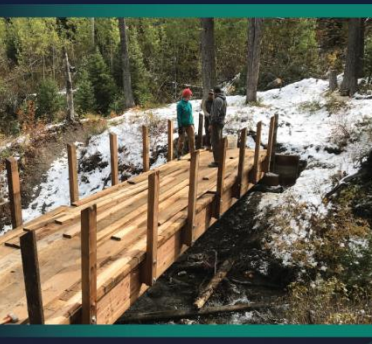
Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 2022

FISCAL YEAR 2023

# BUDGET JUSTIFICATION



FY 23

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**COVER PHOTOS**

Employees and volunteers on the Lolo National Forest plant 530,500 seedlings across 2,536 acres. Courtesy photo by Dave Gardner Creative/National Forest Foundation.

USDA Forest Service Region 3, Tribal Relations Manager Yolynda Begay, is responsible for the government (Forest Service) to (Pueblo) government relations in the Forest Service Southwest Region. A highlight in the region is the Walatowa Timber Industries mill that produces wood pellets, poles for utilities, wood beams and vigas for conventional and traditional home building, ties for railroads, posts for fences, milled lumber, mulch, and firewood. Use of the Tribal Forest Protection Act project between the Santa Fe National Forest and the Jemez Pueblo helps to reduce the threat of wildland fire through hazardous fuels removal, this promotes forest health through reducing insect infestation and disease, and the harvest of small diameter timber will support the Tribe's nearby Walatowa Timber Industries mill. The project would be on land bordering Jemez Pueblo Tribal land. The Forest Service Southwest Region recognizes the authority as a valuable tool for restoring landscapes and has used it with other Tribes. These conversations between the Santa Fe and the Pueblo demonstrate the good collaboration and relationship between the Pueblo and the forest. The project supported the district's Palliza prescribed fire, as well as complementing the ongoing Southwest Jemez Mountains Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program project awarded in 2010. The 210,000-acre project comprises the 86,000-acre Valles Caldera Nation-al Preserve, 110,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest, and 14,000 acres of nearby State, private, and Jemez Pueblo lands. The Tribal Forest Protection Act project is not only an opportunity for meaningful collaboration with Jemez Pueblo, but also a benefit to the overall ecosystem of this part of the Jemez Mountains. USDA Forest Service photo by Lance Cheung with permission of the Pueblo of Jemez.

A firefighter on the Big Windy Complex Wildlands Fire, approximately 15 miles west of Interstate-5 and East Northeast of Galice, OR, conducts a prescribed burn "burnout" operation to help stop the main fire from spreading toward the roadway. USDA Forest Service photo by Lance Cheung.

A new bridge is installed on Horseshoe Creek at Upper Horseshoe Bridge on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in Idaho. The bridge and trail work were cooperative projects with the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, State of Idaho Parks and recreation, Skyliners Motorized club, Montana Conservation Corps, Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, and Mountain Bike the Tetons. USDA Forest Service photo by Jay Pence.

# 2023 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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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) 2023 Forest Service Budget request for discretionary appropriations is $9.0 billion. This is an increase of $1.5 billion from an FY 2022 annualized continuing resolution (CR). The FY 2023 Budget request includes $2.7 billion for Wildland Fire Management, an increase of $751 million from an FY 2022 annualized CR; $2.2 billion for the management of National Forest System lands, an increase of $394 million from an FY 2022 annualized CR; $140 million for Capital Improvement and Maintenance, equal to an FY 2022 annualized CR; $318 million for Forest and Rangeland Research, an increase of $59 million from an FY 2022 annualized CR; $307 million for State and Private Forestry, an increase of $40 million from an FY 2022 annualized CR, and $1.1 billion for Forest Service Operations, an increase of $86 million from an FY 2022 annualized CR. The Wildfire Suppression Budget Cap Adjustment ("fire funding fix") is $2.21 billion, an increase of $170 million from an FY 2022 annualized CR.

### Forest Service Policy Priorities

The FY 2023 Budget request prioritizes critical investments to address threats from wildfire, tackle climate change, protect communities, provide economic relief through job creation, advance racial equity, and further improve our work environment. To address these challenges for FY 2023, the Forest Service proposes significant investments for wildfire risk management and continuing implementation of the Administration's climate and innovation agenda. Together with the historic investments provided from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (P.L. 117-58), the Forest Service will increase and build new capacity for working with partners to improve the resilience of landscapes and watersheds across boundaries, reduce wildfire risk by treating the right acres at the right scale, restore infrastructure, support outdoor recreation, and invest in reforestation of impacted landscapes.

#### *Wildland Fire Risk Management*

Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of wildfires. Traditional fire seasons of the past have now extended to year-round events, with wildfires occurring outside of historic fire season timeframes in different parts of the country. The FY 2021 fire season saw over 7.6 million acres burned in wildland fires, with over 4.1 million of those acres occurring on National Forest System lands. The summer of 2021 was one of the worst fire seasons in modern times, setting a record of 68 days at Preparedness Level 5, indicating the highest demand for wildland fire suppression resources. In 2022, the agency anticipates and is prepared for another significant fire year.

Wildland fire risk management is a top priority for the Forest Service and aligns with USDA's Strategic Goal to mitigate wildfire risk. The FY 2023 Budget dedicates $321 million toward management for hazardous fuels reduction, an increase of $141 million from the FY 2022 annualized CR level. This will allow the agency to mitigate wildfire risk on 3.8 million acres in high priority and high-risk areas and builds on the over $300 million in hazardous fuels funding the Forest Service will receive through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in FY 2023 (includes funding for thinning, prescribed fire, fuelbreaks, and removal of flammable vegetation). This request is a significant investment to prioritize and target landscape treatments across multiple jurisdictions and will focus resources on high-priority large-scale fuel mitigation, forest resilience projects, and other restoration work in the National Forest System. Critically, this investment will help the agency improve the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems from multiyear drought conditions and protect watersheds, habitat, and communities from the negative impacts of uncharacteristically severe wildfire, supporting the objectives of the agency's 10-year strategy to confront the Nation's wildfire crisis[1].

[1] https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildfire-crisis

### *Compensation for Wildland Firefighters*

Wildland firefighters are essential to our ability to protect communities and vital infrastructure from wildfires. As such, it is imperative to have a robust year-round workforce that is available to respond at any time, is supported and equitably compensated, has a better work-life balance, and is available to undertake preventive actions like hazardous fuels management treatments during periods of low fire activity. The FY 2023 request includes additional funding for the Federal wildland fire program to address priorities identified by the Administration regarding compensation for wildland firefighters.

A Wildland Fire Management workforce framework will be deployed starting in FY 2022 in four phases: in phase one, a wildland fire workforce assessment will be conducted; in phase two, a workforce analysis will be completed; in phase three, recruitment and retention strategies will be identified, and an implementation action plan will be developed; and phase four will consist of monitoring, evaluation, and revision of the action plan based on best practices identified. The framework is included as an appendix to the Budget on page 223.

### *Tackling the Climate Crisis*

The FY 2023 Budget builds on the approach to climate change articulated in the FY 2022 Budget and leverages the historic investments enacted in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to implement the Administration's climate agenda and support Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" and Executive Order 13990, "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis." The Budget includes investments that will allow the Forest Service to continue to build climate resilience while laying the foundation for economic growth, creating good paying jobs, and ensuring benefits of climate investments accrue to disadvantaged communities.

Maintaining climate-resilient landscapes is central to Forest Service activities and goals. Working with partners and stakeholders, the agency is taking actions to adapt the Nation's forests and grasslands to a changing climate and proactively address challenges, including those stemming from a longer, more severe wildfire season, regional drought, invasive species, and significant outbreaks of insects and disease. The Forest Service is using science to advance climate-smart land management, restoration, fire management, and science innovation and delivery for the benefit of current and future generations. In FY 2023, the agency will expand the scope and scale of research and science delivery programs related to reforestation, carbon sequestration, and carbon accounting, all of which are essential to informing policy and spending decisions for climate adaptation and mitigation. Additionally, the FY 2023 Budget includes $6 million to Forest and Rangeland Research to support the USDA Climate Hubs. This funding will accelerate science production and technology transfer to aid land management agencies, private landowners, and agricultural producers, including foresters, with information on scientifically sound climate adaptation practices.

The FY 2023 Budget request supports increasing capacity for carbon sequestration through reforestation, post-fire restoration, mitigating forest pests, and production of sustainable woody biomass for forest products on both public and private lands. The Forest Service will focus investments on planting the right species, in the right place, under the right conditions to create forests that will remain healthy over time. The agency will also continue to leverage partner resources through Shared Stewardship, making integrated decisions on mutually defined projects across all land ownerships.

### *Improving Infrastructure, Providing Economic Relief, and Supporting Jobs*

The FY 2023 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 the agency's recent 2020 economic analysis show Forest Service programs and work contributed 371,600 jobs (average annual full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal) and $35.1 billion in gross domestic product (GDP). Recreational visitor use, hunting and fishing, energy and minerals development, forest products, and livestock grazing generated 66 percent of the economic activity. Outdoor recreation saw an increase from 150 million visits in 2019 to 168.2 million in 2020. Many Americans continue to seek outdoor activities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and above-average visitation numbers are expected again during 2022. This budget requests a significant additional investment in recreation of $74 million above the FY 2022 annualized CR level so the agency and its facilities are prepared to meet public demand.

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), enacted in 2020, is allowing the Forest Service to repair and upgrade vital infrastructure and facilities in the national forests and grasslands through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. GAOA also permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), investing in conservation and recreation opportunities in public and private lands. Projects funded through the Public Lands Restoration Fund and LWCF will enrich the lives of current and future generations by improving landscape resiliency and increasing access. According to the agency's 2020 economic analysis, Forest Service projects are projected to support approximately 4,400 jobs and contribute $420 million to the GDP on an average annual basis over the 5-year authorization of the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. In FY 2021, Congress appropriated $218.1 million to implement a total of 63 Forest Service LWCF projects (Forest Legacy and Federal Land Acquisition). Congress also directed $285 million in funding from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to 556 Forest Service deferred maintenance projects. In FY 2023, the Forest Service proposes $94.3 million for Forest Legacy, $123.9 million for Federal Land Acquisition, and $285 million for the Public Lands Restoration Fund. These levels are subject to a 5.7 percent sequestration rate. The FY 2023 LWCF and National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund project lists are included in appendices to the FY 2023 Budget request. The Forest Service has developed these projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance.

### *Advancing Racial Equity and Improving the Workplace Environment*

The Forest Service is committed to the values of equity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for its employees and the public it serves. The agency continues to proactively undertake actions that provide 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 all the American people. USDA is committed to ensuring equity across its agencies, removing barriers to access, and building a workforce more representative of America. To that end, the Forest Service strives to maintain a work environment that is equitable, respectful, and free of harassment and bullying of any kind. The Forest Service has taken significant steps to improve policies, raise accountability, upgrade reporting systems, and conduct training focused on workplace environment to stop harassment, bullying, and retaliation. This work is essential and will continue in FY 2023. At the same time, the agency is working to recruit, hire and retain a workforce that reflects the diversity in America.

The Forest Service is also addressing equity by recognizing opportunities within the agency that ensure historically underserved groups more fully access and participate in Forest Service programs and services. This includes expanding Tribal Self-Governance/Co-Governance/Co-Management with impacted Tribes. In FY 2023, the Forest Service will utilize $11 million of base funds from multiple programs to increase equity for Tribes to expand utilization of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA), the TFPA 638 pilot, and other authorities which allow Tribes to participate in stewardship contracts and other agreements. These authorities provide opportunity to protect and preserve Tribal trust assets on the National Forest System as well as maintain healthy landscapes.

## Forest Service Budget Structure

FY 2023 is the second year the Forest Service is submitting the Budget request in the new budget structure which makes the cost of salaries and other administrative spending more transparent by separating them from program delivery into their own designated line items.

The new structure established a Forest Service Operations account and salary and expense budget line items in the following discretionary appropriations accounts: Forest Service Operations, Forest and Rangeland Research, State and Private Forestry, National Forest System, and Wildland Fire Management. In combination with the budget line items under Forest Service Operations (Facilities Maintenance and Leases, Information Technology and Centralized Processing, and Organizational Services), these budget line items eliminate the need for cost pools while significantly increasing accountability and operational transparency within the Forest Service budget.

The FY 2023 Budget proposes the movement of the Hazardous Fuels program from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management. Relocating these program funds back to the Wildland Fire Management account is an important change in keeping with the intent of Congressional direction to restructure the agency budget for increased transparency, and specifically, to eliminate the request and execution of hazardous fuels program funds and related salaries and expenses from two separate budget line items.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The 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 Forest Service is responsible for managing public lands in the Nation's 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands that cover more than 193 million acres of public land. The agency also oversees 84 experimental forests, ranges, and watersheds, five research and development stations, and 24 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers that are funded by the Department of Labor. Through the State and Private Forestry organization, the Forest Service also reaches across the boundaries of national forests to States, Tribes, communities, and non-industrial private landowners.

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 Service Operations program is authorized in part by Public Law 116-94 (16 U.S.C 579e). The program includes base salary and expenses for 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; for the costs of facility maintenance repairs and leases for buildings and sites; for the costs of utility and communications expenses, business services, and information technology, including cybersecurity requirements; and for such other administrative support function expenses necessary for the operation of the Forest Service.

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 know-how and innovative technology, to reduce risk while improving the health and use of our Nation's public and private forests and rangelands. The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) is funded by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior in partnership to address problems associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems. This partnership is authorized by Public Law 105-83 (H.R. Report 105–163) and provides leadership to the fire science community by identifying high-priority fire science research needs that will enhance the decision-making ability of fire and fuels managers, natural resource managers, and others to meet their management objectives.

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 while providing 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, to produce 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 for over 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. The suite of National Forest Service programs supports 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 for our Nation's national forests and public lands which enables the agency to meet critical natural resource needs while providing 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 to connect and conserve important lands, waters, and access within the National Forest System; to support the creation of resilient landscapes; and to sustain 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 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 protect subsistence fishing and hunting activities while providing resource management and oversight on national forests in Alaska.
- Communications Site Administration is authorized by section 8705 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The Forest Service may collect and retain administrative fees assessed for communications site use authorizations to cover the costs of administering the Communications Site Program.

Business Operations provides direction, quality assurance, and customer service in delivering agency activities associated with strategic planning, budget, human resource management, acquisition management, information technology, safety programs, and other critical mission support functions.

The Forest Service headquarters is located in Washington, DC. As of September 30, 2021, there were 28,424 permanent full-time employees, including 649 in the headquarters office and 27,775 in regional and field offices.

## Office of Inspector General (OIG) AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (GAO) REPORTS

*Table FS-1. Completed FY 2021 OIG audit publications*

| ID | Date | Title | Results |
|---|---|---|---|
| 08601-0011-41 | 03/25/2021 | Forest Service Use of Settlement Funds | Forest Service should return $936,579 to the appropriate settlement account; update current guidance so only approved work plans are allotted settlement funds; and pursue legal authority to retain interest earned on settlement funds. |
| 08801-0001-24 | 12/15/2020 | Forest Service Grant for Roadless Area Management in the State of Alaska | Forest Service should cease all payments related to this grant, and award grants in compliance with Federal laws and regulations. |
| 08801-0001-41 | 10/06/2021 | Regional Forester Authorities for Cost Share Agreements – Inspection | Recommend all fire suppression cost share agreements include a second-level headquarters clearance; establish a formal process for reviewing and approving regional supplemental guidelines; and include these in the Forest Service handbook. |

*Table FS-2. In-progress OIG reports*

| ID | Title | Results |
|---|---|---|
| 08801-0001-22 | Forest Service's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic at Recreation Sites – Inspection | Audit work in progress |

*Table FS-3. Completed FY 2021 GAO Reports*

| ID | Date | Title | Results |
|---|---|---|---|
| GAO-21-42 | 11/24/2020 | Disaster Response: Agencies Should Assess Contracting Workforce Needs and Purchase Card Fraud Risk | Forest Service should update its purchase card fraud risk profile to better align with leading practices outlined in the Fraud Risk Framework and assess how the risk profile may differ for purchase card use in support of disaster response. Corrective actions are in progress. |
| GAO-21-110 | 03/04/2021 | Native American Culture Resources: Improved Information Could Enhance Agencies' Efforts to Analyze and Respond to Risks of Theft and Damage | Forest Service should take steps to analyze and address risks to Native American cultural resources. Corrective actions are in progress. |
| GAO-21-299 | 07/26/2021 | Federal Land Management: Key Differences and Stakeholder Views of the Federal Systems Used to Manage Hardrock Mining | The document included stakeholder views for managing hardrock mining on Federal lands and identified areas of improvement. No GAO recommendations were included. |
| GAO-21-518 | 06/29/2021 | Facial Recognition Technology – Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Should Better Assess Privacy and Other Risks | Forest Service responded to the baseline survey but was omitted from the study. |
| GAO-21-592 | 07/21/2021 | Federal Lands and Waters: Information on Agency Spending for Outdoor Recreation Is Limited | Forest Service provided spending data used to support outdoor recreation. No GAO recommendations were included. |

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENTS

*Table FS-4. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (Discretionary Funding—In Dollars)*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Forest Service Operations** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $1,026,163,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +86,489,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 1,112,652,000 |
| | |
| **Forest and Rangeland Research** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $258,760,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +59,013,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 317,773,000 |
| | |
| **State and Private Forestry** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $267,180,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +39,783,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 306,963,000 |
| | |
| **National Forest System** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $1,786,870,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +394,045,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,180,915,000 |
| | |
| **Capital Improvement and Maintenance** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $140,371,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 140,371,000 |
| | |
| **Land Acquisition** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $814,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 814,000 |
| | |
| **Other Appropriations** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $3,863,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | -1,000,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,863,000 |
| | |
| **Wildland Fire Management** | |
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $1,927,241,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +751,418,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,678,659,000 |

**Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund**

| | |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $2,040,000,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +170,000,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,210,000,000 |

**Permanent Appropriations**

| | |
|---|---|
| Estimate, 2022 | $506,528,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Estimate, 2023 | 506,528,000 |

**Trust Funds**

| | |
|---|---|
| Estimate, 2022 | $236,466,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Estimate, 2023 | 236,466,000 |

## FOUR-YEAR SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND FTES

*Table FS-5. Four-Year Summary of Appropriations and Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forest Service Operations: | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $359,577 | 2,359 | $359,577 | 2,755 | $389,406 | 2,755 |
| Facilities Maintenance and Leases | - | - | 158,900 | - | 158,900 | - | 169,900 | - |
| Information Technology and Centralized Processing | - | - | 374,408 | - | 374,408 | - | 409,908 | - |
| Organizational Services | - | - | 133,278 | - | 133,278 | - | 143,438 | - |
| Subtotal, Forest Service Operations | - | - | 1,026,163 | 2,359 | 1,026,163 | 2,755 | 1,112,652 | 2,755 |
| Forest and Rangeland Research: | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 200,419 | 1,374 | 200,419 | 1,442 | 215,576 | 1,442 |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | $228,000 | 1,010 | 40,720 | 47 | 40,720 | - | 80,000 | - |
| Forest Inventory and Analysis | 77,000 | 414 | 17,621 | 21 | 17,621 | - | 22,197 | - |
| Subtotal, Forest and Rangeland Research | 305,000 | 1,424 | 258,760 | 1,442 | 258,760 | 1,442 | 317,773 | 1,442 |
| State and Private Forestry: | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 51,308 | 324 | 51,308 | 385 | 65,091 | 418 |
| Landscape Scale Restoration | 14,000 | 1 | 14,000 | - | 14,000 | - | 21,000 | - |
| FHM - Federal Lands | 56,000 | 244 | 15,485 | 11 | 15,485 | - | 22,485 | - |
| FHM - Cooperative Lands | 44,000 | 77 | 30,747 | 6 | 30,747 | - | 36,747 | - |
| Forest Stewardship Program | 21,000 | 50 | 11,902 | 2 | 11,902 | - | 17,902 | - |
| Forest Legacy Program | 63,990 | 22 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Community Forest and Open Space Conservation | 4,000 | - | 4,000 | - | 4,000 | - | 4,000 | - |
| Urban and Community Forestry | 32,000 | 45 | 31,910 | 1 | 31,910 | - | 31,910 | - |
| International Programs | 12,000 | 17 | 15,395 | 1 | 15,395 | - | 15,395 | - |
| National Fire Capacity | 82,000 | 52 | 73,433 | - | 73,433 | - | 73,433 | - |
| Rural Fire Capacity | 18,000 | - | 19,000 | - | 19,000 | - | 19,000 | - |
| Subtotal, State and Private Forestry | 346,990 | 508 | 267,180 | 387 | 267,180 | 385 | 306,963 | 418 |
| National Forest System: | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 1,409,352 | 12,697 | 1,409,352 | 12,884 | 1,681,133 | 14,545 |
| Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration | 40,000 | 194 | 13,787 | 8 | 13,787 | - | 80,000 | - |
| Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring | 180,000 | 861 | 16,544 | 36 | 16,544 | - | 21,544 | - |
| Hazardous Fuels [a] | 445,310 | 2,254 | 180,388 | 95 | 180,388 | - | - | - |
| Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness | 262,000 | 1,632 | 35,241 | 62 | 35,241 | - | 109,661 | - |
| Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management | 138,000 | 881 | 20,727 | 38 | 20,727 | - | 29,027 | - |
| Grazing Management | 57,000 | 390 | 5,410 | 14 | 5,410 | - | 25,547 | - |
| Forest Products | 373,000 | 2,800 | 37,017 | 112 | 37,017 | - | 37,645 | - |
| Vegetation and Watershed Management | 182,000 | 1,016 | 28,683 | 45 | 28,683 | - | 98,470 | - |
| Minerals and Geology Management | 74,200 | 405 | 13,282 | 18 | 13,282 | - | 44,982 | - |
| Land Use Authorization and Access | 75,000 | 437 | 6,934 | 19 | 6,934 | - | 28,934 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Law Enforcement Operations | 131,000 | 635 | 19,505 | 22 | 19,505 | - | 23,972 | - |
| Subtotal, National Forest System | 1,957,510 | 11,506 | 1,786,870 | 13,166 | 1,786,870 | 12,884 | 2,180,915 | 14,545 |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance: | | | | | | | | |
| Facilities | 154,000 | 425 | 54,037 | 17 | 54,037 | - | 54,037 | - |
| Roads | 220,000 | 1,079 | 68,895 | 50 | 68,895 | - | 68,895 | - |
| Trails | 81,000 | 525 | 17,439 | 28 | 17,439 | - | 17,439 | - |
| Legacy Roads and Trails | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal, Capital Improvement and Maintenance | 455,000 | 2,029 | 140,371 | 95 | 140,371 | - | 140,371 | - |
| Land Acquisition: | | | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | 78,898 | 44 | - | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts | 700 | - | 664 | - | 664 | - | 664 | - |
| Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges | - | - | 1,480 | - | 150 | - | 150 | - |
| Subtotal, Land Acquisition | 79,598 | 44 | 2,144 | 12 | 814 | - | 814 | - |
| Other Appropriations: | | | | | | | | |
| Range Betterment Fund | 2,656 | 5 | 2,741 | 3 | 1,719 | 3 | 1,719 | 3 |
| Gifts, Donations, and Bequest for Forest and Rangeland Research | - | - | - | - | 45 | - | 45 | - |
| Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses | 2,500 | 12 | 1,099 | 1 | 1,099 | 1 | 1,099 | 1 |
| Communication Site Administration | - | - | - | - | 1,000 | - | - | - |
| Subtotal, Other Appropriations | 5,156 | 17 | 3,840 | 4 | 3,863 | 4 | 2,863 | 4 |
| Wildland Fire Management: | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 764,241 | 8,529 | 764,241 | 8,529 | 1,154,271 | 11,782 |
| Preparedness | 1,339,620 | 9,244 | 152,000 | 596 | 152,000 | - | 192,000 | - |
| Suppression | 1,011,000 | 972 | 1,011,000 | 1,156 | 1,011,000 | 1,156 | 1,011,000 | 1,156 |
| Hazardous Fuels [a] | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 321,388 | - |
| Subtotal, Wildland Fire Management | 2,350,620 | 10,219 | 1,927,241 | 10,281 | 1,927,241 | 9,685 | 2,678,659 | 12,938 |
| Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund: | | | | | | | | |
| Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund | 1,950,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,210,000 | - |
| Subtotal, Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund | 1,950,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,210,000 | - |
| **Total, Discretionary Appropriations** | **7,449,874** | **25,747** | **7,452,569** | **27,746** | **7,451,262** | **27,155** | **8,951,010** | **32,102** |
| Mandatory Appropriations: | | | | | | | | |
| Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 94,255 | 7 | 94,255 | 12 | 94,255 | 12 |
| Conveyance of Administrative Sites | 4,392 | 2 | 1,232 | 1 | 1,232 | 1 | 1,232 | 1 |
| Site-Specific Lands Act | 3,986 | - | 1,818 | - | 1,818 | - | 1,818 | - |
| Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 123,885 | 24 | 123,885 | 24 | 123,885 | 24 |
| **Total, Mandatory Appropriations** | **8,378** | **2** | **221,190** | **32** | **221,190** | **37** | **221,190** | **37** |
| Supplemental Appropriations: | | | | | | | | |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [b] | - | 17 | - | 12 | - | 10 | - | 4 |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [c] | - | 12 | - | 9 | - | 9 | - | 9 |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [d] | 70,800 | 10 | - | 65 | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [e] | - | - | - | - | 1,360,000 | 52 | - | 69 |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [f] | - | - | - | - | 1,666,360 | 1,983 | 945,160 | 4,016 |
| **Total, Supplemental Appropriations** | **70,800** | **39** | **-** | **86** | **3,026,360** | **2,054** | **945,160** | **4,098** |
| Permanent Appropriations: | | | | | | | | |
| National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund | - | - | - | 43 | - | 43 | - | 43 |
| Brush Disposal | 8,104 | 67 | 6,928 | 40 | 6,928 | 40 | 6,928 | 40 |
| Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Timber Salvage Sales | 33,728 | 365 | 34,746 | 191 | 34,746 | 191 | 34,746 | 191 |
| Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration | 2,754 | 24 | 4,977 | 28 | 4,977 | 28 | 4,977 | 28 |
| Forest Botanical Products | 558 | 20 | 915 | 13 | 915 | 13 | 915 | 13 |
| Stewardship Contracting | 32,336 | - | 29,276 | 31 | 29,276 | 31 | 29,276 | 31 |
| Recreation Fees, Forest Service | 92,765 | 621 | 118,253 | 460 | 118,253 | 460 | 118,253 | 460 |
| Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - |
| Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters | 9,841 | 27 | 10,266 | 18 | 10,266 | 18 | 10,266 | 18 |
| Roads and Trails for States | 15,887 | - | 13,189 | - | 16,000 | - | 16,000 | - |
| Land Between the Lakes Management | 4,836 | 10 | 6,468 | 12 | 6,468 | 12 | 6,468 | 12 |
| Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees | 576 | - | 669 | 1 | 794 | 1 | 794 | 1 |
| Quinault Special Management Area | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements | 1,103 | 33 | 1,307 | 21 | 1,308 | 21 | 1,308 | 21 |
| Commercial Filming & Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention | 455 | 3 | 608 | 4 | 608 | 4 | 608 | 4 |
| Organizational Camps Program | 436 | 5 | 191 | 3 | 191 | 3 | 191 | 3 |
| Cost Recovery (Land Uses) | 693 | 6 | 679 | 3 | 679 | 3 | 679 | 3 |
| Licensee Program Smokey Bear | 1,189 | - | 833 | - | 833 | - | 833 | - |
| Licensee Program Woodsy Owl | 25 | - | 20 | - | 20 | - | 20 | - |
| Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation) | 72 | - | 47 | - | 47 | - | 47 | - |
| Payments to States Funds | 284,288 | 23 | 256,023 | 25 | 272,219 | 25 | 272,219 | 25 |
| Subtotal, Permanent Appropriations | 491,647 | 1,204 | 487,395 | 893 | 506,528 | 893 | 506,528 | 893 |
| Trust Funds: | | | | | | | | |
| Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg | 60,788 | 368 | 74,008 | 269 | 74,008 | 270 | 74,008 | 270 |
| Cooperative Work – Other | 9,984 | 66 | 12,330 | 43 | 12,330 | 43 | 12,330 | 43 |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reforestation Trust Fund ..... | 30,000 | 125 | 30,000 | 56 | 150,000 | 125 | 150,000 | 125 |
| Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund..... | 128 | - | 128 | - | 128 | - | 128 | - |
| Subtotal, Trust Funds..... | 100,900 | 559 | 116,466 | 368 | 236,466 | 438 | 236,466 | 438 |
| **Total, Permanent Appropriations and Trust Funds .....** | **592,547** | **1,763** | **603,861** | **1,261** | **742,994** | **1,331** | **742,994** | **1,331** |
| **Total, Appropriations .....** | **8,121,599** | **27,551** | **8,277,620** | **29,125** | **11,441,806** | **30,577** | **10,860,354** | **37,568** |

[a] The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2023.

[b] P.L. 115-123 provided $119,752,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

[c] P.L. 116-20 provided $854,271,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

[d] P.L. 116-136 provided $70,800,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[e] P.L. 117-43 provided $1,360,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

[f] FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43) and advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). FY 2023 supplemental appropriations are entirely advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. See also the spend plans for advance appropriations on page 213.

## REVENUE, RECEIPTS AND TRANSFERS

*Table FS-6. Fiscal Year 2020 - 2023 National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts Availability (thousands of dollars)*

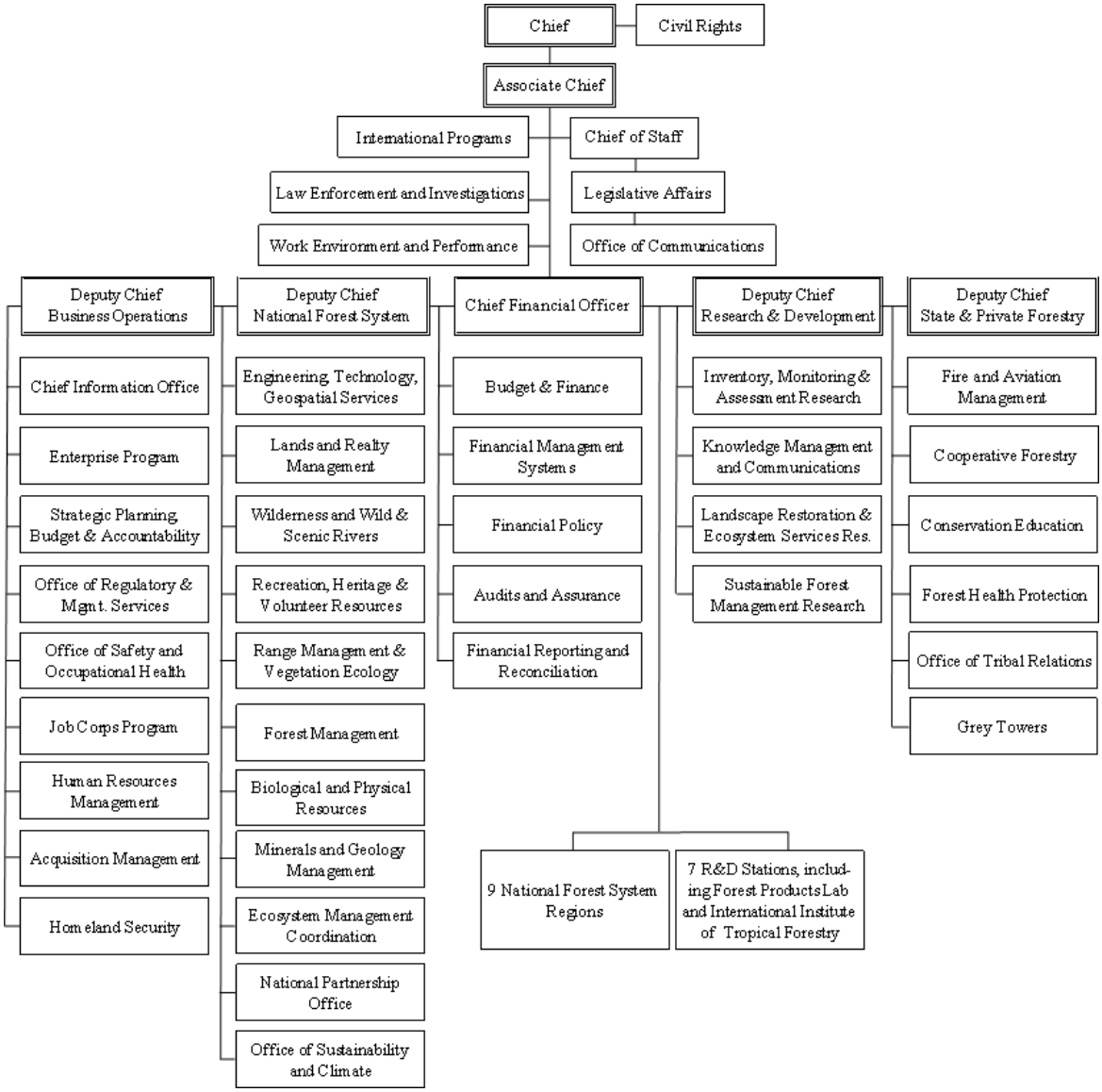
| Receipt Type | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimate | 2023 Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Forest Fund Receipts: | | | | |
| Class 1 – Timber | $15,454 | $9,422 | $12,139 | $13,145 |
| Class 2 - Grazing East | 117 | 144 | 144 | 145 |
| Class 3 - Land Use | 23,717 | 25,622 | 26,120 | 27,620 |
| Class 4 - Recreation Special Uses | 55,289 | 111,867 | 114,801 | 117,051 |
| Class 5 – Power | 10,955 | 12,735 | 13,651 | 16,401 |
| Class 6 – Minerals | 641 | 1,048 | 1,586 | 2,061 |
| Class 8 - Grazing West | 5,481 | 4,927 | 5,241 | 5,441 |
| Class 9 – Quartz Crystals | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Subtotal, NFF Receipts | 111,655 | 165,766 | 173,683 | 181,865 |
| Additions and Reductions other than Payments to States: | | | | |
| DOI:ONRR/MMS Minerals Revenue NFF [a] | 12,884 | 14,774 | 14,829 | 16,162 |
| Minnesota Boundary Water Canoe Area | -6,150 | -6,150 | -6,150 | -6,150 |
| Timber Roads - Purchaser Election Program | -2,000 | -2,000 | -2,000 | -2,000 |
| Acquisition of Lands for National Forest Special Acts | -664 | -664 | -676 | -686 |
| 50% Grazing (Range Betterment Fund) | -2,741 | -2,474 | -2,624 | -2,724 |
| 10% Roads & Trails | -13,189 | -18,888 | -18,988 | -19,138 |
| Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Expansion | -669 | -794 | -860 | -925 |
| Other Special Act Payments (Arkansas Quartz and Quinault Special Management Area) [b] | -4 | -2 | -4 | -5 |
| Subtotal, Additions and Reductions other than Payments to States | -12,533 | -16,198 | -16,473 | -15,466 |
| Payments to States Reductions: | | | | |
| PTS - 25% 7-year Rolling Average of Receipts Payment [b, c] | -12,450 | -13,412 | -13,435 | -13,794 |
| SRS - Title II Allocation - SRS2 | -22,022 | -25,757 | -24,769 | -25,432 |
| SRS - Failure to Elect Allocation – SRSA | -180 | -206 | -208 | -210 |
| SRS - Allocation to Treasury | -107 | -124 | -127 | -129 |
| Subtotal, Payments to States Reductions | -34,759 | -39,499 | -38,539 | -39,565 |
| **Total, Receipts Available for SRS - Title I and III** | **64,363** | **110,069** | **118,671** | **126,834** |

[a] Compensation programs related to energy and mineral development on National Forest System lands are administered by the Department of the Interior.

[b] Revenue-sharing and Secure Rural Schools payments are nonexempt, nondefense mandatory spending; therefore, are subject to annual sequestration, if applicable, through FY 2029 (P.L. 112-25).

[c] The reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self- Determination Act of 2000 (Secure Rural Schools Act) was included in Section 41202 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), which was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The reauthorization not only extended payments through fiscal year 2023, but also reset the full funding amount used to calculate the Secure Rural Schools Act formula payments to the 2017 level of funding. S.3706 provided for the application of certain provisions.

## ORGANIZATION CHART



## AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

*Table FS-7. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forest Service Operations: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | - | - | $1,026,163 | 2,359 | $1,026,163 | 2,755 | $1,112,652 | 2,755 |
| Forest and Rangeland Research: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | $305,000 | 1,424 | 258,760 | 1,442 | 258,760 | 1,442 | 317,773 | 1,442 |
| Supplemental Appropriations | 3,000 | 3 | - | 4 | 27,000 | - | 2,000 | - |
| State and Private Forestry: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | 346,990 | 508 | 267,180 | 387 | 267,180 | 385 | 306,963 | 418 |
| Mandatory Appropriations | - | - | 94,255 | 7 | 94,255 | 12 | 94,255 | 12 |
| Supplemental Appropriations | - | - | - | - | 355,360 | 53 | 305,360 | 161 |
| National Forest Service: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | 1,957,510 | 11,506 | 1,786,870 | 13,166 | 1,786,870 | 12,884 | 2,180,915 | 14,545 |
| Supplemental Appropriations | 34,000 | 22 | - | 65 | 1,444,800 | 421 | 529,800 | 3,476 |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | 455,000 | 2,029 | 140,371 | 95 | 140,371 | - | 140,371 | - |
| Supplemental Appropriations | 26,800 | 14 | - | 15 | 542,000 | 8 | 72,000 | 2 |
| Land Acquisition: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | 79,598 | 44 | 2,144 | 12 | 814 | - | 814 | - |
| Mandatory Appropriations | 8,378 | 2 | 126,935 | 25 | 126,935 | 25 | 126,935 | 25 |
| Other Appropriations: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | 5,156 | 17 | 3,840 | 4 | 3,863 | 4 | 2,863 | 4 |
| Wildland Fire Management: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | 2,350,620 | 10,219 | 1,927,241 | 10,281 | 1,927,241 | 9,685 | 2,678,659 | 12,938 |
| Supplemental Appropriations | 7,000 | - | - | 2 | 552,200 | 400 | 36,000 | 400 |
| Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund: | | | | | | | | |
| Discretionary Appropriations | 1,950,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,210,000 | - |
| Permanent Appropriations: | | | | | | | | |
| Mandatory Appropriations | 491,647 | 1,204 | 487,395 | 893 | 506,528 | 893 | 506,528 | 893 |
| Offsetting Collections | 3,548 | 31 | 5,641 | 23 | 5,641 | 23 | 5,641 | 23 |
| Trust Funds: | | | | | | | | |
| Mandatory Appropriations | 100,900 | 559 | 116,466 | 368 | 236,466 | 438 | 236,466 | 438 |
| Offsetting Collections | 25,118 | 120 | 24,934 | 106 | 24,934 | 106 | 24,934 | 106 |
| **Total, Discretionary Appropriations** | **7,449,874** | **25,747** | **7,452,569** | **27,746** | **7,451,262** | **27,155** | **8,951,010** | **32,102** |
| **Total, Mandatory Appropriations** | **600,925** | **1,765** | **825,051** | **1,293** | **964,184** | **1,368** | **964,184** | **1,368** |
| **Total, Supplemental Appropriations [a]** | **70,800** | **39** | **-** | **86** | **3,026,360** | **924** | **945,160** | **4,098** |
| **Total, Offsetting Collections** | **28,666** | **151** | **30,575** | **129** | **30,575** | **129** | **30,575** | **129** |
| **Total, Adjusted Appropriations** | **8,150,265** | **27,702** | **8,308,195** | **29,254** | **11,472,381** | **29,576** | **10,890,929** | **37,697** |
| Transfers In | 733 | - | 3,081,868 | - | 2,389,196 | - | 2,269,916 | - |
| Transfers Out | -50,008 | - | -2,800,594 | - | -2,110,453 | - | -1,989,632 | - |
| Deferral for Roads and Trails for States | -15,887 | - | -13,189 | - | -16,000 | - | - | - |
| Rescission | -2,000 | - | -11,428 | - | -11,428 | - | - | - |
| Sequestration | -2,155 | - | -18,176 | - | -52,200 | - | -17,214 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Recoveries, Other | 315,182 | - | 297,643 | - | 297,643 | - | 297,643 | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | 2,253,018 | - | 3,610,421 | - | 3,240,755 | - | 5,048,141 | - |
| **Total Available** | **10,649,148** | **27,702** | **12,454,740** | **29,254** | **15,209,894** | **29,576** | **16,499,783** | **37,697** |
| Lapsing Balances | -100 | - | -652 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, EOY | -3,610,421 | - | -3,240,755 | - | -5,048,141 | - | -4,988,776 | - |
| **Total, Obligations** | **7,038,627** | **27,702** | **9,213,333** | **29,254** | **10,161,753** | **29,576** | **11,511,007** | **37,697** |

[a] FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43) and advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). FY 2023 supplemental appropriations are entirely advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. See also the spend plans for advance appropriations on page 213.

## PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTE'S)

*Table FS-8. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTE's*

| Item | 2020 Actual | | | 2021 Actual | | | 2022 CR | | | 2023 Estimated | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | D.C. | Field | Total | D.C. | Field | Total | D.C. | Field | | D.C. | Field | Total |
| SES [a] | 33 | 28 | 61 | 27 | 39 | 66 | 27 | 39 | 66 | 27 | 39 | 66 |
| GS-15 | 102 | 342 | 444 | 88 | 337 | 425 | 88 | 337 | 425 | 88 | 337 | 425 |
| GS-14 | 164 | 559 | 723 | 193 | 593 | 786 | 193 | 593 | 786 | 193 | 593 | 786 |
| GS-13 | 166 | 2,167 | 2,333 | 157 | 2,272 | 2,429 | 157 | 2,272 | 2,429 | 157 | 2,272 | 2,429 |
| GS-12 | 70 | 3,170 | 3,240 | 69 | 3,169 | 3,238 | 69 | 3,169 | 3,238 | 69 | 3,169 | 3,238 |
| GS-11 | 55 | 4,726 | 4,781 | 45 | 4,763 | 4,808 | 45 | 4,763 | 4,808 | 45 | 4,763 | 4,808 |
| GS-10 | - | 179 | 179 | - | 157 | 157 | - | 157 | 157 | - | 157 | 157 |
| GS-9 | 42 | 4,634 | 4,676 | 43 | 4,489 | 4,532 | 43 | 4,489 | 4,532 | 43 | 4,489 | 4,532 |
| GS-8 | 2 | 1,503 | 1,505 | 4 | 1,487 | 1,491 | 4 | 1,487 | 1,491 | 4 | 1,487 | 1,491 |
| GS-7 | 15 | 4,077 | 4,092 | 14 | 4,104 | 4,118 | 14 | 4,104 | 4,118 | 14 | 4,104 | 4,118 |
| GS-6 | 5 | 1,924 | 1,929 | 2 | 1,956 | 1,958 | 2 | 1,956 | 1,958 | 2 | 1,956 | 1,958 |
| GS-5 | 6 | 2,840 | 2,846 | 5 | 2,744 | 2,749 | 5 | 2,744 | 2,749 | 5 | 2,744 | 2,749 |
| GS-4 | - | 900 | 900 | - | 725 | 725 | - | 725 | 725 | - | 725 | 725 |
| GS-3 | - | 110 | 110 | - | 66 | 66 | - | 66 | 66 | - | 66 | 66 |
| GS-2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| GS-1 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 3 |
| Other Graded [b] | 2 | 831 | 833 | 1 | 865 | 866 | 1 | 865 | 866 | 1 | 865 | 866 |
| Ungraded | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Permanent | 663 | 27,998 | 28,661 | 649 | 27,775 | 28,424 | 649 | 27,775 | 28,424 | 649 | 27,775 | 28,424 |
| Unfilled, EOY | - | - | - | - | - | - | 137 | 7,174 | 7,311 | 137 | 7,174 | 7,311 |
| Total Perm. FT EOY | 663 | 27,998 | 28,661 | 649 | 27,775 | 28,424 | 786 | 34,949 | 35,735 | 786 | 34,949 | 35,735 |
| FTE | 576 | 29,469 | 30,045 | 720 | 30,819 | 31,539 | 753 | 32,238 | 32,991 | 913 | 39,069 | 39,982 |

[a] Includes pay plans ES, SL, and ST.

[b] Includes pay plans WG, WL, and WS.

Note: In addition to the numbers above, there are temporary positions as well.

## MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET

The Forest Service uses a revolving Working Capital Fund (WCF) to finance its fleet operations. A monthly Fixed Ownership Rate (FOR) 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 that make up the revolving fund. Funds are used to finance agency fleet operations that include repairs, fuel, maintenance, infrastructure support, program management costs, vehicle depreciation, and vehicle replacements.

The Forest Service vehicle fleet supports approximately 28,000 permanent full-time employees and an additional 12,000 seasonal employees, the majority of which are hired for fire suppression activities. There are approximately 15,200 fleet vehicles that support year-round missions. An additional 1,800 vehicles are retained beyond their minimum replacement standard to support the seasonal workforce. Although these vehicles receive lower utilization, they provide a cost-effective alternative to commercial leases or rental options. At any given time, an additional 200 to 400 vehicles are in the process of being prepared for disposal[2]. All vehicles are 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. Line officers at 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) that 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 Forest Service aims to manage its fleet program in the most cost-effective way possible, including alternative-fueled vehicles to fulfill mission goals. The Forest Service also works to meet or exceed the required annual utilization rate benchmarks for vehicles, which can be challenging given the seasonality of agency work and limited access to remote sites or work areas within National Forest System lands. 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 to better respond to oversight and audit requirements in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

### Replacement Criteria

Minimum vehicle replacement standards are three years or 60,000 miles. The Forest Service will retain Government-owned motor vehicles that exceed minimum vehicle replacement standards if the motor vehicle can be operated safely without excessive maintenance costs or substantial reduction in resale value.

### Fleet Size

At the end of FY 2021, the agency's motor vehicle fleet totaled 18,121, 17,338 of which were in active inventory and 783 in the process of being sold. The on-hand fleet inventory was higher than anticipated at the end of the fiscal year due to a variety of delays in disposing of vehicles. Specifically, global supply chain shortages have shifted new vehicle deliveries from spring to summer, resulting in the usual annual peak in fleet inventory coinciding with the inventory snapshot taken at the end of FY 2021. The agency anticipates an offsetting increase in vehicle disposals during the first half of FY 2022 to compensate for this apparent increase in inventory. Disposal efforts (which require staff to be on site) were also limited due to mandatory telework. The Forest Service is evaluating its fleet reduction targets with respect to mission requirements and will begin implementing fleet telematics in FY 2022 to monitor and manage fleet utilization more effectively. This initiative will also provide the types of fleet operational data needed to accelerate the transition towards hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and electric battery vehicles in support of government-wide fleet decarbonization objectives. The Forest Service will continue to prioritize resources in support of the

[2] "Disposal" is defined in the FAST reporting system as removal from the agency fleet.

Administration's goal to transition the Federal motor vehicle fleet to clean and zero emission vehicles (ZEVs). While this budget does not request increased funding specifically for ZEVs, base funding in the fleet program supports USDA's efforts to bring ZEVs into the fleet and accelerate the installation of charging infrastructure.

### Fuel Price Increases

The transition away from petroleum-fueled vehicles will also serve as a hedge against future fuel price increases. According to the Federal Reserve Economic Data website, the weekly price per gallon for gasoline and diesel fuel in FY 2021 rose 46.7 and 42.7 percent, respectively. While the consumer price indices (CPI) also increased for new vehicles, service, and repair (by 8.7 percent, 4.0 percent, and 6.9 percent, respectively), the CPI for used cars and trucks is helping to offset some of these price increases by increasing revenue from the sale of used vehicles (up 24.4 percent during FY 2021). Overall, these numbers indicate that fleet costs will continue to increase.

*Table FS-9. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet*

| Item | Sedans and Station Wagons | Vans | SUV's | Light Trucks 4X2 | Light Trucks 4X4 | Medium Duty Vehicles | Buses | Heavy Duty Vehicles | Total Vehicles | Annual Operating Costs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2018 End of Year Operating Inventory** | **277** | **79** | **2,301** | **461** | **5,882** | **6,539** | **80** | **2,079** | **17,698** | **$88,608,809** |
| **2020 End of Year Operating Inventory** | **245** | **108** | **2,591** | **368** | **5,658** | **6,669** | **60** | **2,111** | **17,810** | **87,112,518** |
| 2021 Planned Acquisitions | 15 | 13 | 240 | 21 | 583 | 777 | 6 | 178 | **1,833** | |
| 2021 Planned Disposals | 39 | 20 | 290 | 45 | 451 | 554 | 5 | 118 | **1,522** | |
| **2021 End of Year Operating Inventory** | **221** | **101** | **2,541** | **344** | **5,790** | **6,892** | **61** | **2,171** | **18,121** | **77,955,720** |
| 2022 Planned Acquisitions | 99 | 12 | 306 | 95 | 905 | 864 | 16 | 41 | **2,338** | |
| 2022 Planned Disposals | 119 | 31 | 543 | 83 | 934 | 899 | 0 | 475 | **3,084** | |
| **2022 End of Year Operating Inventory** | **201** | **82** | **2,304** | **356** | **5,761** | **6,857** | **77** | **1,737** | **17,375** | **80,953,897** |
| 2023 Planned Acquisitions | 33 | 28 | 281 | 51 | 704 | 909 | 3 | 41 | **2,050** | |
| 2023 Planned Disposals | 34 | 11 | 326 | 45 | 641 | 842 | 3 | 154 | **2,056** | |
| **2023 End of Year Operating Inventory** | **200** | **99** | **2,259** | **362** | **5,824** | **6,924** | **77** | **1,624** | **17,369** | **83,952,314** |

Notes: The number of vehicles by type include agency-owned and leased from commercial sources or GSA. Annual Operating Costs excludes acquisition costs and gains from sale of vehicles as shown in FAST.

## SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

*Table FS-10. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Working Capital Fund: | | | | |
| Administrative Services: | | | | |
| Materiel Management Service | $928 | $780 | $792 | $798 |
| Mail and Reproduction Services | 820 | 628 | 574 | 573 |
| Integrated Procurement Systems | 8,235 | 8,611 | 8,637 | 8,583 |
| Human Resources Enterprise System Management | 1,154 | 1,126 | 1,064 | 1,097 |
| Procurement Operations Services | 126 | 123 | 79 | 84 |
| Subtotal, Administrative Services | 11,263 | 11,268 | 11,146 | 11,135 |
| Communications: | | | | |
| Creative Media and Broadcast Center | 496 | 229 | 449 | 556 |
| Finance and Management: | | | | |
| National Finance Center | 8,116 | 8,456 | 8,550 | 8,655 |
| Financial Shared Services | 47,085 | 45,960 | 45,636 | 47,493 |
| Internal Control Support Services | 489 | 394 | 382 | 281 |
| Subtotal, Finance and Management | 55,690 | 54,810 | 54,568 | 56,429 |
| Information Technology: | | | | |
| Digital Infrastructure Services Center | 41,791 | 37,918 | 35,206 | 34,799 |
| Department Administration Information Technology Office | - | 1,214 | 12 | 12 |
| Client Experience Center | 23,159 | 50,796 | 55,530 | 55,633 |
| Enterprise Network Services | 16,940 | 15,069 | 16,292 | 15,243 |
| Subtotal, Information Technology | 81,890 | 104,997 | 107,040 | 105,687 |
| Correspondence Management Services: | | | | |
| Office of the Executive Secretariat | 509 | 318 | 401 | 401 |
| **Total, Working Capital Fund** | **149,848** | **171,622** | **173,604** | **174,208** |
| Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs: | | | | |
| Advisory Committee Liaison Services | 189 | 267 | 302 | 302 |
| Agency Partnership Outreach | 2,312 | 2,071 | 2,330 | 2,330 |
| Honor Awards | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard | 181 | - | - | - |
| Intertribal Technical Assistance Network | 962 | 1,022 | 1,079 | 1,079 |
| Medical Services | 25 | 126 | 143 | 143 |
| National Capital Region Interpreting Services | - | 75 | 60 | 75 |
| Office of Customer Experience | 1,729 | 2,901 | 2,763 | 2,763 |
| Personnel and Document Security | 520 | 640 | 670 | 670 |
| Physical Security | 1,764 | 1,287 | 1,339 | 1,364 |
| Security Detail | 1,394 | 1,385 | 1,432 | 1,444 |
| Security Operations Program | 1,758 | 1,944 | 1,941 | 1,941 |

| Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TARGET Center | 342 | 356 | 419 | 421 |
| USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services | 2,442 | 1,631 | 1,406 | 1,406 |
| **Total, Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs** | **13,621** | **13,707** | **13,887** | **13,941** |
| E-Gov: | | | | |
| Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business | 30 | 39 | 37 | 37 |
| E-Rulemaking | 9 | 36 | 51 | 53 |
| Financial Management Line of Business | 100 | 87 | 85 | 85 |
| Geospatial Line of Business | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Grants.gov | 5 | 8 | 11 | 13 |
| Hiring Assessment Tool | - | - | 72 | 72 |
| Human Resources Line of Business | 90 | 92 | 90 | 90 |
| Integrated Acquisition Environment | 573 | 623 | 193 | 193 |
| **Total, E-Gov** | **819** | **897** | **551** | **555** |
| **Total, Forest Service** | **162,807** | **186,226** | **188,042** | **188,704** |

# FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-11. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $1,026,163,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +86,489,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 1,112,652,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [$1,074,086,000]$1,112,652,000, to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026: *Provided*, That [of the funds provided, not less than $42,000,000 shall be for activities related to climate change, of which $28,000,000 shall be for wildfire risk management, $8,000,000 shall be for climate reclamation, and $6,000,000 shall be for climate resilience: *Provided further*, That] a portion of the funds made available under this heading shall be 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: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading shall be available for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites where these administrative, general management and other Forest Service support functions take place; the costs of all utility and telecommunication expenses of the Forest Service, as well as business services and information technology, including cyber security requirements: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary expenses to carry out administrative and general management support functions of the Forest Service not otherwise provided for and necessary for its operation.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

**Change Description**

The first change removes specific language for climate change funding.

**FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS**

[For an additional amount for "Forest Service Operations", $105,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. (Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.)]

(Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.)

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-12. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $359,577 | 2,359 | $359,577 | 2,755 | $389,406 | 2,755 | +$29,829 | - | (1) |
| Facilities Maintenance and Leases | - | - | 158,900 | - | 158,900 | - | 169,900 | - | +11,000 | - | (2) |
| Information Technology and Centralized Processing | - | - | 374,408 | - | 374,408 | - | 409,908 | - | +35,500 | - | (3) |
| Organizational Services | - | - | 133,278 | - | 133,278 | - | 143,438 | - | +10,160 | - | (4) |
| Total, Discretionary Appropriations | - | - | 1,026,163 | 2,359 | 1,026,163 | 2,755 | 1,112,652 | 2,755 | +86,489 | - | |
| Supplemental Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [a] | - | - | - | - | 105,000 | 42 | - | 59 | -105,000 | +17 | |
| Total, Supplemental Appropriations | - | - | - | - | 105,000 | 42 | - | 59 | -105,000 | +17 | |
| Total Appropriations | - | - | 1,026,163 | 2,359 | 1,131,163 | 2,797 | 1,112,652 | 2,814 | -18,511 | +17 | |
| Transfers In: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance | - | - | 264 | - | 11,520 | - | 8,640 | - | -2,880 | - | |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | - | - | 413 | - | - | - | 2,150 | - | +2,150 | - | |
| National Forest System | - | - | 15,668 | - | 117,568 | - | 63,576 | - | -53,992 | - | |
| State and Private Forestry | - | - | 6,034 | - | 48,856 | - | 36,640 | - | -12,216 | - | |
| Wildland Fire Management | - | - | 4,025 | - | 21,552 | - | 4,320 | - | -17,232 | - | |
| Total, Transfers In | - | - | 26,404 | - | 199,496 | - | 115,326 | - | -84,170 | - | |
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Department of the Interior | - | - | -1,171 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | - | - | -1,171 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | - | - | - | - | 29,920 | - | 116,098 | - | +86,178 | - | |
| Total Available | - | - | 1,051,396 | 2,359 | 1,360,579 | 2,797 | 1,344,076 | 2,814 | +67,667 | +17 | |
| Balance Available, EOY | - | - | -29,920 | - | -116,098 | - | -37,391 | - | +78,707 | - | |
| Total Obligations | - | - | 1,021,476 | 2,359 | 1,244,481 | 2,797 | 1,306,685 | 2,814 | +62,204 | +17 | |

[a] P.L. 117-43 provided $105,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

*Table FS-13. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $339,614 | 2,359 | $405,030 | 2,755 | $413,335 | 2,755 | +$8,305 | - |
| Facilities Maintenance and Leases | - | - | 149,544 | - | 178,349 | - | 186,953 | - | +8,604 | - |
| Information Technology and Centralized Processing | - | - | 404,977 | - | 482,983 | - | 469,812 | - | -13,171 | - |
| Organizational Services | - | - | 127,341 | - | 151,869 | - | 157,835 | - | +5,966 | - |
| Total, Discretionary Obligations | - | - | 1,021,476 | 2,359 | 1,218,231 | 2,755 | 1,227,935 | 2,755 | +9,704 | - |
| Supplemental Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [a] | - | - | - | - | 26,250 | 42 | 78,750 | 59 | +52,500 | +17 |
| Total, Supplemental Obligations | - | - | - | - | 26,250 | 42 | 78,750 | 59 | +52,500 | +17 |
| Total Obligations | - | - | 1,021,476 | 2,359 | 1,244,481 | 2,797 | 1,306,685 | 2,814 | +62,204 | +17 |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 10,463 | - | 17,022 | - | 17,040 | - | +18 | - |
| Facilities Maintenance and Leases | - | - | 9,356 | - | 9,907 | - | 9,919 | - | +12 | - |
| Information Technology | - | - | 1,029 | - | 952 | - | 954 | - | +2 | - |
| Organizational Services | - | - | 9,072 | - | 9,467 | - | 9,478 | - | +11 | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [a] | - | - | - | - | 78,750 | - | - | - | -78,750 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | - | - | 29,920 | - | 116,098 | - | 37,391 | - | -78,707 | - |
| Total Available | - | - | 1,051,396 | 2,359 | 1,360,579 | 2,797 | 1,344,076 | 2,814 | -16,503 | +17 |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers In | - | - | -26,404 | - | -199,496 | - | -115,326 | - | +84,170 | - |
| Total Transfers Out | - | - | 1,171 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | - | - | - | - | -29,920 | - | -116,098 | - | -86,178 | - |
| Total Appropriations | - | - | 1,026,163 | 2,359 | 1,131,163 | 2,797 | 1,112,652 | 2,814 | -18,511 | +17 |

[a] P.L. 117-43 provided $105,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

**Salaries and Expenses: An increase of $29,829,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $10,165,000, which includes $7,222,222 for pay inflation and $2,943,000 for FERS for 2022 Pay and FERS. This increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022, of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS.

b) An increase of $14,406,000 for 2023 Pay. This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase. Without this increase, the Forest Service would not be able to cover projected personnel cost increases without potentially reducing services across the agency that could negatively impact agency operations and priorities, including in wildland fire risk management, climate resilience, and racial equity.

c) An increase of $5,258,000 funds current staffing needs 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. This increase provides limited funds to the Work Environment and Performance Office and Civil Rights to address the Administration's priorities of racial justice, equity, and inclusion. The agency recognizes there is significant work to do to address the need for increasing data analytics, developing data strategies, data governance, Information Technology program management, and cyber security subject matter expertise. In fiscal year 2022, the Forest Service Operations Salaries and Expenses funding was increased by over $83 million through supplemental funding from Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, where appropriate. These funds provide the agency the short-term ability to increase capacity across Forest Service Operations to meet the increasing demand for administrative and general services related to the supplemental funding acts and the Administration's priorities, including human resources, acquisition, and information technology support. These supplemental funds will also support the Wildfire Risk Reduction and Infrastructure Team and increases in Civil Rights and Work Environment and Performance Office related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in accordance with the acts. The agency expects the ability to fund increases in capacity through supplemental funding will be exhausted in FY 2024 or 2025 depending on workforce planning and hiring execution.

**Facility Maintenance and Leases: An increase of $11,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $2,940,163 to offset projected inflationary increases for facility leasing costs. This increase is needed for the agency to continue to adequately fund leases for buildings and sites that support the Forest Service workforce in accomplishing its program of work

b) An increase of $ $8,059,837 to offset anticipated increases in leased and owned facility costs associated with consolidation and reduction efforts; building safety, security, and accessibility; and green building alterations. This increase is needed for the agency to continue to address facility maintenance, repairs, and decommissioning for buildings and sites that support the Forest Service workforce in accomplishing its program of work.

**Information Technology: An increase of $35,500,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $21,500,000 is needed to fund information technology, including cybersecurity requirements and telecommunications costs to support the National Forest System and State and Private Forestry efforts to address climate resilience and conservation on public and private lands, remediate abandoned wells and mines, and mitigate wildfire risk. Increased funding would be used for data and system developments and enhancements necessary to improve efficiency and support new performance metrics for the above priorities.

Funding would also cover cost increases on software licensing, hardware costs, wireless services, and land mobile radio that are driven by increases in the number of employees.

b) An increase of $14,000,000 will support cost increases in critical information technology systems. The agency recognizes there is significant work to do to meet information technology needs. In fiscal year 2021, the Forest Service used $47 million in prior year funds to subsidize Information Technology costs including Working Capital Fund and interagency foundational technology expenses shared across all department mission areas. These mission areas include Enterprise Application for software licenses, Enterprise Cloud and Data for hosting and storage services, Enterprise Delivery for customer service support, Enterprise Network for wireless services, Enterprise Platform for data warehouse expenses, and Internal Shared Services for services provided by USDA.

In FY 2022, the agency's information technology funding was increased by over $140 million through supplemental funding from Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, where appropriate. These supplemental funds will help the agency address significant information technology needs in accordance with the acts. With the agency's new budget structure, additional regular funds are needed in this allocation to support the current level of Information Technology services throughout the agency and a growing number of demands directly correlated to public expectations for self-service (i.e., rec.gov, ePermit, Automated Timber Sales), increased demand for technology to support the fire mission, and general Forest Service operations. Without these supplemental funds, the agency would have had to severely limit critical Information Technology services such as fire modeling and support capabilities that are critical to supporting forest operations. This would have a significant impact on services to the public and likely significantly increase the need for additional staffing to compensate.

**Organizational Services: An increase of $10,160,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $2,411,000 to offset projected inflationary increases in working capital and greenbook charges, vehicle fleet costs, and agency utility costs.

b) An increase of $8,549,000 for costs associated with business services and other administrative support functions necessary to support Forest Service-wide staffing increases linked to the Administration's priorities, including mitigating wildfire risk and addressing climate resilience and conservation on public and private lands. Increased funding would be used for activities such as increased capacity for training and development; human resources efforts to support hiring, onboarding, and employee support services; safety initiatives; and grants and acquisition contract support. These investments in hiring, onboarding, and employee support will build on existing efforts to increase the diversity and inclusivity of the Forest Service workforce. Additional funding is also needed for costs indirectly associated with staffing levels, such as $500,000 for litigation costs. The agency will also invest $800,000 for Energy Savings Performance contracts directed towards reducing the agency's utility consumption and carbon footprint.

c) In FY 2022, the Organizational Services funding was increased by over $85 million in supplemental funding from Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These funds provide the agency the short-term ability to increase capacity across Forest Service Operations to meet the increasing demand for administrative and general services related to the supplemental funding acts and the Administration's priorities, including human resources and acquisition. These supplemental funds will also support the Wildfire Risk Reduction and Infrastructure Team and increases in Civil Rights and Work Environment Program Office related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in accordance with the acts. The agency expects the ability to fund increases in capacity through supplemental funding will be exhausted in FY 2025 or 2026, depending on demands for services.

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-14. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | - | $21,774 | $25,817 | $25,974 |
| | Personnel compensation, field | - | 193,812 | 229,797 | 231,194 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | - | 215,586 | 255,614 | 257,168 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | - | 79,573 | 94,347 | 94,921 |
| 13.0 | Benefits for former personnel | - | 38,869 | 46,086 | 46,366 |
| | Total, personnel comp. and benefits | - | 334,028 | 396,047 | 398,455 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | - | 381 | 470 | 503 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | - | 1,528 | 1,886 | 2,019 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | - | 32,738 | 40,405 | 43,252 |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | - | 59,123 | 72,968 | 78,111 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | - | 83,840 | 103,474 | 110,766 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | - | 218 | 269 | 288 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | - | 2,414 | 2,979 | 3,189 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | - | 86,042 | 106,191 | 113,668 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | - | 344,029 | 424,595 | 454,525 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | - | 2,577 | 3,180 | 3,405 |
| 25.5 | Research and development contracts | - | 1,470 | 1,814 | 1,942 |
| 25.6 | Medical care | - | 21 | 26 | 28 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | - | 4,385 | 5,412 | 5,793 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | - | 17,367 | 21,434 | 22,945 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | - | 42,244 | 52,137 | 55,811 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | - | 2,634 | 3,251 | 3,480 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | - | 6,295 | 7,769 | 8,317 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | - | 121 | 149 | 160 |
| 43.0 | Interest and dividends | - | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 92.0 | Undistributed | - | 19 | 23 | 25 |
| | Total, other objects | - | 687,448 | 848,434 | 908,230 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | - | 1,021,476 | 1,244,481 | 1,306,685 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | - | 4,819 | 5,301 | 5,831 |
| | Information Technology Investments: | | | | |
| | Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC): | | | | |
| | External Labor (Contractors) | $3,001 | - | - | - |
| | Hardware | - | 2,673 | 3,006 | 3,006 |
| | Total, Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) | 3,001 | 2,673 | 3,006 | 3,006 |
| | Mission Support Services: | | | | |
| | External Labor (Contractors) | - | 2,055 | 6,882 | 7,989 |
| 25.2 | Outside Services (Consulting) | - | 36,468 | 22,251 | 32,425 |
| | Hardware | - | - | 627 | 627 |

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Software | - | 9,988 | 17,383 | 18,000 |
| | Total, Mission Support Services | - | 48,511 | 47,143 | 59,041 |
| | Natural Resource Manager (NRM): | | | | |
| 11 | Internal Labor | - | 6,485 | 6,485 | 8,000 |
| | External Labor (Contractors) | 25,453 | 20,285 | 21,191 | 30,000 |
| 25.2 | Outside Services (Consulting) | 2,900 | 2,160 | 1,990 | 1,990 |
| | Software | 500 | - | 500 | 2,000 |
| | Total, Natural Resource Manager (NRM) | 28,853 | 28,930 | 30,166 | 41,990 |
| | Open Forest (Forest Service Enterprise ePermit): | | | | |
| 25.2 | Outside Services (Consulting) | 1,900 | - | - | - |
| | Total, Open Forest (Forest Service Enterprise ePermit) | 1,900 | - | - | - |
| | Recreation.gov: | | | | |
| | External Labor (Contractors) | 2,250 | - | - | - |
| | Total, Recreation.gov | 2,250 | - | - | - |
| | Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS): | | | | |
| | External Labor (Contractors) | 2,850 | - | - | - |
| | Total, Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) | 2,850 | - | - | - |
| | USDA Public Safety Land Mobile Radio System: | | | | |
| 11 | Internal Labor | 20,573 | 20,945 | 20,945 | 27,000 |
| | External Labor (Contractors) | 1,250 | 2,043 | 2,045 | 2,045 |
| 25.2 | Outside Services (Consulting) | 2,032 | 2,032 | 2,035 | 3,000 |
| | Hardware | 18,197 | 17,558 | 16,275 | 36,000 |
| | Other IT | - | - | 1,250 | 1,500 |
| | Total, USDA Public Safety Land Mobile Radio System | 42,052 | 42,578 | 42,550 | 69,545 |
| | Wildland Fire and Aviation Management: | | | | |
| | External Labor (Contractors) | - | 508 | - | - |
| 25.2 | Outside Services (Consulting) | - | 31,128 | 85,925 | 85,925 |
| | Hardware | - | 1,611 | 1,125 | 1,125 |
| | Software | - | 5,403 | 2,044 | 2,044 |
| | Other IT | - | - | 800 | 800 |
| | Total, Wildland Fire and Aviation Management | - | 38,650 | 89,894 | 89,894 |
| | Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals | 83,693 | 25,269 | 24,537 | 24,537 |
| | Mission Area Standard Investment Totals | 187,330 | 165,317 | 142,667 | 195,000 |
| 25.3 | Mission Area WCF Transfers | 145,670 | 158,421 | 188,372 | 190,000 |
| | Total Non-Major Investment | 416,693 | 349,007 | 355,576 | 409,537 |
| | Total IT Investments | 497,599 | 510,349 | 568,335 | 673,013 |
| | | | | | |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | N/A | $192,131 | $197,319 | $202,646 |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | N/A | $82,803 | $85,039 | $87,335 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | N/A | 10.7 | 11.0 | 11.3 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

## Salaries and Expenses

Forest Service Operations (FSO) Salaries and Expenses (S&E) funds personnel salaries[3] and personnel-related expenses[4] in the Office of the Chief, the Work Environment and Performance Office (WEPO), Business Operations, and the Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) office. FSO S&E also funds Workers' Compensation and Unemployment benefits for all Forest Service employees – except employees covered under Wildland Fire Management – and other agency-wide personnel service costs not directly attributable to any one group of employees.

### *Current Activities*

The Office of the Chief provides support to overarching Forest Service programs and includes the Office of Civil Rights, Legislative Affairs, and the Office of Communication.

Business Operations provides essential services that Forest Service employees, partners, and stakeholders rely on to care for the Nation's natural resources, using technology, budget, procurement, and other administrative functions. Business Operations staff areas include Acquisition Management; Budget and Finance; Chief Information Office; Casualty Assistance Program; Controlled Correspondence Unit; Human Resources Management; Office of Safety and Occupational Health; and Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability.

The WEPO leads the agency's efforts to improve and sustain a thriving and accountable organizational culture in which all employees feel safe, secure, valued, respected, free of harassment, and supported. The foundation of these efforts is a framework for living the agency's core values of Service, Safety, Diversity, Interdependence, and Conservation.

The CFO office is responsible for the financial leadership of the Forest Service and is committed to achieving improved Federal financial management through increased accountability and strengthened internal controls. The CFO office is currently building internal capacity in financial services to support expanded partnerships in wildfire risk reduction and other Forest Service programs. The CFO office will support, track, and reconcile additional agency transactions as wildfire risk reduction and infrastructure investment projects increase in scale.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

FSO S&E program funds support effective and efficient program delivery, customer service, and mitigation of enterprise risks such as human capital management, cybersecurity, procurement and grant compliance, work environment, and financial accountability.

The WEPO seeks to diagnose and address the root causes and cultural barriers to safety (physical, psychological, social), diversity, and inclusion in the work environment. Additionally, the WEPO collaborates with managers and employees to address workplace issues and facilitate a positive, productive, harassment-free workplace. These efforts create greater safety for employees and a more productive work environment with increased capacity to deliver mission critical work.

Business Operations is continuously modernizing the agency's information and administrative delivery systems to improve processes, better equip the workforce, eliminate duplication, capitalize on data assets and new technologies, and provide services more efficiently.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

This is Who We Are Engagement Sessions. In FY 2021, more than 14,000 Forest Service employees participated in the first of three This is Who We Are employee engagement sessions. The goal of This is Who We Are is to cultivate a values-based, purpose-driven, and relationship focused agency. Session one, which will continue into FY 2022, educated Forest Service employees on the agency's mission, purpose, values, and commitments.

[3] Personnel salaries include base salaries, overtime, and pay differentials for permanent and seasonal employees.
[4] Personnel-related expenses include but are not limited to monetary awards, travel, training, uniforms, boot replacement, wellness reimbursement, transfer of station, and insurance claims and indemnities.

Acquisition Mission Area Consolidation Implementation. In FY 2021, the Forest Service initiated the Acquisition Mission Area Consolidation (AMAC) to reorganize the Regional Acquisition Management (AQM) units into a National Procurement and Property Services (PPS) unit through an approved Departmental Regulation 1010[5] action. The reorganization consolidated all Regional Directorates under the Washington Office Headquarters, resulting in increased efficiencies, effective processes, and better customer service. Additionally, the consolidation provides flexibility when forming teams dedicated to specialized programs, such as AtIncident Contracting, Stewardship Contracting, and purchase card oversight.

## Facilities Maintenance and Leases

The Facilities Maintenance and Leases program manages over 16,000 fire[6], administrative[7], and other[8] (FA&O) owned facilities, and provides resources to address preventative, annual, and deferred maintenance, as well as funds needed toward the rehabilitation, and decommissioning of FA&O government-owned facilities. Additionally, the Facilities Maintenance and Leases manages more than 650 Forest Service and General Services Administration leases, including co-locations with other USDA agencies and the Department of the Interior.

Facilities Maintenance and Leases also funds costs associated with long-term contracts and leases, such as security paid through the Federal Protective Service, leases paid to partners through agreements, and the Washington Office Headquarters lease and security costs paid through USDA Shared Costs (also referred to as Greenbook charges). Short-term, fire-related incident leases continue to be funded through Wildland Fire Management.

### *Current Activities*

Facilities Maintenance and Leases continues to refine the development and implementation of the National Facilities and Lease Strategy[9]. Current activities include education, awareness, and establishment of regional, research and development, fire, and Washington Office investment boards to assist in making mutually consistent decisions related to asset management for the good of the agency. Continued governance development and increased data integrity will be important aspects of the strategy moving forward. Additionally, the agency's new budget structure continues with an allocation methodology focusing on reaching a more balanced portfolio between leased and owned facilities.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021, Facilities Maintenance and Leases began implementing the National Facilities and Lease Strategy in support of the Forest Service's budget modernization effort. The strategy will continue implementation in FY 2022. The strategy will not only help the agency prioritize its work but will also support the Office of Management and Budget's Reduce the Footprint Initiative, USDA's co-location and consolidation efforts, and will identify a five-year program of work for owned and leased facilities, improving consistency and transparency in facilities asset management. As part of the new allocation methodology, the Forest Service will implement projects that yield a large return on investment to move to a more sustainable lease and owned portfolio. The Forest Service has several large leases with expiration dates approaching that will be examined to determine the best opportunities for the agency as it continues to face the challenges maintaining owned assets under current funding levels.

[5] Departmental Regulation 1010 describes the policy and actions for making changes to organizational structures within the USDA. It is intended to streamline and simplify the process of organizational change in order to facilitate the implementation of optimal organizational structures throughout the agency.
[6] Examples of fire facilities include airports, airtanker bases, fire lookouts, fire management centers, and heliports.
[7] Examples of administrative facilities include Regional, Forest, and District offices, research stations and laboratories, and service and storage buildings.
[8] Other facilities include telecommunications facilities and towers.
[9] The National Facility and Lease Strategy (NFLS) is an initiative that supports the concept of stewarding the whole by gaining leadership support at all levels to reduce the agencies overall footprint, owned facility maintenance backlog, and lease costs. Goals of NFLS include: (1) provide a shared vision and framework for facilities management (lease and owned); (2) address space management challenges; (3) set forth processes for governance, coordination, and accountability; (4) promote equitable and cost-effective space management decisions; and (5) support budgetary management of the agency 's facility management and lease costs.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Decreasing the Agency's Footprint. In FY 2021, the agency reduced the owned and leased footprint by approximately 215,000 square feet. In addition, investments in owned facility maintenance on non-recreation facilities, including decommissioning, was $7.7 million in FY 2021 and is estimated to be $4.9 million in FY 2022, and $4.2 million in FY 2023.

## Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) funds Forest Service costs associated with information technology[10], including cybersecurity requirements and telecommunications, and is managed by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) office.

***Current Activities***

The current IT investment strategy is driven by the Secretary's direction to mitigate wildland fire and improve the conditions of national forests and grasslands by using innovative technology modernization[11]. The CIO office manages seventeen Enterprise Standard, Major, and Non-Major IT investments as directed by OMB and USDA capital planning and governance guidance. There are eight Enterprise Standard Investments that include the core IT service delivery functions and capabilities provided across the Forest Service. The Major and Non-Major Investments include the technical portfolios that support business processes and functions by mission area. Major and Non-Major Business Owners work through aligned Integrated Investment Teams that include CIO product owners and subject matter experts to develop lifecycle management and acquisitions plans that support technology modernization and standardization across the IT portfolio. Modernization efforts focus on sustaining legacy business applications while planning for modernization and migration to approved hosting environments. Modernization efforts follow the CIO Council and Department guidance and policy to improve agency practices related to the design, acquisition, development, modernization, use, sharing, and performance of Federal information resources.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

IT includes costs based on definitions included in the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA). Base funding primarily supports Operations and Maintenance, USDA Shared Costs (also referred to as Greenbook charges), and USDA Working Capital Fund costs. The Forest Service incorporates service consolidation into acquisition planning across the portfolio, coordinating with the Department to transition IT customer support functions to enterprise services managed by OCIO as part of Customer Experience Center consolidation. USDA has initiated technology cost reassessments with the agencies to right-size cost, baseline service level agreements, and realign cost with the Department.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

IT Support for Wildland Fire Management. In FY 2021, IT improvements to interagency fire management enabled better communication and coordination with local, State, and other Federal partners. These efforts, as well as technological improvements to other resources such as unmanned aircraft systems, satellite-enabled wildland fire detection capabilities, etc., have significantly increased the effectiveness and efficiency of wildland fire fighting capability.

IT Automation Tools for Employee Onboarding. In FY 2021, the Forest Service made significant investments in improving business processes and developing automation tools to reduce the timeline for onboarding new employees.

## Organizational Services

Organizational Services funds costs associated with utility expenses, business services, and other administrative expenses necessary for the operation of multi-purpose facilities and personnel. Expenses include utilities, janitorial services, security for government-owned facilities, furniture, office move contracts, basic office materials, and supplies that support administrative and management employees.

[10] Information technology is defined in the Office of Management and Budget's memorandum "Management and Oversight of Federal Information Technology (M-15-14). The memorandum is located at https://management.cio.gov/implementation/.
[11] https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/secretaries-haaland-and-vilsack-announce-implementation-new-pay-initiatives-wildland

### *Current Activities*

Organizational Services support administrative and management employees, as well as contract and interagency acquisition costs. Utility expenses encompass all Forest Service utility costs and include Energy Savings Performance Contracts[12]. Organizational Services also includes administrative services provided through the USDA Working Capital Fund (WCF) and external programs administered through USDA Departmental Shared Cost (also referred to as Greenbook charges) and Central Cost Distribution programs. USDA Shared Costs are for department-wide initiatives authorized by the Office of the Secretary that are not already allocated to a USDA staff office (see Special Exhibit on page 198).

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) allowed for not more than $82 million in funds available to the Forest Service to be transferred to the USDA WCF and not more than $14.5 million in funds available to the Forest Service to be transferred to USDA for Greenbook charges.

The USDA WCF is a financing mechanism that currently supports 17 activity centers across five department-level organizations. These centers provide services to all USDA agencies and many Federal entities outside USDA. Customers reimburse activity centers for the cost of services provided. The Forest Service works with the USDA's Chief Financial Officer office to review items included as Greenbook costs attributed to the Forest Service.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Procurement and Property Services Accomplishments. The Forest Service's Procurement and Property Services (PPS) office is charged with contracting and procurement for the agency. In FY 2021, the agency awarded 27,670 actions valued at $1.55 billion. These numbers represent 100 percent of requests from PPS mission partners. Highlights include: (1) multiple USDA-wide Blanket Purchase Agreements to facilitate streamlined, cost effective ordering of IT; (2) a variety of national contracts for incident support needs that enabled a successful incident response in FY 2021, including implementing bridge contracts to ensure continuity of support and adding surge capacity for incident support vendors to meet increased needs; (3) Created and implemented Acquisition Center of Excellence for strategic sourcing and category management; (4) Targeted buyer training in strategic sourcing and category management principles and created a repository for national contracts and common national procurements for consolidation, efficiency, and quantity discounts.

In FY 2021, the Office of Grants and Agreements (OGA) implemented process improvements where all grants and agreements are approved based on USDA requirements. In FY 2021, the OGA processed more than 12,874 actions. In FY 2021, the grants and agreements staff processed 5,005 new awards and 7,869 modifications to existing awards.

[12] Energy savings performance contracts are partnerships between a federal agency and an energy service company that allow agencies to procure energy savings and facility improvements with no up-front capital costs or special appropriations from Congress.

# FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-15. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $258,760,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +59,013,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 317,773,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, [$313,560,000,]$317,773,000, to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, [$17,621,000]$22,197,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, [$3,000,000]$4,000,000 is for the Joint Fire Science Program[: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, not less than $42,000,000 shall be for activities related to climate change, of which $37,000,000 shall be for climate research and $5,000,000 shall be for climate hubs]: *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.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

**Change Description**

The first change removes specific language for climate change funding.

**FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH**

[For an additional amount for "Forest and Rangeland Research", $25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters for the forest inventory and analysis program.]

(Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.)

**FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH**

[For an additional amount for "Forest and Rangeland Research", $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to carry out activities of the Joint Fire Science Program, as authorized in section 40803 of division D of this Act: Provided, That $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be made available for fiscal year 2022, $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, shall be made available for fiscal year 2023, $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be made available for fiscal year 2024, $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, shall be made available for fiscal year 2025, and $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, shall be made available for fiscal year 2026: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, and to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

(Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act.)

