	51,762
Total, Northern Research Station.....	51,828	51,828	53,784	51,762
Pacific Northwest Research Station:				

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Research.....	39,529	43,060	41,258	39,470
Other	6,277	2,393	6,277	6,277
Total, Pacific Northwest Research Station...	45,806	45,453	47,535	45,747
Pacific Southwest Research Station:				
Research.....	18,887	18,887	19,609	18,863
Other	245	245	245	245
Total, Pacific Southwest Research Station ...	19,132	19,132	19,854	19,108
Rocky Mountain Research Station:				
Research.....	42,961	42,961	45,204	42,885
Other	16,487	16,487	16,487	16,487
Total, Rocky Mountain Research Station	59,448	59,448	61,691	59,372
Southern Research Station:				
Research.....	38,902	38,902	40,500	38,848
Other	3,453	3,453	3,453	3,453
Total, Southern Research Station	42,355	42,355	43,953	42,301
Grand Total	\$245,245	\$244,892	\$254,500	\$244,931

^a Includes funds from other Forest Service budget line items such National Forest System and State and Private Forestry (FY 2018-FY 2021).

Forest Products Laboratory

The Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) is the Nation’s leading Federal wood utilization research laboratory and serves the entire United States. The FPL develops innovative science and technology to conserve, extend and sustainably utilize forest resources to improve health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forest to meet the needs of current and future generations.

Forest Product Laboratory Field Unit Allocations and Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories
(dollars in thousands)

Forest Product Laboratory	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories:				
Scientist.....	50	47	49	46
Support staff.....	92	83	87	84
<i>Administrative Support</i>	6	5	7	6
<i>Professional/Technical Support</i>	86	78	80	78
Breakout by Administrative and Research Allocation:				
Administrative Allocation.....	\$6,038	\$5,639	\$5,825	\$5,515
Research Allocation	16,065	15,846	17,112	16,560
Total, Administrative and Research Allocations	\$22,103	\$21,485	\$22,937	\$22,075

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Forest Products Laboratory Research Programs (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Programs	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Advanced Composite Sciences Research:				
Allocation.....	\$1,755	\$1,443	\$1,651	\$1,530
Scientists	6	5	5	4
Support Staff	4	2	0	2
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	3	1	1	1
Forest Biopolymer Science and Engineering:				
Allocation.....	\$2,265	\$2,146	\$2,384	\$2,275
Scientists	0	8	9	8
Support Staff	5	4	3	3
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	4	3	2	2
Fiber and Chemical Sciences:				
Allocation.....	\$2,135	\$2,020	\$2,430	\$2,450
Scientists	5	5	6	6
Support Staff	7	3	3	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	7	3	3	3
Institute for Microbial and Biochemical Technology:				
Allocation.....	\$2,517	\$1,182	\$2,109	\$2,125
Scientists	5	4	4	4
Support Staff	3	1	1	1
<i>Administrative</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	2	1	1	1
Engineered Properties and Structures:				
Allocation.....	\$2,820	\$3,200	\$3,750	\$3,450
Scientists	7	6	6	5
Support Staff	2	2	2	2
<i>Administrative</i>	1	2	2	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	1	0	0	0
Wood Anatomy and Forest Mycology in a Changing Global Environment:				
Allocation.....	\$315	\$593	\$600	\$620
Scientists	3	3	3	3
Support Staff	0	1	1	1
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	0	1	1	1
Fire Building Sciences:				
Allocation.....	\$880	\$1,363	\$843	\$870
Scientists	2	4	4	4
Support Staff	5	3	3	3
<i>Administrative</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	4	3	3	3
Durability and Wood Protection Research:				
Allocation.....	\$1,680	\$2,614	\$1,696	\$1,570
Scientists	8	6	7	7

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Programs	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Support Staff	11	7	7	6
Professional/Technical.....	11	7	6	5
Economics and Statistics Research:				
Allocation.....	\$1,698	\$1,285	\$1,649	\$1,670
Scientists	6	6	5	5
Support Staff	1	1	1	1
Administrative.....	1	1	1	1
Total, Allocation.....	\$16,065	\$15,846	\$17,112	\$16,560
Total, Scientists	42	47	49	46
Total, Support Staff	38	24	23	22
Total, Administrative.....	6	5	5	3
Total, Professional/Technical.....	32	19	17	16

Forest Products Laboratory Facilities

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (Administrative)	Number of Support Staff (Professional/Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Forest Products Lab	Complex of 14 buildings co-located on the University of Wisconsin	43	5	74	3,300
Wood Protection and Termite Laboratory	Starkville, MS	4	1	4	100

International Institute of Tropical Forestry

The International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) is dedicated to tropical forestry on an international level and develops and exchanges knowledge critical to sustaining tropical ecosystem benefits.

IITF Field Unit Allocations and Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories (dollars in thousands)

International Institute of Tropical Forestry	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Research Allocations:				
Research	\$2,670	\$2,670	\$2,843	\$2,664
Other funding ^a	1,903	1,903	1,903	1,902
Total Allocation	4,573	4,804	4,746	4,566
Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories:				
Scientists	11	11	11	11
Support staff	18	18	18	17
Administrative Support	1	1	1	2
Professional/Technical Support	17	17	17	15
Breakout by Administrative and Research Allocations:				
Administrative Allocation	1,277	1,289	1,201	1,201
Research Allocation	3,296	3,515	3,545	3,365
Total, Administrative & Research Allocations	\$4,573	\$4,804	\$4,746	\$4,566

^aIncludes funds from other Forest Service budget line items such as the National Forest System and State and Private Forestry.

IITF Research Programs (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Forest and Rangeland Research:				
Allocation.....	\$2,670	\$2,901	\$2,843	\$ 2,664
Scientists	11	11	11	11
Support Staff	17	17	17	17
Administrative.....	1	1	2	2
Professional/Technical.....	16	16	15	15
National Fire Plan:				
Allocation.....	99	0	0	0
Scientists	7	6	5	5
Support Staff	92	92	75	75
Total, Allocation.....	\$2,769	\$2,901	\$2,843	\$2,664
Total, Scientists	18	17	17	17
Total, Support Staff	109	109	92	89
Total, Administrative.....	1	1	1	1
Total, Professional/Technical.....	16	16	15	15

IITF Facilities (dollars in thousands)

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff Administrative	Number of Support Staff (Professional/Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
International Institute of Tropical Forestry	Forest Service-owned facilities on leased land	8	1	12	\$369
Sabana Field Research Station	Forest Service-owned Station	3	1	3	41

Northern Research Station

The mission of the Northern Research Station (NRS) is to improve people's lives and help sustain the natural resources in the Northeast and Midwest through leading-edge science and effective information delivery. The NRS geographically covers a 20-State region across the Midwest and Northeast, comprising both the most densely populated and heavily forested region in America.