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-16. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $200,419 | 1,374 | $200,419 | 1,442 | $215,576 | 1,442 | +$15,157 | - | (1) |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | $228,000 | 1,010 | 40,720 | 47 | 40,720 | - | 80,000 | - | +39,280 | - | (2) |
| Forest Inventory and Analysis | 77,000 | 414 | 17,621 | 21 | 17,621 | - | 22,197 | - | +4,576 | - | (3) |
| Total, Discretionary Appropriations | 305,000 | 1,424 | 258,760 | 1,442 | 258,760 | 1,442 | 317,773 | 1,442 | +59,013 | - | |
| Supplemental Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [a] | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [b] | 3,000 | 1 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [c] | - | - | - | - | 25,000 | - | - | - | -25,000 | - | |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [d] | - | - | - | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Supplemental Appropriations | 3,000 | 3 | - | 4 | 27,000 | - | 2,000 | - | -25,000 | - | |
| Total Appropriations | 308,000 | 1,427 | 258,760 | 1,446 | 285,760 | 1,442 | 319,773 | 1,442 | +34,013 | - | |
| Transfers In: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Forest System | - | - | - | - | 55,000 | - | 42,840 | - | -12,160 | - | |
| State and Private Forestry | - | - | - | - | 4,020 | - | 4,020 | - | - | - | |
| Wildland Fire Management | - | - | - | - | 7,000 | - | 3,490 | - | -3,510 | - | |
| Total, Transfers In | - | - | - | - | 66,020 | - | 50,350 | - | -15,670 | - | |
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forest Service Operations | - | - | -413 | - | - | - | -2,150 | - | -2,150 | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | - | - | -413 | - | - | - | -2,150 | - | -2,150 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 3,944 | - | 3,731 | - | 3,731 | - | 3,731 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 8,845 | - | 14,206 | - | 10,388 | - | 20,229 | - | +9,841 | - | |
| Total Available | 320,789 | 1,427 | 276,284 | 1,446 | 365,899 | 1,442 | 391,933 | 1,442 | +26,034 | - | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -14,206 | - | -10,388 | - | -20,229 | | -9,347 | | +10,882 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 306,583 | 1,427 | 265,896 | 1,446 | 345,670 | 1,442 | 382,586 | 1,442 | +36,916 | - | |

[a] P.L. 116-20 provided $1,000,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires. All remaining funds were obligated in FY 2021.
[b] P.L. 116-136 provided $3,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.
[c] P.L. 117-43 provided $25,000,000 to the Forest and Inventory Analysis program for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.
[d] FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43) and advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). FY 2023 supplemental appropriations are entirely advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. See also the spend plans for advance appropriations on page 213. P.L. 117-58 provided $2,000,000 to the Joint Fire Science program each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

*Table FS-17. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $193,647 | 1,374 | $239,867 | 1,442 | $280,430 | 1,442 | +$40,563 | - |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | $198,836 | 1,010 | 49,058 | 47 | 60,767 | - | 71,044 | - | +10,277 | - |
| Forest Inventory and Analysis | 67,477 | 414 | 19,127 | 21 | 23,693 | - | 22,862 | - | -831 | - |
| National Fire Plan | 78 | - | 9 | - | 144 | - | - | - | -144 | - |
| Forest Products | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | -2 | - |
| Forest and Rangeland Research – Other | 39,255 | - | 1,049 | - | 447 | - | - | - | -447 | - |
| Total, Discretionary Obligations | 305,646 | 1,424 | 262,890 | 1,442 | 324,920 | 1,442 | 374,336 | 1,442 | +49,416 | - |
| Supplemental Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [a] | 875 | 2 | 125 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [b] | 62 | 1 | 2,881 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [c] | - | - | - | - | 18,750 | - | 6,250 | - | -12,500 | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [d] | - | - | - | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | - | - |
| Total, Supplemental Obligations | 937 | 3 | 3,006 | 4 | 20,750 | - | 8,250 | - | -12,500 | - |
| Total Obligations | 306,583 | 1,427 | 265,896 | 1,446 | 345,670 | 1,442 | 382,586 | 1,442 | +36,916 | - |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 5,777 | - | 2,283 | - | 1,319 | - | -964 | - |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | 8,550 | - | 3,243 | - | 9,573 | - | 6,570 | - | -3,003 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forest Inventory and Analysis | 1,637 | - | 719 | - | 2,123 | - | 1,458 | - | -665 | - |
| National Fire Plan | 35 | - | 144 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Forest Products | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Forest and Rangeland Research – Other | 920 | - | 447 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [a] | 125 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [b] | 2,938 | - | 56 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [c] | - | - | - | - | 6,250 | - | - | - | -6,250 | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [d] | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 14,206 | - | 10,388 | - | 20,229 | - | 9,347 | - | -10,882 | - |
| Total Available | 320,789 | 1,427 | 276,284 | 1,446 | 365,899 | 1,442 | 391,933 | 1,442 | +26,034 | - |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers Out | - | - | 413 | - | - | - | 2,150 | - | +2,150 | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -3,944 | - | -3,731 | - | -3,731 | - | -3,731 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -8,845 | - | -14,206 | - | -10,388 | - | -20,229 | - | -9,841 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 308,000 | 1,427 | 258,760 | 1,446 | 285,760 | 1,442 | 319,773 | 1,442 | 34,013 | - |

[a] P.L. 116-20 provided $1,000,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires. All remaining funds were obligated in FY 2021.

[b] P.L. 116-136 provided $3,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[c] P.L. 117-43 provided $25,000,000 to the Forest and Inventory Analysis program for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

[d] P.L. 117-58 provided $2,000,000 to the Joint Fire Science program each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

**Salaries and Expenses: An increase of $15,157,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $6,800,000, which includes $4,832,000 for pay costs and $1,968,000 for FERS for 2022 Pay and FERS. This increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022, of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS.

b) An increase of $8,357,000 for 2023 Pay. This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase. These critical increases will allow Forest and Rangeland Research to maintain the workforce of scientists and technicians currently providing scientific information and new technology to support the sustainable management of the Nation's forests and grasslands and to advance understanding of climate change and the development of mitigation and adaptation solutions. Without this increase, a combination of mission-essential travel, training, and FTEs would be reduced, decreasing the agency's ability to produce and provide natural resource science to Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments to inform climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience activities for land management.

**Forest and Rangeland Research: An increase of $39,280,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

This increase will partially restore losses in Forest and Rangeland Research funding that have occurred over the last five years. This funding increase will enable the Forest Service to continue to make progress in restoring and increasing investments in scientific research to address Administration priorities, including improving the understanding of climate change, increasing adaptation and resilience to climate change, and pursuing nature-based climate solutions. This includes research to inform ecosystem restoration to enhance carbon sequestration and storage and research to inform international climate adaptation and mitigation activities. This increase will also allow the Forest Service to invest more in studying wildfire risk management through strategic hazardous fuel reduction treatments and other climate adaptation and resilience strategies in forested ecosystems.

a) Of this increase, $3 million will be applied to investments in targeted projects specifically addressing Forest Service national research priorities. These national research priorities include applied science to support shared stewardship and improve forest conditions, analysis of forest inventory and trends, enhancements to the wildland fire system, and innovations in wood products and their markets.

   With this increase, Forest and Rangeland Research will be able to maintain its collaborative work with partners in the scientific community and with Forest Service land managers to co-produce science that is directly relevant and applicable to the agency's most pressing land management challenges.

b) The Forest Service will contribute $4 million to the Joint Fire Science Program in FY 2023. Projects funded through the interagency Joint Fire Science Program provide critical science and technology to address the challenges of wildland fire. These projects also improve understanding of the effects of climate and climate change on wildland fire and enhance the ability of land management agencies to assess and manage fire risk effectively.

c) The Forest Service will apply $25 million of this increase to research and science delivery related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. This increase will allow Forest and Rangeland Research to increase its scientific contributions in support of the Administration's science-based approach to improving the climate resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems. Relative to FY 2022, Forest and Rangeland Research will expand the scope and scale of research and science delivery programs related to reforestation, carbon sequestration, and carbon accounting, all of which are essential to informing climate adaptation and mitigation.

   This increase in funding for climate science will also strengthen fire and fuels research to advance the scientific knowledge needed to inform climate mitigation and adaptation strategies as increasingly hot, dry, and windy

conditions exacerbate the severity and frequency of wildfire throughout the Nation. This increased investment in fire and fuels research and science delivery will inform the Administration's science-based approach to improving the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems to water stress from multiyear drought conditions and to protect watersheds, wildlife habitat, and the wildland-urban interface from the negative impacts of uncharacteristically severe wildfire. For example, this funding will accelerate the agency's development and testing of science-based conservation investment planning tools to inform the targeted selection of sites for hazardous fuels treatments to optimize risk reductions to communities and structures from uncharacteristically severe wildfire associated with climate change.

d) Of this increase, $3.2 million will be invested in restoring capacity for foundational research disciplines, including forest soils, air quality, hydrology, silviculture, genetics, and forest ecology, that are needed to discover and design innovative adaptation strategies to promote the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems to climate change.

The Forest Service will dedicate a total of $4 million of this increase to raise program funding available to each of the five USDA Climate Hubs sponsored by the Forest Service: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Caribbean, and Northern Forests. The total Forest Service program funding available to these five Climate Hubs at the FY 2021 Enacted levels was less than $500,000 combined. Climate Hubs provide region-specific research and science information synthesis, tool development, implementation assistance, and outreach to support robust agricultural production and natural resources under increasing conditions of climate variability and change. Additional funding for these five Climate Hubs will accelerate science production and technology transfer to aid land management agencies, private landowners, and agricultural producers, including foresters, with scientifically sound climate adaptation. When combined with the $2 million of salaries and expenses Forest Service Research will invest in Climate Hubs, the Forest Service investment in Climate Hubs will be $6 million.

**Forest Inventory and Analysis: An increase of $4,576,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) This increase will sustain current FIA program delivery, allow for additional soil carbon sampling to partially fill spatial and temporal gaps in soil carbon data and to harmonize this new soil carbon data with existing soil survey data from National Forests, and provide for investments in the FIA Program's use of remote sensing technologies (as directed in report language contained in Sec. 8632 of the 2018 Farm Bill). As the Nation's foremost continuous forest census covering all 50 States, the FIA program is critical to supporting the Administration's priority of advancing climate science and facilitating public access to climate-related information that will assist Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments in climate planning and resilience activities. The FIA program also benefits States and industry, which rely on FIA data and analysis to inform forest management plans and to guide forest product infrastructure investment. A portion of this increase will fund partnership agreements and contracts with States to survey FIA plots and to assist with data analysis.

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-18. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | $849 | $4,884 | $4,870 | $5,002 |
| | Personnel compensation, field | 133,436 | 134,647 | 134,275 | 137,900 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 134,285 | 139,531 | 139,145 | 142,902 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 50,249 | 52,891 | 52,745 | 54,169 |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 184,534 | 192,422 | 191,890 | 197,071 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 3,346 | 1,799 | 3,765 | 4,542 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 1,727 | 1,192 | 2,495 | 3,010 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 2,300 | - | - | - |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 3,151 | 201 | 421 | 508 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 7,954 | 154 | 322 | 389 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 318 | 70 | 147 | 177 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 176 | 16 | 33 | 40 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 15,486 | 8,683 | 18,173 | 21,924 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 23,799 | 14,365 | 30,067 | 36,270 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 97 | 54 | 113 | 136 |
| 25.5 | Research and development contracts | 35,582 | 27,556 | 57,674 | 69,576 |
| 25.6 | Medical care | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 772 | 299 | 626 | 755 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 5,031 | 3,270 | 6,844 | 8,256 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 5,503 | 2,201 | 4,607 | 5,557 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 10 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 16,761 | 13,608 | 28,481 | 34,359 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | 26 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 43.0 | Interest and dividends | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 92.0 | Undistributed | 5 | - | - | - |
| | Total, other objects | 122,049 | 73,474 | 153,780 | 185,515 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 306,583 | 265,896 | 345,670 | 382,586 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 29 | - | - | - |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $184,834 | $181,691 | $186,597 | $191,635 |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $87,999 | $89,256 | $91,666 | $94,141 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 10.5 | 10.8 | 11.1 | 11.4 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) produces innovative science and technology to support sustainable management of the Nation's diverse forests and rangelands. Forest Service R&D programs include basic and applied research, inventory and assessment of forest resources, and science delivery and decision support.

## Forest and Rangeland Research

### *Current Activities*

The national research priorities of Forest Service R&D are: 1) applied science to improve forest and grassland conditions, including science to inform adaptation to climate change and to enhance greenhouse gas mitigation through forest management; 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. Forest Service R&D also conducts foundational research related to forest and grassland health, forest soils, air quality, hydrology, ecology, and silviculture. These research priorities and foundational research areas are aligned with Forest Service land management priorities and stewardship responsibilities.

Science to inform natural resource management for climate-resilient landscapes is central to Forest Service R&D activities. Forest Service R&D produces authoritative information about the Nation's forests and rangelands and contributes to understanding climate impacts, including uncharacteristically severe wildfire. Forest Service R&D also delivers science to inform investments in climate mitigation and adaptation, such as prioritizing hazardous fuels treatments to mitigate wildfire risk. Forest Service R&D is also a key contributor to the USDA Climate Hubs.[13]

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

*Climate science to enhance adaptation and resilience in forest and grassland ecosystems*. Forest Service R&D is exploring the effects of silvicultural treatments for climate change adaptation at multiple forest sites across the United States. These studies are informing new tools to understand and predict potential shifts in tree species distributions due to climate change and make it possible to update the Climate Change Tree Atlas[14] and expand its coverage to the Western United States. Forest Service R&D is also using its network of Experimental Forests and Ranges to examine relationships among climate change and changes in ecosystem processes and to identify long-term implications of management activities, such as the effects of silvicultural practices on carbon storage. Recently published Forest Service national science syntheses provide managers with the latest science on forest and rangeland soils and invasive species in a changing climate, and science-based, climate-smart management opportunities. Forest Service R&D continues to develop science-based guidance about climate adaptation practices for natural resource managers, including recent guidance focused on wildlife and urban forests and health. Forest Service scientists have also made strides breeding trees resistant to insects and pathogens, such as ash and pine, being exacerbated by climate change.

*Partnership with USDA Climate Hubs*. Forest Service R&D and the USDA Climate Hubs work with the National Forest System, States, and Tribes to identify site-specific adaptation actions and to support their incorporation into forest management plans. Forest Service scientists contribute to the Climate Hubs' expansion of Drought Learning Networks[15] and help produce guidebooks for farmers and foresters seeking to better prepare for and respond to hurricanes. Forest Service scientists, partnerships, and tools are featured on numerous USDA Climate Hub science delivery webinars. These webinars share knowledge, encourage collaboration among peers, and engage diverse groups of partners. They also serve as a communication tool to highlight extreme weather potential, including elevated wildfire risk, in specific geographic regions. Forest Service R&D works with the USDA Climate Hubs and diverse stakeholders spanning the agriculture and forest sectors, rural and urban areas, and public and private lands to better engage and serve communities, including underserved communities.

[13] Climate Hubs provide region-specific research and science information synthesis, tool development, implementation assistance, and outreach to support robust agricultural production and resilient natural resources under increasing climate variability and climate change.
[14] https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas/tree/
[15] https://dln.swclimatehub.info/; https://caribbeanclimatehub.org/projects/caribbean-drought-learning-network/

*Research to inform environmental justice and equity*. Forest Service researchers, in particular social scientists, study environmental justice and equity. The Forest Service conducts research to understand how underserved communities access, use, or benefit from forests and natural resources. For example, recent studies by Forest Service researchers and partners offer insights into Latinx use and perception of Federal and State lands. Forest Service scientists also study land ownership, heirs' property, and minority ties to the land. Forest Service researchers study environmental justice implications of management efforts. Recent research in this area includes developing methods for identifying underserved communities and understanding environmental justice impacts.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Data and tools to improve wildfire management. In February 2021, Forest Service scientists updated the national Wildland Fire Hazard Potential map[16] using the most current vegetation data. This map informs risk reduction models of hazardous fuels treatments and supports wildland fire response systems. For example, the WildfireSAFE response tool is a web interface that integrates real-time data from multiple data sources, including fire hazard potential, drought conditions, satellite-derived vegetation conditions, and weather analysis to automatically analyze the fuels, terrain conditions, and values at risk in the surrounding area. Fire managers can view data for any active incident, compare active incidents within an area of interest, and capture observations about fire behavior.

Forest Service research about pre-fire management planning processes also supports wildland fire response. For instance, recent research about potential control locations[17] showed the extent to which forest roads are useful in fire operations response planning, accounting for 82 percent of fire holding features during a coordinated planning process. Additional research in FY 2021 produced new information about the vulnerability of communities to wildland fire, including a new spatial dataset of wildfire risk for populated areas in the United States, and a Fireshed Registry that uses information about community vulnerability as one of the datasets to inform the agency's strategic placement of fuel treatments to reduce risk. In FY 2021, Forest Service scientists also produced studies and decision support tools to assess the effectiveness of techniques for post-fire flood mitigation and to identify likely locations of post-fire debris flows.

Collaborative, participatory research with underserved communities. During FY 2021, Forest Service R&D and USDA Climate Hubs worked together with Tribes to investigate how climate change could affect various Tribal agricultural efforts and communities, as well as to assess priorities for post-fire rehabilitation of Tribal lands. Another recent example of collaborative research with the Stillmeadow Community PeacePark and Forest in Baltimore, Maryland demonstrates the value of working together to improve urban green spaces. In FY 2021, Forest Service R&D worked with Stillmeadow community members to transform an ecologically degraded, hazardous forest into a place of healing and resilience for the Baltimore community. Forest Service R&D provided best practices for urban reforestation, long-term monitoring and evaluation, empowering citizen stewards, and knowledge exchange through field visits, demonstrations, webinars, and multi-media content.

## Forest Inventory and Analysis Program

### *Current Activities*

Forest Service R&D's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is the Nation's foremost continuous forest census covering all 50 States, and territories. Using nationwide statistically robust field surveys integrated with the latest geospatial technologies, including remote sensing, the FIA program produces data and products to monitor forest trends, disturbance, and climate impacts. The FIA program 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; extent of forest area including increases or decreases in forest land; wood production and utilization; and forest landownership. These data are needed to assess forest carbon stocks and changes over time. Working with State forestry agencies, universities, and other partners, FIA leverages one partner dollar for every six Federal dollars spent.

[16] https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=55226e8547f84aae8965210a9801c357. Additional information at https://www.firelab.org/project/wildfire-hazard-potential.

[17] Publication titled "Forest roads and operational wildfire response planning" available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/62189.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

FIA program data and products are fundamental to assessing forest carbon stocks and change. Using FIA data and enhanced peer-reviewed methodologies, the FIA program calculates authoritative estimates of carbon stocks and change on forest land, forest land conversions, trees outside of forests (such as urban forests and agroecosystems), and harvested wood products in the United States annually. These are submitted as a component of the United States National Inventory Report as required by the United States commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with additional estimation by FIA and partners providing carbon stock assessments for the United States Biennial Report. Current research includes investigation of carbon monitoring system designs for forest carbon assessments, in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Carbon Monitoring System, as well as using FIA data to estimate carbon benefits from forest management activities at the landscape level. Forest Service scientists are also making progress to increase the resolution of harvested wood products information and related carbon estimates.

FIA continues to inform forest management. Through partnerships and other national and regional efforts, FIA supports Federal, other public, and private land managers with authoritative information to aid management decisions. Contributions include producing the Landscape Change Monitoring System Data Explorer[18], an interactive application designed to provide visualization and download of landscape change products and related geospatial data; contribute to the development and maintenance of LANDFIRE[19], with one-third of the ground truth data points coming from FIA; updating national risk maps with the Forest Service Forest Health Assessment and Applied Science Team; and delivering and integrating forest inventory data with other tools such as the agency's Forest Vegetation Simulator[20].

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Insect and disease disturbances correlate with reduced carbon sequestration in forests. In FY 2021, using FIA data, researchers found that forests damaged by insects sequestered about 70 percent less carbon than undamaged forests. Those affected by disease sequestered 28 percent less carbon. In total, the damage currently being caused by insects and diseases across the contiguous U.S. is reducing the sequestration potential of America's forests by roughly 50 million tons of carbon dioxide each year, the equivalent of emissions from more than 10 million cars. Science-based strategies to reduce the frequency and intensity of forest insects and diseases include enhancing forest health protection and preventing non-native insects and diseases from entering North America.

Integrating FIA field survey data with remote sensing data increases the scope and precision of geospatial products for forestry. In May 2021, FIA launched the Big Data Mapping and Analytics Platform (BIGMAP)[21]. BIGMAP features an interactive mapping system that uses FIA data and auxiliary information to produce geospatial products of forest attributes. The goal of the project is to produce and share FIA data in a mapped format, allowing users to perform their own analyses. Another goal is to improve the precision of FIA estimates while maintaining plot confidentiality. FIA staff also released a geospatial showcase website. This public, user-friendly data hub[22] hosts geospatial FIA data products such as the Forest Atlas of the United States; one-click State forest factsheets; the FIA DataMart application; and BIGMAP raster maps, including live tree aboveground biomass for multiple species, forest type groups, forest carbon pools, stand size class, and forest stocking, age, and height.

Forest inventories making progress in Interior Alaska despite increasingly remote survey areas. The FIA program partnered with the State of Alaska and the NASA starting in FY 2015 to collect data on forest plots in Interior Alaska. FIA continued sending personnel to remote forest plots never visited and measured before where access is only possible by air. During the FY 2021 field season, FIA crews began to measure the third unit of Interior Alaska, the Southwest unit, which has an area equivalent to the State of Virginia and is scheduled to be completed in FY 2022.

[18] https://apps.fs.usda.gov/lcms-viewer/
[19] https://landfire.gov/
[20] https://www.fs.fed.us/fvs/
[21] https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c710684b98f54452804e8960d37905b2
[22] https://fia-usfs.hub.arcgis.com/

# STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-19. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $267,180,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +39,783,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 306,963,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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, including for invasive plants, and conducting an international program and trade compliance activities as authorized, [$304,614,000]$306,963,000 to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026, as authorized by law[: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, not less than $29,000,000 shall be for activities related to climate change, of which $7,000,000 shall be for wildfire risk management and $22,000,000 shall be for climate resilience].

[Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for the Forest Legacy Program and derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, $5,809,000 is hereby permanently cancelled from projects with cost savings or failed or partially failed projects: *Provided*, That no amounts may be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

**Change Description**

The first change adds invasive plants.

The second change removes specific language for climate change funding.

The third change removes language cancelling unobligated balances from the Forest Legacy Program.

**STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY**

[For an additional amount for "State and Private Forestry", $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.]

(Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.)

**STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY**

[(Including Transfers of Funds)]

[For an additional amount for "State and Private Forestry", $1,526,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029: Provided, That $305,360,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be made available for fiscal year 2022, $305,360,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, shall be made available for fiscal year 2023, $305,360,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be made available for fiscal year 2024,

$305,360,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, shall be made available for fiscal year 2025, and $305,360,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, shall be made available for fiscal year 2026: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading in this Act, the following amounts shall be for the following purposes in equal amounts for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026-- (1) $718,000,000 for the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to carry out activities for the Department of Agriculture, as authorized in sections 40803 and 40804 of division D of this Act;(2) In addition to amounts made available in paragraph (1) for grants to at-risk communities for wildfire mitigation activities, not less than $500,000,000 for such purposes;(3) Not less than $88,000,000 for State Fire Assistance; and(4) Not less than $20,000,000 for Volunteer Fire Assistance: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) to carry out the activities in support of this heading: Provided further, That up to 3 percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be for salaries, expenses, and administration: Provided further, That one-half of one percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture for oversight of funding provided to the Forest Service in this title in this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, and to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

(Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act.)

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-20. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $51,308 | 324 | $51,308 | 385 | $65,091 | 418 | +$13,783 | +33 | (1) |
| Landscape Scale Restoration | $14,000 | 1 | 14,000 | - | 14,000 | - | 21,000 | - | +7,000 | - | (2) |
| FHM - Federal Lands | 56,000 | 244 | 15,485 | 11 | 15,485 | - | 22,485 | - | +7,000 | - | (3) |
| FHM - Cooperative Lands | 44,000 | 77 | 30,747 | 6 | 30,747 | - | 36,747 | - | +6,000 | - | (4) |
| Forest Stewardship Program | 21,000 | 50 | 11,902 | 2 | 11,902 | - | 17,902 | - | +6,000 | - | (5) |
| Forest Legacy Program | 63,990 | 22 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Community Forest and Open Space Conservation | 4,000 | - | 4,000 | - | 4,000 | - | 4,000 | - | - | - | |
| Urban and Community Forestry | 32,000 | 45 | 31,910 | 1 | 31,910 | - | 31,910 | - | - | - | |
| International Programs | 12,000 | 17 | 15,395 | 1 | 15,395 | - | 15,395 | - | - | - | |
| National Fire Capacity | 82,000 | 52 | 73,433 | - | 73,433 | - | 73,433 | - | - | - | |
| Rural Fire Capacity | 18,000 | - | 19,000 | - | 19,000 | - | 19,000 | - | - | - | |
| State and Private Forestry – Other | - | - | - | 37 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Total, Discretionary Appropriations | 346,990 | 508 | 267,180 | 387 | 267,180 | 385 | 306,963 | 418 | +39,783 | +33 | |
| Mandatory Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 94,255 | 7 | 94,255 | 12 | 94,255 | 12 | - | - | |
| Total, Mandatory Appropriations | - | - | 94,255 | 7 | 94,255 | 12 | 94,255 | 12 | - | - | |
| Supplemental Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [a] | - | - | - | - | 50,000 | - | - | - | -50,000 | - | |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [b] | - | - | - | - | 305,360 | 53 | 305,360 | 161 | - | +108 | |
| Total, Supplemental Appropriations | - | - | - | - | 355,360 | 53 | 305,360 | 161 | -50,000 | +108 | |
| Total Appropriations | 346,990 | 508 | 361,435 | 394 | 716,795 | 450 | 706,578 | 591 | -10,217 | +141 | |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Department of the Interior | -55 | - | -187 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | - | - | - | - | -4,020 | - | -4,020 | - | - | - | |
| Forest Service Operations | - | - | -6,034 | - | -48,856 | - | -36,640 | - | +12,216 | - | |
| Office of Inspector General | - | - | - | - | -1,527 | - | -1,527 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | -55 | - | -6,221 | - | -54,403 | - | -42,187 | - | +12,216 | - | |
| Rescission | - | - | -5,809 | - | -5,809 | - | - | - | +5,809 | - | |
| Sequestration | - | - | - | - | -5,373 | - | - | - | +5,373 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 16,365 | - | 24,686 | - | 24,686 | - | 24,686 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 62,559 | - | 65,806 | - | 75,368 | - | 168,391 | - | +93,023 | - | |
| Total Available | 425,859 | 508 | 439,897 | 394 | 751,264 | 450 | 857,468 | 591 | +106,204 | +141 | |
| Lapsing Balances | -9 | - | -19 | - | - | - | | | - | - | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -65,806 | - | -75,368 | - | -168,391 | - | -114,399 | | +53,992 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 360,044 | 508 | 364,510 | 394 | 582,873 | 450 | 743,069 | 591 | +160,196 | +141 | |

[a] P.L. 117-43 provided $25,000,000 to the Forest and Inventory Analysis program for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

[b] FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43) and advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). FY 2023 supplemental appropriations are entirely advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. See also the spend plans for advance appropriations on page 213. P.L. 117-58 provides $305,360,000 each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

*Table FS-21. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $48,806 | 324 | $44,485 | 385 | $60,547 | 418 | +$16,062 | +33 |
| Landscape Scale Restoration | $13,891 | 1 | 13,787 | - | 12,568 | - | 17,104 | - | +4,536 | - |
| FHM - Federal Lands | 45,007 | 244 | 15,606 | 11 | 14,225 | - | 19,360 | - | +5,135 | - |
| FHM - Cooperative Lands | 42,174 | 77 | 30,705 | 6 | 27,987 | - | 38,092 | - | +10,105 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forest Stewardship Program | 20,064 | 50 | 11,833 | 2 | 10,786 | - | 14,680 | - | +3,894 | - |
| Forest Legacy Program | 63,659 | 22 | 2,459 | 5 | 2,241 | - | 3,051 | - | +810 | - |
| Community Forest and Open Space Conservation | 4,806 | - | 3,998 | - | 3,644 | - | 4,960 | - | +1,316 | - |
| Urban and Community Forestry | 30,948 | 45 | 31,866 | 1 | 29,046 | - | 39,532 | - | +10,486 | - |
| International Programs | 11,278 | 17 | 14,565 | 1 | 13,277 | - | 18,069 | - | +4,792 | - |
| National Fire Capacity | 81,636 | 52 | 75,276 | - | 68,614 | - | 93,385 | - | +24,771 | - |
| Rural Fire Capacity | 18,001 | - | 19,146 | - | 17,451 | - | 23,752 | - | +6,301 | - |
| State and Private Forestry – Other | 15,317 | - | 7,674 | 37 | 6,995 | - | 9,520 | - | +2,525 | - |
| Total, Discretionary Obligations | 346,781 | 508 | 275,721 | 387 | 251,319 | 385 | 342,052 | 418 | +90,733 | +33 |
| Mandatory Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 87,908 | 7 | 80,014 | 12 | 109,054 | 12 | +29,040 | - |
| Total, Mandatory Obligations | - | - | 87,908 | 7 | 80,014 | 12 | 109,054 | 12 | +29,040 | - |
| Supplemental Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [a] | 1,263 | - | 881 | - | 815 | - | - | - | -815 | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [b] | 12,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [c] | - | - | - | - | 12,500 | - | 37,500 | - | +25,000 | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [d] | - | - | - | - | 238,225 | 53 | 254,463 | 161 | +16,238 | +108 |
| Total, Supplemental Obligations | 13,263 | - | 881 | - | 251,540 | 53 | 291,963 | 161 | +40,423 | +108 |
| Total Obligations | 360,044 | 508 | 364,510 | 394 | 582,873 | 450 | 743,069 | 591 | +160,196 | +141 |
| Add back: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lapsing Balances | 9 | - | 19 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 4,351 | - | 6,877 | - | 6,121 | - | -756 | - |
| Landscape Scale Restoration | 1,316 | - | 1,158 | - | 1,830 | - | 1,629 | - | -201 | - |
| FHM - Federal Lands | 3,394 | - | 1,611 | - | 2,546 | - | 2,266 | - | -280 | - |
| FHM - Cooperative Lands | 1,135 | - | 441 | - | 697 | - | 620 | - | -77 | - |
| Forest Stewardship Program | 890 | - | -209 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Forest Legacy Program | 37,984 | - | 45,705 | - | 72,235 | - | 64,298 | - | -7,937 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Community Forest and Open Space Conservation | - | - | 65 | - | 103 | - | 92 | - | -11 | - |
| Urban and Community Forestry | 995 | - | 369 | - | 583 | - | 519 | - | -64 | - |
| International Programs | 1,068 | - | 2,360 | - | 3,730 | - | 3,320 | - | -410 | - |
| National Fire Capacity | 2,273 | - | 1,638 | - | 2,589 | - | 2,304 | - | -285 | - |
| Rural Fire Capacity | 12 | - | 76 | - | 120 | - | 107 | - | -13 | - |
| State and Private Forestry – Other | 15,082 | - | 10,641 | - | 16,818 | - | 14,969 | - | -1,849 | - |
| Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 6,347 | - | 10,031 | - | 8,928 | - | -1,103 | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [a] | 1,657 | - | 815 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [c] | - | - | - | - | 37,500 | - | - | - | -37,500 | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [d] | - | - | - | - | 12,732 | - | 9,226 | - | -3,506 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 65,806 | - | 75,368 | - | 168,391 | - | 114,399 | - | -53,992 | - |
| Total Available | 425,859 | 508 | 439,897 | 394 | 751,264 | 450 | 857,468 | 591 | +106,204 | +141 |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rescission | - | - | 5,809 | - | 5,809 | - | - | - | -5,809 | - |
| Total Transfers Out | 55 | - | 6,221 | - | 54,403 | - | 42,187 | - | -12,216 | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -16,365 | - | -24,686 | - | -24,686 | - | -24,686 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -62,559 | - | -65,806 | - | -75,368 | - | -168,391 | - | -93,023 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 346,990 | 508 | 361,435 | 394 | 716,795 | 450 | 706,578 | 591 | -10,217 | +141 |

[a] P.L. 115-123 provided $7,500,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.
[b] P.L. 116-20 provided $1,000,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires. All remaining funds were obligated in FY 2021.
[c] P.L. 117-43 provided $25,000,000 to the Forest and Inventory Analysis program for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.
[d] P.L. 117-58 provides $305,360,000 each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

**Salaries and Expenses: An increase of $13,783,000 and 79 full-time equivalents (FTE) from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $1,434,000, which includes $1,019,000 for pay inflation and $415,000 for FERS for 2022 Pay and FERS. This increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022, of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS.

b) An increase of $2,349,000 for 2023 pay costs. This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase. Without this increase, a combination of mission-essential travel, training, and FTEs would be reduced, and the agency will have diminished capacity to help sustain State and private forests, provide support to keep working forests intact, facilitate sound stewardship of lands across all ownerships on a landscape scale, and provide an avenue for nature-based climate solutions to enhance ecosystem and human community resilience to climate change.

c) An increase of $10,000,000 for a total of 418 FTEs to support increased capacity to help sustain State and private forests, provide support to keep working forests intact, facilitate sound stewardship of lands across all ownerships on a landscape scale, and provide an avenue for nature-based climate solutions to enhance ecosystem and human community resilience to climate change.

**Landscape Scale Restoration: An increase of $7,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $7,000,000 will support the competitive Landscape Scale Restoration grant program, which provides financial and technical assistance to State, private, and Tribal landowners to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. The program supports projects that align with the Administration's priorities to reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfires, maintain or improve forest and rangeland ecosystem resilience, improve fish and wildlife habitats, maintain or improve water quality and watershed function, and mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease.

**Forest Health Management - Federal Lands: An increase of $7,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) $7,000,000 to address the effects of climate change on public lands and support the conservation priorities of the Administration. This increase will be used to support outcome performance measures for the America the Beautiful initiative and other climate resilience outcomes. The Forest Health Management-Federal Lands program will ensure healthy forests and functional landscapes, support to rural economies and underserved populations, and reduction in infestation risk to adjacent lands and communities. The additional funds will facilitate the expansion of performance measures which demonstrate the contribution and impact of forest health management activities on National Forest System and other Federal lands, and foster cross-boundary work. Additionally, the expanded budget will facilitate an increase in acres treated for the suppression and prevention of forest pests, diseases, and invasive plants.

*Table FS-22. Funding for selected insects, diseases, and invasive plants by Fiscal Year (thousands of dollars)*

| RD - (Research Appropriation), SPF – (State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Appropriation) | 2020 Actual | 2021 Enacted | 2022 Budget Request | 2023 Budget Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Asian Longhorned Beetle (Total)** | **$120** | **$294** | **$300** | **$300** |
| RD | 120 | 294 | 300 | 300 |
| **Douglas-fir Tussock Moth (Total)** | **25** | **25** | **25** | **25** |
| SPF | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| **Emerald Ash Borer (Total)** | **1,648** | **1,530** | **1,900** | **2,050** |
| SPF | 516 | 334 | 600 | 750 |

| RD - (Research Appropriation), SPF – (State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Appropriation) | 2020 Actual | 2021 Enacted | 2022 Budget Request | 2023 Budget Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RD | 1,132 | 1,196 | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| **Gold Spotted Oak Borer, Thousand Canker Disease, Laurel Wilt (Total).** | **1,120** | **903** | **1,100** | **1,250** |
| SPF | 458 | 338 | 500 | 650 |
| RD | 662 | 565 | 600 | 600 |
| **Gypsy Moth (Total)** | **7,747** | **7,885** | **8,300** | **8,500** |
| SPF | 7,426 | 7,610 | 8,000 | 8,200 |
| RD | 321 | 275 | 300 | 300 |
| **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Total)** | **2,623** | **2,625** | **2,900** | **3,400** |
| SPF | 1,756 | 1,785 | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| RD | 867 | 840 | 900 | 900 |
| **Invasive Plants (Total)** | **3,966** | **3,778** | **3,900** | **4,400** |
| SPF | 2,563 | 2,477 | 2,500 | 3,000 |
| RD | 1,403 | 1,301 | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| **Oak Wilt (Total)** | **660** | **707** | **790** | **890** |
| SPF | 570 | 537 | 600 | 700 |
| RD | 90 | 170 | 190 | 190 |
| **Port Orford Cedar Root Disease (Total)** | **75** | **75** | **75** | **100** |
| SPF | 75 | 75 | 75 | 100 |
| **Sirex Woodwasp (Total)** | **150** | **160** | **180** | **180** |
| RD | 150 | 160 | 180 | 180 |
| **Southern Pine Beetle (Total)** | **4,541** | **3,731** | **6,200** | **7,400** |
| SPF | 4,250 | 3,540 | 6,000 | 7,200 |
| RD | 291 | 191 | 200 | 200 |
| **Subterranean Termites (Total)** | **1,000** | **1,025** | **1,100** | **1,100** |
| RD | 1,000 | 1,025 | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| **Sudden Oak Death (Total)** | **2,064** | **1,909** | **2,230** | **2,630** |
| SPF | 1,780 | 1,700 | 2,000 | 2,400 |
| RD | 284 | 209 | 230 | 230 |
| **Western Bark Beetles (Total)** | **5,778** | **5,853** | **7,800** | **9,300** |
| SPF | 4,123 | 4,190 | 6,000 | 7,500 |
| RD | 1,655 | 1,663 | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| **Whitebark Pine Pests (Total)** | **517** | **452** | **480** | **530** |
| SPF | 155 | 196 | 200 | 250 |
| RD | 362 | 256 | 280 | 280 |
| **White Pine Blister Rust (Total)** | **435** | **317** | **390** | **415** |
| SPF | 339 | 234 | 300 | 325 |
| RD | 96 | 83 | 90 | 90 |
| **Total Funding** | **32,469** | **31,269** | **37,670** | **42,470** |
| **SPF Total** | **24,036** | **23,041** | **28,800** | **33,600** |
| **RD Total** | **8,433** | **8,228** | **8,870** | **8,870** |

### Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands: An increase of $6,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:

a) $6,000,000 to address the Administration's priorities around climate adaptation and resilience and protection of biodiversity on State and private lands as well as prioritizing identification and agreement on outcome performance measures for the America the Beautiful initiative and other climate resilience outcomes. The program will provide increased financial assistance to ensure that stewards of State and local public lands, and private forest partners, continue to have capacity to successfully manage their forested lands during this time of economic stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional funds will facilitate the expansion of

performance outcomes which demonstrate the contribution and impact of forest health management activities on State, Tribal, and private lands, and foster cross-boundary work. Additionally, the expanded budget will facilitate an increase in acres treated to prevent the spread of insects and disease and invasive plants.

**Forest Stewardship Program: An increase of $6,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) Most of the forest land in the United States is in private ownership. Landscape restoration, land retention, and landscape resilience to climate change cannot succeed without private forests. The Forest Stewardship Program provides planning and technical support to private landowners to help them manage their forests sustainably. Technical assistance supports private landowners to keep their forests as working forests. Financial support for activities to implement these plans increases the likelihood of keeping forests as forest land and increases the flow of public benefits and ecosystem services from private lands. These public benefits include wildland fire risk reduction, water security, and rural economic development achieved through local collaboration across public and private lands. This increase in funding will be allocated to State Forestry Agencies to engage directly with private forest landowners in areas of high value for climate resilience to support management activities on private forests. The Forest Service is committed to addressing the historic injustices experienced by minority landowners. State Forestry Agencies are encouraged to provide technical assistance to landowners from historically underfunded and marginalized communities facing persistent poverty.

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-23. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | $2,745 | $2,238 | $2,556 | $3,357 |
| | Personnel compensation, field | 47,685 | 38,880 | 44,406 | 58,320 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 50,430 | 41,118 | 46,962 | 61,677 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 21,153 | 15,231 | 17,396 | 22,847 |
| 13.0 | Benefits for former personnel | 175 | - | - | - |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 71,758 | 56,349 | 64,358 | 84,524 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 1,858 | 405 | 681 | 865 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 629 | 391 | 658 | 836 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 1,632 | 656 | 1,104 | 1,402 |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 1,187 | 7 | 12 | 15 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 1,649 | 31 | 52 | 66 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 92 | 126 | 212 | 269 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 124 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 7,257 | 16,635 | 27,990 | 35,550 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 10,957 | 4,187 | 7,045 | 8,948 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 682 | 59 | 99 | 126 |
| 25.5 | Research and development contracts | 17 | 6 | 10 | 13 |
| 25.6 | Medical care | 12 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 136 | 47 | 79 | 100 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 2,322 | 1,409 | 2,371 | 3,011 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 401 | 1,118 | 1,881 | 2,389 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 259,265 | 283,079 | 476,312 | 604,944 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | 66 | - | - | - |
| | Total, other objects | 288,286 | 308,161 | 518,515 | 658,545 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 360,044 | 364,510 | 582,873 | 743,069 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 16 | - | - | - |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $180,740 | $178,999 | $183,832 | $188,795 |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $92,640 | $104,775 | $107,604 | $110,509 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 11.2 | 12.0 | 12.3 | 12.7 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

## Landscape Scale Restoration

### *Current Activities*

The Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program funds competitive cross-boundary projects in high-priority rural landscapes by leveraging State, Tribal, and partner capacity with strategic Federal investments. The program helps ensure the Nation's non-Federal forest lands continue to provide public benefits by supporting high impact landscape-scale projects that focus on priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans and deliver on-the-ground results. The program is a key contributor to delivering shared stewardship.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021, the LSR program restored healthy, resilient landscapes and communities within State priority areas via $12.5 million in competitive grants to accomplish 54 projects in 41 States and 3 territories. This was a similar geographic reach as FY 2020 when $12.5 million in grants was awarded for 53 projects in 30 States and 2 territories.