Northern Research Station Field Unit Allocations and Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories (dollars in thousands)

Northern Research Station	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Research Allocations:				
Research and Development.....	\$51,828	\$51,828	\$53,784	\$51,762
Total Allocation.....	51,828	51,828	53,784	51,762
Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories:				
Scientists	120	120	95	111
Support staff.....	240	215	213	210
Administrative Support.....	65	58	58	57

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Northern Research Station	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
<i>Professional/Technical Support</i>	176	157	155	153
Breakout by Administrative and Research Allocations:				
Administrative Allocation.....	\$6,668	\$6,709	\$6,514	\$6,522
Research Allocation.....	45,160	45,119	47,270	45,240
Total, Administrative and Research Allocations	\$51,828	\$51,828	\$53,784	\$51,762

Northern Research Station Research Programs (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Ecology & Economic Sustainability of the Appalachian Forest in the Era of Globalization Research:				
Allocation.....	\$2,561	\$2,427	\$2,350	\$2,360
Scientists.....	9	7	7	7
Support Staff.....	13	13	10	10
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	1	12	9	9
Sustaining Forests in a Changing Environment:				
Allocation.....	\$2,954	\$2,428	\$2,450	\$2,460
Scientists.....	10	11	11	12
Support Staff.....	9	8	8	8
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	9	8	7	7
Ecology and Management of Invasive Species and Forest Ecosystem Research:				
Allocation.....	\$3,107	0	0	\$2,850
Scientists.....	10	9	9	9
Support Staff.....	18	13	11	11
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	16	11	10	10
Forest Inventory and Analysis in the Northern Station:				
Allocation.....	\$15,010	\$15,431	\$15,700	\$15,500
Scientists.....	18	17	18	18
Support Staff.....	78	80	84	82
<i>Administrative</i>	5	5	4	4
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	73	75	80	78
Climate, Fire, and Carbon Cycle Analysis Research:				
Allocation.....	\$3,611	\$3,680	\$3,650	\$3,665
Scientists.....	11	11	10	10
Support Staff.....	15	13	13	12
<i>Administrative</i>	3	2	2	2
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	12	11	11	10
Research on Ecosystem Change:				
Allocation.....	\$4,650	\$5,595	\$7,500	\$5,600
Scientists.....	14	14	1	14
Support Staff.....	14	15	15	15

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	2	2
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	13	14	13	13
Urban Forest, Human Health, and Environmental Quality Research:				
Allocation.....	\$3,135	\$3,096	\$3,020	\$3,030
Scientists	11	9	9	9
Support Staff	6	6	5	5
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	5	5	4	4
Social Science Supporting Natural Resource Management and Policy:				
Allocation.....	\$1,658	\$1,882	\$1,950	\$1,820
Scientists	7	7	7	6
Support Staff	3	5	5	5
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	1	3	3	3
Sustainable Management of Central Hardwoods, Ecosystems, and Landscapes Research:				
Allocation.....	\$1,352	\$1,258	\$1,275	\$1,320
Scientists	5	5	5	5
Support Staff	3	3	2	2
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	3	3	2	2
Applied Ecosystem Research: Theory and Application of Scaling Science in Forestry:				
Allocation.....	\$1,604	\$1,603	\$1,675	\$1,690
Scientists	5	5	5	5
Support Staff	4	3	4	4
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	3	2	3	3
Hardwood Tree Improvement and Regeneration Center:				
Allocation.....	\$894	\$866	\$950	\$960
Scientists	3	3	4	4
Support Staff	2	2	1	1
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	2	2	1	1
Strategic Foresight Research:				
Allocation.....	\$602	\$447	\$225	\$225
Scientists	3	2	1	1
Support Staff	0	0	0	0
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	0	0	0	0
Restoration and Conservation of Rural and Urban Forests Research:				
Allocation.....	\$4,022	\$3,656	\$3,750	\$3,760
Scientists	14	12	11	11
Support Staff	17	12	13	14

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
<i>Administrative</i>	2	1	1	1
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	15	11	12	13
Total, Allocation	\$45,160	\$42,369	\$44,495	\$45,240
Total, Scientists	120	112	111	111
Total, Support Staff	182	173	171	169
Total, Administrative	18	16	16	16
Total, Professional/Technical	164	157	155	153

Northern Research Station Facilities (dollars in thousands)

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (Administrative)	Number of Support Staff (Professional/Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Hamden/Ansonia, CT	Forest Service-owned laboratory, administration offices, and the Ansonia Quarantine Laboratory	2	1	7	155
Evanston, IL	Forest Service-leased administrative building	4	2	2	150
West Lafayette, IN	Purdue University administrative offices and laboratories	4	0	2	0
Amherst, MA	University of Massachusetts administrative offices	4	0	1	100
Baltimore, MD	Forest Service-leased administrative building	4	0	6	140
Orono/Bradley, ME	University of Maine administrative office	2	1	0	0
Lansing, MI	Forest Service-leased administrative building	4	2	3	190
Houghton, MI	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices on Michigan Tech campus	4	1	5	75
Grand Rapids, MN	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	4	2	9	90
St. Paul, MN	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices on University of Minnesota campus	15	16	18	175
Columbia, MO	University of Missouri administrative and laboratory offices	5	0	2	0
Durham, NH	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices on University of New Hampshire campus	15	3	13	85
Syracuse, NY	Syracuse University New York Administrative Office	1	0	4	25
New York, NY	Forest Service-leased administrative building	3	0	0	90
Delaware, OH	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	9	3	7	80

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (Administrative)	Number of Support Staff (Professional/Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Wyndmoor, PA	USDA owned administrative building	0	10	10	50
Warren, PA	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	5	1	4	60
Burlington, VT	Forest Service leased lab and admin offices on University of Vermont campus	3	0	3	45
Madison, WI	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	3	3	5	0
Rhineland, WI	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	7	2	3	80
Morgantown, WV	Forest Service owned lab and admin offices on West Virginia University campus	5	2	7	130
Parsons, WV	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	2	2	9	60
Princeton, WV	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	4	0	4	30

Pacific Northwest Research Station

The mission of the Pacific Northwest Station (PNW) is to generate and communicate impartial knowledge to help people understand and make informed choices about natural resource management and sustainability.

Pacific Northwest Research Station Field Unit Allocations and Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories (dollars in thousands)

Pacific Northwest Research Station	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Research Allocations:				
Research and Development.....	\$39,529	\$43,060	\$41,258	\$39,470
Other funding ^a	6,277	2,393	6,277	6,277
Total Allocation.....	45,806	45,453	47,535	45,747
Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories:				
Scientists.....	74	62	65	65
Support staff.....	240	232	245	245
Administrative Support.....	68	65	70	70
Professional/Technical Support.....	172	167	175	175
Breakout by Administrative and Research Allocations:				
Administrative Allocation.....	\$11,314	\$11,227	\$11,712	\$11,271
Research Allocation.....	34,492	34,226	35,823	34,476
Total, Administrative and Research Allocations.....	\$45,806	\$45,453	\$47,535	\$45,747

^a Includes funds from other Forest Service budget line items such National Forest System and State and Private Forestry (FY 2018-FY 2021).

Pacific Northwest Research Station Research Programs (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Ecological Process and Function:				
Allocation	\$4,947	\$4,652	\$4,815	\$4,615
Scientists	18	16	16	16
Support Staff.....	21	20	21	21
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	19	18	19	19
Goods, Services and Values:				
Allocation	\$3,141	\$2,869	\$3,058	\$2,931
Scientists	14	11	12	12
Support Staff.....	3	2	3	3
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	1	0	1	1
Land and Watershed Management:				
Allocation	\$4,839	\$4,211	\$4,709	\$4,514
Scientists	15	13	12	12
Support Staff.....	23	20	23	23
<i>Administrative</i>	1	2	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	22	18	22	22
Forest Inventory and Analysis/Resource Monitoring and Assessment:				
Allocation	\$14,273	\$13,831	\$13,893	\$13,317
Scientists	12	10	10	10
Support Staff.....	103	93	104	104
<i>Administrative</i>	5	4	5	5
<i>Professional/technical</i>	99	89	99	99
Threat Characterization and Management:				
Allocation	\$2,212	\$4,941	\$2,153	\$2,064
Scientists	16	12	15	15
Support Staff.....	14	9	14	14
<i>Administrative</i>	2	1	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	12	8	12	12
Total Allocation	\$29,412	\$30,504	\$28,628	\$27,441
Total Scientists	75	62	65	65
Total Support Staff	164	144	165	165
Administrative	12	11	12	12
Professional/technical	153	133	153	153

Pacific Northwest Research Station – Facilities

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff Administrative	Number of Support Staff Professional/technical	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Station Directors Office - Portland	GSA Leased Space	0	19	16	410
Anchorage	GSA Leased Space	1	1	33	285
Corvallis	Owned Space	19	9	31	1,162
Fairbanks	University of Alaska Leased Space	1	0	0	0
Juneau	Owned Space	4	3	5	154
La Grande	Owned Space	3	2	12	128
Olympia	Owned Space	6	3	11	157
Portland	GSA Leased Space	4	4	24	627
Prineville	NFS Leased Space	0	3	0	50
Seattle	GSA Leased Space	11	3	4	488
Sitka	Leased Space	2	0	0	11
Wenatchee	Owned Space	5	3	3	177

Pacific Southwest Research Station

The Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) provides research to inform management and conservation efforts in the unique ecosystems of California, Hawaii, and the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands. These include the nation's lowest and driest desert, the highest elevations within the 48 contiguous States, and rich native plant and animal diversity, including nearly half of the nation's threatened and endangered species.

Pacific Southwest Research Station Field Unit Allocations and Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Research Allocations:				
Research & Development	\$18,887	\$18,887	\$19,609	\$18,863
Other funding ^a	245	245	245	245
Total Allocation	19,132	19,132	19,854	19,108
Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories:				
Scientists	35	35	33	33
Support staff.....	112	112	109	109
<i>Administrative</i>	39	39	38	38
<i>Professional/Technical</i>	73	73	73	70
Breakout by Administrative and Research Allocations:				
Administrative Allocation.....	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,300
Research Allocation	14,732	14,732	15,454	14,808
Total Admin and Research Allocation	\$19,132	\$19,132	\$19,854	\$19,108

^a Includes funds from other Forest Service budget line items such National Forest System and State and Private Forestry (FY 2018-FY 2021).

Pacific Southwest Research Station Research Programs (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Conservation of Biodiversity:				
Allocation.....	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,200	\$4,000
Scientists	8	7	7	7
Support Staff.....	30	30	28	28
<i>Administrative</i>	3	3	3	3
<i>Professional/technical</i>	27	27	25	25
Ecosystem Function and Health:				
Allocation.....	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,400	\$4,200
Scientists	10	10	10	10
Support Staff.....	25	25	25	25
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	23	23	23	23
Fire and Fuels:				
Allocation.....	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,900	\$2,900
Scientists	7	6	6	6
Support Staff.....	13	13	13	13
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	12	12	12	12
Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry:				
Allocation.....	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,400	\$2,300
Scientists	7	7	7	7
Support Staff.....	14	14	14	14
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	12	12	12	12
Urban Ecosystems and Social Dynamics:				
Allocation.....	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,400
Scientists	5	4	4	4
Support Staff.....	2	2	2	2
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	1	1	1	1
Total Allocation	\$14,700	\$14,700	\$15,400	\$14,800
Total Scientists	37	34	34	34
Total Support Staff	84	84	82	82
Administrative	9	9	9	9
Professional/technical	75	75	75	75

Pacific Southwest Research Station – Facilities

Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (<i>Administrative</i>)	Number of Support Staff (<i>Professional/ Technical</i>)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Albany, CA	3	16	5	105
Arcata, CA	2	1	16	75

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (Administrative)	Number of Support Staff (Professional/Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Davis, CA	Near University of California – Davis	10	6	6	495
Fresno, CA	Co-located with Cal State - Fresno	0	0	3	90
Hilo, HI	Location of the Institute for Pacific Island Forestry	7	4	11	210
Placerville, CA	Houses the Institute of Forest Genetics	0	5	2	85
Redding, CA	Co-located with Forest Service Region 5	4	1	8	290
Riverside, CA	Near University of California – Riverside	9	3	14	150

Rocky Mountain Research Station

The Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) develops and delivers scientific knowledge and innovative technology to improve the health and use of the Nation’s forests and rangelands – both public and private - in 12 non-coastal western States. This Station includes 52 National Forests, 17 National Grasslands, and over 101 million acres of Forest Service managed lands.

Rocky Mountain Research Station Field Unit Allocations and Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories (dollars in thousands)

Rocky Mountain Research Station	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Research Allocations:				
Research and Development.....	\$42,961	\$43,383	\$45,204	\$42,885
Other funding ^a	16,487	17,723	16,487	16,487
Total Allocation.....	59,448	61,106	61,691	59,372
Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories:				
Scientists.....	95	77	77	77
Support staff.....	262	279	279	279
Administrative Support	34	58	58	58
Professional/Technical Support	228	221	221	221
Breakout by Administrative and Research Allocations:				
Administrative Allocation.....	14,369	11,867	12,223	12,590
Research Allocation.....	45,079	49,239	49,468	46,782
Total, Administrative and Research Allocations.....	59,448	61,106	61,691	59,372

^a Includes funds from other Forest Service budget line items such National Forest System and State and Private Forestry (FY 2018 – FY 2021).

Rocky Mountain Research Station Research Programs (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute:				
Allocation	\$1,356	\$1,398	\$1,377	\$1,282
Scientists.....	3	3	3	3
Support Staff.....	5	3	3	3

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
<i>Administrative</i>	1	0	0	0
<i>Professional/technical</i>	4	3	3	3
Air, Water and Aquatics Environments:				
Allocation	\$4,261	\$4,453	\$4,673	\$4,353
Scientists	15	11	11	11
Support Staff.....	24	17	17	17
<i>Administrative</i>	4	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	20	15	15	15
Fire, Fuel and Smoke:				
Allocation	\$6,339	\$6,651	\$5,898	\$5,576
Scientists	16	12	12	12
Support Staff.....	56	57	57	57
<i>Administrative</i>	8	11	11	11
<i>Professional/technical</i>	48	46	46	46
Forest Inventory and Analysis:				
Allocation	\$9,533	\$11,491	\$11,684	\$10,856
Scientists	4	3	3	3
Support Staff.....	96	96	96	96
<i>Administrative</i>	7	7	7	7
<i>Professional/technical</i>	89	89	89	89
Forest and Woodlands Ecosystems:				
Allocation	\$5,803	\$6,080	\$6,436	\$6,023
Scientists	18	15	15	15
Support Staff.....	26	22	22	22
<i>Administrative</i>	4	3	3	3
<i>Professional/technical</i>	22	19	19	19
Grassland, Shrubland, and Desert Ecosystems:				
Allocation	\$3,582	\$3,936	\$4,021	\$3,757
Scientists	15	15	15	15
Support Staff.....	19	16	16	16
<i>Administrative</i>	5	5	5	5
<i>Professional/technical</i>	14	11	11	11
Human Dimensions:				
Allocation	\$4,337	\$4,197	\$4,568	\$4,340
Scientists	15	10	10	10
Support Staff.....	16	14	14	14
<i>Administrative</i>	1	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	15	12	12	12
Wildlife and Terrestrial Ecosystems:				
Allocation	\$3,264	\$3,681	\$3,458	\$3,244
Scientists	10	8	8	8
Support Staff.....	21	13	13	13
<i>Administrative</i>	4	3	3	3
<i>Professional/technical</i>	17	10	10	10
Total Allocation	\$45,079	\$48,491	\$48,309	\$45,625
Total Scientists	96	77	77	77