These projects include assistance for underrepresented minority and women landowners, with projects ranging from empowering women toward stewardship of Vermont's forests through demonstration and career development and developing upland restoration techniques for Guam's degraded southern watersheds. In FY 2021, the program formalized a new Federal Directive, FSM 3800 Landscape Scale Restoration Program, which sets forth policy, responsibilities, and programmatic direction for the LSR program. The program also developed enhanced reporting standards in fulfillment of Congressional intent provided by the 2018 Farm Bill.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Willamette Valley Oak Collaboration (Oregon). The Willamette Valley Oak Collaboration project simplifies landowner access to planning and cost-share services to increase restoration of critical oak habitat. The project focuses on creating a landscape management plan that covers 575,000 acres of Willamette Valley oak and prairie habitat, an endangered forest ecotype in a fragmented high priority landscape. The project also supports collaboration across key State and Federal agencies to provide landowners with a simple menu of management actions that can be uniformly approved for cost-share as projects under one landscape management plan. This effort can reduce the per-acre cost of restoration across the landscape. As climate change transforms the landscape, drought tolerant oak forests are a resilience strategy to reduce future wildfire risk and improve wildlife habitat in the wildland-urban interface in the next 20 years.

Restoring the Teton River Riparian Forest in Idaho. The Teton Watershed in southeast Idaho is a high priority landscape for habitat restoration and protection of at-risk fish and wildlife species due to urbanization and canopy loss that compromise riparian forest resilience, water quality, and watershed function. It is also home to one of the most ecologically significant systems for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, a species of special concern under threat throughout the West due to habitat degradation and climate change. The project focuses on restoring highly visible riparian lands along the upper Teton River within the Teton Valley Watershed, which are critical for sustaining native at-risk species and supporting southeast Idaho's agricultural and recreation-based economy. In FY 2021, partners stabilized river channels through willow/cottonwood planting to reduce erosion and improve water quality and initiated development of riparian restoration management plans for Teton Creek and the Teton River.

## Forest Health Management on Federal Lands

### *Current Activities*

Forest health management activities support ecological resilience, sustainable timber production, recreation opportunities, clean water, clean air, and robust economies. Threats from insects, diseases, invasive plants, hazard trees, and wildland fire are mitigated through efficient, effective forest health management.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The Forest Health Management on Federal Lands program (FHM-Federal Lands) helps the National Forest System and other actively managed Federal lands to suppress forest insects and diseases. FHM-Federal Lands' work includes technical assistance, suppression and prevention efforts, as well as long-term management strategies to

*slow-the-spread* of forest insects and diseases. FHM-Federal Lands program funds support forest insect and disease detection surveys and long-term monitoring activities that gather data on forest health conditions to inform management activities across Federal forested lands in the United States.

*Table FS-24. Acres treated to prevent the spread of native and invasive pests on Federal and non-Federal lands in FY 2021.*

| Forest Health Management Activity | Acres treated |
|---|---|
| Native pests on Federal lands[a] | 212,256 |
| Invasive pests on Federal lands[a] | 589,908 |
| Native pests on non-Federal lands[b] | 34,575 |
| Invasive pests on non-Federal lands[b] | 539,829 |
| **Total** | **1,376,568** |

[a] Funded through Forest Health Management on Federal Lands
[b] Funded through Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands

### *Selected* Examples *of Recent Progress*

Reducing Risk and Damage on National Forests. In FY 2021, FHM-Federal Lands staff worked with National Forest System partners to provide technical assistance, surveys, and forest health treatment funds to reduce forest susceptibility to insects and disease pests. This includes $3.5 million provided to National Forest System partners through the Western and Southern Pine Beetle programs. Treatments, such as forest thinning, promote forest health in a holistic manner that can reduce forest susceptibility to pests while also reducing wildland fire hazard. This is important as each of these disturbances are being amplified by climate change.

Working Cross boundary for Watershed Protection. In FY 2021, projects in the Tahoe Basin in California increased resilience of forests to bark beetle infestations and wildfire. Within the Tahoe National Forest, 700 acres of forests were thinned to increase tree health, reduce risk of bark beetle impacts, and reduce hazardous fuel loads. Associated with this effort, a cross-boundary project in partnership with the Mooretown Maidu Tribe treated more than 200 acres in the Sierraville area to improve forest and tree health and reduce the risk of wildfire and beetles.

## Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands

### *Current Activities*

Pest management methods are more effective in an all-lands approach. The Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands (FHM-Cooperative Lands) program works with States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, Freely Associated States, and other partners to provide technical and financial assistance to monitor, assess, and mitigate forest health threats on non-Federal lands before they spread to healthy forests. Investments in this program are typically matched dollar for dollar by partners. The Forest Health Assessment and Applied Science team produces the annual Forest Conditions Reports and the National Insect and Disease Risk Map (Risk Map) that characterizes and predicts forest pest mortality and damage across Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands. The current edition of the Risk Map, which covers 2013-2027, estimates that approximately 27 million acres across all lands could be affected by forest insects and diseases over the next five years depending on infestation rates and long-term weather patterns. These analysis projects help guide management focus and target areas designated for attention by Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79).

The FHM-Cooperative Lands program works across landownership boundaries to reduce risk and improve forest conditions on landscape and watershed scales. The program produces data, analysis, and forest health condition reports to assist active forest management decisions and cross-boundary treatment plans with partners. The program is an example of shared stewardship: working with States and other partners to set priorities and co-manage risk; using science-based tools to target treatment investments; and focusing on landscape-scale outcomes using all active management tools. Program work also includes active coordination with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on forest pest activities in the form of monthly agency-to-agency coordination calls, peer-to-peer cooperation, and thorough collaboration on survey and monitoring efforts across the country.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

FHM-Cooperative Lands staff work in partnership with State land management agencies to conduct detection surveys across all forested lands. In FY 2020, COVID-19 halted annual aerial surveys by grounding flights which prompted use of alternative data sources in conjunction with manned aerial flights. In FY 2021, annual aerial surveys resumed with State partners and were supplemented to incorporate ground surveys, aerial photography, satellite imagery, and other remote sensing technologies. These efforts to pursue alternate technologies resulted in a total of about 300 million acres surveyed, compared to about 500 million acres surveyed prior to COVID-19 restrictions, which showed areas in the western U.S. with substantial pest activity driven by expansive dry conditions and climate change. The implementation of new approaches to surveying has helped reduce flight hours, thus reducing risk of surveyor exposure to hazardous aviation missions in small, fixed-wing aircraft. The Forest Service has launched an effort to build a strategy for the improved integration of ground, aerial, and remotely sensed data sources to shape the future of the Nation's forests.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Sudden Oak Death in Oregon and California. The FHM-Cooperative Lands program continues to support Sudden Oak Death (SOD) detection and containment efforts with $1.55 million in FY 2021 implementation funds provided to support State and county-level efforts. Treatments to reduce SOD spread were supported with FHM-Cooperative Lands program funds for multiple land ownerships with the majority (71 percent) applied to private lands. In FY 2021, a SOD positive detection occurred outside the quarantine area in California. This information led to extending the quarantine zone to include Del Norte County, bringing the total to 16 SOD counties in the State. FHM-Cooperative Lands funding to support detection, treatments, and education have been critical to slow the rate of spread of this disease. Since 2001, the joint efforts of FHM and the State have attained over 7,800 acres in containment treatments.

Expanded Partnership to Address Emerald Ash Borer. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to impact ash trees in both urban and rural forests. It is now found in 35 states and the Forest Service is working with State partners to help communities deal with the impacts of this invasive beetle. In the northeast, the Forest Service provided $125,000 total to Minnesota, New Jersey, and Maryland to utilize an integrated pest management approach to reduce populations and impacts. High value and ecologically significant ash trees were targeted with insecticide treatments, and biocontrol organisms were utilized to reduce populations of EAB. The Forest Service is also conducting surveys and implementing adaptive management in culturally significant ash forests with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. This ongoing project involves multiple partners, including the Tribe, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It leverages several projects to maximize implementation of EAB treatments on Tribal lands and nearby State lands in easement with the Tribe.

Cooperative Partnership to Fight Invasive Plants in Idaho. In FY 2021, the cooperative invasive plant program worked with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Nez Perce Bio-Control Center, Idaho Association of Weed Control Superintendents, Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Areas, Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association, County Weed Control Departments, private landowners, and other Federal agencies to plan and implement strategies for early detection and eradication of newly established weeds. In total, nearly 3,000 acres of invasive plants were treated and over 18,000 acres were surveyed. These efforts helped to prevent new introductions and control established weed populations, resulting in the restoration of these weed-infested lands to healthy and productive conditions.

***Program Evaluations***

Beginning in 2020 and throughout 2021, FHM staff worked with the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) to develop a set of performance metrics to better illustrate the full range of impact by the FHM program. For many years the program has expressed its accomplishments in the form of "acres treated" alone. However, forest health programs have made great progress on targeting treatments through improved survey and monitoring, application technology, and pesticide management. Forest health programs also use education and outreach to engage landowners and the public in behaviors that help reduce the need for treatment, such as preventing spread of invasive species. To better represent the work and accomplishments achieved by forest health programs, a new set of performance metrics that encompass forest health treatments, survey and monitoring, as well as education and

outreach were developed jointly with NASF. Implementation guidance is currently being developed between the Forest Service and the States, and the metrics will be implemented in FY 2022.

## Forest Stewardship Program

### *Current Activities*

Actively managed State and private forests provide timber, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreational opportunities, carbon sequestration, and many other benefits for communities and the Nation. Families and individuals make decisions impacting the sustainability of 39 percent of all forest land in the United States, with 300 million acres of forests privately owned by family landowners. The Forest Stewardship 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 in sustaining 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.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

Assistance offered through the program provides landowners with access to multiple services and incentives, such as USDA conservation programs, forest certification programs, forest product and ecosystem service markets, and tax incentives that can help landowners maintain their forests and the benefits the Nation receives from them. The Forest Service maintains longstanding partnerships to coordinate and streamline technical assistance and address diverse landowner needs. Program staff collaborate with partners on market development to support landowners. Supporting market opportunities, including participation in emerging carbon markets or payments for forest watershed services, supports rural economic development, mitigates the effects of climate change, and promotes healthy, climate resilient forests. Landowners with access to markets are more likely 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, and markets.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Partnerships to Educate and Engage Woodland Owners: Education is the first step in development of a long-term relationship with landowners that can ultimately lead to healthier, more sustainable and resilient forests. Through strategic partnerships, the Forest Stewardship Program educates woodland owners to improve management of private forest lands for public benefits, including the protection of wildlife habitat and water quality. In FY 2021, the program partnered with the National Woodland Owners Association to highlight conservation successes in their educational publications and digital outreach, focusing on the experiences of women and historically underserved landowners to engage new and historically marginalized landowners in conservation. The agency partnered with the American Forest Foundation and the Nature Conservancy to pilot the Family Forest Carbon Program in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland to empower America's rural family forest owners to improve forest health while addressing climate change. In FY 2022, this program will enroll landowners with as few as 30 acres of forestland to tap into carbon markets and keep forests healthy and connected. The Forest Stewardship Program also supported a national Timber Tax website to help experienced and new forest landowners navigate tax planning associated with timber harvesting.

Grant Making: In FY 2021, Forest Stewardship Program grants were provided in support of partners and projects to provide technical assistance to women landowners, African American landowners, Hispanic and Latinx landowners, and to conduct agroforestry projects with Tribes and in high poverty communities to increase economic opportunities and promote sustainable natural resource management. Examples include:

- The Women Owning Woodlands Network operated by the Forest Stewards Guild is conducting extension education research about knowledge gaps and preferred outreach and training methods to serve minority and other underserved women landowners. Agency support enables the network to host virtual conferences, leadership training, and direct technical assistance provided by certified foresters.

Women landowners are a rapidly growing segment of forest land ownership[23], comprising over 20 percent of private forest landowners. Within this group, many have inherited land from a deceased spouse and are new to making financial and resource management decisions about the land. Enabling continued generational ownership is critical to sustaining the long-term health, integrity, and sustainable management of private forestlands.

- The Quivira Coalition and Southwest Agricultural Action Network received FY 2021 program support to develop educational materials and training for southwestern Tribal entities and natural resource professionals interested in or practicing agroforestry. This project highlights examples of Indigenous agroforestry in the Southwest to meet the demands of climate change across the region while uplifting the cultural relevance of agroforestry practices. Materials focus on windbreaks, riparian buffers, silvopasture, and forest farming by utilizing case studies featuring southwestern Tribal-led agroforestry initiatives. Testimonial videos center Tribal partners who tell their stories in their own way. Outreach tools, including 508 compliant Spanish/English information sheets, webinars, and a podcast, support technical assistance delivery to revitalize indigenous agroforestry in the Southwest.
- With program support, Future Generations University in West Virginia is developing technical assistance materials for landowners in central and southern Appalachia to incorporate trees, shrubs, and other plants in riparian forest buffers to provide an additional source of income. Landowners are taught to cultivate species like sycamore and black walnut that can produce syrups, and elderberry and nettles for culinary and herbal production within riparian buffers that protect vital water resources. The project introduces farmers and landowners to incentives beyond the one-time funds for riparian buffer protection through programs such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. Too often, farmers see riparian buffer protection for reduced sedimentation and livestock exclusion as a loss of productive land and therefore undesirable. This project helps Appalachian farmers and landowners realize the economic potential of their riparian buffer zones in the long term while supporting conservation practices that protect water resources.

### *Program Evaluations*

In FY 2021, the Forest Stewardship Program implemented recommendations made by a team of Forest Service staff and State partners to modernize the program. Modernization has focused Federal assistance on geographic priority areas and incentivizes performance. Using their State Forest Action Plans and Forest Stewardship Program priorities, States selected areas to target their Federal program funds. These areas are called Federal Investment Areas, and over 250 million acres were identified for prioritization. States now spend Federal program funding in prioritized Federal Investment Areas. Funding is allocated to State partners based on performance and program potential, and monitoring data is collected to show the on-the-ground results of technical and planning assistance.

## Forest Legacy Program

### *Current Activities*

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. Purchase of conservation easements assist landowners to conserve and actively manage private working forests. Fee acquisitions by States create or add to State forests, State parks, and State wildlife management areas securing public benefits, including recreational access. This locally driven, nationally scaled program is a key contributor to the Administration's goal to conserve 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030.

The FLP is funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act. The LWCF Act was amended in August 2020, by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152) which provides up to $900 million in mandatory funding annually for all Federal land acquisition and State land acquisition and easement programs across the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. This mandatory funding first became available in FY 2021, and the Forest Service received $94,255,000 for FLP projects and program administration.

[23] https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0256654

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

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 working forests provide clean drinking water, store and sequester carbon, protect wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and offer recreation access. Conserving working lands supports local, regional, and national economies. To select projects for funding, FLP uses a two-tiered competitive process at both the State and national levels. To date, FLP has conserved nearly 3 million acres, including 79,299 acres in FY 2021. Historically, FLP leverages more than one dollar for every Federal dollar spent.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Ceylon (GA): A fee acquisition completed in FY 2021 conserves 12,500 acres of coastal forestland with spectacular waterfront vistas. The 12,500-acre project will be managed as a Wildlife Management Area and publicly accessible to outdoor enthusiasts. The project serves as a critical buffer to the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, as well as Cumberland Island National Seashore and includes nearly 1,500 acres of maritime forests which are important for wildlife habitat, water percolation (the movement of water through soil), erosion control, and buffering from storm events. This area is home to multiple game species, at least 10 Federally listed, candidate, or petitioned species, and 24 State-protected, rare, or species of concern, including four viable gopher tortoise populations, wood stork, Florida manatee, and bald eagle.

Lost Trail (MT): A conservation easement completed in FY 2021 conserves over 7,000 acres of highly productive Weyerhaeuser timberland in northwest Montana and critical wildlife habitat. The project protects grizzly bear and Canada lynx, threatened species found on the property, two large elk herds, and an important wildlife corridor. Wolves naturally recolonized the project area in 1989, six years before they were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park and Idaho. The project complements the adjacent 7,965-acre Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge, 4,093 acres of Natural Resources Conservation Service-held Wetland Reserve Program easements, and the nearby 142,200-acre Thompson-Fisher Forest Legacy Conservation Easement. The project enables Weyerhaeuser to continue sustainable forest management, sustain wood-products jobs, protect wildlife habitat and a key landscape connectivity corridor, and provide permanent public access to recreation lands for hunting, hiking, and birdwatching.

***Program Evaluations***

In FY 2021, the agency worked with State partners to evaluate capacity gaps and barriers that impact program delivery. States are partnering with the agency to expand and accelerate implementation of high quality and strategic conservation projects by improving staff expertise through peer-to-peer learning, improving project readiness, and expanding partner capacity. In FY 2021, the agency approved a GAOA staffing plan that adds 15 full time equivalents to the FLP across the Nation. This additional capacity will enable the agency to bridge capacity gaps in program oversight and technical assistance provided to State partners, increasing overall delivery capacity for projects. To fulfill an expanded program under GAOA, the program increased the project request cap to $20 million per State, which takes effect for the FY 2022 and FY 2023 request for proposal cycles. The program also increased communications to Congress and program stakeholders through LWCF stakeholder listening sessions and Department-level reporting on GAOA performance.

## Community Forest and Open Space Conservation

***Current Activities***

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) provides financial assistance grants for acquiring and establishing working community forests that provide public benefits. 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.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

CFP works directly with local governments, Tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations to acquire and establish working community forests. These areas provide public benefits such as clean drinking water,

wildlife habitat, public access and recreation opportunities, economic benefits from timber and non-timber products, and educational opportunities to local communities. In FY 2021, the agency awarded 10 new grants to communities in 9 States, totaling over 2,000 acres. Since the first grant in FY 2012, the program has protected 24,900 acres.

The Forest Service updated its regulations governing CFP to ensure that the regulations align with the intent and purposes of the authorizing legislation. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on April 2, 2021[24]. The revisions allow CFP grant recipients to convey or encumber an interest in community forest land to other eligible entities with approval from the Forest Service. The rule also improves Tribal governments' access to the program by eliminating the separate cost share and grant requirements, thus advancing racial equity. Finally, the rule clarifies the definitions of program-specific terms, streamlines the application process, and implements the Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The final rule became effective on May 3, 2021.

Forest Service-funded research[25] examined the contributions of CFP to healthy, flourishing communities by identifying and expanding on the values provided by community forests, including access to amenities for recreation, education, and tourism; offer forest-based products (e.g., timber, maple syrup, and firewood); produce forest-based services (e.g., carbon sequestration, habitat, fire risk mitigation, and water quality); and foster economic development opportunities by bolstering the recreation economy and enhancing property value. The report and case studies document the wide-ranging economic, social, and conservation benefits of 17 community forests in 12 States and Puerto Rico supported through CFP. For example, the Stemilt-Squilchuck Community Forest in Washington is a water provider that safeguards the productivity of orchards responsible for $76 million in economic output, 1,000 seasonal jobs, and 34 million pounds of cherries annually. In Hawaii, the Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden Community Forest educates the public about Hawaiian cultural traditions of land use and plants and conserves the plant resources of traditional Hawaiian cultural activities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Catamount Community Forest in Vermont was utilized as an outdoor classroom to host outdoor nature camps, K-12 after-school programs, and university field studies providing safe opportunities for social development and learning.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Huntington Community Forest (VT). The Town of Huntington, Vermont acquired 245-acres of strategic forestland to create the Huntington Community Forest through CFP funding in FY 2021. This community forest is located directly in Huntington's Lower Village with frontage on the Huntington River and has good access and parking opportunities. The forest has trails for hiking, snowmobiling, and mountain biking, and offers direct opportunities for education as it is located immediately adjacent to the local public elementary school, Brewster-Pierce Memorial School. It includes 2.7 acres donated by neighboring landowners along the Huntington River to preserve a key part of the Huntington Valley Trail and permanent protection of the river corridor and its floodplain. This project also helps the town maintain scenic views and outdoor recreation opportunities that attract visitors to the area and support the local economy.

Hall Mountain Community Forest (Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians). In FY 2021, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI) purchased 20.3 acres of forested land to add to the original 108.14-acre tract obtained by the EBCI through CFP funding in 2013. The phase II acquisition connects the community forest to the Little Tennessee River and is historically and culturally significant forest land which has been shaped by thousands of years of use and will allow for the continuation of traditional use and forest management that fits the values of Cherokee land stewardship. The project will support infrastructure for recreation, interpretation, and an envisioned eagle aviary complex, as well as management for rivercane stands, white oak, and hickory for artisan needs. The river frontage will enable additional water and aquatic organism monitoring, as well as potential recreational access points.

[24] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/02/2021-06757/community-forest-program.
[25] "Community Forests: A path to prosperity and connection" https://www.tpl.org/community-forest-economic-case-studies

## Urban and Community Forestry

### *Current Activities*

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is the only dedicated urban forest program in the Federal government to conserve, protect, and enhance trees across various landownership types. UCF is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program, delivering nature-based solutions for climate and environmental justice, and green jobs and training where more than 84 percent of Americans live, work, and play. The program is delivered in partnership with 63 State and territory forestry agencies, more than 30 national partners, and more than 150 community tree groups.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

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 2021, the program assisted more than 7,168 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. According to a 2021 study by the Arbor Day Foundation, urban and community trees provide a $73 billion benefit to society from environmental benefits, including carbon sequestration, reduced air pollution, and reduced storm water runoff.[26]

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Addressing Urban Forest Health. In FY 2021, the UCF appropriation included $2.5 million to restore urban forests due to catastrophic losses from forest pests and build climate change resiliency. In partnership with the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Urban Forestry Committee, the State Urban Forest Resilience Program (SUFR) competitively awarded funds to 18 recipients across 20 States. Selected projects will leverage over $2.5 million in matching funds to improve the health and resilience of urban forests, remove hazardous trees, improve resident safety, and provide critical access to green spaces and urban canopy for diverse communities across the nation. Fifteen projects will specifically help communities respond to and recover from emerald ash borer infestations. Customer service and accountability processes were built into the design of the competitive process, with project monitoring schedules, a process improvement review, and a new online portal for project proposal submissions.

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program. In FY 2021, UCF completed a five-year agreement with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to manage the Five Star and Urban Waters Grant Program, a public-private partnership to provide grants to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. The agreement resulted in 170 projects totaling over $6 million in awarded funding and matched by grantee contributions valued at $13 million for a total conservation impact of over $19 million. These 170 projects engaged over 500,000 people, restored more than 8,000 acres of habitat, and planted nearly 90,000 trees. Over 60 percent of the funds supported environmental justice and underserved communities through community partnerships, job programs, and environmental education and engagement.

### *Program Evaluations*

In FY 2020, the UCF program began to improve the UCF Federal and State workforce transition processes and associated materials. The National State and Private Forestry program reviews identified that lack of knowledge transfer to new hires resulted in inconsistencies within foundational program guidance, authorities, and performance responsibilities. In response, in FY 2021, the National UCF program established a national Federal-State working group of UCF program managers and coordinators to assess and update national performance definitions on the required Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) database. These updates were approved by the Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and were incorporated into National UCF program guidance documents and allocation methodology language.

[26]The Economic Footprint and Quality-of-Life Benefits of Urban Forestry in the United States at https://www.arborday.org/urban-forestry-economic/

States submitted updated 10-year State Forest Action Plans in FY 2021. These stakeholder engagement processes provided a new lens and guidance for UCF program collaboration and program delivery. The UCF program also partnered with NASF to solicit feedback and conduct an after-action review of awarded State Urban Forest Resilience funds to ensure continuous process improvements in equity and efficiency. In addition, the UCF program identified national external partnership programs that closely align with UCF program delivery for consistency in project materials and participation requirements. For instance, in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, UCF is convening a joint working group to advise and formulate a 3–5-year strategic plan for TreeCity USA, a program which receives UCF funding for technical and education assistance to communities across the Nation.

## International Programs and Trade Compliance

### *Current Activities*

Forest Service International Programs and Trade Compliance promotes 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.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

International Programs and Trade Compliance provides technical assistance to other countries to combat illegal logging, which costs the U.S. forest products industry an estimated $1 billion annually due to lost export opportunities and depressed wood prices. International Programs and Trade Compliance also improves the management of forest invasive species, which cause an estimated $4.2 billion in loss and damage annually in the forest products industry, by supporting collaborative work to control and prevent invasions.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Combatting Illegal Logging. In FY 2021, International Programs and Trade Compliance invested about $4 million supporting enforcement of the Lacey Act (16 *U.S.C.* §§ 3371-3378) and provided technical assistance to timber-producing countries in combatting illegal logging and improving forest governance. Work included:

- organizing and facilitating monthly Lacey Act Interagency meetings for U.S. government agencies;
- implementing law enforcement trainings for partners from 12 timber-producing countries with support from the Department of Justice and in coordination with Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations;
- supporting the collection and analysis of wood samples from 6 high-risk countries that are used to identify wood products in trade;
- working with partners to improve data and intelligence on global forest trends that helps the U.S. government prioritize screening of the most suspicious wood imports;
- supporting transparency tools and technologies that provide near real-time monitoring of forest cover changes to quickly detect illegal logging; and working with partners to develop a methodology to analyze the full social, environmental, and economic costs of illegal deforestation at a country scale.

Protecting the United States against Invasive Species. International Programs and Trade Compliance invested about $1 million in continued work on sentinel forests[27] in FY 2021, establishing seven sentinel forests in China and two in Western Europe for monitoring pest and pathogen vulnerability of economically valuable U.S. species, in partnership with the University of Florida and Ohio State University. In addition, a new partnership with Botanic Gardens Conservation International monitors five U.S. species in established botanic gardens in Asia and Europe for pests and pathogens. This work provides an early warning on the most damaging invasive pests and pathogens that could impact U.S. species if they are accidentally introduced to the U.S. through trade, as well as what the impacts of climate change might mean for the ability of invasive pests to become established in the U.S. Also in FY 2021, International Programs and Trade Compliance coordinated with USDA Animal and

[27] Sentinel plantings are an approach to assess the vulnerability of native trees to non-native pests and pathogens by planting and studying those trees in other countries.

Plant Health Inspection Service to analyze data on the risk of wood-boring insect introductions to the U.S. from imported solid wood packaging, and the effectiveness of global phytosanitary standards aimed to decrease risk. The program continues to engage with various stakeholder groups including industry, academia, civil society, and government on gaps and opportunities for preventing forest insect infestation in the global wood packaging material supply chain.

## National Fire Capacity

***Current Activities***

More than one-third of all homes in the United States are in fire-prone wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas, which comprise just 10 percent of the Nation's land area. 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 for an effective, all-lands approach to wildland fire management.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

Through the State Fire Assistance program, the Forest Service supports and assists State Foresters and local communities in building capacity for wildfire prevention, mitigation, control, and suppression on non-Federal lands. The program helps State agencies create more fire-adapted communities and resilient landscapes by implementing pre-fire prevention and mitigation programs and emphasizing pre-fire planning and risk reduction in the WUI. The program funds important training for safer initial attack responses 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.

State Fire Capacity Grants funding enables States to increase and maintain wildfire suppression capacity, which, in turn, increases national capacity. The Forest Service makes its resources available to the national system through regional coordination centers. The summer of 2021 was one of the worst fire seasons in modern times, setting a record of 68 days at Preparedness Level 5, indicating the highest demand for wildland fire suppression resources. The sustained Preparedness Level 5 was due to multiple large incidents occurring simultaneously across geographic areas. Through support of State Fire Capacity Grants funding, Florida, for example, provided over 168 firefighters to assist with suppression efforts in Western States; North Carolina provided an engine task force to Washington State; and Pennsylvania provided an Incident Management Team to assist with the Snake River and Cougar Rock wildfire complex in Idaho.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Fire Adapted Community Net. The Nature Conservancy's Fire Adapted Community (FAC) Net is funded through State Fire Capacity Grants. FAC supports Fire Adapted New Mexico's "Wildfire Wednesdays Newsletter" that provides information focused on both preparing for the wildfire season and on post-fire recovery. The newsletter led to several livestream events and interagency collaborations among partner public information officers for messaging during the FY 2021 wildfire season. This work has evolved into monthly "Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round" press releases with actionable steps to reduce wildfire risk to properties and people.

Fire Adapted Montana Learning Network (FAMLN). Funded through the State Fire Capacity Grant Program, the FAMLN created an online learning exchange for prescribed fire enthusiasts and practitioners in Montana in FY 2021. More than 60 Montanans were joined by 21 speakers from across the United States. FAMLN made connections with many of the speakers through FAC Net, and facilitation and event design were supported by FAC Net staff. The exchange has resulted in critical fire adaptation connections; for example, it has allowed a legal intern for the State to learn from other States' prescribed fire councils as they draft options to address prescribed fire liability in Montana.

## Rural Fire Capacity

***Current Activities***

The Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant program provides technical and financial assistance to eligible local volunteer fire departments that protect communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer. There are over

24,000 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.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

The Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant program focuses on increasing the capacity of local fire departments to provide initial attack on wildfires by providing additional firefighter training and assistance to departments with grant funding to purchase equipment. 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 mitigation and help meet expanded fire protection needs within the WUI. Together, these initiatives combine to create more fire-adapted communities.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Lookingglass Rural Fire District. In Oregon, the Lookingglass Rural Fire District used Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant funding in FY 2021 to purchase a portable pump that will make it easier to refill fire engines and water tenders. In this wildland-urban interface community about nine miles south of Roseburg, OR, there are only three fire hydrants available for refilling firefighting apparatus, so this portable pump is critical for aiding fire suppression efforts. Also, in Oregon, the Elkhorn Rural Fire Protection District used Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants funding to build a water tender from a used military truck that was acquired through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP). The overall cost of having a fully functional water tender was very low due to the use of the grant and the truck acquired through the FEPP.

# NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-25. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $1,786,870,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +394,045,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,180,915,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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, [$2,369,634,000]$2,180,915,000 to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, $80,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f)[, of which $66,213,000 shall be for wildfire risk management]: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, [$47,017,000]$37,645,000 shall be for forest products: [*Provided further*, That of the funds provided, $321,388,000 shall be for hazardous fuels management activities, of which $141,000,000 shall be for wildfire risk management, and 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" appropriation: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than $413,000,000 shall be for activities related to climate change, of which $265,000,000 shall be for wildfire risk management, inclusive of the amounts for wildfire risk management in the first and third provisos; $92,000,000 shall be for climate reclamation; and $56,000,000 shall be for climate resilience:]*Provided further*, That any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for hazardous fuels management may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management account: *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 the amount credited 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: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to this account shall be available for the base salary and expenses of employees that carry out the functions funded by the "Capital Improvement and Maintenance" account, the "Range Betterment Fund" account, and the "Management of National Forests for Subsistence Uses" account.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

**Change Description**

The first change removes language for wildfire risk management.

The second change removes language pertaining to Hazardous Fuels which is moved to Wildland

Fire Management and removes specific language for climate change funding.

The third change allows for the transfer of prior year Hazardous Fuels unobligated balances from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management.

**NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
[For an additional amount for "National Forest System", $710,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $535,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters, including no less than $175,000,000 for high priority post-wildfire restoration for watershed protection, critical habitat, and burned area recovery: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $175,000,000 shall be for hazardous fuels mitigation.]

(Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.)

**NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
[(Including Transfers of Funds)]
[For an additional amount for "National Forest System", $2,854,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That $734,800,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2022, $529,800,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2023, $529,800,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2024, $529,800,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2025, and $529,800,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2026: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading in this Act, the following amounts shall be for the following purposes-- (1) $2,115,000,000 for the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to carry out activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in sections 40803 and 40804 of division D of this Act, of which $587,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2022 and $382,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026;(2) In addition to amounts made available in paragraph (1) for hazardous fuels management activities, $102,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for such purposes; and(3) In addition to amounts made available in paragraph (1) for burned area recovery, $45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for such purposes: Provided further, That up to $12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 from funds made available in paragraph (2) of the preceding proviso may be used to make grants, using any authorities available for the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry" appropriation for the purposes of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands, including the Community Wood Energy Program and the Wood Innovation Grants Program: Provided further, That up to $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 from funds made available in paragraph (2) of the preceding proviso shall be for implementation of the Tribal Forestry Protection Act, as amended (Public Law 108-278): Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be transferred to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: Provided further, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may authorize the transfer of funds provided under this heading in this Act between the Departments for the purpose of carrying out activities as authorized in section 40804(b)(1) of division D of this Act: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) to carry out the activities in support of this heading: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be available for salaries and expenses: Provided further, That one-half of one percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture for oversight of funding provided to the Forest Service in this title in this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, and to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

(Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act.)

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-26. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $1,409,352 | 12,697 | $1,409,352 | 12,884 | $1,681,133 | 14,545 | +$271,781 | +1,661 | (1) |
| Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration | $40,000 | 194 | 13,787 | 8 | 13,787 | - | 80,000 | - | +66,213 | - | (2) |
| Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring | 180,000 | 861 | 16,544 | 36 | 16,544 | - | 21,544 | - | +5,000 | - | (3) |
| Hazardous Fuels [a] | 445,310 | 2,254 | 180,388 | 95 | 180,388 | - | - | - | -180,388 | - | (4) |
| Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness | 262,000 | 1,632 | 35,241 | 62 | 35,241 | - | 109,661 | - | +74,420 | - | (5) |
| Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management | 138,000 | 881 | 20,727 | 38 | 20,727 | - | 29,027 | - | +8,300 | - | (6) |
| Grazing Management | 57,000 | 390 | 5,410 | 14 | 5,410 | - | 25,547 | - | +20,137 | - | (7) |
| Forest Products | 373,000 | 2,800 | 37,017 | 112 | 37,017 | - | 37,645 | - | +628 | - | (8) |
| Vegetation and Watershed Management | 182,000 | 1,016 | 28,683 | 45 | 28,683 | - | 98,470 | - | +69,787 | - | (9) |
| Minerals and Geology Management | 74,200 | 405 | 13,282 | 18 | 13,282 | - | 44,982 | - | +31,700 | - | (10) |
| Land Use Authorization and Access | 75,000 | 437 | 6,934 | 19 | 6,934 | - | 28,934 | - | +22,000 | - | (11) |
| Law Enforcement Operations | 131,000 | 635 | 19,505 | 22 | 19,505 | - | 23,972 | - | +4,467 | - | (12) |
| Total, Discretionary Appropriations | 1,957,510 | 11,506 | 1,786,870 | 13,166 | 1,786,870 | 12,884 | 2,180,915 | 14,545 | +394,045 | +1,661 | |
| Supplemental Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [b] | - | 6 | - | 4 | - | 4 | - | 4 | - | - | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [c] | - | 8 | - | 7 | - | 7 | - | 7 | - | - | |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [d] | 34,000 | 8 | - | 54 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [e] | - | - | - | - | 710,000 | 10 | - | 10 | -710,000 | - | |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [f] | - | - | - | - | 734,800 | 1,530 | 529,800 | 3,455 | -205,000 | +1,925 | |
| Total, Supplemental Appropriations | 34,000 | 22 | - | 65 | 1,444,800 | 1,551 | 529,800 | 3,476 | -915,000 | +1,925 | |
| Total Appropriations | 1,991,510 | 11,528 | 1,786,870 | 13,231 | 3,231,670 | 14,435 | 2,710,715 | 18,021 | -520,955 | +3,586 | |
| Transfers In: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance | - | - | - | - | 20,780 | - | 21,600 | - | +820 | - | |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Communication Site Administration | - | - | - | - | 1,000 | - | - | - | -1,000 | - | |
| Total, Transfers In | - | - | - | - | 21,780 | - | 21,600 | - | -180 | - | |
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Department of the Interior | -1,118 | - | -850 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Forest Service Operations | - | - | -15,668 | - | -117,568 | - | -63,576 | - | +53,992 | - | |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | - | - | - | - | -55,000 | - | -42,840 | - | +12,160 | - | |
| Office of Inspector General | - | - | - | - | -3,669 | - | -2,649 | - | +1,020 | - | |
| Wildland Fire Management | - | - | - | - | -46,900 | - | -27,640 | - | +19,260 | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | -1,118 | - | -16,518 | - | -223,137 | - | -136,705 | - | +86,432 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 29,509 | - | 52,133 | - | 52,133 | - | 52,133 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 147,931 | - | 155,008 | - | 134,871 | - | 972,196 | - | +837,325 | - | |
| Total Available | 2,167,832 | 11,528 | 1,977,493 | 13,231 | 3,217,317 | 14,435 | 3,619,939 | 18,021 | +402,622 | +3,586 | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -155,009 | - | -134,871 | - | -972,196 | - | -894,245 | - | +77,951 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 2,012,823 | 11,528 | 1,842,622 | 13,231 | 2,245,121 | 14,435 | 2,725,694 | 18,021 | +480,573 | +3,586 | |

[a] The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2023.

[b] P.L. 115-123 provided $20,652,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

[c] P.L. 116-20 provided $84,960,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

[d] P.L. 116-136 provided $34,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[e] P.L. 117-43 provided $710,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

[f] FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43) and advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). FY 2023 supplemental appropriations are entirely advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. See also the spend plans for advance appropriations on page 213 . P.L. 117-58 provided $734,800,000 in fiscal year 2022 and $529,800,000 to be available each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

*Table FS-27. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $1,400,609 | 12,697 | $1,264,881 | 12,884 | $1,779,970 | 14,545 | +$515,089 | +1,661 |
| Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot | $2,001 | 1 | 608 | - | 549 | - | 773 | - | +224 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration ..... | 39,531 | 194 | 18,381 | 8 | 16,600 | - | 23,356 | - | +6,756 | - |
| Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring ..... | 143,722 | 861 | 20,416 | 36 | 18,438 | - | 25,942 | - | +7,504 | - |
| Hazardous Fuels [a]..... | 381,026 | 2,254 | 185,673 | 95 | 167,680 | - | 235,925 | - | +68,245 | - |
| Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness..... | 188,511 | 1,632 | 40,866 | 62 | 36,906 | - | 51,926 | - | +15,020 | - |
| Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management..... | 104,488 | 881 | 21,227 | 38 | 19,170 | - | 26,972 | - | +7,802 | - |
| Grazing Management..... | 41,432 | 390 | 5,503 | 14 | 4,970 | - | 6,992 | - | +2,022 | - |
| Forest Products ..... | 277,603 | 2,800 | 39,405 | 112 | 35,587 | - | 50,070 | - | +14,483 | - |
| Vegetation and Watershed Management ..... | 144,204 | 1,016 | 29,768 | 45 | 26,883 | - | 37,825 | - | +10,942 | - |
| Minerals and Geology Management..... | 58,393 | 405 | 12,659 | 18 | 11,432 | - | 16,085 | - | +4,653 | - |
| Land Use Authorization and Access..... | 57,012 | 437 | 6,636 | 19 | 5,993 | - | 8,432 | - | +2,439 | - |
| Law Enforcement Operations ..... | 114,731 | 635 | 20,012 | 22 | 18,073 | - | 25,428 | - | +7,355 | - |
| National Forest System – Other..... | 435,044 | - | 10,985 | - | 9,921 | - | 13,958 | - | +4,037 | - |
| Total, Discretionary Obligations..... | 1,987,698 | 11,506 | 1,812,748 | 13,166 | 1,637,083 | 12,884 | 2,303,654 | 14,545 | +666,571 | +1,661 |
| Supplemental Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [b].. | 2,928 | 6 | 4,135 | 4 | 5,044 | 4 | 1,698 | 4 | -3,346 | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [c].... | 6,141 | 8 | 8,471 | 7 | 6,439 | 7 | 2,642 | 7 | -3,797 | - |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [d] ..... | 16,056 | 8 | 17,268 | 54 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [e] .... | - | - | - | - | 106,500 | 10 | 106,500 | 10 | - | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [f] ..... | - | - | - | - | 490,055 | 1,530 | 311,200 | 3,455 | -178,855 | +1,925 |
| Total, Supplemental Obligations ..... | 25,125 | 22 | 29,874 | 65 | 608,038 | 1,551 | 422,040 | 3,476 | -185,998 | +1,925 |
| Total Obligations ..... | 2,012,823 | 11,528 | 1,842,622 | 13,231 | 2,245,121 | 14,435 | 2,725,694 | 18,021 | +480,573 | +3,586 |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses..... | - | - | 8,742 | - | 42,508 | - | 8,229 | - | -34,279 | - |
| Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot..... | 234 | - | 130 | - | 633 | - | 780 | - | +147 | - |
| Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration ..... | 5,714 | - | 2,472 | - | 11,559 | - | 13,828 | - | +2,269 | - |
| Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring ..... | 5,619 | - | 4,944 | - | 23,558 | - | 29,151 | - | +5,593 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hazardous Fuels | 4,350 | - | 7,570 | - | 36,335 | - | 45,403 | - | +9,068 | - |
| Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness | 5,263 | - | 3,042 | - | 14,303 | - | 17,744 | - | +3,441 | - |
| Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management | 2,270 | - | 3,941 | - | 19,177 | - | 23,136 | - | +3,959 | - |
| Grazing Management | 819 | - | -17 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Forest Products | 4,813 | - | 5,872 | - | 28,073 | - | 34,719 | - | +6,646 | - |
| Vegetation and Watershed Management | 2,915 | - | 6,215 | - | 29,242 | - | 36,776 | - | +7,534 | - |
| Minerals and Geology Management | 4,475 | - | 5,714 | - | 27,304 | - | 34,270 | - | +6,966 | - |
| Land Use Authorization and Access | 2,722 | - | 1,820 | - | 8,855 | - | 10,915 | - | +2,060 | - |
| Law Enforcement Operations | 3,330 | - | 5,426 | - | 26,402 | - | 32,043 | - | +5,641 | - |
| National Forest System – Other | 7,148 | - | 2,556 | - | 12,437 | - | 15,329 | - | +2,892 | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [b] | 10,596 | - | 6,742 | - | 1,698 | - | - | - | -1,698 | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [c] | 76,797 | - | 68,872 | - | 62,433 | - | 59,791 | - | -2,642 | - |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [d] | 17,944 | - | 830 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [e] | - | - | - | - | 605,982 | - | 501,622 | - | -104,360 | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [f] | - | - | - | - | 21,697 | - | 30,509 | - | +8,812 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 155,009 | - | 134,871 | - | 972,196 | - | 894,245 | - | -77,951 | - |
| Total Available | 2,167,832 | 11,528 | 1,977,493 | 13,231 | 3,217,317 | 14,435 | 3,619,939 | 18,021 | +402,622 | +3,586 |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers Out | 1,118 | - | 16,518 | - | 223,137 | - | 136,705 | - | -86,432 | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -29,509 | - | -52,133 | - | -52,133 | - | -52,133 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -147,931 | - | -155,008 | - | -134,871 | - | -972,196 | - | -837,325 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 1,991,510 | 11,528 | 1,786,870 | 13,231 | 3,231,670 | 14,435 | 2,710,715 | 18,021 | -520,955 | +3,586 |

[a] The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2023.