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Total Support Staff	263	238	238	238
<i>Administrative</i>	34	33	33	33
<i>Professional/technical</i>	229	205	205	205

Rocky Mountain Research Station – Facilities

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (Administrative)	Number of Support Staff (Professional/Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Albuquerque, NM	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	3	3	3	101
Boise, ID	Aquatic Sciences Laboratory	5	3	12	206
Bozeman, MT	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	3	1	4	106
Flagstaff, AZ	Southwest Forest Sciences Complex	7	3	10	226
Fort Collins, CO	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	16	19	30	245
Logan, UT	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	1	1	2	187
Missoula, MT	Fire Sciences Laboratory	11	7	31	310
Missoula, MT	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	11	3	21	238
Moscow, ID	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	7	2	13	161
Ogden, UT	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	3	6	31	493
Provo, UT	Shrub Sciences Laboratory	3	2	3	119
Rapid City, SD	Forest and Grassland Research Laboratory	2	1	1	98
Reno, NV	Forestry Sciences Laboratory	1	0	1	22

Southern Research Station

The mission of Southern Research Station (SRS) is to improve people’s lives and help sustain the natural resources in the Southeast through leading-edge science and effective information delivery. SRS is one of the largest forestry research stations in the world extending across 13 States. SRS’s internal capacity for scientific research is enriched and extended through 19 experimental forests and networks of partnerships with other researchers, practitioners, and volunteers from a variety of groups and organizations.

Southern Research Station Field Unit Allocations and Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Research Allocations:				
Research and Development.....	\$45,863	\$46,301	\$40,500	\$38,848
Other funding ^a	1,709	2,030	3,453	3,453
Total Allocation	47,572	48,331	43,953	42,301
Staffing by Science and Administrative Categories:				
Scientists	87	87	103	103
Support staff.....	226	226	193	193
<i>Administrative Support</i>	46	46	35	35
<i>Professional/Technical Support</i>	180	180	158	158

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Breakout by Administrative and Research Allocations:				
Administrative Allocation.....	5,416	5,416	4,606	4,433
Research Allocation.....	42,156	42,915	39,347	37,868
Total, Administrative and Research Allocations.....	\$47,572	\$48,331	\$43,953	\$42,301

^a Includes funds from other Forest Service budget line items such National Forest System and State and Private Forestry (FY 2018-FY 2021).

Southern Research Station Research Programs (dollars in thousands)

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Center for Bottomland Hardwoods:				
Allocation.....	\$3,829	\$3,857	\$3,194	\$2,967
Scientists	11	11	12	12
Support Staff.....	14	14	15	15
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	3	3
<i>Professional/technical</i>	13	13	12	12
Center for Forest Disturbance Science:				
Allocation.....	\$2,458	\$2,468	\$2,043	\$1,898
Scientists	6	6	8	8
Support Staff.....	12	11	12	12
<i>Administrative</i>	2	1	5	5
<i>Professional/technical</i>	10	10	7	7
Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management:				
Allocation.....	\$2,364	\$2,760	\$2,285	\$2,123
Scientists	7	7	7	7
Support Staff.....	10	12	10	10
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	9	11	8	8
Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine Ecosystems:				
Allocation.....	\$1,679	\$1,593	\$1,319	\$1,227
Scientists	4	4	4	4
Support Staff.....	7	8	7	7
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	7	8	6	6
Southern Pine Ecology and Management:				
Allocation.....	\$2,182	\$1,935	\$1,602	\$1,489
Scientists	3	3	7	7
Support Staff.....	12	11	9	9
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	10	9	7	7
Forest Genetics and Ecosystems Biology:				
Allocation.....	\$2,122	\$2,150	\$1,780	\$1,654
Scientists	6	6	6	6
Support Staff.....	11	11	12	12
<i>Administrative</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	10	10	11	11
Center for Forest Watershed Science:				

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Allocation.....	\$2,668	\$2,644	\$2,189	\$2,034
Scientists	8	8	12	12
Support Staff.....	20	18	17	17
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	18	16	15	15
Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants:				
Allocation.....	\$2,797	\$2,792	\$2,312	\$2,148
Scientists	6	6	8	8
Support Staff.....	14	15	12	12
<i>Administrative</i>	-	1	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	14	14	11	11
Forest Operations Research to Achieve Sustainable Management:				
Allocation.....	\$816	\$792	\$656	\$609
Scientists	2	2	2	2
Support Staff.....	4	6	4	4
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Professional/technical</i>	4	6	4	4
Utilization of Southern Forest Resources:				
Allocation.....	\$1,373	\$1,172	\$970	\$901
Scientists	2	2	3	3
Support Staff.....	3	2	5	5
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	3	2	4	4
Forest Inventory and Analysis:				
Allocation.....	\$17,772	\$17,932	\$17,177	\$17,177
Scientists	11	15	12	12
Support Staff.....	64	66	69	69
<i>Administrative</i>	7	4	9	9
<i>Professional/technical</i>	57	62	60	60
Forest Economics and Policy:				
Allocation.....	\$1,294	\$1,453	\$1,203	\$1,118
Scientists	4	4	6	6
Support Staff.....	5	5	4	4
<i>Administrative</i>	2	1	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	3	4	2	2
Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center:				
Allocation.....	\$3,691	\$2,307	\$1,744	\$1,621
Scientists	8	8	9	9
Support Staff.....	11	10	11	11
<i>Administrative</i>	2	2	3	3
<i>Professional/technical</i>	9	8	8	8
Center for Integrated Forest Science:				
Allocation.....	\$1,145	\$956	\$792	\$735
Scientists	3	3	2	2
Support Staff.....	0	1	1	1

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Description of Research Program	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>Professional/technical</i>	0	1	0	0
Integrating Human and Natural Systems:				
Allocation.....	\$1,382	\$1,490	\$1,234	\$1,147
Scientists.....	5	5	5	5
Support Staff.....	5	5	5	5
<i>Administrative</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>Professional/technical</i>	5	5	3	3
Total Allocation	\$47,572	\$46,301	\$40,500	\$38,848
Total Scientists	86	76	103	103
Total Support Staff	192	195	193	193
<i>Administrative</i>	20	16	35	35
<i>Professional/technical</i>	172	179	158	158

Southern Research Station – Facilities

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (Administrative)	Number of Support Staff (Professional/Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Asheville, NC	Forest Service-owned facility	5	29	10	144
Bent Creek/Koen Asheville, NC	Forest Service-owned laboratory, greenhouse and administrative offices	4	0	9	98
Coweeta Otto, NC	Forest Service-owned hydrologic laboratory	4	1	9	27
Knoxville, TN	Leased facility	10	4	9	395
Research Triangle Park, Durham, NC	Forest Service-owned laboratory and greenhouse	12	2	15	102
Auburn/Escambia Auburn, AL	Forest Service-owned laboratory and greenhouse	3	1	10	765
Crossett Experimental Forest, Crossett, AR	Forest Service-owned administrative office	0	0	2	2
Athens/Hitchiti Athens, GA	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	14	2	14	1,107
Pineville/Palustris Pineville, LA	Forest Service-owned laboratory and greenhouse	5	0	17	74
Saucier/Harrison Saucier, MS	Forest Service-owned laboratory and greenhouse	1	1	4	54
Stoneville/Oxford, MS	Forest Service-owned laboratory and greenhouse	8	1	12	91

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Name	Description	Number of Scientists	Number of Support Staff (Administrative)	Number of Support Staff (Professional/ Technical)	Facility Costs (dollars in thousands)
Santee Cordesville, SC	Forest Service-owned laboratory and administrative offices	2	1	2	7
Savannah River New Ellenton, SC	Forest Service-owned administrative office	1	0	2	2
Nacogdoches, TX	Forest Service-owned laboratory	1	1	6	6
Blacksburg, VA	Forest Service-owned laboratory	3	0	3	0

Forest Service Research and Development Expenditures by State (dollars in thousands)

State/Station	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Alabama – SRS.....	\$2,454	\$3,009	\$2,632	\$2,525
Alaska – PNW.....	6,870	6,817	6,210	5,995
Arizona – RMRS.....	2,633	3,183	3,258	3,067
Arkansas – SRS.....	2,038	2,384	2,085	2,000
California – PSW.....	17,824	16,724	17,154	16,508
California – PNW.....	2,748	2,726	2,898	2,779
Colorado – RMRS.....	11,703	10,017	10,930	10,709
Connecticut – NRS.....	1,759	1,451	1,298	1,279
Delaware – NRS.....	0	0	0	0
Florida – SRS.....	810	1,018	890	854
Georgia – SRS.....	3,305	4,301	3,762	3,609
Hawaii – PSW.....	2,588	2,408	2,700	2,600
Idaho – RMRS.....	4,664	4,801	4,936	4,647
Illinois – NRS.....	1,163	1,317	1,365	1,295
Indiana – NRS.....	1,007	866	950	920
Iowa – NRS.....	0	0	0	0
Kansas – RMRS.....	0	0	0	0
Kentucky – SRS.....	502	619	541	519
Louisiana – SRS.....	3,898	4,207	3,680	3,530
Maine – NRS.....	232	336	843	588
Maryland – NRS.....	1,826	1,706	1,676	1,565
Massachusetts – NRS.....	1,234	1,203	1,263	1,216
Michigan – NRS.....	3,031	2,815	2,824	2,749
Minnesota – NRS.....	10,514	11,310	12,014	12,434
Mississippi – SRS.....	5,633	5,680	4,968	4,766
Missouri – NRS.....	2,342	2,074	2,060	1,985
Montana – RMRS.....	11,246	10,187	10,446	9,786
Nebraska – RMRS.....	0	0	0	0
Nevada – RMRS.....	285	258	265	248
New Hampshire – NRS.....	5,398	5,398	5,857	5,479
New Jersey – NRS.....	284	263	261	248
New Mexico – RMRS.....	615	909	951	908
New York – NRS.....	2,799	2,694	3,212	2,907

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

State/Station	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
North Carolina – SRS	9,128	9,010	7,881	7,560
North Dakota – RMRS.....	0	64	64	0
Ohio – NRS.....	3,727	3,237	3,299	3,209
Oklahoma – SRS.....	91	181	158	152
Oregon – PNW.....	25,651	25,454	23,597	22,630
Pennsylvania – NRS.....	9,623	6,927	7,696	5,538
Puerto Rico – IITF	2,670	2,670	1,460	1,460
Puerto Rico – SRS	271	363	318	305
Rhode Island – NRS.....	0	0	0	0
South Carolina – SRS	1,919	2,691	2,354	2,258
South Dakota – RMRS.....	776	581	595	563
Tennessee – SRS.....	14,585	10,025	8,769	8,411
Texas – SRS.....	1,679	2,048	1,791	1,718
Utah – RMRS.....	13,537	13,389	13,763	12,895
Vermont – NRS.....	62	62	379	0
Virginia – SRS	1,060	627	548	526
Washington – PNW	10,510	10,456	10,425	9,998
West Virginia – NRS	4,546	4,109	4,052	4,038
Wisconsin – FPL.....	22,103	21,485	22,937	22,075
Wisconsin – NRS.....	4,103	5,450	3,954	5,432
Wyoming – RMRS.....	126	58	60	61
Total, Expenditures by State	\$237,572	\$229,568	\$214,219	\$216,544

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING

Background

This special exhibit is included to address requirements of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (as amended, 16 U.S.C 6591c):

“The Forest Service shall report annually to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives on -

- the status of development, execution, and administration of contracts under subsection (b);
- the specific accomplishments that have resulted; and
- the role of local communities in development of agreements or contract plans.”

Overview

Stewardship contracts and agreements are used to manage natural resources by implementing ecosystem restoration projects. Stewardship contracts support new and emerging markets through the use of wood removed through restoration activities, including using woody biomass for energy, in addition to sustaining traditional markets. Stewardship contracting helps the Forest Service achieve land and natural resource management goals while promoting closer public-private working relationships by using the value of timber or other forest products to offset the cost of restoration activities. The best value selection using criteria such as capability, use of local workforce, creation of jobs, and price is intended to create green jobs, promote a diverse forest products industry, and support sustainable communities and the forest contractor infrastructure needed to perform critical restoration work.

If the offset value of timber or other forest products from stewardship sales exceeds the value of resource improvement treatments conducted to accomplish land management objectives, those receipts are retained and deposited in the Stewardship Contracting fund and are available, until expended, for other authorized stewardship projects. Stewardship contracts are awarded on a best-value basis and may be used for:

- Maintaining or removing roads and trails to restore or maintain water quality.
- Improving soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resources.
- Prescribed fires to improve the composition, structure, condition, and health of timber stands or wildlife habitat.
- Removing vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forests, reduce fire hazards, or achieve other land management objectives.
- Restoring and maintaining watersheds.
- Restoring and maintaining wildlife and fisheries habitat.
- Controlling noxious and invasive weeds and reestablishing native vegetation.

While the number of stewardship projects changes from year to year, the agency and its partners have a better understanding of how to best use stewardship contracts, which has resulted in projects of larger size.

In FY 2019, the agency continued to inform employees, partner organizations, and contractors about stewardship contracting through brochures, local field trips, and training opportunities. This ensures a common understanding of stewardship contracting and facilitates its use in attaining land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs. To improve agency understanding and use of this authority, the Forest Service contracted to expand the national stewardship contracting and agreements training. In FY 2019, eight Stewardship Training courses for forest management projects were offered, training over 200 students.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 amended the stewardship authority to allow contracts up to 20 years in locations meeting certain conditions, while remaining 10-years for all others. The Act also allows the cost of cancellation ceilings to be allocated in economically viable stages, relieving the forest unit of a large obligation in a single year. Two regions have developed 20-year agreements or contracts, while others are still evaluating the authority for use. The national headquarters has updated their directives to include guidance on implementing new authorities along with updates to current authorities.