[b] P.L. 115-123 provided $20,652,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

[c] P.L. 116-20 provided $84,960,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

[d] P.L. 116-136 provided $34,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[e] P.L. 117-43 provided $710,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

[f] P.L. 117-58 provided $734,800,000 in fiscal year 2022 and $529,800,000 to be available each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

**Salaries and Expenses: An increase of $271,781,000 and 1,661 full-time equivalents (FTE) from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $40,401,000, which includes $28,706,000 for pay inflation and $11,695,000 for 2022 Pay and FERS. This increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022, of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS.

b) An increase of $61,702,000 for 2023 Pay. This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase. Without this increase, the agency will have diminished capacity in non-fire programs needed to meet Administration priorities for climate adaptation and resilience, equity, Tribal lands, building the recreation economy, land management monitoring, and land management science and planning.

c) An increase of $100,000,000 to strengthen areas that are needed to support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) but are not targeted for funding in the bill. An increase in capacity is necessary to perform land line surveys, realty management, cadastral and engineering services in support of the increase in pace and scale of the Agency's wildland fuels reduction activities outlined in the 10-year strategy. In addition, increased capacity in engineering, recreation planning, patrol and service technicians, and grants and agreement specialists are necessary to support The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152) as well as the portions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that target trail and recreation infrastructure.

d) An increase of $3,000,000 for Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) Salaries and Expenses. In FY 2020 and FY 2021, National Forest System lands experienced unprecedented visitation and use due to COVID-19 related closures and restrictions of traditional recreation/use areas. Law Enforcement staff provided an increased public safety presence and documented an over 30 percent increase in enforcement activities. Increased visitation and workload, pandemic and natural disaster related response pressures, and current scrutiny on law enforcement nationwide resulted in significant losses of staff due to voluntary retirements and other voluntary separations. These losses have a significant detrimental impact on the agency's ability to provide safety and security on public lands. In addition, this impacts the agency's ability to foster and maintain relationships with the public and involvement in initiatives such as community policing. The increase would aid the LEI program in filling 12-15 vacant positions each year. Many positions remain vacant for 12-18 months until new staff are trained, or sometimes the positions simply cannot be filled due to lack of funding. Essential mission critical training and certifications were either cancelled or unachievable during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a critical backlog of required training requires additional funding and time to restore staff levels to pre-pandemic capabilities. The additional funding will also ensure that LEI personnel receive mandatory annual trainings such as use of force, defensive tactics, legal refresher, firearm requalification, professional standards, and leadership development.

e) An increase of $66,678,000 to support staffing in visitor services, recreation improvements and enrichment opportunities, public engagement, enhanced customer experiences, planning, monitoring, electronic services through ePermits and eServices, special uses administration, grazing management, integrated vegetation management, reforestation, climate impact management, and the improvement and restoration of infrastructure on National Forest System lands. The Forest Service has lost more than 40 percent of its non-fire positions over the past 15 years, significantly limiting its ability to perform other critical mission work in recreation, multiple uses, landscape restoration and conservation, and species recovery. An investment in staffing for these other critical programs will enhance social and economic benefits to the American public, helping to achieve the Administration's current priorities of building a recreation economy and enhancing community involvement in combating climate change. All programs contribute to providing equal opportunities to diverse and underprivileged communities to include tribal nations.

Finally, the increase will provide a substantial investment towards the agency's focus on implementing a new staffing model in support of the continued fuels reduction targets the agency is expected to achieve. For instance, planning efforts, wildlife surveys, and land surveys must be completed in landscapes prior to a fuels project. Staff to support this work did not receive funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act but are critical to meet the expected scale of work. Funding put towards planning efforts will also be used to finalize the Alaska Roadless rule by the end of FY 2023. The overall increase will allow the agency to begin the process of building the necessary capacity to meet the National Environmental Policy Act and other environment review and permitting requirements necessary to achieve the agency's 10-year wildland fire strategy. As part of its efforts to increase capacity, the agency will target highly talented and diverse candidates from all backgrounds, age groups, and communities with a focus towards Tribal and underserved communities.

**Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration: An increase of $66,213,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $66,213,000 to support the Administration's priorities around climate adaptation and resilience that directly benefit sustainable ecosystems. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program promotes collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. CFLR project landscapes are selected through a competitive process based, in part, on whether the proposal is likely to reduce wildland fire risk. A recent Forest Service analysis of fuels treatments on five CFLR projects across the country showed a decrease in average burn probability, expected annual area burned, and predicted flame lengths.

   Funding will be prioritized to support the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) through service and supply contracts as well as agreements with partners. Funding provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expands the agency capacity to deliver benefits that directly support and focus on wildfire risk management. These benefits will directly contribute to sustainable and productive use of National Forest System lands.

**Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring: An increase of $5,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $5,000,000 to support the Administration's priorities to coordinate, develop, and apply policies and practices that directly benefit climate adaptation and resilience. Managing lands requires a continuous cycle of assessing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting programs and projects based on new information. Funding will support all program areas across the National Forest System and help further the Administration's goal of pursuing nature-based climate solutions by protecting and restoring National Forest System ecosystems to provide carbon sequestration and storage and to enhance ecosystem and human community resilience.

   Across the system, over 65 land management plans are over 15 years old and in need of amendment or revision. The funding requested will support the agency's new business model for planning, helping to manage and reduce the plan backlog. The agency is proposing a "New Planning Model" that consolidates revision efforts, staffing, and expertise into Planning Service Groups and National Teams. The additional funding would support the required assistance for designing and fully operationalizing the emerging New Planning Model and standing up the associated national teams.

**Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness: An increase of $74,420,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $71,420,000 will be used to increase capacity for critical recreation operations, planning, services, and improvements, with particular emphasis on creating welcoming, sustainable, and equitable recreation opportunities for all Americans with a focus towards underserved and Tribal communities. The funding will be used to accelerate and simplify the permitting process for outfitters and guides and maintain strong collaborations with partners and volunteer groups to increase the ability to meet visitor needs. Increased funding will allow the Forest Service to pursue innovative ways to address and serve the recreational needs of the increasing numbers of new and returning visitors who want year-round activities on National Forest System

lands, while managing the associated social and environmental impacts, particularly in more dispersed recreation settings.

A portion of this increase will also be used for Wilderness Stewardship Performance, Wilderness Character Monitoring, and critical planning processes associated with Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. This work will support critical efforts to better understand climate-related impacts and threats to congressionally designated areas and to plan, adjust, and implement climate resilient stewardship strategies that preserve wilderness character and protect and enhance river values, as the agency is required to do under the Wilderness Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Great American Outdoors Act (P.L. 116-152) gave the agency new opportunities to deliver benefits to the American public through major investments in recreation infrastructure, public lands access, and land and water conservation. Outdoor recreation contributes an estimated $460 billion to the Nation's economy, with government leaders recognizing parks, beaches, and open spaces as indispensable infrastructure for livable and prosperous communities, for purifying air and providing clean drinking water, and in defending against the impacts of climate change. Funds will be prioritized to build the recreation economy through partnerships and contracts commensurate to the necessary maintenance of existing and new infrastructure the agency will acquire through the Great American Outdoors Act. This funding level will provide resources for managing and operating visitor services, visitor information centers, visitor interpretive programs, recreation improvements and enrichment opportunities, and public engagement programs that enhance customer experiences.

b) Of this increase, the agency will also fund a minimum of $3,000,000 for the Climate Conservation Corps in support of the next generation of citizen stewards who will work in recreation or wilderness areas conducting educational and interpretive programs, monitor visitor use, pick-up trash along waterways or trails, and staff recreation areas.

### Wildlife and Fisheries Management: An increase of $8,300,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:

a) An increase of $8,300,000 to support the Administration's priorities of improving watershed and landscape conditions especially impacted by catastrophic wildfire. Using climate-informed decision making and considering additional agency priorities, restoration activities such as reforestation and source water protection will be increased. Agency capacity to accomplish other projects that mitigate climate change impacts, enhance watershed health, and improve landscape resilience will increase as well. The funding will also be used for green infrastructure that improves fish and wildlife habitat connectivity and helps to recover Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed or ESA candidate species that depend on National Forest System lands.

Additional funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) expands agency capacity to deliver benefits that directly support and focus on wildfire risk management. These benefits will directly contribute to sustainable and productive use of National Forest System lands. Funds will be prioritized to support the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act through service and supply contracts as well as agreements with partners.

### Grazing Management: An increase of $20,137,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:

a) An increase of $20,137,000 to support post-fire restoration and provide for strategic incentives to grazing permittees. This work supports the Administration's priorities outlined in the America the Beautiful report with the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters by 2030. The agency will use the increased funding to make investments in infrastructure and restore allotments impacted by wildfire, as well as invest in planning efficiencies and develop strategies to deploy best management practices across allotments. The goal of this work is to build vibrant rural economies that supply food and fiber while developing strong and lasting stewardship traditions. This investment will provide incentives for voluntary conservation practices, rewarding ranchers for being good stewards of working lands, waters, and wildlife habitat.

Additional funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) expands agency capacity to deliver benefits that directly support and focus on wildfire risk management. These benefits will directly contribute to sustainable and productive use of National Forest System lands. Funds will be prioritized to support the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act through service and supply contracts as well as agreements with partners.

**Forest Products: An increase of $628,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $628,000 to support forest product modernization efforts to realize efficiencies in the agency's vegetation program. The program will expand the use of new and existing technologies and will create efficiencies by reducing time and resources required to access remote and high-safety risk terrain. This work will include the expanded use of Unmanned Aerial Systems for monitoring, data collection, and surveillance; the use of GPS coordinates to establish cutting unit boundaries instead of the physical painting of trees; and the use of comparative cruising of similar areas to estimate sale quantities rather than taking actual sample measurements across a hazardous landscape. This will help safely provide critical knowledge to make decisions using artificial intelligence instead of physical labor. This increase will help sustain the agency's Forest Management program as a critical piece of our overall strategy to reduce wildfire risk.

   Additional funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) expands agency capacity to deliver benefits that directly support and focus on wildfire risk management. These benefits will directly contribute to sustainable and productive use of National Forest System lands. Funds will be prioritized to support the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act through service and supply contracts as well as agreements with partners.

**Vegetation and Watershed Management: An increase of $69,787,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $69,787,000 to support healthy and resilient watersheds and landscapes, sustain the production of clean and abundant air and water, assist with meeting the Administration's climate goals, and contribute to healthy and productive rural communities and Tribal Nations. This increase will also support the post-wildfire restoration work necessary for improving watershed and landscape conditions for areas impacted by catastrophic wildfire that do not qualify for Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER).

   The Forest Service's post-wildfire restoration needs have outpaced available resources, leaving the agency unable to accomplish timely restoration of lands unlikely to recover naturally. Additional funding to rehabilitate burned areas would reduce the negative impacts of having to choose between rehabilitation of burned areas and other natural resource management priorities. The consequences of not restoring ecosystems post-fire can include conversion to non-forested conditions and much delayed ecosystem recovery, which impacts the ecosystem's potential for carbon storage over time and the land's capacity to assist with mitigation of further climate change. Using climate-informed decision making and considering additional Administration and agency priorities, restoration activities such as reforestation and source water protection will be increased. Agency capacity to accomplish other projects that mitigate climate change impacts, enhance watershed health, and improve landscape resilience will also increase.

   Additional funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) expands the agency capacity to deliver benefits that directly support and focus on wildfire risk management. These benefits will directly contribute to sustainable and productive use of National Forest System lands. Funds will be prioritized to support the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act through service and supply contracts as well as agreements with partners.

**Minerals and Geology Management: An increase of $31,700,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $31,700,000 to support efforts to locate and prioritize orphaned oil and gas wells for remediation with a focus on plugging high risk, leaking wells. National Forest System lands contain thousands of orphan oil

and gas wells, primarily in the eastern United States. This work will utilize the Climate Conservation Corps and support the agency's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility goals. The next generation of citizen stewards will be deployed to identify legacy or orphan wells on National Forest System lands. A portion of the funding will be directed to contractors to undertake capping the wells. Funding will also support the inventory, environmental analysis, and clean-up of mine reclamation sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Additional funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (H.R. 3684) expands the agency capacity to deliver benefits that support abandoned hardrock mine reclamation on National Forest System lands. The priority investment of IIJA will increase pace and scale for ecosystem restoration producing desired outcomes such as community protection, forest and grassland restoration, watershed restoration, mine remediation, and wildlife habitat improvement on National Forest System lands.

### Land Use Authorization and Access: An increase of $22,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:

a) An increase of $6,000,000 to support the Administration's priorities utilizing land appraisal and technical assistance contracting. This work will expedite land acquisitions and exchanges and facilitate third party acquisition agreements, supporting the expansion of public access to National Forest System lands.

b) An increase of $8,000,000 to support needed cadastral surveys for roads and rights-of-way projects that would improve access, harden sites, and resolve title claims and encroachments from potential realignments. These efforts will increase the availability of access to remediate orphan oil and gas wells and abandoned mine lands and critical access points along pipelines, electric transmissions lines, and communications sites.

c) An increase of $8,000,000 to fund various projects to bolster the resilience of National Forest System lands to climate change. This work includes repairing roads affected by flood events and examining and stabilizing dams that are at risk of failure due to unpredictable rain events. The agency will prioritize work that addresses potential exposure of fiber optic lines within road system rights-of-way due to erosion from more frequent rain events and addressing decreased life expectancy of permitted infrastructure due to the changes in climate. Funding will also be used for preparing for an influx of relicensing of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower projects and removing large-scale sediment deposits that are causing clean water system failures.

   Additional funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (H.R. 3684) will further expand the agency's capacity to deliver benefits, survey lands in advance of timber sales, and acquire rights-of-way. This additional funding will also allow the agency to administer road agreements necessary for public and agency access to complete activities, including timber production, transportation, recreation, and utility inspection. The priority investment of IIJA will increase pace and scale for ecosystem restoration producing desired outcomes such as community protection, forest and grassland restoration, watershed restoration, mine remediation, and wildlife habitat improvement on National Forest System lands.

### Law Enforcement Operations: An increase of $4,467,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR which includes the following:

The Law Enforcement Operations (LEI) program plays a critical role as a USDA Primary Mission Essential Function (PMEF) - Provide Safety and Security on Public Lands. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers conduct a range of enforcement activities and criminal and civil investigations involving 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. An increase of $4,467,000 is requested to address mission critical equipment and technology upgrades and rising fleet costs.

a) An increase of $4,000,000 will enable the LEI program to provide an increased and more capable law enforcement presence on national forests. The funding will be used to maintain current cooperative agreements,

acquire much needed technology and equipment to support patrol activities and investigations, and continue to maintain safety and prevent damage to natural resources.

At present, almost 80 percent of the program's allocated funding is expended on Fleet and Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements (CLE) alone. These CLE agreements are critical to public safety and State, local, and county law enforcement partners, but the large share of CLEs in the budget is unsustainable without adequate funding.

The increase in funding will also allow the program to shift resources toward the acquisition and maintenance of technology and equipment for new and existing staff so they can properly serve the public and protect our Nation's natural resources. Anticipated additional investments include body-worn cameras, in-vehicle cameras, personal protective equipment, the continued development of our National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) compliant Law Enforcement Investigation Reporting System (LEIRS), technology upgrades and maintenance, LIDAR devices for fire investigations, and specialized equipment (UTVs, ATVs, Trailers) that meet unique needs of the geographic areas the agency serves.

The additional funding will allow the LEI program to fully equip newly hired staff. For example, each new Law Enforcement Officer requires additional agency costs, including an average of $10,000 for equipment such as body armor, uniform, weapons and other safety equipment and outfitted vehicles costing more than $50,000.

A portion of the $4,000,000 increase will also be used to continue to prevent the serious damage to natural resources caused by illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands. Hazardous materials and activities at illegal grow sites cause significant and long-lasting damage to ecosystems, water sources, and wildlife. Funding to support illegal grow sites and anti-smuggling efforts is consistent with the National Drug Control Strategy. The funding will also enable the law enforcement organization to maintain public safety at the annual Rainbow Family of Living Light Gatherings. Attendance at these national and regional gatherings is expected to increase by about 10,000 visitors, compared to past years. Serious property and person crime on national forests during these events has increased, and more LEI resources and staffing will be needed to manage safety and conduct law enforcement activities.

b) An increase of $467,000 will be used to cover increased law enforcement fleet costs. Increased visitation to public lands has resulted in an increase in mileage/use along with wear and tear for law enforcement vehicles. Vehicle replacements have been delayed due to supply chain shortages, maintenance, and repair industry prices have also increased and are expected to continue to increase over the coming years.

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-28. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | $18,078 | $20,331 | $22,180 | $27,691 |
| | Personnel compensation, field | 853,951 | 960,369 | 1,047,728 | 1,308,050 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 872,029 | 980,700 | 1,069,908 | 1,335,741 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 363,832 | 406,478 | 443,453 | 553,635 |
| 13.0 | Benefits for former personnel | 1,173 | 81 | 88 | 110 |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 1,237,034 | 1,387,259 | 1,513,449 | 1,889,486 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 23,378 | 12,803 | 20,572 | 20,636 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 13,992 | 8,481 | 13,627 | 13,670 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 18,013 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 21,848 | 417 | 670 | 672 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 40,728 | 1,320 | 2,121 | 2,128 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 991 | 281 | 452 | 453 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 337 | 13 | 21 | 21 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 181,922 | 124,134 | 199,457 | 200,079 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 223,017 | 93,822 | 150,752 | 151,221 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 1,268 | 535 | 860 | 862 |
| 25.5 | Research and development contracts | -5 | 701 | 1,126 | 1,130 |
| 25.6 | Medical care | 153 | 98 | 157 | 158 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 5,683 | 3,243 | 5,211 | 5,227 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 46,726 | 36,043 | 57,913 | 58,094 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 19,035 | 7,211 | 11,587 | 11,623 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 2,282 | 741 | 1,191 | 1,195 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 174,689 | 163,553 | 262,794 | 365,870 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | 1,612 | 1,784 | 2,867 | 2,875 |
| 43.0 | Interest and dividends | 16 | 29 | 47 | 47 |
| 92.0 | Undistributed | 104 | 150 | 241 | 241 |
| | Total, other objects | 775,789 | 455,363 | 731,672 | 836,208 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 2,012,823 | 1,842,622 | 2,245,121 | 2,725,694 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 334 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $185,158 | $183,533 | $188,488 | $193,578 |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $54,110 | $69,440 | $71,315 | $73,240 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 9.8 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

## Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration

### *Current Activities*

This program uses collaborative, science-based approaches to enhance forest and watershed health, reduce risk from uncharacteristic wildfire, and provide benefits to rural economies. By working closely with communities, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) projects continue to identify innovative techniques for increasing community support for restoration projects, leveraging capacity, and expanding the scale of restoration. CFLRP's community-based investments in restoration support local rural communities through the production of forest products, such as timber and biomass, and the creation and maintenance of jobs. The CFLRP Advisory Committee evaluates, supports, and provides recommendations on nominated CFLRP projects to the Secretary of Agriculture.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

With its focused investment on priority landscapes, partner capacity, and community support, CFLRP projects are expanding the pace and scale of treatments that reduce the risk of widespread, high-mortality fires. In FY 2020 and FY 2021, with 13 and then 14 active CFLRP projects, respectively, the program treated an average of 261,000 acres annually to reduce hazardous fuels and produced an average of 209 million board feet of timber volume sold annually.

By promoting shared leadership, shared capacity, and shared risk, CFLRP projects generate community 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[28]. In response to a 2020 survey of CFLRP agency and partner practitioners, 81 percent said that more restoration is happening due to collaboration[29]. The collaborative approach has expanded beyond the CFLRP landscape and has become a standard business practice across the agency.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

CFLRP Project Implementation and New Selections. In FY 2021, there were 14 active projects, 13 of which ended their 10-year funding at the end of FY 2021 and one new project. In FY 2021, the active CFLRP projects accomplished integrated results including 315,000 acres of hazardous fuels treatments, 60 miles of stream habitat enhanced, 200 million board feet of timber volume sold, and 9,500 acres of forest vegetation established.

Northern Blues CFLRP. A new CFLRP project first funded in FY 2021, the Northern Blues CFLRP was the top ranked new proposal from the 2020 request for new proposals. The proposal was developed by the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests with diverse partners who bring a strong record of cross-boundary restoration spanning Northeastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington.

Project Extension Proposals. In FY 2021, a request for 2012 CFLRP project extensions was initiated. The CFLRP Federal Advisory Committee reviewed the proposals and recommended eight extensions to the Secretary. CFLRP projects can be granted a one-time extension for the shortest time practicable to complete their proposal. Extensions continue to generate results on the land and in communities alongside new CFLRP projects. CFLRP Advisory Committee members are appointed based on their expertise and knowledge in seven areas named in the authorizing legislation: ecological restoration, fire ecology, fire management, rural economic development, strategies for ecological adaptation to climate change, fish and wildlife ecology, and woody biomass and small-diameter tree utilization. In reviewing the proposals, the committee evaluated the ecological restoration strategies, the strength of the collaborative process, and the likelihood of achieving long term reductions in wildfire management costs among other criteria.

[28] Schultz et al (2017). Strategies for Success Under Forest Service Restoration Initiatives. Ecosystem Workforce Program Working Paper Number 81.
[29] National Forest Foundation CFLRP Collaboration Survey, 2020 (https://www.nationalforests.org/assets/pdfs/Collaboration-IndicatorSurvey-Results-2020-publish.pdf).

## Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring

### *Current Activities*

Land management plans (LMPs) guide National Forest System management activities on the 154 national forests and 20 grasslands. Land management requires a continuous cycle of assessing, planning, implementing, and adjusting programs and projects based on new information. In FY 2021, 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 improve forest and grassland conditions.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021, the agency continued to revise 19 LMPs (16 under the 2012 Planning Rule and three under the 1982 Planning Procedures).

*Table FS-29. FY 2022 Land Management Revision and Amendment – Status of Projects*

| Region | National Forest | Revision/ Amendment | Status/Projected Completion |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 01 | Custer Gallatin National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 01 | Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 02 | Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests | Revision | Underway |
| 02 | Black Hills National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 03 | Carson National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 03 | Cibola National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 03 | Gila National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 03 | Santa Fe National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 03 | Tonto National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 03 | Lincoln National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 04 | Ashley National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 04 | Manti-La Sal National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 04 | Salmon National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 05 | Sierra National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 05 | Sequoia National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |
| 06 | Malheur National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 06 | Umatilla National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 06 | Wallowa-Whitman National Forest | Revision | Underway |
| 08 | Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest | Revision | FY 2022 completion |

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Release of Land Management Plans. In FY 2021, the agency facilitated the clearance and release of several draft and final land management plans, in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule. These include the Draft Forest Plan for Lincoln National Forest in the Southwestern Region; final plans for the Carson National Forest, Santa Fe National Forest, and the Cibola National Forest in the Southwestern Region; and the post-objection final plan for the Custer-Gallatin National Forest in the Northern Region.

Monitoring Evaluation Reports. In the first 60 days of FY 2022, four monitoring reports were developed and released to provide information to responsible officials and the public about the status of the corresponding land management plan's monitoring program. In FY 2021, 15 biennial monitoring and evaluation reports were developed and released. The Northern, Pacific Southwest, and Southern Regions have developed and released 5-year regional broad-scale monitoring strategies, and strategies are in development in other regions. Data stewardship to improve

the quality of data available for USDA monitoring and performance dashboards remains a priority, including promoting more consistent analysis methods.

## Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness

### *Current Activities*

The Recreation program administers recreation sites, including campgrounds, day-use and dispersed areas, trails, and special use authorizations, such as ski areas, year-round resorts, and numerous outfitter and guide permits. This program provides recreational access to over 193 million acres on national forest lands containing more than 27,000 campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, and day-use areas; 220,000 miles of fishable streams; almost 160,000 miles of trail opportunities, 33,000 special use permits, and 122 ski areas. The Heritage program supports the agency's mission across most deputy areas by developing ways to streamline compliance with historic preservation laws while protecting more than 450,000 heritage sites. The Wilderness program manages more than 36 million acres of wilderness areas, and the Wild & Scenic Rivers program administers nearly 5,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers.

### *Specifically Addressed Area*

Participation in all forms of outdoor recreation continues to grow, from 151.8 million participants in 2018 to 160.7 million in 2020.[30] Outdoor recreation accounts for 2.1 percent of U.S. Gross Domestic Product, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis calculates the economic output of outdoor recreation to be $788 billion. Outdoor recreation generates 5.2 million jobs in the United States and outdoor recreation amenities are consistently ranked as one of the top reasons people move to rural towns.

Demand for access to outdoor settings and outdoor recreational experiences is increasing at a rapid pace. Federal land management agencies, assisted by partners and gateway communities, host the largest and most diverse array of outdoor recreation opportunities in the world. During the pandemic, participation in outdoor recreation increased significantly and is expected to continue to grow. Forest Service visitation figures confirm 168 million visits to National Forests in 2020, an increase of 18 million visits from 2019.

Recreation, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing together sustain more jobs than any other activity on the National Forests and Grasslands. The associated visitor spending supports local businesses that provide guides, outfitting, transportation, food, lodging, and other services. Recreation visitor use supported about 168,300 jobs and $13.5 billion to the Nation's GDP in 2020.There are opportunities to integrate and coordinate an all-of-government approach to economic development by helping communities realize the potential of recreation as a driver to support healthy communities, strong businesses, thriving outdoor places, and equitable outdoor recreation opportunities.

To sustain and grow this level of access, the Forest Service is increasing opportunities found on Recreation.gov, modernizing the national forest webpages, 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. Historic legislation like the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116 – 152) invests in recreation infrastructure by addressing deferred maintenance of recreation sites and trail systems. Modernization of the recreation special uses program continues to be an agency focus, as these efforts enable the Forest Service to enhance mission delivery and access for services on NFS lands and forward critical advances in customer experience. The program has continued to grow, provide new customer service offerings like the Trail Stewardship program, and support critical issues in FY21 including economic recovery, wildfires, and COVID-19.

National emphasis also continues to be placed on improving planning processes and completing and updating comprehensive river management plans for designated wild and scenic rivers. The Forest Service continues to emphasize efforts to use technology for organizing and sharing information, as well as expand opportunities for interactive learning and engagement with internal and external audiences. The successful shared river stewardship efforts through interagency collaborations and nongovernmental partnerships will continue to implement needed

[30] Inspiring the Future Outdoor Recreation Economy. 2021. Headwaters Economics and State Outdoor Business Alliance Network https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/2021HE-SOBAN-Report-FINAL-DOWNLOAD_2.pdf

projects, complete water quality data collection, and facilitate connections with diverse communities throughout the country.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Modernizing Customer Service. To accommodate increased access, the Forest Service developed new ways of doing business to safely serve the recreating public. The Forest Service continues to offer Recreation.gov to the public as 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. Recreation.gov introduced timed reservation tickets to many popular recreation areas and National Parks to ensure social distancing and appropriate capacity. Online Christmas Tree Permits and digital passes were developed for the public to purchase recreation passes remotely and safely. Curbside pickup services for recreation permits have continued to minimize face-to-face transactions while ensuring the health and safety of the public and agency employees. Offline or online digital payments for first-come/first-served campsites were also successfully used by visitors through the Recreation.gov mobile application, reducing the need for cash handling. Many visitors were first-time recreation users of national forest lands. Steps were taken to ensure safe operations and long-term viability of recreation service provider partners. These partners ensured that the Forest Service was able to meet the needs of visitors.

Wilderness Accomplishment Reporting. Since FY 2015, Wilderness Stewardship Performance has tracked management actions in the Forest Service's 448 wilderness areas. Annual average accomplishment reporting continues to show improvements towards addressing desired actions across 20 interdisciplinary elements. These elements help define successful wilderness stewardship based on the Wilderness Act and comprise the essential qualities of wilderness character. Collaborative efforts to leverage funds with partner organizations has doubled and, in some cases, quadrupled agency funds. In FY 2021, the Forest Service funded 31 Wilderness Stewardship Performance projects across 146 wilderness areas. National funding for Wilderness Stewardship Performance facilitated a continued upward trajectory of national performance measurement scores. Under the Wilderness Character Monitoring program, the first round of monitoring for all agency wilderness areas will be completed by the end of FY 2024. As of FY 2021, the agency has completed Wilderness Character Monitoring work on about 22 percent of its wilderness areas (99 wilderness areas). Combined with baseline data collections in process, the Forest Service has collected baseline data or is in the process of doing so on about 60 percent of the agency's wilderness areas. The Forest Service will continue to lead the effort in this interagency program to establish baseline data for all agency wilderness areas and prepare wilderness areas for the second round of monitoring. Following the second round, the agency can determine trends in wilderness character across agency boundaries.

Improvements to Heritage Web. In FY 2021, the program made improvements to Heritage Web[31]. The improvements include a Heritage Export Tool enabling the Forest Service to share data with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) digitally instead of with conventional reports. This reduces data entry time by an estimated 25 percent. While the tool is still under development, substantial progress toward its completion was made in FY 2021.

## Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management

### *Current Activities*

This program manages habitats and maintains ecological conditions needed to maintain the diversity, viability, and productivity of plant and animal communities; and reforestation and revegetation efforts in support of ecological restoration and post-wildfire recovery. Habitat restoration ensures vital amenities such as clean water and recreational opportunities remain available.

National Forest System lands contain many different habitats, including 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

[31] Internal, confidential database of Heritage assets. The data contained within the database is confidential as required by the 1979 Archeological Resource Protection Act as amended 16 USC Chapter 18 Section 470hh/Recreation

and Canada lynx; greater than 28 million acres of wild turkey habitat; and 50 percent of the Nation's premier trout and salmon habitat in the continental United States.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021 an emphasis was placed on integrated projects that produced multiple resource benefits. Agency funds were used to leverage nearly $33 million from partners to conserve and restore more than 3.2 million acres of wildlife habitat while delivering important economic, social, and cultural benefits to communities and stakeholders. Working with partners, the wildlife program enhanced wildlife habitat in conjunction with commercial timber harvest on 123,261 acres and with hazardous fuels reduction on 1.3 million acres. The agency worked side-by-side with Federal, State, Tribal, nonprofit, and community partners to improve, maintain, monitor, and restore terrestrial and riparian habitats while delivering lands of many uses to the American people.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Aquatic Organism Passage Improvements. In FY 2021, the Forest Service achieved the removal or upgrade of nearly 100 road-stream crossings, providing improved aquatic organism, such as fish, crustaceans, or mollusks, passage to more than 170 miles of reconnected stream segments. This critical climate change adaptation work provides ecological resiliency for many valuable threatened and endangered aquatic species and builds community and transportation infrastructure resiliency in the face of warming waters and increased flooding potential. Agency and partner investments in mitigating priority barriers will help reach the agency's goal of making an additional 1,500 culverts, dams, and irrigation diversions fish-passage friendly in the next five years. This significant milestone is made possible by the continued commitment of partners, as well as supplemental funding provided by the Great American Outdoors Act (P.L. 116-152). Major partners include the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, several Native American Tribes, Trout Unlimited, and State transportation and fish and wildlife agencies.

## Grazing Management

***Current Activities***

The Grazing Management program manages approximately 94 million acres (about half of all National Forest System lands) of rangeland resources on National Forest System lands to maintain a sustainable supply of forage for livestock, sustain water resources, and provide suitable wildlife habitat and ecosystem services. Program goals are met with support of partners, which include Society for Range Management, Public Lands Council, Sustainable Rangeland Roundtable, and numerous local livestock producer organizations.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

Based on the agency's FY 2020 economic analysis, livestock grazing on National Forests and Grasslands contributed about 14,200 jobs and $553 million to the Nation's GDP. Providing forage for livestock promotes economic stability for rural communities while using livestock grazing as a management tool to reduce fine fuels, combat 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, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Grazing management practices are informed by Forest Service research. Rangelands within semiarid ecosystems face challenges such as invasive species, encroachment of woody vegetation, altered fire regimes, and drought. This research contributes to the development of long-term risk management strategies to improve rangeland management.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Policy and Regulatory Reforms. In FY 2021, the agency continued efforts on the proposed Rangeland Management directives (Forest Service Manual and Handbook) by analyzing and responding to public and internal comments received during the public comment period. Approximately 2,500 comment letters were received. Comments were analyzed and edits incorporated into the Final Directives, which will be finalized and released by chapters throughout FY 2022 and FY 2023. Revision of the Rangeland Management Directives is an effort to modernize and update the directives that have been essentially unchanged for the past 30 years. Efforts on the Proposed Excess and Unauthorized Use Rule (published October 2020) continued throughout FY 2021 as the agency began the process

for clearance of the Final Rule, publication, and implementation in FY 2022. Modifications to the rule were made based on Tribal and public input.

Adapting to Challenges Posed by COVID-19. In FY 2020 and FY 2021, the agency was faced with many challenges, including COVID-19 and an intense fire season. Revised guidance for the FY 2021 grazing season was issued allowing line officer discretion when assisting livestock operators to mitigate these challenges. Staff were available to meet with permittees, either in person following the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, by phone, email, or other electronic platforms, to finalize FY 2021 grazing plans. Additionally, staff continued to conduct field visits while following CDC recommendations, and leveraged available tools, such as Pay.gov, to ensure flexibility in payment methods.

## Forest Products

### *Current Activities*

This program ensures the productive and sustainable use of national forest lands by supporting healthy and resilient forests and communities. Through the annual sale of billions of board feet of timber, this program generates jobs in rural America.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

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 lands via agreements or contracts. A total of 338 GNA agreements covering a variety of restoration activities are in place across 38 States, with 53 new agreements implemented in FY 2021. Timber harvesting under GNA continues to grow; 273 million board feet were sold in FY 2021 under this authority, an increase from 235 million board feet in FY 2020. The 2018 Farm Bill expanded GNA authority to allow counties and Tribes to participate in the program. There are currently three GNA agreements with counties and three with Tribes that are focused primarily on resource areas surrounding wildlife and fisheries habitat.

In FY 2021, the program continued implementation of the Forest Products Modernization Strategic Framework for Long-Term Action, a five-year plan (2019-2023) to modernize and improve policies, business practices, and tools to increase efficiency in the planning and implementation of forest products delivery. In FY 2021, program staff continued to migrate many of their training programs to a virtual format, allowing field staff to receive necessary training while remaining safe during COVID-19, and lowering training costs. The program also continued revising the Forest Service Manual and Handbook directives for timber sale preparation for public comment, including consultation with Tribes. In FY 2021, the program developed and tested a web-based application for announcing timber sale contract advertisements. The application launched October 1, 2021.

The agency continued implementation of 2018 Farm Bill provisions related to self-governance agreements (often referred to as 638 agreements or contracts) under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. This authority allows the agency to carry out demonstration projects by which Federally recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations may contract to perform administrative, management, and other functions of programs of the Tribal Forest Protection Act. This enables Tribes across the Nation to collaborate in the "planning and implementation of programs for the benefit of Indians in ways that are responsive to the true needs of Indian communities." Agreements for inaugural pilot projects have been signed with the Tulalip tribes in Washington and the Pueblo of Jemez in New Mexico, with more projects planned across the country.

The Forest Products program contributes approximately 42,500 jobs and $3.7 billion of gross domestic product, as reported in the agency's FY 2020 economic analysis. These achievements were, in part, made possible by the use Good Neighbor Authority, modernization for National Environmental Policy Act Planning and Forest Products delivery, insect and disease designations, stewardship contracting, and the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Timber Sale Achievements and Economic Contributions. In FY 2021, the agency sold approximately 2.87 billion board feet (agency target of 4.0 billion board feet), a decrease from the 3.2 billion board feet sold in FY 2020, for a

total value of nearly $197 million. The decrease in sales was primarily due to the collapse of regional timber markets and limited staff capacity. The COVID-19 pandemic limited the mobility of timber crews, and field work continues to be difficult to accomplish due to the large fire activity across the western U.S. For example, many employees that usually work to prepare timber sales were assigned to wildfire suppression and support. Recovery efforts after large fires, including stabilization work and hazard tree removal, necessitate the involvement of the staff who would typically work on preparing and administering timber sales. FY 2021 sales included more than 500 contracts greater than $10,000, nearly 66,000 small timber contracts and permits, and 20,000 special forest product permits for products other than timber. Various special Forest Management programs contributed to this volume; including, total volume sold from salvage sale funds, other permanent and trust funds, and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program funding exceeded 217 million board feet (MMBF). Additional programs that sold timber volume include GNA (273 MMBF) and stewardship contracting and agreements (667 MMBF).

Adapting Timber Sale Activities to COVID-19. The Forest Service has implemented many protocol changes in the way timber sale activities are prepared, delivered, and administered on National Forest System lands. The priority continues to be the safety of employees, contractors, and local communities. In FY 2021, several factors due to COVID-19, including travel restrictions, social distance requirements, and shelter-at-home issuances, contributed to the reduced number of timber sales. Additionally, market uncertainties and limited forest product manufacturing (due to the collapse in demand) affected the number of sales being awarded. In addition to increasing the use of the authorities to promote shared stewardship and the implementation of modernization efforts, the Forest Service has implemented new protocols to mitigate these issues.

## Vegetation and Watershed Management

### *Current Activities*

This program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands by improving the condition and health of forest and rangeland vegetation, controlling the spread of invasive species, sustaining soil productivity, reducing the risk of severe flooding and erosion in areas affected by severe fire, and maintaining water quality. This program also funds the Wild Horse and Burro program.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The Forest Service has used the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) to focus watershed restoration work on priority areas since FY 2011. In FY 2021, the Forest Service completed work necessary to improve or maintain conditions in 10 priority watersheds. The total area soil and water resources restored or enhanced in FY 2021, including those in priority watersheds, was more than 287,600 acres. Also, in FY 2021, more than 21,000 acres of lakes and 2,390 miles of stream habitat were restored or enhanced. In FY 2021, the Forest Service began a multi-year process to "modernize" the WCF to ensure consistency with the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill, Title VIII, Subtitle D, Section 8405) and incorporate best available science and lessons learned over the first 10 years of program implementation.