Specific Accomplishments

Stewardship contracting has proved to be a valuable tool in many locations to implement restoration activities and meet multiple land management objectives. Stewardship contracting allows the Forest Service to focus on a variety of land management activities, such as hazardous fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, forest health improvement, and non-native invasive plant species control.

Table 1 below shows specific accomplishments during FY 2016 to FY 2019. Table 2 below shows the acres awarded, number of contract or agreements awarded, and volume awarded from FY 2003 to FY 2019. The number of contracts or agreements awarded includes those where forest products are exchanged for service activities as well as those where excess Stewardship Contracting funds are used for activities without the exchange of forest products.

In many cases, multiple land management objectives are met through a single treatment activity. For example, a hazardous fuels reduction treatment can also improve wildlife habitat. These accomplishments not only result in ecosystem benefits, but also in forest products for manufacturing and energy production, and the creation of jobs contributing to sustainable communities.

Local Communities

Collaboration with local communities is a key component of successful stewardship contracting. Collaborative efforts start early and continue throughout project planning, implementation, and monitoring. Collaboration during the development of stewardship contracting projects results in a sense of community ownership in the project, a better understanding by communities of natural resource issues, and increased public support. Collaboration also means the Forest Service can tailor stewardship offerings that address local issues, needs, and capabilities.

In FY 2019, the Forest Service continued to build on the FY 2018 Pinchot Institute for Conservation study on a programmatic multiparty monitoring process. In the FY 2018 report, the Pinchot Institute confirmed that partnerships and working relationships were generally strengthened by long-term work towards common goals. Partners increasingly welcome the use of stewardship agreements as a way to involve more stakeholders, increase learning opportunities, and positively influence forest planning. The FY 2020 programmatic review will focus on reviewing the results of the past five years to determine whether the reviews have improved the program and the recommendations have been instituted. The results of the FY 2020 programmatic monitoring efforts by the Pinchot Institute will be available in the fall of 2020. When available, the entire report will be online at: http://www.pinchot.org/gp/Stewardship_Contracting

Table 1. Actual Stewardship Contracting Accomplishments (FY 2016 to FY 2019)

Measure	2016	2017	2018	2019
Acres of forest vegetation established.....	5,050	4,312	3,591	3,624
Acres of forest vegetation improved.....	42,634	45,346	24,938	33,269
Acres of noxious weeds/invasive plant treatments.....	5,434	4,279	3,879	5,977
Acres of wildlife habitat restored or improved.....	22,133	14,031	33,693	14,736
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced.....	48	81	110	118
Miles of roads decommissioned.....	10	3	14	N/A ^a
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF)).....	718	855	754	859
Green tons of biomass made available for energy production.....	217,698	222,636	229,958	276,236
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires (Non-WUI).....	79,694	90,968	31,695	49,574
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated.....	96,387	118,559	163,332	83,784
Stewardship contracts/agreements contributing to watersheds in fully functioning condition.....	2	5	5	2

^a This measure is no longer tracked.

Table 2. Acres Awarded, Number of Contract or Agreements Awarded, and Volume Awarded

Fiscal Year	Acres Awarded	Number of Contracts & Agreements	Volume Awarded (thousand board feet - MBF)
2003	11,696	35	35,000
2004	43,187	53	51,000
2005	34,491	43	98,000
2006	60,344	91	236,000
2007	77,676	110	331,000
2008	65,890	130	339,000
2009	88,304	141	372,000
2010	152,834	232	567,000
2011	100,577	208	481,000
2012	134,257	226	672,000
2013	171,767	195	709,000
2014	177,208	161	816,000
2015	166,317	168	829,000
2016	166,462	225	718,000
2017	153,868	221	855,000
2018	161,947	266	793,374
2019	129,710	150	859,060

TRANSITION TO SECOND GROWTH IN ALASKA

Background

This exhibit is not required by Congressional direction but is included to provide an update on the status of the transition to second growth in Alaska.

Overview

The State of Alaska and the Forest Service entered into a Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCSA) to conduct a young growth forest inventory and support workforce development for the timber industry. The inventory was completed in mid-October 2018, and local residents have been successfully trained and are now working in various forestry-related jobs in Southeast Alaska. The Forest Service, State, and other landowners continue complementary efforts to enable a successful transition to second-growth management in Alaska.

Inventory Efforts

Crews employed by the State and partner organizations completed data collection on more than 33,700 acres of young-growth stands aged 55 years or older on Prince of Wales and surrounding islands. Forest Service and State personnel are summarizing and analyzing the data collected into stand-level analyses of logging feasibility to determine how many of those older young-growth acres will be operable during near-term project implementation. More than 11,000 acres of young growth aged 40-54 years have also been inventoried. The data from completed inventories include species composition, volume per acre, vegetation composition, stand observations, stream crossing points, presence of disease, wind throw, and more. The analysis is expected to take one to two years to complete. The information will be used to support transparent, informed decision making by forest managers and stakeholders as they seek to develop projects to meet transition objectives.

Old-Growth Bridge Timber

During 2019, Forest Service crews at Prince of Wales, Ketchikan, and Petersburg continued to focus on stand-level, data-driven inventories of old-growth timber stands to support timber sales in the current five-year sale schedule. The State and Tongass National Forest are in discussions about bringing in additional support for old-growth inventory under the CCSA. The Forest Service and Alaska Forest Association have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to support collaborative efforts on old-growth inventory, project development, and organizational learning around timber sale conditions impacting the industry. A challenge cost share agreement with additional training and mentoring tasks was signed in FY 2019 and will cover several years of coordinated work on bridge timber.

Other Ongoing Efforts in Support of the Transition

The Forest Service and other landowners in Southeast Alaska have established an all-landowners group to coordinate operations, find efficiencies, and share infrastructure to support resource management activities. Group members include the Forest Service, Alaska Division of Forestry, Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office, University of Alaska, and Sealaska.

To support utilization of wood products from the forest, the agency is also evaluating the potential design of a wood quality study to determine the type, volume, and quality of products that can be manufactured from young-growth Sitka spruce and western hemlock trees growing in Southeast Alaska. This effort is led by the Pacific Northwest Research Station personnel. A study plan has been developed and personnel are pursuing outside funding and a suitable non-profit to assist with project execution and management.

The Forest Service Alaska Region and the State of Alaska entered into a Master Good Neighbor Authority agreement in FY 2017. Under the first Supplemental Project Agreement, the Koscuisko Young Growth Timber Sale was offered and awarded by the State of Alaska in late FY 2017 and operations have commenced. Two additional Supplemental Project Agreements were developed in FY 2018, one on the Tongass and one on the Chugach National Forest. In 2019, the Vallendar Bay Young Growth Timber Sale was awarded on the Tongass National Forest. The Good Neighbor Authority provides an excellent opportunity for increased management activities in conjunction with the State of Alaska where projects are mutually beneficial. Additional Good Neighbor projects for the future are being identified, analyzed and proposed.