Beginning in FY 2020, the Forest Service tracked 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 2021, 29 percent of landscape ecosystems where management occurred were improved, maintained, or are recovering. Many management activities supported by the program contribute to this reporting measure and the improvement of landscape conditions; in FY 2021, the total area of vegetation improved was over 169,000 acres of forestland and over 426,000 acres of rangeland. Over 489,000 acres were treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species with an additional 255,000 acres treated for noxious weeds and invasive plants. Additionally, 354,000 acres of native plant vegetation were established.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Best Management Practices (BMP) Evaluations. In FY 2021, the Forest Service completed BMP monitoring evaluations on more than 350 sites or projects to assess nonpoint source pollution control in agency activities. The Forest Service used the information gained in the BMP monitoring evaluation for three primary outcomes: 1) improve protection of aquatic and riparian resources through adaptive management; 2) document the use and effectiveness of BMP for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses to support or strengthen the

environmental analyses for priority timber sale and fuels management projects, particularly landscape scale projects; and 3) continue to monitor BMPs and share data to document compliance with the State Nonpoint Source Management Plan, as directed by the Clean Water Act. In FY 2021, the Forest Service launched development of a new BMP monitoring data management system to improve sharing of this important information with State water quality agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other partners.

Wild Spotter Citizen Science Invasive Species Mapping Program on National Forests and National Grasslands Nationwide. This program involves multiple partnerships with public and private organizations nationwide and is designed to address capacity gaps in invasive species detection at the field level. Prior to visiting national forests, citizen scientists download a mobile phone app prior to visiting national forests that guides them through identifying, mapping, and reporting invasive species. In FY 2021, Wild Spotter Facebook posts reached 200,000 users including 12,000 new users and there were 1,639 new smartphone app downloads. Through this program, the agency enhances its ability to find, monitor, and prevent invasive species and builds community-based networks that increase capacity to conserve natural resources of the National Forest System.

## Minerals and Geology Management

### *Current Activities*

National forests and grasslands ensure the adequate and sustainable supply of domestic mineral and energy resources that contribute to the health, productivity, and overall wellbeing of all Americans. The benefits to society originate from mineral and energy extraction to produce metals, alloys, and plastics, and to transport and power the modern American life. The program secures and protects unique resources, such as fossils, caves, groundwater, wildlife habitat, and places of scientific, cultural, and recreational interest. The program protects people and the environment by monitoring and mitigating geologic hazards, like landslides, through the reclamation of surface resources for multiple recreational uses. Promoting economic growth, long-term healthy environments, sustainability for other forest uses, and stability for rural communities and underrepresented populations while enforcing the best practices for protection of the environment are pillars of this program.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The program contributes almost $5.6 billion annually to the Nation's economy and supports approximately 38,700 jobs as reported in the agency's most recent economic analysis (FY 2020). Energy and mineral development from Federal leases on National Forest System lands produced commodities valued at $2.3 billion which generated $225 million in revenue through royalties and other payments to the U.S. Treasury. This amounts to about 8 percent of all revenues collected from energy and mineral production on Federal onshore lands. All Federal oil and gas royalty, rental fee, and bonus bid revenue is split between the U.S. Treasury and the States with the energy and mineral development.

Approximately $2.9 million worth of mineral materials (e.g., sand/gravel, crushed stone, and landscape materials) were removed under contract from National Forest System lands. Many forest units provide free use community mineral material permits to small or underrepresented populations for public construction projects.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Program Outreach. The Minerals and Geology Management program promotes public outreach activities and products such as volunteer-based geological resource conservation projects and activity booklets. These activities introduce a wealth of geologic and conservation resources on National Forest System lands to audiences from school children to adults. In collaboration with the National Park Service, the Minerals and Geology Management program produced a Junior Ranger Cave Scientist booklet, and, in FY 2021, the booklet was translated into Spanish. This booklet is an educational tool to share the resource conservation mission to the public, including under-represented and Spanish-speaking communities.

Identification of Orphan and Abandoned Wells. The Forest Service Southern and Eastern Regions continue to identify 50- to 100-year-old orphan and abandoned wells located in the oil and gas regions in the Eastern United States forest lands. In FY 2021, pilot projects on the Allegheny and Daniel Boone National Forests facilitated the identification of 900 sites with orphan wells requiring plugging and abandoned oilfield infrastructure requiring removal. Agency-wide, this ongoing project continues to identify thousands of additional wells that are not listed on

State or internal Federal databases. These orphan and abandoned wells present a health and safety concern to National Forest System lands, especially adjacent to underrepresented or disadvantaged locations.

Mineral Databases. A national self-reporting Abandoned Mine Lands database is operational for all National Forest System lands to enter legacy mining features that need safety remediation. This real-time database allows users to produce reports and maps with spot data outlining the locations, including the state of remediation. A national, real-time oil and gas database outlining legacy oil and gas sites, oil field equipment, and orphan and abandoned wells, including the state of remediation is in development.

## Land Use Authorization and Access

### *Current Activities*

This program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands through various land and natural resource management activities in support of the social and economic wellbeing of rural and urban communities. The program secures and protects National Forest System lands and land interests. The Forest Service surveys lands in advance of timber sales, acquires rights-of-way, and administers road agreements necessary for public and agency access to complete activities, including timber production, transportation, recreation, and utility inspection.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

This program oversees permit processing, administration, and surveying for energy infrastructure and commercial interests on national forests and grasslands. In FY 2021, this infrastructure generated $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 homes; 1,600 oil and gas pipelines covering 6,600 linear miles; 250 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed and exempted facilities; 2,000 reservoirs delivering water to municipalities in local towns; 14,000 recreation residences; 1,367 designated communications sites that accommodate over 10,000 wireless communication uses, including cellular and broadband technology; and significant water delivery infrastructure for communities.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Job Corps Special Uses Training/GIS Workforce Development Training. The Forest Service has faced challenges in effectively managing the Special Uses program due to increasing vacancies and an associated decrease in skilled Special Uses administrators. The Lands and Realty Management program, in partnership with the Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps center, developed and piloted the Special Uses Workforce Development program, to expand the number of Special Uses administrators and to increase diversity in the field. As part of this two-year piloted program, students are trained in Office Administration and Special Uses before gaining on-the-job experience on Forest Service units. Following the program completion, students can gain additional experience with industry partners, complete college programming to earn a certification in Special Uses, and compete for or convert into permanent positions with the Forest Service.

With the success of the pilot program, the Special Uses Workforce Development program is expanding its reach to other organizations seeking to introduce underrepresented groups to natural resources and provide training for successful careers in the agency. In FY 2021, the Lands and Realty Management program began a partnership with the Southern California Mountains Foundation under its Urban Conservation Corps (UCC) of the Inland Empire Program in developing Geographic Information System training for Special Uses professionals for corps members (ages 18-25). The goal is to develop the next generation of natural resource conservation stewards and ultimately transfer UCC diverse corps members from California to enter the Special Uses Workforce Development program at the Lyndon B. Johnson Center Job Corps in North Carolina. This will increase member's opportunities to gain professional employment and/or internships with the Forest Service.

Hydropower Relicensing. Hydropower generation on National Forest System lands represents 25 percent of the Nation's total 80,000 megawatt (MW) generating capacity, providing electricity for approximately 70 million homes. Hydropower facilities on National Forest System lands also provide other public benefits including recreation, water supply, and flood control. The agency's objectives are to encourage hydropower production where

compatible with national forest goals and to ensure that the planning, construction, and operation of hydropower facilities protect and effectively utilize National Forest System lands and resources.

Hydropower licenses are issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a period of 30 to 50 years. Many hydropower facilities on National Forest System lands have been in place for several decades and will begin relicensing in the next 5 to 10 years. License proceedings can be lengthy and complex, and considerable staff time is often required to meet agency objectives with respect to hydropower development. Current agency capacity to engage in FERC proceedings is limited compared to a similarly intensive period of hydropower licensing that started during the late 1990s. The difference in agency expenditures for FERC proceedings between 2000 and 2021 when adjusted for inflation is about $9.6 million. Plans for increasing agency capacity to engage in the increasing numbers of proceedings are being developed with input from the Regional Hydropower staff.

## Law Enforcement Operations

Law Enforcement Operations' 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 number of public lands, roads, and recreation sites. Staff conduct enforcement activities and criminal and civil investigations involving 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.

### *Current Activities*

In FY 2021, National Forest System lands continued to experience unprecedented visitation and use due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Law Enforcement staff continued to provide an increased public safety presence, resource protection activities, and education to help manage the large numbers of users. Law Enforcement staff also used new operational procedures, such as minimizing physical contact, modifying sanitation measures, and promoting regular testing, to operate safely in the COVID-19 environment while continuing to successfully perform primary mission functions. The Forest Service maintained critical partnerships with other law enforcement agencies. In FY 2021, nearly $5.2 million was spent to maintain approximately 478 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. Under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13, Public Safety and Security Annex, the Forest Service collaborated with the Department of Justice and other partners to help with law enforcement emergencies during the fiscal year. Law Enforcement staff also provided significant support to fire prevention, protection, and suppression activities in FY 2021, including in California and Oregon, which experienced unprecedented forest closures and fire activity.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The Law Enforcement Operations program has continued to take steps to modernize, leverage technology, and make program management changes to improve the organization's efficiency and effectiveness. In FY 2021, the program's new enforcement and investigation reporting and record system underwent additional development and new functionality was added (training tracking, equipment tracking, time/work management features). The new system is a more efficient and robust system and is compliant with the National Incident-Based Reporting System, National Incident Criminal Background Check System, and use of force reporting requirements. Law Enforcement Operations also fully deployed a national Body Worn Camera (BWC) and video evidence storage system solution. The BWC is used by all field staff and has contributed to a significant increase in accountability and transparency to the public. Law Enforcement Operations also began a phased vehicle-mounted camera use and procurement program to complement the BWC use.

In partnership with Forest Service Research and Development and academic research partners, the Forest Service has continued to develop and field a novel tool to detect highly destructive, illegal marijuana cultivation sites using satellite imagery and innovative machine-learning algorithms. The Forest Service has also worked with industry partners to develop a portable hand-held system to analyze and identify hazardous chemicals and pesticides in grow

sites. The system greatly increases safety of field personnel and allows rapid detection of substances while reducing clean-up and laboratory analysis costs.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Multi-agency Marijuana Eradication. The Forest Service has 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. In FY 2021, new technologies helped to assist in locating new clandestine grow sites and to identify dangerous toxicants in the field and reduce potential exposure to personnel. In FY 2021, historic fire activity in California, Oregon, and Washington hindered operations and reduced resources; however, the Forest Service and cooperators located 422 marijuana grow sites, resulting in 1.1 million marijuana plants being eradicated; over 134,000 pounds of processed marijuana being seized (102 percent increase from FY 2020); 1,425 aviation short-hauls; 269 arrests (97 percent increase from FY 2020); and 149 weapons seized.

Reclamation occurred on over 250 public land sites, resulting in the removal of: over 60,000 pounds of infrastructure/refuse; over 65,000 pounds of fertilizer; over 9,400 ounces of pesticides; over 3,300 ounces of restricted poisons; 236 miles of water line; 393 propane tanks; 104 man-made dams; and 52 car batteries. Law Enforcement and Operations also collaborated with partners and other volunteer organizations to facilitate additional reclamation and rehabilitation of lands effected by illegal marijuana grows.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-30. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $140,371,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 140,371,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [$148,371,000]$140,371,000, to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026, 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.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

[For an additional amount for "Capital Improvement and Maintenance", $470,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.]

(Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022.)

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

[(Including Transfers of Funds)]

[For an additional amount for "Capital Improvement and Maintenance", $360,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029: Provided, That $72,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be made available for fiscal year 2022, $72,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, shall be made available for fiscal year 2023, $72,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be made available for fiscal year 2024, $72,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, shall be made available for fiscal year 2025, and $72,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2029, shall be made available for fiscal year 2026: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading in this Act, the following amounts shall be for the following purposes in equal amounts for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026--(1) $250,000,000 to carry out activities of the Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program, as authorized in Public Law 88-657 (16 U.S.C. 532 et seq.) (commonly known as the "Forest Roads and Trails Act"), as amended by section 40801 of division D of this Act;(2) $100,000,000 for construction of temporary roads or reconstruction and maintenance of roads to facilitate forest restoration and management projects that reduce wildfire risk; and(3) $10,000,000 for the removal of non-hydropower Federal dams and for providing dam removal technical assistance: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be transferred to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection

with wildland fire management activities: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) to carry out the activities in support of this heading: Provided further, That one-half of one percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture for oversight of funding provided to the Forest Service in this title in this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, and to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

(Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act.)

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-31. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Facilities | $154,000 | 425 | $54,037 | 17 | $54,037 | - | $54,037 | - | - | - | |
| Roads | 220,000 | 1,079 | 68,895 | 50 | 68,895 | - | 68,895 | - | - | - | |
| Trails | 81,000 | 525 | 17,439 | 28 | 17,439 | - | 17,439 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Discretionary Appropriations | 455,000 | 2,029 | 140,371 | 95 | 140,371 | - | 140,371 | - | - | - | |
| Supplemental Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [a] | - | 11 | - | 8 | - | 6 | - | - | - | -6 | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [b] | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [c] | 26,800 | 1 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [d] | - | - | - | - | 470,000 | - | - | - | -$470,000 | - | |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [e] | - | - | - | - | 72,000 | - | 72,000 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Supplemental Appropriations | 26,800 | 14 | - | 15 | 542,000 | 8 | 72,000 | 2 | -470,000 | -6 | |
| Total Appropriations | 481,800 | 2,043 | 140,371 | 110 | 682,371 | 8 | 212,371 | 2 | -470,000 | -6 | |
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forest Service Operations | - | - | -264 | - | -8,640 | - | -8,640 | - | - | - | |
| National Forest System | - | - | - | - | -21,600 | - | -21,600 | - | - | - | |
| Office of Inspector General | - | - | - | - | -360 | - | -360 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | - | - | -264 | - | -30,600 | - | -30,600 | - | - | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 8,375 | - | 17,051 | - | 17,051 | - | 17,051 | | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 96,759 | - | 103,044 | - | 72,547 | - | 400,288 | - | +327,741 | - | |
| Total Available | 586,934 | 2,043 | 260,202 | 110 | 741,369 | 8 | 599,110 | 2 | -142,259 | -6 | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -103,043 | - | -72,547 | - | -400,288 | | -162,492 | | +237,796 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 483,891 | 2,043 | 187,655 | 110 | 341,081 | 8 | 436,618 | 2 | +95,537 | -6 | |

[a] P.L. 115-123 provided $91,600,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the calendar year 2017 fire season.

[b] P.L. 116-20 provided $36,040,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

[c] P.L. 116-136 provided $26,800,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[d] P.L. 117-43 provided $710,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

[e] FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43) and advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). FY 2023 supplemental appropriations are entirely advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. See also the spend plans for advance appropriations on page 213. P.L. 117-58 provided $72,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and reserves $72,000,000 each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

*Table FS-32. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Facilities | $144,481 | 425 | $64,042 | 17 | $68,840 | - | $67,317 | - | -$1,523 | - |
| Roads | 182,017 | 1,079 | 68,031 | 50 | 73,129 | - | 71,511 | - | -1,618 | - |
| Trails | 60,420 | 525 | 19,905 | 28 | 21,396 | - | 20,922 | - | -474 | - |
| Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement | - | - | - | - | 93 | - | - | - | -93 | - |
| Legacy Roads and Trails | 1,108 | - | 70 | - | 1,178 | - | - | - | -1,178 | - |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Other | 79,340 | - | 2,143 | - | 2,512 | - | - | - | -2,512 | - |
| Total, Discretionary Obligations | 467,366 | 2,029 | 154,191 | 95 | 167,148 | - | 159,750 | - | -7,398 | - |
| Supplemental Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [a] | 5,526 | 11 | 11,829 | 8 | 14,572 | 6 | - | - | -14,572 | -6 |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [b] | 2,552 | 2 | 3,508 | 2 | 4,350 | 2 | 5,268 | 2 | +918 | - |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [c] | 8,447 | 1 | 18,127 | 5 | 226 | - | - | - | -226 | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [d] | - | - | - | - | 117,500 | - | 235,000 | - | +117,500 | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [e] | - | - | - | - | 37,285 | - | 36,600 | - | -685 | - |
| Total, Supplemental Obligations | 16,525 | 14 | 33,464 | 15 | 173,933 | 8 | 276,868 | 2 | +102,935 | -6 |
| Total Obligations | 483,891 | 2,043 | 187,655 | 110 | 341,081 | 8 | 436,618 | 2 | 95,537 | -6 |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Facilities | 19,128 | - | 17,207 | - | 14,688 | - | 13,375 | - | -1,313 | - |
| Roads | 3,467 | - | 7,046 | - | 6,015 | - | 5,477 | - | -538 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trails | 1,996 | - | 1,589 | - | 1,357 | - | 1,236 | - | -121 | - |
| Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement | 92 | - | 93 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Legacy Roads and Trails | 61 | - | 1,178 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Other | 3,383 | - | 2,512 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) [a] | 25,159 | - | 14,572 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) [b] | 31,404 | - | 28,023 | - | 23,673 | - | 18,737 | - | -4,936 | - |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [c] | 18,353 | - | 327 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) [d] | - | - | - | - | 352,500 | - | 119,620 | - | -232,880 | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [e] | - | - | - | - | 2,055 | - | 4,047 | - | +1,992 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 103,043 | - | 72,547 | - | 400,288 | - | 162,492 | - | -237,796 | - |
| Total Available | 586,934 | 2,043 | 260,202 | 110 | 741,369 | 8 | 599,110 | 2 | -142,259 | -6 |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers Out | - | - | 264 | - | 30,600 | - | 30,600 | - | | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -8,375 | - | -17,051 | - | -17,051 | - | -17,051 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -96,759 | - | -103,044 | - | -72,547 | - | -400,288 | - | -327,741 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 481,800 | 2,043 | 140,371 | 110 | 682,371 | 8 | 212,371 | 2 | -470,000 | -6 |

[a] P.L. 115-123 provided $91,600,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the calendar year 2017 fire season.

[b] P.L. 116-20 provided $36,040,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

[c] P.L. 116-136 provided $26,800,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[d] P.L. 117-43 provided $710,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

[e] P.L. 117-58 provided $72,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and reserves $72,000,000 each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS OVER $1 MILLION SELECTED IN FY 2023

The Forest Service has a structured National Asset Management Program (NAMP) that incorporates the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CCIP) process. The NAMP prioritizes investments in capital improvement and maintenance projects and helps reduce the Forest Service's deferred maintenance backlog. These projects will address improvements, repairs and rehabilitation of mission critical buildings, recreation sites, transportation assets and the decommissioning of projects. All capital improvement and maintenance projects, whether they are funded through the Capital Improvement and Maintenance (CIM) appropriation or through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), are included in the NAMP.

Per Congressional directive in the FY 2018 Interior Appropriations report, the Forest Service is providing a list of planned national capital improvement and maintenance projects over $1 million. This list represents a long-term multi-year plan that addresses needed investments in facilities, recreation, transportation, and decommissioning based on the FY 2023 Budget request and using the NAMP prioritization process. This list includes projects that would be funded with Forest Service appropriations under the following budget line items: Facilities (CMFC), Forest Service Leases and Maintenance (FSLM), and Roads (CMRD); it does not include projects that would be funded by the National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund established by GAOA.

*Table FS-33. FY 2023 - FY 2027 Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects Over $1 Million Selected in FY 2023*

| Project Type | Project Name | Forest | Region or Unit | State | Congressional District | FY 2023 [a] | FY 2024 [a] | FY 2025 [a] | FY 2026 [a] | FY 2027 [a] | Total FY 2023-FY 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Facility | International Institute of Tropical Forestry Chemical Laboratory Replacement | International Institute of Tropical Forestry | Research and Development | PR | 1 | $2,800,000 | - | - | - | - | $2,800,000 |
| Facility | Ash Creek Helispot | Shasta Trinity | Pacific Southwest | CA | 1 | 65,000 | 670,000 | 272,000 | - | - | 1,007,000 |
| Facility | Cadillac/Manistee Ranger Station-New Fire Facility and Fire Mod Decommission | Huron Manistee | Eastern | MI | 1 | 1,110,000 | - | - | - | - | 1,110,000 |
| Facility | Kenai Lake Work Center Water System Upgrade and Wastewater System Reconstruction | Chugach | Alaska | AK | 1 | 2,520,000 | - | - | - | - | 2,520,000 |
| Facility | Coronado Forest-wide Toilet Replacement | Coronado | Southwest | AZ | 1 and 3 | - | 1,680,960 | - | - | - | 1,680,960 |
| Facility | Lake Sherwood Dam Repairs | Monongahela | Eastern | WV | 3 | - | - | 477,405 | 1,273,080 | - | 1,750,485 |
| **Total Facilities** | | | | | | **6,495,000** | **2,350,960** | **749,405** | **1,273,080** | **-** | **10,868,445** |
| Transportation | Long Pines Access and Boxelder Creek, Aquatic Organism Passage Deferred Maintenance | Custer Gallatin | Northern | MT | 1 | 47,000 | 526,000 | 455,000 | - | - | 1,028,000 |
| Transportation | Forest Road 164 Reconstruction Vegetation Management | Chequamegon Nicolet | Eastern | WI | 7 | - | - | 1,273,080 | - | - | 1,273,080 |
| **Total Transportation** | | | | | | **47,000** | **526,000** | **1,728,080** | **-** | **-** | **2,301,080** |
| Decommissioning | Hoosier Hickey-Martin Dam Removal Aquatic Organism Passage | Hoosier | Eastern | IN | 9 | 1,000,000 | - | - | - | - | 1,000,000 |
| Decommissioning | Mark Twain Sterling Hollow Dam Decommissioning | Mark Twain | Eastern | MO | 8 | 2,000,000 | - | - | - | - | 2,000,000 |
| Decommissioning | Mirror Lake Highway Water System Decommissioning | Wasatch | Intermountain | UT | 2 | - | 1,900,000 | - | - | - | 1,900,000 |

| Project Type | Project Name | Forest | Region or Unit | State | Congressional District | FY 2023 [a] | FY 2024 [a] | FY 2025 [a] | FY 2026 [a] | FY 2027 [a] | Total FY 2023-FY 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Decommissioning | Wayne Recreation Lewis Lake and Smith Hollow Lake Decommissioning | Wayne | Eastern | OH | 6 | - | - | 1,200,000 | - | - | 1,200,000 |
| Decommissioning | Bear Springs Work Center Disposal | Mt Hood | Pacific Northwest | OR | 2 | - | - | - | 1,000,000 | - | 1,000,000 |
| **Total Decommissioning** | | | | | | **3,000,000** | **1,900,000** | **1,200,000** | **1,000,000** | **-** | **7,100,000** |
| **Grand Total** | | | | | | **9,542,000** | **4,776,960** | **3,677,485** | **2,273,080** | **-** | **20,269,525** |

[a] Budget year funding represents funding needed for a unit to implement a specific portion of the project. This amount does not always equal the total project cost.

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-34. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | $2,234 | $29 | - | - |
| | Personnel compensation, field | 147,913 | 1,941 | - | - |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 150,147 | 1,970 | - | - |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 61,399 | 1,167 | - | - |
| 13.0 | Benefits for former personnel | 227 | - | - | - |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 211,773 | 3,137 | - | - |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 3,634 | 225 | $416 | $522 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 2,459 | 1,241 | 2,294 | 2,882 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 2,474 | -5 | - | - |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 3,997 | 97 | 179 | 225 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 8,282 | 576 | 1,065 | 1,339 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 375 | 140 | 259 | 325 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 68 | 34 | 63 | 79 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 113,759 | 69,333 | 128,159 | 169,034 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 64,852 | 60,276 | 111,416 | 140,021 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 4,624 | 911 | 1,684 | 2,117 |
| 25.5 | Research and development contracts | -16 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 25.6 | Medical care | 26 | 46 | 85 | 107 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 2,622 | 1,107 | 2,046 | 2,571 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 13,032 | 10,989 | 20,312 | 25,528 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 13,183 | 1,496 | 2,765 | 3,475 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 17,666 | 20,766 | 38,385 | 48,239 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 20,648 | 17,118 | 31,642 | 39,764 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | 425 | 159 | 294 | 369 |
| 43.0 | Interest and dividends | 5 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 92.0 | Undistributed | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| | Total, other objects | 272,118 | 184,518 | 341,081 | 436,618 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 483,891 | 187,655 | 341,081 | 436,618 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 59 | - | - | - |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $187,148 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $70,423 | $50,214 | $51,570 | $52,962 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 9.2 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 7.2 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

## Facilities

### *Current Activities*

This program includes funding for costs associated with Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), recreation facilities and sites maintenance, and maintenance/repair of agency-owned dams. The program manages the largest number and widest range of accessible recreation facilities and sites in the country, including campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor centers, ski areas, trailheads, shooting ranges, and interpretive sites. Dams located on national forest lands provide the largest source of municipal water supply in the country, serving more than 60 million people in 3,400 communities across 33 States. The program also manages capital improvements of infrastructure used for fire suppression and fuels management, including aircraft maintenance and operations facilities, air-tanker bases, smokejumper bases, helicopter bases and helipads, fire engine bays, fire training facilities, retardant facilities, fire cache warehouses, and fire lookouts. Additional capital improvements to infrastructure including administrative offices, research facilities, communication sites, warehouses, bunkhouses, employee housing, and fleet management and maintenance of buildings are also managed under this program.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021, approximately $33.5 million was dedicated to the facility program overall. This included $27.5 million for capital improvements for infrastructure projects that deliver agency-wide benefits, approximately $5 million for recreation and dam maintenance projects, and approximately $1 million to decommission recreation and dam assets.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Safety Inspections of Communications Assets. Collaboration continues with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the five-year interagency agreement to perform structural safety inspections for all communication assets on National Forest System lands. This agreement helps improve compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration and American National Standards Institute requirements for periodic safety inspections. The agency owns and administers more than 1,700 communications assets used to facilitate law enforcement, wildland fire suppression, public safety, and routine forest management. In FY 2021, the FAA inspected 187 communication towers, 70 communication shelters, 53 lookout towers, 11 research towers, and 3 fire rappel towers, reducing risk and vulnerabilities to employees and the public.

National Asset Management Program. The National Asset Management Program (NAMP), formerly known as the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan, continues to drive the prioritization of agency infrastructure investments. In FY 2021, the NAMP process was utilized to incorporate prioritization of Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) deferred maintenance projects for a comprehensive approach to asset management. With this process, the Forest Service is able optimize investment decision-making using the same project data and metrics to evaluate projects. This approach includes identifying decommissioning projects, improving consistency and transparency in facilities asset management, and updating facilities data management processes to improve data quality and accuracy.

## Roads

### *Current Activities*

The Roads program administers an extensive transportation network that is vital to the agency's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of national forest lands. Forest system roads and bridges provide access for many purposes, including timber harvesting, camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, mining, first responders in emergencies, and access for rural communities. This program is essential for the management, protection, public use, and enjoyment of 193 million acres of national forest lands, as well as meeting the agency's timber target.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021, the Forest Service continued its work in maintaining the quality of Forest Service roads, which provide safe and improved access to national forest lands 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.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Addressing the Road and Bridge Rehabilitation Backlog. In FY 2021, the Forest Service addressed the approximately $3.5 billion backlog of road and bridge rehabilitation and replacement needs by directing $10 million towards projects that improve access for agency activities 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.

Modernizing Engineering Directives. The Forest Service continues to modernize engineering directives and update policies that support critical mission goals that reduce time on tasks, creating efficiencies and streamlining processes. For example, in FY 2021, the Forest Service updated and replaced the 1992 Cooperative Road Maintenance Agreement in collaboration with industrial timberland owners and cost-share cooperators. This modernized agreement defines maintenance responsibilities of roads covered by over 5,000 reciprocal easements exchanged between the Forest Service and its cooperators in all regions. The program also updated the Value Analysis thresholds in Forest Service Directives 1340 and 7720 to match OMB Circular A-131, removing unnecessary analysis and evaluation for projects below a certain threshold and providing consistency to the field for compliance.

## Trails

### *Current Activities*

The Forest Service administers the largest system of trails in the country. Stretched end-to-end, National Forest System trails would circle the globe more than six times. These trails provide access to national forest lands, foster partnerships and volunteerism, and generate health and economic benefits to communities through outdoor recreation opportunities and recreation tourism. National Forest System trails also provide connectivity with other trails managed by local, State, Federal, and Tribal governments.

Of the approximately 160,000 miles of trails managed by the Forest Service, 98,500 miles are non-motorized and 61,500 miles are motorized. The Forest Service is the administrating agency for six congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHTs) totaling 10,000 miles and is the managing agency for 16 additional NSHTs (details about NSHTs are in the National Scenic and Historic Trails Special Exhibit). The agency also manages more than 370 National Recreation Trails on National Forest System lands.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021, this program continued to implement the agency's National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System and the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (P.L. 114-245), both of which focus on increasing the engagement of partners and volunteers to help maintain and improve the condition of National Forest System trails. Sustainable trail systems are comprised of trails that are socially supported, economically viable, and support ecological resiliency.

The trails program also continued to implement the 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge that was launched in February 2020. As part of the Challenge, the program has been working to identify the baseline trails workforce needed to effectively support partner and volunteer engagement in trail maintenance work, and to develop tools and trainings to help support field staff and partners working in trails, professionalize the trail program, and institutionalize knowledge.

The program has also been engaging in strategic partnerships to promote more diversity, equity, and inclusion in trail program delivery. For example, the agency is working with Next 100 Coalition, a coalition of organizations committed to the establishment of a just and inclusive system of the Nation's parks and public lands, to identify concrete actions for national recreation and trails programs to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The Forest Service is also working with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Native Lands Digital, and the Partnership for the National Trails System to hire a Tribal intern to develop an interactive GIS map and other resources. This will help the Federal agencies that administer national trails and their nonprofit trail organization partners advance National Trails System knowledge of ancestral lands and increase partnerships and collaboration with indigenous communities along National Scenic and National Historic Trails. The Trail program also actively

sought out and successfully received Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) funding to address deferred maintenance on trails in every region. All these actions will lead to improved access and improved public service.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Trail Maintenance and Improvements. In 2016, Congress passed the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, which directs the agency to establish priority areas for trail maintenance and to double the amount of volunteer hours for trail maintenance. In 2018, the agency selected 15 trail maintenance priority areas for increased trail maintenance accomplishments. In FY 2021, trails staff secured GAOA funding to further improve the condition of trails within these trail maintenance priority areas. For example, within the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Priority Area (MT), agency staff, working alongside numerous partner organizations that includes youth corps, began implementing a $5 million project to repair more than 3,000 miles of trails in this priority area over a five-year period.

Work with Partners. Across the country, agency staff are working with partners to leverage funding, skills, and resources to improve the condition of trails and improve access. One example of this is a project to construct 42 new miles of National Forest System trails[32] on the Pisgah National Forest near Old Fort, NC. This is a community-driven project that involves a coalition of agency staff, a health trust, non-profit organizations, business owners, a community college, and others working together to develop a sustainable and connected trail system in the national forest lands surrounding Old Fort, NC. This coalition has received construction funds to build trails, as well as funding to expand services in Old Fort to support small business and equitable development. More than 110 local area jobs have been added in the past two years because of the existing trails and the promise of additional recreation use. The Pisgah National Forest and community of Old Fort, NC, have worked together to expand access by building trails that support the community, addressing town infrastructure and local business needs, while advancing environmental justice and investing in segments of communities that have been left behind. This project will accomplish all these things, while driving the creation of good-paying jobs and growing the local economy sustainably and equitably for decades to come.

[32] https://www.g5trailcollective.org/oldfort

# LAND ACQUISITION

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-35. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $814,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 814,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

LAND ACQUISITION

[(CANCELLATION OF FUNDS)]

[Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for Land Acquisition and derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, $5,619,000 is hereby permanently cancelled from projects with cost savings or failed or partially failed projects: Provided, That no amounts may be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

**Change Description**

The change removes language cancelling unobligated Land Acquisition balances.

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, $664,000, 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, [2025]2026, (16 U.S.C. 516-617a, 555a; Public Law 96-586; Public Law 76-589, 76-591; and Public Law 78-310).

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-36. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | $78,898 | 44 | - | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts | 700 | - | $664 | - | $664 | - | $664 | - | - | - | |
| Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges | - | - | 1,480 | - | 150 | - | 150 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Discretionary Appropriations | 79,598 | 44 | 2,144 | 12 | 814 | - | 814 | - | - | - | |
| Mandatory Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conveyance of Administrative Sites | 4,392 | 2 | 1,232 | 1 | 1,232 | 1 | 1,232 | 1 | - | - | |
| Site-Specific Lands Act | 3,986 | - | 1,818 | - | 1,818 | - | 1,818 | - | - | - | |
| Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 123,885 | 24 | 123,885 | 24 | 123,885 | 24 | - | - | |
| Total, Mandatory Appropriations | 8,378 | 2 | 126,935 | 25 | 126,935 | 25 | 126,935 | 25 | - | - | |
| Total Appropriations | 87,976 | 46 | 129,079 | 37 | 127,749 | 25 | 127,749 | 25 | - | - | |
| Rescission | -2,000 | - | -5,619 | - | -5,619 | - | - | | +$5,619 | - | |
| Sequestration | -493 | - | -172 | - | -7,061 | - | - | - | +7,061 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 1,589 | - | 3,174 | - | 3,174 | - | 3,174 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 111,378 | - | 144,636 | - | 203,814 | - | 173,773 | - | -30,041 | - | |
| Total Available | 198,450 | 46 | 271,098 | 37 | 322,057 | 25 | 304,696 | 25 | -17,361 | - | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -144,636 | - | -203,814 | - | -173,773 | - | -139,853 | - | +33,920 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 53,733 | 46 | 66,651 | 37 | 148,284 | 25 | 164,843 | 25 | +16,559 | - | |

*Table FS-37. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | $49,850 | 44 | $25,596 | 12 | $56,829 | - | $70,009 | - | +$13,180 | - |
| Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts | 548 | - | 594 | - | 1,319 | - | 1,625 | - | +306 | - |
| Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges | - | - | 795 | - | 1,765 | - | 2,174 | - | +409 | - |
| Total, Discretionary Obligations | 50,398 | 44 | 26,985 | 12 | 59,913 | - | 73,808 | - | +13,895 | - |
| Mandatory Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conveyance of Administrative Sites | 1,428 | 2 | 1,278 | 1 | 542 | 1 | 542 | 1 | - | - |
| Site-Specific Lands Act | 1,907 | - | 1,205 | - | 1,109 | - | 1,109 | - | - | - |
| Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 37,183 | 24 | 86,720 | 24 | 89,384 | 24 | +2,664 | - |
| Total, Mandatory Obligations | 3,335 | 2 | 39,666 | 25 | 88,371 | 25 | 91,035 | 25 | +2,664 | - |
| Total Obligations | 53,733 | 46 | 66,651 | 37 | 148,284 | 25 | 164,843 | 25 | +16,559 | - |
| Add back: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lapsing Balances | 81 | - | 633 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | 113,323 | - | 85,218 | - | 28,389 | - | 23,469 | - | -4,920 | - |
| Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts | 1,006 | - | 443 | - | 356 | - | 294 | - | -62 | - |
| Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges | 1,051 | - | 1,735 | - | 1,395 | - | 1,153 | - | -242 | - |
| Conveyance of Administrative Sites | 20,223 | - | 20,171 | - | 16,223 | - | 13,412 | - | -2,811 | - |
| Site-Specific Lands Act | 9,033 | - | 9,545 | - | 7,677 | - | 6,347 | - | -1,330 | - |
| Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act) | - | - | 86,702 | - | 119,733 | - | 95,178 | - | -24,555 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 144,636 | - | 203,814 | - | 173,773 | - | 139,853 | - | -33,920 | - |
| Total Available | 198,450 | 46 | 271,098 | 37 | 322,057 | 25 | 304,696 | 25 | -17,361 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rescission | 2,000 | - | 5,619 | - | 5,619 | - | - | - | -5,619 | - |
| Sequestration | 493 | - | 172 | - | 7,061 | - | - | - | -7,061 | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -1,589 | - | -3,174 | - | -3,174 | - | -3,174 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -111,378 | - | -144,636 | - | -203,814 | - | -173,773 | - | +30,041 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 87,976 | 46 | 129,079 | 37 | 127,749 | 25 | 127,749 | 25 | - | - |

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-38. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Personnel compensation, field | $3,976 | $3,705 | $2,503 | $2,571 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 3,976 | 3,705 | 2,503 | 2,571 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 1,536 | 1,481 | 1,001 | 1,028 |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 5,512 | 5,186 | 3,504 | 3,599 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 56 | 9 | 21 | 24 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 24 | - | - | - |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 59 | - | - | - |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 87 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 124 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 1 | - | - | - |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 1 | 114 | 269 | 299 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 1,472 | 1,611 | 3,795 | 4,226 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 609 | 118 | 278 | 310 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 5 | 110 | 259 | 289 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 16 | 70 | 165 | 184 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 68 | 6 | 14 | 16 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 104 | 15 | 35 | 39 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 45,421 | 58,983 | 138,934 | 154,732 |
| 33.0 | Investments and loans | 173 | - | - | - |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 1 | 422 | 994 | 1,107 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | - | 4 | 9 | 10 |
| | Total, other objects | 48,221 | 61,465 | 144,780 | 161,244 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 53,733 | 66,651 | 148,284 | 164,843 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 1 | - | - | - |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $187,148 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $86,684 | $87,100 | $89,452 | $91,867 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 11.3 | 11.5 | 11.8 | 12.1 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

## Land Acquisition

### *Current Activities*

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.

The LWCF Act was amended in August 2020, by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152) which provides up to $900 million in mandatory funding annually for all Federal land acquisition and State assistance programs across the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. In FY 2021, the first year this mandatory funding became available, the Forest Service received $123,885,000 for Land Acquisition projects, including 35 large projects specified in the FY 2021 Appropriations Bill. In FY 2021, the Forest Service formulated the FY 2022 project lists in accordance with the GAOA and Administration guidance. Following LWCF requirements, the agency submitted a list of prioritized and ranked projects based on LWCF, agency, and Administration priorities. These included creating new and enhanced recreation access, funding projects with substantial local community support, and conserving critical watersheds.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

Acquisitions completed in FY 2021 supported new and improved recreational access for a wide array of outdoor activities across all regions. In FY 2021, the program acquired 42,708 acres of which 39,045 acres (91 percent of all acres acquired) were acquired to provide access for recreation. Forest Service LWCF projects enhance recreational access to existing public lands; provide recreational access to newly acquired lands; protect critical watersheds that provide clean water and provide plants and animals with refuges from climate change; and fund locally supported lands projects.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Lolo Trails Project (MT). In FY 2021, the Forest Service completed the Lolo Trails project, permanently protecting 14,800 acres of important fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation access to the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. These lands are historically and culturally significant areas to both the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation. While providing permanent public access to extraordinary recreation, the move also precludes development west of the rapidly growing city of Missoula, Montana, and protects critical wildlife habitat and key landscape connectivity.

Little Castle Lake and Heart Lake Trail Projects (CA). In FY 2021, the Forest Service completed the Little Castle Lake and Heart Lake Trail projects on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The project permanently protected 637 acres - the largest remaining parcel of private land in the 12,000-acre Castle Crags Wilderness and the last remaining private land in a 100 square mile area of contiguous National Forest System lands. With this acquisition, the Forest Service can complete a large 30,000+ acre vegetation project to address fuel loads, restore watersheds, and plan for recreation use. The acquisition will also provide public access to Heart Lake, one of the most popular and beloved local visitor destinations for its sweeping view of Mt. Shasta across the valley and Castle Lake below. Once a hidden gem known only to locals, this unofficial trail and tiny lake have been featured in Sunset magazine, Via magazine, TripAdvisor, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Several hundred hikers a day use this newly acquired parcel to access this area.

## Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts

### *Current Activities*

This program provides for the acquisition of lands to protect watersheds, minimize soil erosion, and rehabilitate specific national forests in Nevada, Utah, California, and Arkansas.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

Acquisitions under this program often provide large-scale benefits by keeping watershed and ecosystems intact, as well as providing additional land areas for public use.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Ouachita National Forest, Hattabaugh Tract (AR). Special Acts funds were used to acquire this 120-acre parcel adjacent to the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Area. This acquisition provided additional recreational access to a part of the national forest that is heavily used by the public for dispersed recreational activities such as hunting, hiking and nature-watching. The acquisition also allows the Forest Service to help protect watersheds and prevent soil erosion.

## Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges

***Current Activities***

This program provides for the acquisition of lands using funds collected from the exchange or sale of National Forest System lands between States, county or municipal governments, public school authorities, or other non-Federal parties. The Forest Service utilizes the authority granted in the Sisk Act (16 U.S.C. 484a), which allows certain parties to deposit cash in lieu of land to complete land exchanges. These funds are utilized by the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire non-Federal properties.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

By connecting fragmented landscapes, the Forest Service can effectively promote the long-term health and sustainability of the Nation's forests and grasslands through restoration and watershed protection activities, provide greater recreation access, and manage lands more effectively and efficiently. Fragmented landscapes, particularly along wildland-urban interfaces, increase wildfire risks that can cause economic and ecological losses and pose threats to people, property, and communities. Revenues received from the sale or exchange of agency land or structures are deposited into the Sisk Act Fund.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Iron Mountain Tripartite. In FY 2021, the Pacific Northwest Region utilized funds from the Hot Dog timber sale for a tripartite land exchange to acquire 420 acres on the Colville National Forest (WA) to enhance public access and recreation and eliminate the need to provide access to this private inholding. Per legislation, these funds are automatically made available to the Secretary of Agriculture for further National Forest System land acquisition. The remaining proceeds from the Hot Dog timber sale will be utilized in future projects.