The Forest Service is continuing the Tongass-Wide Young Growth Study, begun in 2002, to increase knowledge of silvicultural practices for various purposes including young-growth management. Two research publications are expected in FY 2020, and the studies re-measurement protocols will continue on an annual basis.

UNLIQUIDATED OBLIGATIONS**Background**

This exhibit is included to provide a display of Forest Service unliquidated obligation (ULO) balances.

Overview

Unliquidated Obligations are defined as the balance remaining from orders placed; contract and other binding agreements awarded, or services rendered after making any payments or processing de-obligations. The following table contains the status of Forest Service unliquidated obligation balances in prior fiscal years for appropriated funds (regular and emergency) as of September 30, 2019.

Forest Service Status of ULO Balances in Prior Fiscal Years as of September 30, 2019 (dollars in thousands)

Budget Line Item/Program	FY 2016 and Prior ^a	FY 2017 ^a	FY 2018 ^a	FY 2019 ^a	Total ULO Balance ^a
Forest and Rangeland Research:					
National Fire Plan Research and Development.....	\$7,228	\$6,818	\$21,944	\$50,123	\$86,113
Forest Inventory and Analysis	0	2,209	5,894	17,149	25,252
R&D Forest Products Lab.....	429	1,420	0	0	1,849
R&D Joint Fire Sciences Program	807	958	0	2,934	4,699
Other Forest and Rangeland Research Programs (Includes Cost Pools).....	136	1,160	754	5,959	8,009
Total, Forest and Rangeland Research	8,600	12,565	28,592	76,165	125,922
State and Private Forestry:					
Cooperative Fire Protection – National Fire Capacity	2,701	0	53,144	70,373	126,218
Forest Health Management- Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management.....	9,603	5,131	14,403	25,845	54,982
Forest Health Management - Federal Lands Forest Health Management.....	2,462	890	4,955	15,253	23,560
International Forestry.....	541	220	1,362	3,281	5,404
Landscape Scale Restoration	9,232	7,423	12,526	13,893	43,074
Cooperative Forestry - Forest Legacy	37,029	31,983	50,640	57,735	177,387
Cooperative Forestry - Forest Legacy Program Administration.....	0	1,001	1,436	2,559	4,996
Cooperative Forestry - Community Forest and Open Space Conservation.....	996	104	2,150	3,408	6,658
Cooperative Forestry - Working Forest Lands.....	5,248	3,573	6,992	11,869	27,682
Cooperative Forestry - Urban and Community Forestry.....	6,796	6,609	13,133	21,171	47,709
Cooperative Fire Protection – Rural Fire Capacity	0	0	9,215	16,978	26,193
Other State and Private Forestry Programs (Includes Cost Pools).....	8,955	945	5,201	3,542	18,643
Total, State and Private Forestry.....	83,563	57,879	175,157	245,907	562,506
National Forest System:					
Law Enforcement Operations	1,015	644	3,118	11,935	16,712
Land Ownership Management.....	1,957	1,189	4,010	11,158	18,314
Minerals and Geology Management	2,830	2,405	6,147	14,277	25,659
Land Management Planning	1,393	0	0	0	1,393
Grazing Management.....	1,273	1,221	1,938	4,811	9,243
Restoration Partnerships	16	0	0	0	16

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Budget Line Item/Program	FY 2016 and Prior ^a	FY 2017 ^a	FY 2018 ^a	FY 2019 ^a	Total ULO Balance ^a
Integrated Resource Restoration	6,673	3,847	0	0	10,520
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	4,723	4,980	9,962	30,294	49,959
Forest Products	5,101	4,266	10,846	38,571	58,784
Vegetation and Watershed Management.....	4,210	3,971	9,755	31,492	49,428
Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management	2,271	1,947	6,598	18,642	29,458
Hazardous Fuels, Biomass Grants & Reduction	0	0	74,723	128,037	202,760
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.	172	0	0	0	172
Other National Forest System Programs (Includes Cost Pools).....	3,749	5,419	15,122	103,358	127,648
Total, National Forest System	35,383	29,889	142,219	392,575	600,066
Wildland Fire Management:					
Fire Operations - Wildland Fire Preparedness	7,744	6,764	28,326	115,351	158,185
Fire Operations - Wildland Fire Suppression Operations.....	72,071	62,004	15,438	208,993	358,506
Other Operations - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.....	0	0	0	0	0
Other Operations – National Fire Capacity.....	32,172	30,579	0	0	62,751
Other Operations - Rural Fire Capacity	1,757	4,092	0	0	5,849
Other Wildland Fire Management Programs (Includes Cost Pools).....	68,497	38,018	7,392	52,325	166,232
Total, Wildland Fire Management	182,241	141,457	51,156	376,669	751,523
Capital Improvement and Maintenance:					
Facilities.....	3,818	822	47,881	60,491	113,012
Roads	2,502	2,405	15,507	53,101	73,515
Trails.....	1,864	1,962	5,141	12,549	21,516
Integrated Resource Restoration - Legacy Roads and Trails	2,818	1,345	0	0	4,163
Deferred Maintenance.....	868	0	0	0	868
Other Capital Improvement & Maintenance Programs (Includes Cost Pools).....	702	518	1,455	12,064	14,739
Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance	12,572	7,052	69,984	138,205	227,813
Land Acquisition:					
Land Acquisition - Acquisition Management	0	150	170	542	862
Land Acquisition - Cash Equalization	0	0	0	0	0
Land - Critical Inholding	0	200	626	362	1,188
Land Acquisition.....	6,989	1,736	8,143	18,196	35,064
Land Acquisition - Rec Access	0	610	752	640	2,002
Total, Land Acquisition.....	6,989	2,696	9,691	19,740	39,116
Other Appropriations:					
Range Betterment Fund	88	375	270	169	902
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses.....	118	25	685	804	1632
Total, Other Appropriations	206	400	955	973	2,534
Total, Forest Service	\$329,554	\$251,938	\$477,754	\$1,250,234	\$2,309,480

^a Amounts do not include reimbursable funds.

USDA WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEPARTMENTAL SHARED COST PROGRAMS AND CENTRAL COST DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

Background

This exhibit is included to provide a three-year display of total costs paid by the Forest Service for these centrally administered programs.

Overview

The Forest Service, as an agency within the Department of Agriculture (USDA), receives centrally managed, administrative services from the Department. These centrally administered programs are broken into two activities, the Working Capital Fund and Greenbook / Shared Cost Programs. It is important to note that cost estimates for actual usage programs have changed in the last three fiscal years in response to Forest Service demand for services. Forest Service estimates for the activities assessed on a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) basis or standard methodology are likely to better reflect Forest Service shares of total costs, but these may vary during execution.

USDA Working Capital Fund

The Working Capital Fund (WCF) includes financial and administrative services provided with funding under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2235. The WCF is a financing mechanism that currently supports 17 activity centers across five Department-level organizations. These centers provide services to all USDA agencies, including the Forest Service, and many Federal entities outside USDA. Customers reimburse activity centers for the cost of services provided.

These WCF-supported activities do not receive appropriated funds and are not subsidized from other funding sources. All costs are recovered through reimbursements from serviced customers. Pursuant to the terms of the general provisions in annual appropriations to USDA, agency administrators must authorize billings to their agency for these services. Therefore, the Chief of the Forest Service (or her duly appointed representative) must sign an agreement at the beginning of the fiscal year authorizing billing for services provided and supply the appropriate accounting data.

The Forest Service acts as one of the overseers in the review of cost estimates for the National Finance Center through its participation in the WCF Executive Committee, a body comprised of representatives from various USDA agencies. The Executive Committee is charged with making budget recommendations and advising the Department's Chief Financial Officer as to the financial effectiveness of the WCF. The Forest Service works with the Department's Chief Financial Officer to review activities included in the Greenbook/Shared Cost Programs and the basis for any costs attributed to the Forest Service.

The tables on the following pages display Forest Service assessments for USDA WCF services and describe the range of WCF services that the USDA provides.

FY 2018 to FY 2021 Working Capital Fund Assessments for the Forest Service (dollars in thousands)

Core Services	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Client Technology Services	\$332	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mail and Reproduction Services	243	281	820	832
Material Management Service Center	677	569	928	941
Integrated Procurement Systems	7,813	8,266	8,235	8,233
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	286	276	496	172
Enterprise Network Services.....	3,720	4,658	16,940	17,023
Financial Shared Services	48,745	48,738	47,085	46,674
Internal Control Support Services	398	277	489	404
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	787	506	509	546
Total Core Services	\$60,001	\$63,531	\$75,502	\$74,825

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

USDA Agency Specific Services	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Mail and Reproduction Services	\$469	\$580	\$820	\$832
Enterprise Network Services.....	7,308	4,658	16,940	17,023
Material Management Service Center	697	717	928	941
Procurement Operations Division	147	124	126	94
Financial Shared Services	48,745	48,738	47,085	46,674
Creative Media and Broadcast Center	644	317	496	173
Client Experience Center*	13,553	20,168	23,159	23,697
National Finance Center.....	9,617	8,839	8,116	8,167
Digital Infrastructure Service Center*.....	18,469	19,197	41,791	39,786
Human Resource Enterprise System Management.....	838	1,094	1,154	1,204
Department Administration Information Technology Office	0	0	10	10
Office of the Executive Secretariat	787	506	509	546
Internal Control Support Services	398	277	489	404
Integrated Procurement Systems	7,814	8,269	8,235	8,233
Total USDA Agency Specific Services	\$109,507	\$113,484	\$149,858	\$147,784

USDA Departmental Shared Cost Programs and Central Cost Distribution Programs

Central Cost Distribution Programs

USDA agencies pay a share of costs for external programs through shared cost program assessments. The Forest Service share is determined in a manner consistent with other USDA agencies. Assessments are broken down into two categories:

Actual Usage - Costs are collected for programs such as GSA space, transit subsidies, postage, and unemployment and workers compensation insurance based on actual costs incurred by individual agencies.

Outside Assessments - Costs such as Office of Personnel Management Federal employment, FirstGov, and GSA blue pages are distributed to executive departments for reimbursement. The Department has no discretion as to these program costs.

Departmental Shared Cost Programs

These costs provide funding for department-wide initiatives authorized by the Office of the Secretary. Costs for these programs cannot be recovered on a usage basis and are generally distributed using an FTE methodology.

FY 2018 to FY 2021 Department Shared Services & Central Cost Distribution Assessments for the Forest Service (dollars in thousands)

Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Working Capital Fund:				
Administration				
Mail and Reproduction Services.....	\$469	\$580	\$820	\$832
Material Management Service Center.....	697	717	928	941
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	7,814	8,269	8,235	8,233
Procurement Operations Division.....	147	124	126	94
HR Enterprise System Management.....	838	1,094	1,154	1,204
Subtotal, Administration.....	9,966	10,784	11,263	11,304
Communication				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center.....	644	317	496	173
Correspondence Management Service				
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	787	506	509	546
Finance and Management				
National Finance Center/USDA.....	9,637	8,839	8,116	8,167
Financial System (Financial Management Services).....	48,745	48,738	47,085	46,674
Internal Control Support Services.....	398	277	489	404
Subtotal, Finance and Management.....	58,780	57,854	55,690	55,245
Information Technology				
Digital Infrastructure Services Center.....	18,469	19,198	41,791	39,786
Client Technology Services.....	13,553	20,168	23,159	23,697
Enterprise Network Services.....	7,308	4,659	16,940	17,023
Subtotal, Information Technology.....	39,330	40,022	81,900	80,516
Total, Working Capital Fund.....	\$109,507	\$113,485	\$149,858	\$147,784
Departmental Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services (White House Liaison Office)	216	209	210	210
Agency Partnership Outreach	2,350	2,406	2,374	2,374
Honor Awards.....	7	3	3	3
Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard.....	184	186	181	0
Human Resources Transformation.....	279	0	0	0

2021 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Budget Request
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network	979	994	996	976
Medical Services.....	35	37	25	0
Office of Customer Experience	605	813	903	903
People’s Garden.....	150	0	0	0
Personnel and Document Security	577	537	535	535
Physical Security	0	0	1,779	1,287
Security Detail	1,395	1,349	1,402	1,402
Security Operations	3,272	3,286	1,762	1,925
TARGET Center.....	413	384	351	351
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services	0	0	1,639	1,639
Virtual University	317	0	0	0
Total, Department Shared Cost Programs.....	\$10,778	\$10,204	\$12,140	\$11,605
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business.....	30	30	30	18
Enterprise Human Resource Integration	616	616	0	0
Enterprise Human Resource Integration	616	616	0	0
Financial Management Line of Business	100	100	100	100
Human Resource Management Line of Business.....	90	90	90	90
Integrated Acquisition Environment.....	786	849	573	573
E-Rulemaking	50	41	9	9
Geospatial Line of Business.....	13	13	12	12
Grants.gov.....	1	1	5	5
Total, E-Gov	\$1,685	\$1,740	\$819	\$807

FOREST SERVICE - WORKING CAPITAL FUND

Overview

The Forest Service Working Capital Fund (WCF) provides orderly and efficient supply and equipment service in support of Forest Service programs. The Department of Agriculture Organic Act of August 3, 1956, as amended by the Act of October 23, 1962 (15 U.S.C. 579b), established the Forest Service WCF. The WCF is a self-sustaining revolving fund that provides services to national forests, research stations, other Federal agencies, and as provided by law, to State and private cooperators.

The WCF requires no appropriation. Initially, regular Forest Service appropriations purchased assets and donated the assets to WCF. The WCF rates are determined so that WCF recovers operating and replacement costs. The WCF provides the following services:

Equipment Leasing Services, which owns and rents vehicles and aircraft, and Enterprise Services, which are reinvention teams accomplishing project work that improves customer service and reduces costs.

The table below displays the volume of business for major WCF activities:

Volume of Business for Major WCF Activities (dollars in thousands)

Type	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted ^a	2021 Budget Request ^a
Equipment – Fleet	\$173,651	\$193,131	\$189,121
Equipment - Fleet (GSA Leases)	783	798	815
Equipment – Aircraft	18,973	11,662	10,147
Nursery	11,687	12,155	12,641
Enterprise Services.....	44,353	46,127	47,972
Total	\$249,447	\$263,873	\$260,696

^a The FY 2020 Enacted and the FY 2021 Budget Request were calculated using approved five-year Cash Flow statements. Each year the five-year estimates can change based on specific needs at the time.