## 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.

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.

# OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-39. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $3,863,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | -1,000,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,863,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year, as fees for grazing domestic livestock on lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States, pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94-579, to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), $45,000, to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

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.), $1,099,000, to remain available through September 30, [2025]2026.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Amounts collected in this fiscal year pursuant to section 8705(f)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), shall be deposited in the special account established by section 8705(f)(1) of such Act, 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, That such amounts shall be transferred to the "National Forest System" account.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-40. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Range Betterment Fund | $2,656 | 5 | $2,741 | 3 | $1,719 | 3 | $1,719 | 3 | - | - | |
| Gifts, Donations, and Bequest for Forest and Rangeland Research | - | - | - | - | 45 | - | 45 | - | - | - | |
| Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses | 2,500 | 12 | 1,099 | 1 | 1,099 | 1 | 1,099 | 1 | - | - | |
| Communication Site Administration | - | - | - | - | 1,000 | - | - | - | -$1,000 | - | (1) |
| Total Appropriations | 5,156 | 17 | 3,840 | 4 | 3,863 | 4 | 2,863 | 4 | -1,000 | - | |
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Forest System | - | - | - | - | -1,000 | - | - | - | +1,000 | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | - | - | - | - | -1,000 | - | - | - | +1,000 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 60 | - | 83 | - | 83 | - | 83 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 2,587 | - | 2,525 | - | 2,733 | - | 2,095 | - | -638 | - | |
| Total Available | 7,803 | 17 | 6,448 | 4 | 5,679 | 4 | 5,041 | 4 | -638 | - | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -2,525 | - | -2,733 | - | -2,095 | - | -1,860 | - | +235 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 5,278 | 17 | 3,715 | 4 | 3,584 | 4 | 3,181 | 4 | -403 | - | |

*Table FS-41. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Range Betterment Fund | $2,838 | 5 | $2,494 | 3 | $2,406 | 3 | $2,135 | 3 | -$271 | - |
| Gifts, Donations, and Bequest for Forest and Rangeland Research | - | - | 3 | - | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | - |
| Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses | 2,440 | 12 | 1,218 | 1 | 1,175 | 1 | 1,043 | 1 | -132 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total, Discretionary Obligations | 5,278 | 17 | 3,715 | 4 | 3,584 | 4 | 3,181 | 4 | -403 | - |
| Total Obligations | 5,278 | 17 | 3,715 | 4 | 3,584 | 4 | 3,181 | 4 | -403 | - |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Range Betterment Fund | 2,252 | - | 2,534 | - | 1,942 | - | 1,724 | - | -218 | - |
| Gifts, Donations, and Bequest for Forest and Rangeland Research | 116 | - | 113 | - | 87 | - | 77 | - | -10 | - |
| Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses | 157 | - | 86 | - | 66 | - | 59 | - | -7 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 2,525 | - | 2,733 | - | 2,095 | - | 1,860 | - | -235 | - |
| Total Available | 7,803 | 17 | 6,448 | 4 | 5,679 | 4 | 5,041 | 4 | -638 | - |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers Out | - | - | - | - | 5,000 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -60 | - | -83 | - | -83 | - | -83 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -2,587 | - | -2,525 | - | -2,733 | - | -2,095 | - | +638 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 5,156 | 17 | 3,840 | 4 | 7,863 | 4 | 2,863 | 4 | - | - |

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

**Communication Site Administration: A decrease of $1,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) (P.L. 115-334) requires the Forest Service to charge an annual programmatic administrative fee for communications use authorizations. The 2018 Farm Bill also authorizes the Forest Service to retain and spend the revenues to cover the costs of administering its communications site program. Funding provided by IIJA would enable some communication site administration work, to include deployment of wireless and fiber optic cable communications services, including broadband services to unserved and underserved rural communities. These capabilities benefit urban and rural communities, enable greater coordination in emergency response situations, and increase overall safety for visitors, agency staff, and first responders.

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-42. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Personnel compensation, field | $1,277 | $89 | $89 | $91 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 1,277 | 89 | 89 | 91 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 507 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 1,784 | 92 | 92 | 95 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 63 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 2 | - | - | - |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 593 | 915 | 882 | 779 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 496 | 513 | 494 | 437 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 4 | - | - | - |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 7 | 28 | 27 | 24 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 2,000 | 1,925 | 1,855 | 1,639 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 54 | 56 | 54 | 48 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 7 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 252 | 171 | 165 | 146 |
| | Total, other objects | 3,494 | 3,623 | 3,492 | 3,086 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 5,278 | 3,715 | 3,584 | 3,181 |
| | | | | | |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $72,081 | $42,394 | $43,539 | $44,714 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 9.0 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.7 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

Other Appropriations include four programs: Range Betterment Fund; Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research; Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses; and Communications Site Administration.

## Range Betterment Fund

### *Current Activities*

This program receives one-half of grazing receipts collected on National Forest System lands within the 16 contiguous Western States for range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements on National Forest System lands where receipts were collected. Program funds are utilized for projects within allotments, including, but not limited to, seeding and reseeding, fence construction, water development, weed and other plant removal and control, and wildlife habitat enhancement.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The program continues to manage vegetation within rangelands to foster healthy, resilient ecosystems by removing invasive plants, reducing fire risk, supporting fence maintenance, and protecting riparian and other sensitive areas.

### *Selected Example of Recent Progress*

Rangeland Vegetation Improvement. In FY 2021, the Range Betterment Fund conducted over 50,000 acres of rangeland vegetation improvement work and treated over 2,000 acres of noxious weeds. Overall acres of rangeland vegetation improved is down from FY 2020 mainly due to a catastrophic wildfire year. Staffs were focused more on wildfire control efforts than performing rangeland improvement work.

## 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 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

### *Current Activities*

Title VIII of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3101) authorizes rural Alaskan residents a subsistence priority to harvest fish and wildlife on Federal lands over sport and commercial uses. This program provides vital employment in remote rural areas, monitors fish and wildlife populations, and adjusts regulations to keep harvests sustainable, enforces regulations, and educates subsistence users.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The Forest Service continues to manage sustainable fish and wildlife populations on national forest lands in Alaska for the purposes of providing a reliable food supply to rural Alaskan communities. The Forest Service employs residents to further program goals while providing employment where opportunities are limited.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. In FY 2021, Tongass National Forest staff oversaw eight Sockeye Salmon stock assessment projects and one eulachon monitoring project through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP). Also, through the FRMP, the Tongass staff partnered with five Tribal groups and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and supported 16 local jobs with Tribal organizations in rural communities. Approximately $1.2 million in Forest Service funding was distributed across the Tongass and Chugach National Forests for subsistence projects in FY 2021.

Surveys, Inventory and Monitoring. In combination, both the Tongass and Chugach National Forests participated in six moose and mountain goat population surveys and two deer surveys in FY 2021 that supported subsistence, a reduced number from previous years due to COVID-19. In addition, Tongass National Forest personnel participated

in 10 wolf surveys and supported logistics for an additional 35 wolf surveys. Notably, the Chugach National Forest completed year six, the final year, of a black bear monitoring project in partnership with the ADF&G. The last bears were radio-collared in 2018 and data analysis will begin in fall 2021. These inventory and monitoring projects continue to be vital to effectively manage subsistence resources and uses while providing for conservation of harvested species.

## Communications Site Administration

### *Current Activities*

The 2018 Farm Bill, as amended, required the Forest Service to issue regulations to streamline the process for evaluation applications for communications facilities on National Forest System lands and charge a programmatic administrative fee for communications use authorizations to cover the cost of the Forest Service's communications use program. This program supports the USDA Rural Development's effort to increase broadband access to rural communities, the American Broadband Initiative, to increase private-sector investment in broadband networks on Federal lands, and the deployment of the nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety (FirstNet). Rural and urban communities depend on National Forest System lands for critical communications services, including emergency services, internet service, cellular communications, television, and radio.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

The Forest Service continues to prioritize applications to locate or modify communications facilities on National Forest System lands to expand broadband deployment and other critical communications services and to improve customer service. The agency has implemented the provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) (2018 Farm Bill) that provide for proponents and applicants to have a more predictable timeline for agency response to their proposals and applications.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Map Viewer Enhancement. In FY 2021, the Forest Service maintained the map viewer service to ensure quality data in depicting communications sites located on National Forest System lands. In addition, the Forest Service enhanced the map viewer by adding additional feature information related to available utility services (e.g., power or fiber optic cable) at each communications site.

Applications Processed. The Forest Service is required by the MOBILE NOW Act (P.L. 115-141) to grant or deny an application for a communications use within 270 days. In FY 2021, the Forest Service approved 42 communications use authorizations with an average processing time of 94 days.

# WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
(Including Transfers of Funds)

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-43. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $1,927,241,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +751,418,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,678,659,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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, [$2,097,622,000]$2,678,659,000, 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, $321,388,000 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 funds made available in the previous proviso to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106–393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry" appropriation: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, $20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements; to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities; for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land; or for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, $1,011,000,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided as the average costs of wildfire suppression operations to the meet the terms of a concurrent resolution on the budget[: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, not less than $100,000,000 shall be for activities related to climate change, including wildfire risk management].

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

**Change Description**

The first change adds language moving the Hazardous Fuels program from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management.

The second change removes specific language for climate change funding.

**WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT**
[(Including Transfers of Funds)]
[For an additional amount for "Wildland Fire Management", $696,200,000 to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to carry out activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in section 40803 of division D of this Act: Provided, That $552,200,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2022, $36,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2023, $36,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2024, $36,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2025, and $36,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for fiscal year 2026: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be transferred to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116- 94) to carry out the activities in support of this heading: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, shall be available for salaries and expenses to carry out such purposes: Provided further, That one-half of one percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 shall be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture for oversight of funding provided to the Forest Service in this title in this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, and to section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

(Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act.)

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-44. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $764,241 | 8,529 | $764,241 | 8,529 | $1,154,271 | 11,782 | +$390,030 | +3,253 | (1) |
| Preparedness | $1,339,620 | 9,244 | 152,000 | 596 | 152,000 | - | 192,000 | - | +40,000 | - | (2) |
| Suppression | 1,011,000 | 972 | 1,011,000 | 1,156 | 1,011,000 | 1,156 | 1,011,000 | 1,156 | - | - | |
| Hazardous Fuels [a] | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 321,388 | - | +321,388 | - | (3) |
| Total, Discretionary Appropriations | 2,350,620 | 10,219 | 1,927,241 | 10,281 | 1,927,241 | 9,685 | 2,678,659 | 12,938 | +751,418 | +3,253 | |
| Supplemental Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [b] | 7,000 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [c] | - | - | - | - | 552,200 | 400 | 36,000 | 400 | -516,200 | - | |
| Total, Supplemental Appropriations | 7,000 | - | - | 2 | 552,200 | 400 | 36,000 | 400 | -516,200 | - | |
| Total Appropriations | 2,357,620 | 10,219 | 1,927,241 | 10,283 | 2,479,441 | 10,085 | 2,714,659 | 13,338 | +235,218 | +3,253 | |
| Transfers In: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Forest System | - | - | - | - | 46,900 | - | 27,640 | - | -19,260 | - | |
| Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund | - | - | 2,770,000 | - | 1,770,000 | - | 1,770,000 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Transfers In | - | - | 2,770,000 | - | 1,816,900 | - | 1,797,640 | - | -19,260 | - | |
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Department of the Interior | -48,835 | - | -1,982 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | - | - | - | - | -7,000 | - | -3,490 | - | +3,510 | - | |
| Forest Service Operations | - | - | -4,025 | - | -21,552 | - | -4,320 | - | +17,232 | - | |
| Office of Inspector General | - | - | - | - | -2,761 | - | -180 | - | +2,581 | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | -48,835 | - | -6,007 | - | -31,313 | - | -7,990 | - | +23,323 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 238,326 | - | 183,209 | - | 183,209 | - | 183,209 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 852,241 | - | 241,429 | - | 316,991 | - | 428,313 | - | +111,322 | - | |
| Total Available | 3,399,352 | 10,219 | 5,115,872 | 10,283 | 4,765,228 | 10,085 | 5,115,831 | 13,338 | +350,603 | +3,253 | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -241,429 | - | -316,991 | - | -428,313 | | -438,719 | | -10,406 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 3,157,923 | 10,219 | 4,798,881 | 10,283 | 4,336,915 | 10,085 | 4,677,112 | 13,338 | +340,197 | +3,253 | |

[a] The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2023.

[b] P.L. 116-136 provided $7,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[c] FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43) and advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). FY 2023 supplemental appropriations are entirely advance appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. See also the spend plans for advance appropriations on page 213. P.L. 117-58 provided $552,200,000 in fiscal year 2022, and $36,000,000 to be available each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

*Table FS-45. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | $757,132 | 8,529 | $818,757 | 8,529 | $1,151,397 | 11,782 | +$332,640 | +3,253 |
| Preparedness | $1,118,180 | 9,244 | 287,749 | 596 | 311,169 | - | 196,461 | - | -114,708 | - |
| Suppression | 1,763,979 | 972 | 3,741,246 | 1,156 | 3,045,754 | 1,156 | 2,924,381 | 1,156 | -121,373 | - |
| Hazardous Fuels [a] | 10,128 | 3 | -83 | - | 5,322 | - | 292,463 | - | +287,141 | - |
| National Fire Capacity | 2,368 | - | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rural Fire Capacity | - | - | 95 | - | 713 | - | - | - | -713 | - |
| Wildland Fire Management – Other | 258,269 | - | 10,725 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total, Discretionary Obligations | 3,152,924 | 10,219 | 4,796,882 | 10,281 | 4,181,715 | 9,685 | 4,564,702 | 12,938 | +382,987 | +3,253 |
| Supplemental Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [b] | 4,999 | - | 1,999 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [c] | | - | | - | 155,200 | 400 | 112,410 | 400 | -42,790 | - |
| Total, Supplemental Obligations | 4,999 | - | 1,999 | 2 | 155,200 | 400 | 112,410 | 400 | -42,790 | - |
| Total Obligations | 3,157,923 | 10,219 | 4,798,881 | 10,283 | 4,336,915 | 10,085 | 4,677,112 | 13,338 | +340,197 | +3,253 |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 7,109 | - | 1,362 | - | 3,377 | - | +2,015 | - |
| Preparedness | 141,968 | - | 23,287 | - | 4,461 | - | 11,061 | - | +6,600 | - |
| Suppression | 84,019 | - | 274,235 | - | 52,539 | - | 130,269 | - | +77,730 | - |
| Hazardous Fuels | 5,613 | - | 9,586 | - | 4,264 | - | 30,613 | - | +26,349 | - |
| National Fire Capacity | 1,472 | - | 2,637 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rural Fire Capacity | 800 | - | 713 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wildland Fire Management – Other | 5,556 | - | -618 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) [b] | 2,001 | - | 42 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) [c] | - | - | - | - | 365,687 | - | 263,399 | - | -102,288 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 241,429 | - | 316,991 | - | 428,313 | - | 438,719 | - | +10,406 | - |
| Total Available | 3,399,352 | 10,219 | 5,115,872 | 10,283 | 4,765,228 | 10,085 | 5,115,831 | 13,338 | +350,603 | +3,253 |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers In | - | - | -2,770,000 | - | -1,816,900 | - | -1,797,640 | - | 19,260 | - |
| Total Transfers Out | 48,835 | - | 6,007 | - | 31,313 | - | 7,990 | - | -23,323 | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -238,326 | - | -183,209 | - | -183,209 | - | -183,209 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -852,241 | - | -241,429 | - | -316,991 | - | -428,313 | - | -111,322 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 2,357,620 | 10,219 | 1,927,241 | 10,283 | 2,479,441 | 10,085 | 2,714,659 | 13,338 | +235,218 | +3,253 |

[a] The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2023.

[b] P.L. 116-136 provided $7,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

[c] P.L. 117-58 provided $552,200,000 in fiscal year 2022, and $36,000,000 to be available each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

**Salaries and Expenses: An increase of $390,030,000 and 3,253 full-time equivalents (FTE) from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $21,381,000, which includes $15,192,000 for pay inflation and $6,189,000 for FERS for 2022 Pay and FERS. This increase supports the pay increase which went into effect January 1, 2022, of a 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increases for civilian employees, and a 1.1 percent increase to cover the expenses for the mandated increase of USDA's contribution to FERS.

b) An increase of $34,649,000 for 2023 Pay. This increase will support the annualization of the 2022 2.7 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase. This will support the President's direction to pay all firefighters at least $15 per hour, and to support increases to base capacity levels, as well as permanent pay increases. Without this increase, the agency will have diminished capacity to support wildfire prevention, mitigation, education, and response operations.

c) An increase of $334,000,000 will support a total of 11,782 FTEs in FY 2023. The agency estimates $10-$15 million of this increase will ensure firefighters receive a minimum wage of $15 per hour. The remainder of the increase will fund an additional 3,253 FTEs from FY 2022 (firefighters and firefighting support personnel). This increased workforce capacity will enhance response to year-round fire activity and allow the agency to continue important investments that support the health, well-being, and resilience of the agency's wildland firefighting force. The Forest Service received an additional increase for wildland fire salary and expenses from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), which provides an additional $96,000,000 annually for five years ($480,000,000 total). This funding will be used to support a long-term solution for a special salary rate to address the pay disparity with State, local, and private firefighting entities.

**Preparedness: An increase of $40,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $40,000,000 to maintain a robust aviation program with up to 18 exclusive use airtankers, up to 103 exclusive use helicopters, and further implementation of the Unmanned Aerial Support program to maximize the agency's capacity to ensure safe, timely, and effective aerial response.

**Hazardous Fuels: An increase of $141,000,000 from the FY 2022 annualized CR, which includes the following:**

a) An increase of $141,000,000 will support 3.8 million acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatment projects that focus on limiting the risk wildfires pose to communities and public lands and restoring fire adaptive ecosystems. Hazardous fuel removal is pivotal in mitigating the occurrence of catastrophic wildland fires and ensuring forests and watersheds are sustainable, healthy, and productive. About 63 million acres of the 193 million acres (32 percent) of the National Forest System are at high or very high hazard for wildfires that would be difficult to contain. This additional funding will be used to treat three high priority areas (firesheds) to reduce risk to communities in a focused investment approach.

   This proposed increase will also significantly improve the ability to maintain landscapes the agency has already moved to a low risk, focus investments in areas of highest wildfire risk, and create fire adaptive ecosystems that are more resilient to the destructive impacts of wildfire due to climate change.

   The Hazardous Fuels program will move from the National Forest System account to the Wildland Fire Management account in FY 2023.

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-46. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | $9,745 | $11,540 | $11,682 | $14,968 |
| | Personnel compensation, field | 956,139 | 1,132,233 | 1,146,127 | 1,468,611 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 965,884 | 1,143,773 | 1,157,809 | 1,483,579 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 339,875 | 359,470 | 363,881 | 466,266 |
| 13.0 | Benefits for former personnel | 38,378 | 18 | 18 | 23 |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 1,344,137 | 1,503,261 | 1,521,708 | 1,949,868 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 69,996 | 120,443 | 102,529 | 99,521 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 12,998 | 11,466 | 9,761 | 9,475 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 12,939 | 327 | 280 | 271 |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 35,473 | 7,233 | 6,157 | 5,977 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 38,006 | 10,899 | 9,278 | 9,005 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 789 | 290 | 248 | 240 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 186 | -203 | - | -168 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 1,039,907 | 2,254,222 | 1,923,177 | 1,861,558 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 184,686 | 215,314 | 183,291 | 177,912 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 379 | 2,783 | 2,368 | 2,300 |
| 25.5 | Research and development contracts | 6,998 | - | - | - |
| 25.6 | Medical care | 272 | 410 | 349 | 338 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 3,249 | 3,323 | 2,830 | 2,746 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 156,357 | 213,727 | 181,940 | 176,601 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 19,006 | 9,595 | 8,168 | 7,928 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 301 | 1,763 | 1,501 | 1,457 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 231,677 | 443,215 | 382,639 | 371,411 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | 517 | 626 | 532 | 517 |
| 43.0 | Interest and dividends | 21 | 130 | 110 | 108 |
| 92.0 | Undistributed | 29 | 57 | 49 | 47 |
| | Total, other objects | 1,813,786 | 3,295,620 | 2,815,207 | 2,727,244 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 3,157,923 | 4,798,881 | 4,336,915 | 4,677,112 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 258 | 16 | 18 | 19 |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $185,230 | $181,262 | $186,156 | $191,182 |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $55,545 | $51,829 | $53,228 | $54,666 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 7.4 |

## STATUS OF PROGRAMS

The interagency fire community faced another challenging fire year in FY 2021 as the Forest Service and partners continued to respond to wildfire incidents around the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Forest Service implemented several operational changes to better protect wildland firefighters from COVID-19. Many of these efforts were successful and will be continued to improve future response operations. This includes modifying how caterers, showers, contract crews, and aviation resources are contracted and delivered; leveraging a virtual environment to provide support to fire camps from around the country; utilizing unmanned aerial systems for improved fire reconnaissance and additional burnout capability; and leveraging real-time fire analytics to inform when and where resources can be safely and effectively utilized.

In FY 2021, the Forest Service continued implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 with substantial progress in completing five resource tracking pilots at multiple Type 1 or 2 (the most complex) incidents. Implementation of the Act continues in FY 2022, focusing on potential phased rollouts of various components of the Act, such as new technology to address hazard risk mapping, increasing the utilization of unmanned aerial systems, location tracking for wildland firefighters, risk management for firefighters and the public, and improved wildland fire decision support. In FY 2021, the agency was also able to complete two major information technology (IT) contracts that will support the Fire and Aviation Management Information Management program in FY 2022. The contracts provide flexibility to quickly shift IT resources as project demands are adjusted throughout the year.

In FY 2021, the Forest Service continued reviewing and documenting a sample of large fires to examine multiple aspects in compliance with the requirements outlined in Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141). These efforts include reviewing and documenting the effectiveness of risk management strategies, beneficial ecological impacts of fire on the landscape, firefighter exposure, fuel treatment effectiveness, cost drivers, efforts to modernize the wildland fire program, operational effectiveness, and overall lessons learned. These assessments will allow the agency to better understand the wildland fire system and the factors that influence the outcomes of fire management decisions. In FY 2021, the analysis from the sampled fires was used to inform pre-season planning that influenced real-time wildland fire decision-making and reduced overall risk. The Forest Service will generate a report to Congress on the findings of these assessments at the end of any year in which all appropriated Suppression funds are exhausted.

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

*Table FS-47. Wildland Fire Salary and Expenses, Preparedness and Suppression Costs (millions of dollars)*

| Preparedness | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimate | 2023 Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wildland Firefighter Salary and Expenses: [a] | | | |
| Firefighter Federal Fire Response [b] | $102 | $113 | $130 |
| Firefighter State Fire Response [c] | 11 | 12 | 15 |
| FEMA [d] | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Travel and Training [c] | 31 | 34 | 52 |
| Non-Incident and Hazardous Fuel Operations [f, g, h] | 546 | 604 | 947 |
| Subtotal, Wildland Firefighter Salary and Expenses | 691 | 764 | 1,145 |
| Wildland Fire Preparedness Costs: [i] | | | |
| Firefighting Equipment, Operations, and Maintenance [j] | 508 | 132 | 172 |
| Aviation Contracts | 141 | 20 | 20 |
| Subtotal, Wildland Fire Preparedness Costs | 649 | 152 | 192 |
| **Total, Wildland Fire Salary and Expenses and Preparedness Costs** | **1,340** | **916** | **1,337** |

[a] Firefighters and support staff salary and personnel costs include pay costs and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions.
[b] Firefighters and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from work on fires occurring on National Forest System lands or other Federal lands.
[c] Firefighters and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from work on fires occurring on State lands.
[d] FEMA category under Preparedness includes employee and personnel costs for the first 8 hours (Base-8 hours) incurred when responding to FEMA-declared emergencies.
[e] Travel and training costs to support Forest Service firefighters and support staff for Preparedness program activities.
[f] All other firefighter and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from Preparedness program activities not directly supporting an incident. This includes all Wildland Fire leadership and associated management staff, communications staff, aviation staff, budget staff, fire planners, off-season firefighter work, and all the planning and readiness reviews to prepare for the next incident.
[g] All other firefighter and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from the hazardous fuels program.
[h] The 2020 actuals do not include the hazardous fuels program salary and personnel costs. The hazardous fuels salary and personnel costs were included within the Hazardous Fuels appropriation. The hazardous fuels salary and personnel costs are included in the 2021 and 2022 Wildland Fire salary and expense appropriation.
[i] The Preparedness program covers fixed costs and 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 National Forest System lands and other Federal, State, and private lands.
[j] The 2020 actuals include the agency's cost pool distribution and IT investments, $376 million. The 2021 and 2022 Wildland Fire Preparedness costs do not include the agency's cost pools distribution or IT investments, which are now part of the Forest Service Operations appropriations.

| Suppression | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimate | 2023 Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| Federal Fire Response [a] | $528 | $303 | $303 |
| State Fire Response [b] | 90 | 52 | 52 |
| Aviation Contracts | 438 | 251 | 251 |
| Fire Support Contracts and Operations [c] | 531 | 305 | 305 |
| FEMA [d] | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Burned Area Emergency Repair (BAER) [e] | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Administrative Support [f] | 170 | 95 | 95 |
| **Total Suppression [g]** | **$1,763** | **$1,011 [g]** | **$1,011 [h]** |

[a] Forest Service fire management assets used to support Suppression program activities on National Forest System and other Federal lands.
[b] Forest Service fire management assets used to support Suppression program activities on State lands.
[c] Execution of contracts and other procurements for activities associated with the national suppression response.
[d] FEMA reimbursement under Suppression includes firefighter and support staff overtime costs, hazard pay, travel, and other administrative costs during FEMA-declared emergencies.
[e] Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Repair response across all lands.
[f] All other costs to support Forest Service firefighters and staff during Suppression program activities.
The Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141) established funding levels for Suppression of $1.011 billion. Total Suppression funding requested in FY 2022 ($1.011 billion) includes pay costs, awards, and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions.
[g] The Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141) established funding levels for Suppression of $1.011 billion. Total Suppression funding requested in FY 2022 ($1.011 billion) includes pay costs, awards, and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions.
[h] The Forest Service 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 National Forest System lands and other Federal, State, and private lands, as necessary.

*Table FS-48. Resource Summary FY 2020 to FY 2022 (aviation fleet and personnel)*

| Resource | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimate | 2023 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 |
| Firefighters (FFTR) – Total is inclusive of categories below | 10,000 | 11,300 | 11,650 |
| Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (20-person) | 67 crews; 1,340 FFTR | 67 crews; 1,340 FFTR | 67 crews; 1,690 FFTR |
| Other Firefighters | 7,940 | 9,240 | 9,240 |
| 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. Numbers reflect maximum number of aircraft allowed under the exclusive use contracts.

## Preparedness

### *Current Activities*

Annually, there are more than 5,000 fires on National Forest System lands, and in FY 2021, Forest Service firefighters had an initial attack success rate[33] of 96 percent.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

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 lands and other Federal, State, and private lands. This program supports internal and external training and education, development and advancement of firefighting technology, and organizational learning.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Potential Operational Delineations (PODs). In FY 2021, the Forest Service continued to provide leadership and collaboration on the development of a common understanding of risks, management opportunities, and desired outcomes before a fire starts. PODs are a pre-planning framework to assist in real time decisions and identify opportunities for wildfire control lines. In FY 2021, more than 40 national forests developed PODs.

Improvements in Aircraft Acquisition. The Forest Service Aviation Acquisition Strategy (Strategy) was implemented on January 1, 2021, and documents how the Aviation Program collectively plans, executes, and manages all aviation acquisitions required to meet agency goals, objectives, and performance measures. The Strategy established three levels of governance bodies with both national and regional representation to facilitate ongoing strategic planning and prioritization. Under this Strategy, aviation is viewed as a single program, which allows for significant cost and administration efficiencies, especially given limited aviation and contracting personnel resources. In addition, use of the Strategy's acquisition phases and decision points ensures a strategic,

[33] Initial attack success rate is the percent of fires that were suppressed before reaching 300 acres in size.

integrated, timely, and programmatic approach to aviation procurements using program management best practices, tools, and techniques.

## Suppression

### *Current Activities*

The Suppression program is the primary funding source for wildland fire extended attack and large fire support operations. The Suppression program 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. This program also protects forests and watersheds from the impacts of catastrophic fire, helping maintain clean water, wildlife and fish habitat, recreational opportunities, and forest products.

*Specifically Addressed Areas*

The FY 2021 fire season saw over 7.6 million acres burned in wildland fires, with over 4.1 million of those acres occurring on National Forest System lands. The agency continues to evolve how it applies analytical systems to the decisional framework to answer questions about how fire suppression resources are currently allocated, which suppression resources are effective, and whether current practices employed by incident managers are efficient.

S.Con.Res.14 ("A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031") extended the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act included in Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141), which amended the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to authorize the appropriation of additional budget authority. In FY 2021 the Forest Service accessed the additional budget authority which allowed the agency to continue to cover the full cost of fire suppression operations. This additional authority is intended to 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 is being leveraged by the agency to more strategically approach programmatic and fiscal management of the fire program.

In addition, the Forest Service continues to standardize local agreements for cooperative response to wildland fires. In FY 2021, the agency advanced to have over 45 standardized 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.

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Risk Management Assistance. In FY 2021, the Forest Service's Risk Management Assistance program continued to provide real time decision support for the largest and most challenging fires. The program provides analytical products and support for line officers' use of analytics within their decision-making process on critical fire incidents. In FY 2021, line officers employed Risk Management Assistance on over 110 large fires, including the Dixie and Caldor fires in California. Risk Management Assessment programs and products are continuing to change the way the agency makes decisions to reduce wildfire risk to communities and the workforce. In FY 2021, the Forest Service developed a new suite of fire analytic tools to facilitate pre-season risk assessment and help local units identify effective suppression strategies during incidents.

Burned Area Emergency Response. There are many emergencies that continue to affect the landscape and critical values after wildfires, including flooding, debris flows, increased erosion, and threat of non-native species invasion. The Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program, funded under Suppression, provides the opportunity for assessment and mitigation of these post-fire risks on National Forest System lands for life, safety, property, and critical natural and cultural resources. BAER treatments are completed within the first year following the fire and may include installation of warning signs and gates, road and trail drainage improvements, control of non-native plants, and hazardous materials containment. In FY 2021, over 5.4 million acres received a burned area emergency assessment with $31.8 million allocated for treatments to protect life and safety, property,

and critical natural and cultural resources on National Forest System lands. There were over 300 separate fires assessed; funding was requested for 197 of those fires, while 105 did not need post-fire emergency action. Treatments included over 35,000 acres of invasive plant detection and response, about 2,500 miles of road drainage improvements, over 830 miles of trail work, protection of over 150 cultural sites, over 200 hazardous sites mitigated, and numerous hazard warning signs installed. Implementation completed in FY 2021 expended $29 million on actions for the 2019, 2020, and 2021 fire seasons.

## Hazardous Fuels

### *Current Activities*

Much of the Nation's forests and grasslands are stressed by the impacts of climate change, including 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 fuels 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.

The Hazardous Fuels program treats acres to reduce the potential for uncharacteristic wildfire by prioritizing treatments in the vicinity of critical infrastructure and community source drinking water supplies. A trade-off analysis is conducted using scenario investment planning to distribute resources more efficiently to the highest priority areas. 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 resilience.

### *Specifically Addressed Areas*

In FY 2021, the Forest Service accomplished approximately 3.7 million acres of hazardous fuels reduction on National Forest System lands and adjacent areas to mitigate wildfire risk, exceeding the national target of 3.5 million acres. Over 2 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 WUI areas. More than one million treated acres were categorized as having a high to very high hazard of a large wildfire that would be difficult to contain. About 1.8 million acres or 49 percent of the total acres were treated with prescribed fire, one of the most cost-effective methods of treatment. This is the most acres the Forest Service has treated using prescribed fire, exceeding the previous record of 1.6 million acres. Five regions exceeded their regional target, three regions achieved at least 86 percent of their target, and one region met 76 percent of its target. The success of the program was primarily a result of favorable weather creating more opportunities for burning and a concerted effort to improve coordination among regions to mobilize resources to support seasonal burning. The Forest Service achieved this level of accomplishment while also managing a significant wildfire response workload, providing support to the national COVID-19 response, and overcoming challenges for performing work in a COVID-19 environment. The agency will continue to prioritize the use of authorities provided in Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141), and take the necessary steps to reach the goal of treating 3.8 million acres of National Forest System lands and adjacent areas in FY 2023. The agency is using the analytic methodology of "firesheds" to help prioritize work in areas with the greatest exposure to communities and will be taking the necessary steps in FY 2023 to reach the goal of treating three firesheds to the desired condition where wildfire risk is mitigated.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Wildfire Risk to Communities website. The Wildfire Risk to Communities (WRC) website was launched in April 2020 and has been visited over 173,000 times, with over 134,000 views in FY 2021 alone. Since the initial launch, site improvements have been made, including: the ability to toggle between population areas and all-lands in all views; the ability for users to conduct analysis based on expanded population areas which represent a 45-minute or less commute to a Census Designated Place[34]; the ability to view the "risk comparison area" at the county, State, or national level; 15 total geographic information system (GIS) layers for download to help communities customize their fire risk analysis; and additional references to search partner programs to help communities reduce wildfire risk. Colorado State University led an independent review of the WRC website using customers from five Western States and developed a 'tool kit" to help work with disfranchised communities. The release of version 2.0 of the website with updated base data (including new data for populations, vegetation, and vulnerable populations), additional capabilities including searchable tribal areas, and enhanced tools for communities to support their mitigation efforts, is planned for FY 2023.

Smoke Management and Air Quality. As guided by the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, the Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program (IWFAQRP) deployed 111 Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) to support wildfire response with smoke dispersion forecasting, public smoke impact information, and community messages. The IWFAQRP ARA cadre includes 21 partner agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control, National Weather Service, Department of the Interior, States, and contracted resources. ARAs are technical specialists trained to work on smoke issues from wildland fire and are deployed nationwide during large smoke events. Among the products the IWFAQRP provides are daily Smoke Outlooks that provides critical air quality impact information so the public can reduce their exposure and health risks associated with smoke. In FY 2021, the IWFAQRP maintained and utilized over 40 fine particulate air quality monitors, 30 low-cost air quality sensors, 220 carbon monoxide data loggers, and 13 Rad-57 sensors to detect cumulative Carboxyhemoglobin in support of the public and wildfire Incident Management Teams.

Fuels Treatments Modified Fire Behavior in FY 2021. During the FY 2021 fire season, numerous wildfires interacted with cross-boundary fuels reduction projects across all regions, with a significant number of occurrences in the Forest Service Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, and Southwestern Regions. Assessments of the effectiveness of these treatments are ongoing, but initial observations indicate that in most cases, fuels treatments resulted in reduced fire behavior that provides strategic advantages to firefighters responding to these wildfires. In many cases, the occurrence of large, damaging wildfire was avoided entirely. One example occurred on June 24, 2021, on the Ochoco National Forest near Redmond, Oregon, when a lightning fire ignited within a 2,000-acre prescribed burn area and was easily contained at three acres. In April 2021, the Holiday Mesa and Llano Loco fires on the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico were both easily contained at three and one acre, respectively, because the fuels treatments undertaken by the New Mexico State Forestry, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Forest Service/USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Joint Chiefs' program reduced the fire intensities. For larger wildfires, fuels treatments again played a vital role. One of the most notable instances was on the Caldor fire where hazardous fuels treatments were instrumental in providing firefighters with strategic options for the protection of Myers, California, and other communities in the vicinity of South Lake Tahoe. On the nearly one million-acre Dixie fire near Susanville, California, mechanical and prescribed fire treatments undertaken by the Lassen and Plumas National Forests, State agencies, and private landowners played a vital role in establishing fire control across many portions of this large fire. While the community of Greenville, California, suffered severe damage, fuel treatments aided firefighters in the protection of many other communities such as Quincy, Taylorsville, and Dixie Valley.

[34] Statistical geographic entities representing closely settled, unincorporated communities that are locally recognized and identified by name.

# WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-49. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Annualized CR, 2022 | $2,040,000,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | +170,000,000 |
| Budget Request, 2023 | 2,210,000,000 |

## APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations, [$2,120,000,000]$2,210,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority in excess of the average costs for wildfire suppression operations for purposes of a concurrent resolution on the budget: *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.

Note: A full-year 2022 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (Division A of P.L. 117-43, as amended). The amounts included for 2022 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-50. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund | $1,950,000 | - | $2,040,000 | - | $2,040,000 | - | $2,210,000 | - | +$170,000 | - | (1) |
| Total Appropriations | 1,950,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,040,000 | - | 2,210,000 | - | +$170,000 | - | |
| Transfers Out: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wildland Fire Management | - | - | -2,770,000 | - | -1,770,000 | - | -1,770,000 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Transfers Out | - | - | -2,770,000 | - | -1,770,000 | - | -1,770,000 | - | - | - | |
| Bal. Available, SOY | - | - | 1,950,000 | - | 1,220,000 | - | 1,490,000 | - | +270,000 | - | |
| Total Available | 1,950,000 | - | 1,220,000 | - | 1,490,000 | - | 1,930,000 | - | +440,000 | - | |
| Bal. Available, EOY | -1,950,000 | - | -1,220,000 | - | -1,490,000 | - | -1,930,000 | - | -440,000 | - | |
| Total Obligations | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |

JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES

a) An increase of $170,000,000. 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 also amended Section 102 of the Stephen Sepp of the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act (division O of Public Law 115–141) to provide additional new budget authority for fiscal years 2020 through 2027. The overall amount 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 was determined to be $1.011 billion for the Forest Service and was appropriated beginning FY 2020 together with the first allocation of the new budget authority.

# PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-51. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Estimate, 2022 | $506,528,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Estimate, 2023 | 506,528,000 |

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-52. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mandatory Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund | - | - | - | 43 | - | 43 | - | 43 | - | - | |
| Brush Disposal | $8,104 | 67 | $6,928 | 40 | $6,928 | 40 | $6,928 | 40 | - | - | |
| Timber Salvage Sales | 33,728 | 365 | 34,746 | 191 | 34,746 | 191 | 34,746 | 191 | - | - | |
| Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration | 2,754 | 24 | 4,977 | 28 | 4,977 | 28 | 4,977 | 28 | - | - | |
| Forest Botanical Products | 558 | 20 | 915 | 13 | 915 | 13 | 915 | 13 | - | - | |
| Stewardship Contracting | 32,336 | - | 29,276 | 31 | 29,276 | 31 | 29,276 | 31 | - | - | |
| Recreation Fees, Forest Service | 92,765 | 621 | 118,253 | 460 | 118,253 | 460 | 118,253 | 460 | - | - | |
| Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - | - | - | |
| Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters | 9,841 | 27 | 10,266 | 18 | 10,266 | 18 | 10,266 | 18 | - | - | |
| Roads and Trails for States | 15,887 | - | 13,189 | - | 16,000 | - | 16,000 | - | - | - | |
| Land Between the Lakes Management | 4,836 | 10 | 6,468 | 12 | 6,468 | 12 | 6,468 | 12 | - | - | |
| Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees | 576 | - | 669 | 1 | 794 | 1 | 794 | 1 | - | - | |
| Quinault Special Management Area | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements | 1,103 | 33 | 1,307 | 21 | 1,308 | 21 | 1,308 | 21 | - | - | |
| Commercial Filming & Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention | 455 | 3 | 608 | 4 | 608 | 4 | 608 | 4 | - | - | |
| Organizational Camps Program | 436 | 5 | 191 | 3 | 191 | 3 | 191 | 3 | - | - | |
| Cost Recovery (Land Uses) | 693 | 6 | 679 | 3 | 679 | 3 | 679 | 3 | - | - | |
| Licensee Program Smokey Bear | 1,189 | - | 833 | - | 833 | - | 833 | - | - | - | |
| Licensee Program Woodsy Owl | 25 | - | 20 | - | 20 | - | 20 | - | - | - | |
| Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation) | 72 | - | 47 | - | 47 | - | 47 | - | - | - | |
| Payments to States Funds | 284,288 | 23 | 256,023 | 25 | 272,219 | 25 | 272,219 | 25 | - | - | |
| Total, Mandatory Appropriations | 491,647 | 1,204 | 487,395 | 893 | 506,528 | 893 | 506,528 | 893 | - | - | |
| Offsetting Collections: | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cost Recovery (Land Uses) | 3,548 | 31 | 5,641 | 23 | 5,641 | 23 | 5,641 | 23 | - | - | |
| Total, Offsetting Collections | 3,548 | 31 | 5,641 | 23 | 5,641 | 23 | 5,641 | 23 | - | - | |
| Total Appropriations | 495,195 | 1,235 | 493,036 | 916 | 512,169 | 916 | 512,169 | 916 | - | - | |
| Transfers In: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Department of the Interior | 733 | - | 285,464 | - | 285,000 | - | 285,000 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Transfers In | 733 | - | 285,464 | - | 285,000 | - | 285,000 | - | - | - | |
| Deferral for Roads and Trails for States | -15,887 | - | -13,189 | | -16,000 | - | - | - | | | |
| Sequestration | -2,825 | - | -17,445 | - | -39,724 | - | -16,929 | - | +$22,795 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 13,472 | - | 9,475 | - | 9,475 | - | 9,475 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 631,985 | - | 624,392 | - | 843,447 | - | 975,711 | - | +132,264 | - | |
| Total Available | 1,122,673 | 1,235 | 1,381,733 | 916 | 1,594,367 | 916 | 1,765,426 | 916 | +155,059 | - | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -624,392 | - | -843,447 | - | -975,711 | - | -973,870 | - | +1,841 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 498,271 | 1,235 | 538,286 | 916 | 618,656 | 916 | 791,556 | 916 | +172,900 | - | |

*Table FS-53. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mandatory Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund | - | - | $115,267 | 43 | $172,900 | 43 | $345,800 | 43 | +$172,900 | - |
| Brush Disposal | $10,691 | 67 | 6,994 | 40 | 6,994 | 40 | 6,994 | 40 | - | - |
| Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research | 61 | - | 15 | - | 15 | - | 15 | - | - | - |
| Timber Salvage Sales | 47,169 | 365 | 25,329 | 191 | 25,329 | 191 | 25,329 | 191 | - | - |
| Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration | 3,961 | 24 | 3,863 | 28 | 3,863 | 28 | 3,863 | 28 | - | - |
| Forest Botanical Products | 1,933 | 20 | 1,121 | 13 | 1,121 | 13 | 1,121 | 13 | - | - |
| Stewardship Contracting | 20,719 | - | 21,087 | 31 | 21,087 | 31 | 21,087 | 31 | - | - |
| Recreation Fees, Forest Service | 93,072 | 621 | 99,166 | 460 | 99,166 | 460 | 99,166 | 460 | - | - |
| Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction | - | - | 248 | - | 248 | - | 248 | - | - | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters | 8,724 | 27 | 8,291 | 18 | 8,291 | 18 | 8,291 | 18 | - | - |
| Roads and Trails for States | 52 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land Between the Lakes Management | 4,904 | 10 | 6,492 | 12 | 6,492 | 12 | 6,492 | 12 | - | - |
| Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees | 789 | - | 716 | 1 | 716 | 1 | 716 | 1 | - | - |
| Quinault Special Management Area | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements | 27,935 | 33 | 11,939 | 21 | 11,939 | 21 | 11,939 | 21 | - | - |
| Commercial Filming & Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention | 568 | 3 | 465 | 4 | 465 | 4 | 465 | 4 | - | - |
| Organizational Camps Program | 537 | 5 | 235 | 3 | 235 | 3 | 235 | 3 | - | - |
| Cost Recovery (Land Uses) | 663 | 6 | 381 | 3 | 381 | 3 | 381 | 3 | - | - |
| Licensee Program Smokey Bear | 660 | - | 663 | - | 663 | - | 663 | - | - | - |
| Licensee Program Woodsy Owl | 35 | - | 46 | - | 46 | - | 46 | - | - | - |
| Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation) | 121 | - | 91 | - | 94 | - | 94 | - | - | - |
| Payments to States Funds | 270,321 | 23 | 232,420 | 25 | 253,291 | 25 | 253,291 | 25 | - | - |
| Total, Mandatory Obligations | 492,915 | 1,204 | 534,829 | 893 | 613,336 | 893 | 786,236 | 893 | +172,900 | - |
| Offsetting Collections: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cost Recovery (Land Uses) | 5,356 | 31 | 3,457 | 23 | 5,320 | 23 | 5,320 | 23 | - | - |
| Total, Offsetting Collections | 5,356 | 31 | 3,457 | 23 | 5,320 | 23 | 5,320 | 23 | - | - |
| Total Obligations | 498,271 | 1,235 | 538,286 | 916 | 618,656 | 916 | 791,556 | 916 | +172,900 | - |
| Add back: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lapsing Balances | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund | - | - | 169,734 | - | 265,916 | - | 204,594 | - | -61,322 | - |
| Brush Disposal | 25,344 | - | 25,728 | - | 27,017 | - | 29,281 | - | +2,264 | - |
| Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research | 81 | - | 66 | - | 70 | - | 76 | - | +6 | - |
| Timber Salvage Sales | 66,113 | - | 76,965 | - | 80,822 | - | 87,594 | - | +6,772 | - |
| Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration | 5,216 | - | 6,694 | - | 7,030 | - | 7,618 | - | +588 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forest Botanical Products | 2,104 | - | 2,031 | - | 2,134 | - | 2,313 | - | +179 | - |
| Stewardship Contracting | 46,110 | - | 53,246 | - | 55,913 | - | 60,600 | - | +4,687 | - |
| Recreation Fees, Forest Service | 111,667 | - | 130,803 | - | 137,355 | - | 148,866 | - | +11,511 | - |
| Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction | 32,858 | - | 34,619 | - | 36,354 | - | 39,400 | - | +3,046 | - |
| Operation & Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters | 27,436 | - | 29,442 | - | 30,917 | - | 33,509 | - | +2,592 | - |
| Roads and Trails for States | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Land Between the Lakes Management | 4,983 | - | 5,002 | - | 5,253 | - | 5,693 | - | +440 | - |
| Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees | 3,717 | - | 3,681 | - | 3,867 | - | 4,191 | - | +324 | - |
| Quinault Special Management Area | 18 | - | 18 | - | 19 | - | 20 | - | +1 | - |
| Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements | 204,677 | - | 198,499 | - | 208,442 | - | 225,912 | - | +17,470 | - |
| Commercial Filming & Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention | -2,217 | - | -2,216 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Organizational Camps Program | 5,651 | - | 5,894 | - | 6,188 | - | 6,707 | - | +519 | - |
| Cost Recovery (Land Uses) | 18,275 | - | 21,492 | - | 22,569 | - | 24,459 | - | +1,890 | - |
| Licensee Program Smokey Bear | 1,872 | - | 2,052 | - | 2,155 | - | 2,335 | - | +180 | - |
| Licensee Program Woodsy Owl | 113 | - | 87 | - | 92 | - | 99 | - | +7 | - |
| Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation) | 517 | - | 472 | - | 496 | - | 537 | - | +41 | - |
| Payments to States Funds | 69,856 | - | 79,137 | - | 83,101 | - | 90,065 | - | +6,964 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 624,392 | - | 843,447 | - | 975,711 | - | 973,870 | - | -1,841 | - |
| Total Available | 1,122,673 | 1,235 | 1,381,733 | 916 | 1,594,367 | 916 | 1,765,426 | 916 | +171,059 | - |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Transfers In | -733 | - | -285,464 | - | -285,000 | - | -285,000 | - | - | - |
| Deferral for Roads and Trails for States | 15,887 | - | 13,189 | - | 16,000 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sequestration | 2,825 | - | 17,445 | - | 39,724 | - | 16,929 | - | -22,795 | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -13,472 | - | -9,475 | - | -9,475 | - | -9,475 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -631,985 | - | -624,392 | - | -843,447 | - | -975,711 | - | -132,264 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 495,195 | 1,235 | 493,036 | 916 | 512,169 | 916 | 512,169 | 916 | +16,000 | - |

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-54. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Budget Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | $328 | $258 | $258 | $265 |
| | Personnel compensation, field | 69,733 | 54,840 | 54,840 | 56,321 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 70,061 | 55,098 | 55,098 | 56,586 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 24,272 | 19,215 | 19,215 | 19,734 |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 94,333 | 74,313 | 74,313 | 76,320 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 1,984 | 1,607 | 1,885 | 2,477 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 474 | 620 | 727 | 955 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 294 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 2,469 | 17 | 20 | 26 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 1,037 | 808 | 948 | 1,245 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 543 | 600 | 704 | 925 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 106 | 37 | 43 | 57 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 79,746 | 143,523 | 168,384 | 221,247 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 11,148 | 21,553 | 25,287 | 33,225 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 338 | 529 | 621 | 815 |
| 25.6 | Medical care | 10 | 7 | 8 | 11 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 774 | 1,081 | 1,268 | 1,666 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 10,866 | 15,328 | 17,984 | 23,629 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 1,868 | 2,047 | 2,401 | 3,155 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 438 | 3,803 | 4,461 | 5,862 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 291,465 | 272,311 | 319,482 | 419,784 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | 343 | 86 | 101 | 132 |
| 43.0 | Interest and dividends | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 92.0 | Undistributed | 32 | 12 | 14 | 18 |
| | Total, other objects | 403,938 | 463,973 | 544,343 | 715,236 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 498,271 | 538,286 | 618,656 | 791,556 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 7 | - | - | - |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $187,148 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $52,338 | $51,929 | $53,331 | $54,771 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.5 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

## National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund

The Great American Outdoors Act established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (Public Lands Restoration Fund) for FY 2021 through FY 2025 and directs the Treasury to deposit 50 percent of energy development revenues, up to $1.9 billion per fiscal year, from oil, gas, coal, or alternative/renewable energy development on Federal land. GAOA authorizes 85 percent of this fund to be available for the Department of Interior's deferred maintenance, and 15 percent of this fund is available for Forest Service deferred maintenance projects, up to $285 million annually for five years. Additionally, the GAOA requires that over the term of the fund, not less than 65 percent of amounts allocated are for non-transportation projects. Projects approved under the Public Lands Restoration Fund will focus on reducing the deferred maintenance backlog, while at the same time improving access, enhancing forest conditions, and improving the quality of the visitor experience.

In FY 2021, a total of 556 projects were approved by Congress to receive funding from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, totaling $285,000,000. At the conclusion of FY 2021, $9,671,643 of deferred maintenance had been addressed with Great American Outdoors Act funding. One of the projects completed in FY 2021 was the Tepee Work Center on the Black Hills National Forest which addressed $196,000 of deferred maintenance. This project restored a 1930's era Civilian Conservation Corps structure through a collaborative approach with HistoriCorps and Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center students. The ability to maintain such a historically significant structure for current and future generations is a key component of the Great American Outdoors Act.

The Forest Service FY 2023 National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund project lists are included in the appendix to the FY 2023 Budget request. The Forest Service has developed these projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance.

## Brush Disposal

This program provides for the disposal of unmerchantable brush and other debris resulting from timber purchaser operations on timber sale contracts, stewardship contracts, and permits not removed by the purchaser. Timber harvest activities create slash and other debris that, if left untreated, can increase the risk of fire, impair reforestation, and contribute to the growth in non-desirable insect populations. Brush disposal treatments can be mechanical (e.g., scattering, chipping, or crushing slash) or by prescribed burning. 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 receipts originate from deposits for the estimated cost of disposing of brush and other debris resulting from timber harvest operations, should the purchaser elect not to perform the disposal work. As a result of the agency's budget modernization efforts, National Program Support rates, which are funds that are used at the national office for related national level projects and program administration, were reduced for FY 2022, allowing more funds to be utilized on the ground in the sale area.

## Timber Salvage Sales

This program facilitates the timely removal of timber damaged by fire, wind, insects, diseases, or other events to aid in maintaining healthy and resilient forests and ensuring community safety. Revenues collected from the sale of timber from dead and dying trees are used to prepare and administer future salvage timber sales, including obtaining Forest Service engineering support. These funds are immediately available to respond to timber salvage opportunities. As a result of the agency's budget modernization efforts, National Program Support rates, funds that are used at the national office for related national level projects and program administration, were reduced for FY 2022, allowing more funds to be utilized on the ground for future salvage timber sales.

The removal of dead or dying timber through timber sale contracts is a valuable tool to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fires and other hazards and 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

This program provides an additional source of funds for restoring the timber sale pipeline[35] and to address the backlog of recreation projects. This program contributes to several land and resource management objectives, including improving forest health, restoring wildlife habitat, and providing forest products to meet local and national needs. Additionally, this fund helps address health and safety issues related to recreation facilities and 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 that forests and grasslands are conserved, restored, and resilient.

Seventy-five percent of net funds are used for the preparation of future non-salvage timber sales to restore the timber sales pipeline volume. This activity provides for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 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.

The remaining 25 percent of net funds are expended on the maintenance backlog for recreation facility projects and system trails, including maintenance and improvement of recreation sites, system trails, bridges, and trailheads.

### Forest Botanical Products

This program authorizes the sale and harvest of forest botanical products, provided such actions comply with environmental standards. Forest botanical products refers to any naturally occurring fungi, flowers, seeds, roots, bark, leaves, and other vegetation (or portion thereof) found on national forest 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.

### Stewardship Contracting

This program authorizes 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 cost 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 (also referred to as the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Fund)

Fees collected from users of recreation facilities are used to pay for on-the-ground operation, maintenance, and improvement of recreation sites and services to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities, visitor experiences, and related fish and wildlife habitat. (16 U.S.C. 6806 et seq.). Section 423 of Division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116–260) extended FLREA through 2022.

<u>Recreation Fees, Forest Service Site Specific</u>

This fund collects approximately $100 million annually. Ninety-five percent of collections are used to administer recreation facilities and provide public use services. The remaining five percent is allocated to the regional offices to support strategic program oversight, financial management, and training; and to provide grants to forests for improvements and special projects.

[35] The multiyear, multistep process of administering timber sales, from identifying offerings through the sale of an area, is referred to as the timber pipeline.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Agency Specific

This program provides funding, in part, for the National Recreation Reservation Service – or recreation.gov – an interagency e-government initiative providing a reservation system for all recreation facilities on public lands that allow reservations.

Recreation Fees, Forest Service Grey Towers National Historic Site Fees

This program collects fees for admission and use of facilities on Grey Towers. Collections are used to administer Grey Towers; provide interpretive and education programs and projects that perpetuate the legacy of Gifford Pinchot for the general public and youth; offer public programs that foster stewardship of natural resources; and provide conservation leadership development programs to enhance the dialogues occurring within the natural resource community.

Shasta-Trinity National Forest Marina Fees

This program collects fees received from the marina project to fund the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. Funds are used to meet critical health and safety standards, address portions of the maintenance backlog, provide for 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, maintenance of 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 to showcase recreation opportunities in the agency.

## Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction

This 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 maintenance of infrastructure for the processing of woody fiber.

## Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters

This program collects rental income from employees living in Forest Service 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

This program collects 10 percent of all National Forest Fund receipts, including fees and other types of revenue, to be used by the Forest Service without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived. Fees collected are used to repair or reconstruct roads, bridges, and trails on National Forest System lands. Funds are also utilized to correct 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. This 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.

### Land Between the Lakes Management

The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBLNRA) 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. The LBLNRA hosts an average of almost 1.8 million visits annually.

Section 524 of the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act (P.L. 105-277) established a special fund known as the Land Between the Lakes Management Fund. All amounts received from charges, user fees, and natural resource use, including timber and agricultural receipts, are deposited into the fund. Funds are available for management of LBLNRA, 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) to be managed as part of the National Forest System. The Act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to use rental fees (cited in the Act as MNP Rental Fee Account) from issued agricultural leases and special use authorizations. 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), rental fees receipts available may be used from amounts in the fund, until expended and without fiscal year limitation, to cover the cost to the United States used for prairie improvement work at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

### 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. Receipts from user fees and salvage receipts (cited in the Act as Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Fund), may be used from amounts in the fund, in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation acts. The fund can be used for restoration and administration of the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie; including construction of visitor center and education center; restoration of ecosystems; construction of recreational facilities; construction of trails; construction of administrative offices; the operation and maintenance of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; and receipts from inclusion in any cost recovery or any pilot program for the collection, use, and distribution of user fees.

### Quinault Special Management Area Fund

This program provides 10 percent of the gross proceeds from the sale of forest products on the Quinault Special Management Area (QSMA) be available for administration of future timber sales. The remaining 90 percent of gross proceeds are divided each quarter, with 45 percent going to the State of Washington and 45 percent to the Quinault Tribe. The QSMA is approximately 5,400 acres and is managed by the Olympic National Forest for the Quinault Indian Nation.

### Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements

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 and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention

Fees retained by the Forest Service in this fund are used to manage and respond to film and photo use requests on National Forest System lands in an expedited manner. For example, forest units use these funds to assess popular film and photo locations in advance of requests, and to develop and post information on film and 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 and photo requests prior to accepting a proposal as a formal application.

### Organizational Camp Program

This program administers land use permits and collects fees from organizations to conduct camp sessions for young people or disabled persons. These 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.

The fee system includes land use fees, facility use fees, and fees based on other revenue. Land use 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 are assessed based on five percent of the facility's appraised value for Federally owned facilities. Fees based on other revenue are payments assessed based on five percent of the organizational camp's revenue for revenue from activities other than providing youth services.

### Cost Recovery (Land Uses)

This program collects receipts to recover administrative costs associated with applications and authorizations for use of National Forest System lands. Each year, the Forest Service processes thousands of applications for the use and occupancy and administers tens of thousands of authorizations for a wide variety of 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 land use applications for other than government uses; commercial and private requests to assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and land use plans; appraising the technical and financial capabilities of applicants to conduct activities on National Forest System lands; 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.

<u>Cost Recovery Lands Major Projects</u>

The Forest Service designates projects proposing recreation and non-recreation (land) uses that require more than 50 hours of agency time to process or monitor as major projects. Uses involving construction or reconstruction are also deemed to be major categories for which the agency collects all appropriate administrative costs.

Cost Recovery Lands Minor Projects

All non-recreation (land) uses not subject to exemption or waiver that require 50 hours or less of agency time to process are designated as minor projects. A flat fee schedule, established in four different tiers, and subject to annual indexing, is used for these proposals.

## Smokey Bear Official Licensing Program

The Smokey Bear Official Licensing Program supports national wildfire prevention initiatives, programs, educational materials, and products that help increase public awareness about the prevention of human-caused wildfires. The licensing program was established as part of the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) Program under Public Law 82-359, as amended by PL 93-318. The CFFP is managed by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Advertising Council, Inc. (Ad Council) and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). The Forest Service's national wildfire prevention program is responsible for the overall management of the licensing program and manages a contract for the marketing and administration of the commercial licensing program. The royalties collected in the Smokey Bear official licensing program support the National Smokey Bear Awards program, national wildfire prevention programs and initiatives, and the licensing program contract. 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, attendance in national parades, and development of national wildfire education products as long as the messaging is solely regarding the prevention of human-caused wildfires.

## Licensee Program Woodsy Owl

The Woodsy Owl program supports national initiatives, programs, and products to increase public awareness of activities and issues related to the improvement and maintenance of the environment. The Conservation Education program provides funding for developing Woodsy Owl activities, educational products, enhancing partnerships, and managing the licensing program. FY 2021 set the stage for the year-long celebration of Woodsy Owl's 50$^{th}$ birthday, which included the development and distribution of activities that promoted Woodsy's conservation messages through publications, distance learning programs, and two mobile app-based conservation missions. During FY 2022, Woodsy Owl's 50$^{th}$ birthday activities and programs will be finalized, and a new licensing contractor will be brought on to increase the number of licenses and streamline approval procedures.

## 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 might otherwise 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. Every dollar collected under this authority offsets funding from other programs.

## PAYMENTS TO STATES

### 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 in lieu-of-taxes were authorized for 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 2020 of over $5.8 million was transmitted to the State of Minnesota in May 2021 (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 utilization 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 from these lands, excluding receipts from the sale of land 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 2020 of over $21 million was transmitted to eligible counties in June 2021 (the program has a one-year lag in timing of payments).

### Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act Payments, Title I, II & III

The National Forest Fund Payments to States is an account where all receipts are deposited that will be used for Title I and Title III payments, and Title II deposits, made under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act). These funds, combined with a Payments to States U.S. Treasury transfer, are the source of funding for payments to States under the SRS Act, most recently reauthorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (P.L. 117-58).

***Title I & III:***

The SRS Act 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 above; 4) to develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans; and 5) for broadband access for schools. The Forest Service completed its FY 2020 payments to States in April 2021 (the program has a one-year lag in timing of payments). More information about payments can be found on the Forest Service Secure Rural Schools - Payments website[36].

***Title II:***

The SRS Act provides choices to counties for funding resource improvement projects approved by Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) on the national forest where the county is located. Any SRS Title II project funds not obligated by September 30, 2026, 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 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.

[36] https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/payments

These projects provide local jobs and often provide opportunities to promote youth and volunteer engagement in our national forests and grasslands.

***Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees***

A Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides recommendations to the Forest Service on the development and implementation of Title II projects on Federal lands. Each RAC consists of 15 stakeholders representing varied interests and areas of expertise who work collaboratively to improve working relationships among community members and national forest personnel. The Forest Service has 91 active SRS RACs.

In FY 2021, 25 percent of the RACs did not have enough members to reach a quorum and conduct meetings. 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 additional one-on-one consultation to RACs as needed. The USDA filed a new charter for the RACs on October 15, 2021, and is working to recruit members for the RACs by taking advantage of Section 8702 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334), also known as the 2018 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 through a RAC Composition Waiver.

In addition, the 2018 Farm Bill Regional Pilot Program in Montana and Arizona successfully filled 12 vacant RAC positions in Montana and three of four vacant RAC positions in Arizona through appointment by Regional Foresters.

## Secure Rural Schools Act Return to Treasury Option

When the county allocation election is not locked in or the default election does not apply, Section 102(d) of the SRS Act (16 U.S.C. 7112(d)) requires any eligible county that elected to receive a share of the State formula payment, and the share is greater than $100,000, to elect to allocate 15 to 20 percent of its share among titles II and III of the SRS Act. An eligible county may also opt to return the percentage share, in whole or part, to the U.S. Treasury under sections 102(d)(1)(B)(iii) or 102(d)(1)(C)(iii) of the SRS Act (16 U.S.C. 7112(d)(1)(B)(iii), (C)(iii)). In the FY 2020 receipt year (2021 payment year), such funds returned to the U.S. Treasury totaled $107,305.

# TRUST FUNDS

## LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

*Table FS-55. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

| Item | Amount |
|---|---|
| Estimate, 2022 | $236,466,000 |
| Change in Appropriation | - |
| Budget Estimate, 2023 | 236,466,000 |

PROJECT STATEMENTS

*Table FS-56. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. | Chg Key |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mandatory Appropriations: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg | $60,788 | 368 | $74,008 | 269 | $74,008 | 270 | $74,008 | 270 | - | - | |
| Cooperative Work – Other | 9,984 | 66 | 12,330 | 43 | 12,330 | 43 | 12,330 | 43 | - | - | |
| Reforestation Trust Fund | 30,000 | 125 | 30,000 | 56 | 150,000 | 125 | 150,000 | 125 | - | - | |
| Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund | 128 | - | 128 | - | 128 | - | 128 | - | - | - | |
| Total, Mandatory Appropriations | 100,900 | 559 | 116,466 | 368 | 236,466 | 438 | 236,466 | 438 | - | - | |
| Offsetting Collections: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooperative Work – Other | 25,118 | 120 | 24,934 | 106 | 24,934 | 106 | 24,934 | 106 | - | - | |
| Total, Offsetting Collections | 25,118 | 120 | 24,934 | 106 | 24,934 | 106 | 24,934 | 106 | - | - | |
| Total Appropriations | 126,018 | 679 | 141,400 | 474 | 261,400 | 544 | 261,400 | 544 | - | - | |
| Sequestration | 1,163 | - | -559 | - | -42 | - | -285 | - | -$243 | - | |
| Recoveries, Other | 3,542 | - | 4,101 | - | 4,101 | - | 4,101 | - | - | - | |
| Balance Available, SOY | 338,733 | - | 309,375 | - | 330,676 | - | 301,047 | - | -29,629 | - | |
| Total Available | 469,456 | 679 | 454,317 | 474 | 596,135 | 544 | 566,263 | 544 | -29,872 | - | |
| Balance Available, EOY | -309,375 | - | -330,676 | - | -301,047 | - | -286,600 | - | +14,447 | - | |
| Total Obligations | 160,081 | 679 | 123,641 | 474 | 295,088 | 544 | 279,663 | 544 | -15,425 | - | |

*Table FS-57. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mandatory Obligations: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg | $84,395 | 368 | $58,995 | 269 | $98,961 | 270 | $89,746 | 270 | -$9,215 | - |
| Cooperative Work – Other | 19,851 | 66 | 13,788 | 43 | 31,640 | 43 | 25,439 | 43 | -6,201 | - |
| Reforestation Trust Fund | 31,138 | 125 | 28,102 | 56 | 139,500 | 125 | 139,500 | 125 | - | - |
| Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund | 24 | - | 117 | - | 97 | - | 88 | - | -9 | - |

| Item | 2020 Actual | FTE | 2021 Actual | FTE | 2022 Continuing Resolution | FTE | 2023 Budget Request | FTE | Inc. or Dec. | FTE Inc. or Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total, Mandatory Obligations | 135,408 | 559 | 101,002 | 368 | 270,198 | 438 | 254,773 | 438 | -15,425 | - |
| Offsetting Collections: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooperative Work – Other | 24,673 | 120 | 22,639 | 106 | 24,890 | 106 | 24,890 | 106 | - | - |
| Subtotal Offsetting Collections | 24,673 | 120 | 22,639 | 106 | 24,890 | 106 | 24,890 | 106 | - | - |
| Total Obligations | 160,081 | 679 | 123,641 | 474 | 295,088 | 544 | 279,663 | 544 | -15,425 | - |
| Balances Available, EOY: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cooperative Work – Knutson-Vandenberg | 191,846 | - | 208,871 | - | 175,530 | - | 161,124 | - | -14,406 | - |
| Cooperative Work – Other | 103,759 | - | 105,311 | - | 91,581 | - | 84,065 | - | -7,516 | - |
| Reforestation Trust Fund | 7,763 | - | 10,461 | - | 28,661 | - | 36,569 | - | +7,908 | - |
| Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund | 6,007 | - | 6,033 | - | 5,275 | - | 4,842 | - | -433 | - |
| Total Balance Available, EOY | 309,375 | - | 330,676 | - | 301,047 | - | 286,600 | - | -14,447 | - |
| Total Available | 469,456 | 679 | 454,317 | 474 | 596,135 | 544 | 566,263 | 544 | -29,872 | - |
| Less: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sequestration | -1,163 | - | 559 | - | 42 | - | 285 | - | 243 | - |
| Recoveries, Other | -3,542 | - | -4,101 | - | -4,101 | - | -4,101 | - | - | - |
| Balance Available, SOY | -338,733 | - | -309,375 | - | -330,676 | - | -301,047 | - | 29,629 | - |
| Total Appropriations | 126,018 | 679 | 141,400 | 474 | 261,400 | 544 | 261,400 | 544 | - | - |

## CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

*Table FS-58. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

| Item No. | Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Continuing Resolution | 2023 Budget Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Personnel Compensation: | | | | |
| | Washington D.C. | $382 | $257 | $295 | $295 |
| | Personnel compensation, field | 44,718 | 30,153 | 34,606 | 34,606 |
| 11.0 | Total personnel compensation | 45,100 | 30,410 | 34,901 | 34,901 |
| 12.0 | Personal benefits | 16,303 | 10,377 | 11,909 | 11,909 |
| | Total, personnel compensation and benefits | 61,403 | 40,787 | 46,810 | 46,810 |
| | Other Objects: | | | | |
| 21.0 | Travel and transportation of persons | 872 | 540 | 1,621 | 1,518 |
| 22.0 | Transportation of things | 507 | 216 | 648 | 607 |
| 23.1 | Rental payments to GSA | 506 | 9 | 27 | 25 |
| 23.2 | Rental payments to others | 748 | 6 | 18 | 17 |
| 23.3 | Communications, utilities, and misc. charges | 1,281 | 264 | 792 | 742 |
| 24.0 | Printing and reproduction | 36 | 6 | 18 | 17 |
| 25.1 | Advisory and assistance services | 11 | 8 | 24 | 22 |
| 25.2 | Other services from non-Federal sources | 59,926 | 49,125 | 147,048 | 138,061 |
| 25.3 | Other goods and services from Federal sources | 9,462 | 4,879 | 14,643 | 13,712 |
| 25.4 | Operation and maintenance of facilities | 30 | 271 | 813 | 762 |
| 25.5 | Research and development contracts | 108 | 5 | 15 | 14 |
| 25.6 | Medical care | 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 25.7 | Operation and maintenance of equipment | 465 | 279 | 837 | 784 |
| 26.0 | Supplies and materials | 10,630 | 12,035 | 36,121 | 33,823 |
| 31.0 | Equipment | 1,044 | 1,217 | 3,653 | 3,420 |
| 32.0 | Land and structures | 1,269 | 418 | 1,255 | 1,175 |
| 41.0 | Grants, subsidies, and contributions | 11,769 | 13,573 | 40,736 | 38,146 |
| 42.0 | Insurance claims and indemnities | 9 | - | - | - |
| 43.0 | Interest and dividends | 3 | - | - | - |
| | Total, other objects | 98,678 | 82,854 | 248,278 | 232,853 |
| 99.9 | Total, new obligations | 160,081 | 123,641 | 295,088 | 279,663 |
| | DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) | 12 | - | - | - |
| | Position Data: | | | | |
| | Average Salary (dollars), ES Position | $187,148 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Average Salary (dollars), GS Position | $59,966 | $56,834 | $58,369 | $59,944 |
| | Average Grade, GS Position | 8.3 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 8.4 |

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

## Cooperative Work – Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V)

This program uses funds derived from timber sale revenues to perform improvements 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 program priority for K-V funds is reforestation of harvested areas; however, funds may 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. National Program Support rates, which are funds that are used at the national office for related national level projects and program administration, were reduced for FY 2022 as a result of Budget Modernization to allow more funds to be utilized on the ground in the sale area.

Knutson-Vandenberg Regional Work

The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (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 using 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

This 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 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.

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 are typically 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. Most of these pooled collections are not subject to refunds in accordance with the provisions of the respective authorizing instrument.

## Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund

The Land Between the Lakes Protection Act (Act) (P.L. 105-277) transferred administrative jurisdiction of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBLNRA) from the Tennessee Valley Authority to the Secretary of Agriculture 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 Land Between the Lakes 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 on 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 the LBLNRA began using the interest for activities outlined in the Act, which includes providing additional funding to further assist in the promotion and support of the successful school grant program for regional promotion and environmental education.

## Reforestation Trust Fund

This fund receives budgetary resources from monthly transfers overseen by the U.S. Treasury of tariff collections on imported wood products. Historically, such deposits could not exceed $30 million in a fiscal year. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) removed the $30 million annual cap. Funds are used 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[37]; 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.

[37] Release treatments are used to eliminate competing vegetation in young stands which are starting to become established. Release treatments can be mechanical, chemical, or prescribed burning.

# LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

## INTEREST-BEARING ACCOUNT

The Forest Service's FY 2023 Budget request includes a legislative proposal that would allow the Forest Service to establish an interest-bearing Treasury account for funds received in settlements and other legal actions. Although the Forest Service has the authority to invest certain funds in interest-bearing accounts, the agency does not have the authority to retain interest earned on settlement funds. A USDA Office of Inspector General audit (OIG Audit 08601-0011-41) recommended that the Forest Service request authority to establish an interest-bearing Treasury account for funds received in settlements and other legal actions.

**Statutory Authority**: 16 U.S.C. 579c. Availability of funds received from forfeitures, judgments, compromises, or settlements.

**Rationale**: Funding received from settlements can be in the multi-million-dollar range. Due to the length of a project lifespan (sometimes decades) and analysis needs, the Forest Service often needs to use appropriated funds to make up the difference between the collection amount and the costs of the work in the future. Interest bearing accounts would help lower the amount of appropriated funds needed.

In addition, settlements for future costs are typically paid at a net present value amount; therefore, without investment authority, the value of the settlement diminishes over time. Many settlements require annual mitigation costs for 30-100 years.

**Budget Impact**:

*Interest Bearing Accounts proposal (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Discretionary Budget Authority ..... | $349 | $349 | $349 | $349 | $349 |
| Discretionary Outlays ..... | 349 | 349 | 349 | 349 | 349 |

**Assumptions**:

- Balances in current settlement accounts, proposed for legislation, total to approximately $205 million. Using the Treasury Bill interest rate of 0.17 percent, each year's interest was calculated, and then the average, $349,000, was used as an estimate for interest which might be expected to accrue annually.
- Once legislation is enacted, each account should be managed as a separate special account, and thus calculated separately, without aggregating the total investment return.

## 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).

Funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94): *Provided*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to this paragraph shall not increase or decrease the funds appropriated to any account in this fiscal year by more than ten percent: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

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 of Agriculture'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 the 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]<u>Wildland Fire Management</u> 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: *Provided*, That such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, [2025]<u>2026</u>: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred pursuant to this paragraph shall be available for obligation without written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for assistance to or through the Agency for International Development in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and shall be available to support forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with U.S. government, private sector, 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 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)).

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.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to pay, from a single account, the base salary and expenses of employees who carry out functions funded by other accounts for Enterprise Program, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center, remnant Natural Resource Manager, Job Corps, and National Technology and Development Program.

**Change Description**

The first change, fifth paragraph, adds transfer authority to the Wildland Fire Management account for the purpose of hazardous fuels management.

The second change, twentieth paragraph, provides necessary authority to Job Corps staffs that provide services across appropriations accounts to continue to effectively operate in the new budget structure. This language is required because of the Forest Service budget structure change enacted in fiscal year 2021.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—FOREST SERVICE**

[Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a detailed spend plan for the funds provided to the Forest Service in this title in this Act for fiscal year 2022, and for each fiscal year through 2026, as part of the annual budget submission of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit a detailed spend plan for the funds provided to the Forest Service in this title in this Act for that fiscal year.]

(Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Appropriations Act.)

## 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. 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. 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 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. (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, [2023]2024, 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. 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 years [2022]2023 and [2023]2024.

**CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND 2024 LIMITATION**
SEC. 406. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal years [2022]2023 and [2023]2024 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 each such fiscal year [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: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under the [heading]headings [Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, ]"Contract Support Costs" in this or prior Acts shall remain available for disbursement until any claims relating to such amounts and submitted under chapter 71 of title 41, United States Code, are resolved.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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

**PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

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

**LIMITATION ON TAKINGS**

SEC. 409. Unless otherwise provided herein, no funds appropriated in this Act for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands may be expended for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints 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. 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 4(E) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)); or
(3) such contract was awarded prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

**POSTING OF REPORTS**

SEC. 411. (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.

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES**

SEC. 412. Of the funds provided to the National Endowment for the Arts—

(1) The Chairperson shall only award a grant to an individual if such grant is awarded to such individual for a literature fellowship, National Heritage Fellowship, or American Jazz Masters Fellowship.

(2) The Chairperson shall establish procedures to ensure that no funding provided through a grant, except a grant made to a State or local arts agency, or regional group, may be used to make a grant to any other organization or individual to conduct activity independent of the direct grant recipient. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit payments made in exchange for goods and services.
(3) No grant shall be used for seasonal support to a group, unless the application is specific to the contents of the season, including identified programs or projects.

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES**
SEC. 413. (a) In providing services or awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 from funds appropriated under this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that serve underserved populations.
(b) In this section:
(1) The term "underserved population" means a population of individuals, including urban minorities, who have historically been outside the purview of arts and humanities programs due to factors such as a high incidence of income below the poverty line or to geographic isolation.
(2) The term "poverty line" means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.
(c) In providing services and awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 with funds appropriated by this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts.
(d) With funds appropriated by this Act to carry out section 5 of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965—
(1) the Chairperson shall establish a grant category for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that are of national impact or availability or are able to tour several States;
(2) the Chairperson shall not make grants exceeding 15 percent, in the aggregate, of such funds to any single State, excluding grants made under the authority of paragraph (1);
(3) the Chairperson shall report to the Congress annually and by State, on grants awarded by the Chairperson in each grant category under section 5 of such Act; and
(4) the Chairperson shall encourage the use of grants to improve and support community-based music performance and education.

**STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS**
SEC. 414. 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.

**EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS**
SEC. 415. 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 [2022]2023.

**FUNDING PROHIBITION**
SEC. 416. (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. 417. (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 government agencies for use as work animals.
(b) The Secretary concerned may make a transfer under subsection (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 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.

**FOREST SERVICE FACILITY REALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**
SEC. 418. Section 503(f) of Public Law 109–54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note) shall be applied by substituting "September 30, [2022]2023" for "September 30, 2019".

**[USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL]**
**[**SEC. 419. (a)
(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.
(2) In this section, the term "iron and steel" products means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.
(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred to as the "Administrator") finds that—
(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;
(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or
(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.
(c) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Administrator shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency.
(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.
(e) The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.**]**

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

SEC. [420]419. 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. [421]420. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) shall be applied by substituting "October 1, [2023]2024" for "September 30, 2019".

**LOCAL CONTRACTORS**

SEC. [422]421. Section 412 of Division E of Public Law 112–74 shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year [2022]2023" for "fiscal year 2019", and by inserting before the last proviso: "*Provided further*, That all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Federal Government pursuant to this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the materials used by the contractor of subcontractor are substantially manufactured, mined, and produced in the United States in accordance with chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (commonly known as the Buy American Act). That *Provided further*, that for each skilled craft employed on any applicable construction project under this section, demonstrate an ability to use and commit to use individuals enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program, which such individuals shall, to the greatest extent practicable, constitute not less than 20 percent of the individuals working on such project: *Provided further*, That all contractors and subcontractors of the eligible entity receiving grant funds shall not require mandatory arbitration for any dispute involving a worker engaged in a service for the contractor or subcontractor under this section: *Provided further*, That for construction projects where the total cost to the Federal Government is $25,000,000 or more, contractors or subcontractors, to the greatest extent practicable, be a party to a project labor agreement or require contractors and subcontractors to consent to a project labor agreement: *Provided further*, That any contractor or subcontractor awarded contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements under this section must have an explicit neutrality policy on any issue involving the organization of employees of the contractor or subcontractor, and all contractors and subcontractors, for purposes of collective bargaining:".

**SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEE AUTHORITY**

SEC. [423]422. Section 422 of division F of Public Law 110-161(121 Stat. 1844), as amended, shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year [2022]2023" for "fiscal year 2019".

**INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION AUTHORITY**

SEC. [424]423. Section 426 of division G of Public Law 113-76 (16 U.S.C. 565a-1 note) shall be applied by substituting "September 30, [2022]2023" for "September 30, 2019".

**PUERTO RICO SCHOOLING**

SEC. [425]424. 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 [2022]2023" for "fiscal year 2019".

**FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS FEE COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. [426]425. 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 [2022]2023" for "fiscal year 2019".

**CHACO CANYON**
SEC. **[**427**]**426. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to accept a nomination for oil and gas leasing under 43 CFR 3120.3 et seq, or to offer for oil and gas leasing, any Federal lands within the withdrawal area identified on the map of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and dated April 2, 2019**[**, prior to the completion of the cultural resources investigation identified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260)**]**.

**TRIBAL LEASES**
SEC. **[**428**]**427. 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)), the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal.

**FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RECOVERY FUND**
SEC. **[**429**]**428. The authority provided under the heading "Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund" in title I of Public Law 111–88, as amended by section 117 of division F of Public Law 113–235, shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year **[**2022**]**2023" for "fiscal year 2020" each place it appears.

**TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS**
SEC. [430]429. 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.

**TRANSFER AUTHORITY TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND**
SEC. **[**431**]**430. Funds provided by this Act or any other Act that are subject to the allocations in 54 U.S.C. 200402(e)(1) may be further allocated or reallocated to the Federal Highway Administration for transportation projects of the covered agencies defined in 54 U.S.C. 200401(2).

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS COMPREHENSIVE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLANS**
SEC. **[**432**]**431. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered to be in violation of section 3(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)(1)) for not completing a comprehensive river management plan within 3 full fiscal years after the date of designation, except the comprehensive river management plan must be completed or appropriately updated not later than the completion of the next applicable forest plan revision.

**FACILITIES RENOVATION FOR URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS**
SEC. **[**433**]**432. The Secretary of Health and Human Services may authorize an urban Indian organization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603) that is awarded a grant or contract under title V of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) to use funds provided in such grant or contract for minor renovations to facilities or construction or expansion of facilities, including leased facilities, to assist the urban Indian organization in meeting or maintaining standards issued by Federal or State governments or by accreditation organizations.

**TIMBER EXPORT**
SEC. [434]433. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be required to issue regulations under section 495 of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 620f) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023.

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

SEC. 434. Section 8206(a) of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)(4)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting "or Bureau of Land Management managed" after "National Forest System".

**Change Description**

The first change removes the reference to cost pools.

The second change extends the mining provision to 2024.

The third change extends the contract support costs provision to 2023.

The fourth change extends the grazing permit authority (P.L.108–108 (117 Stat. 1307)) to 2023.

The fifth change extends authority for the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act (P.L.109–54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note)) to 2023.

The sixth change extends authority for the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) to 2024.

The seventh change extends the authority for local contractors.

The eighth change extends the Shasta-Trinity authority (P.L. 110-161(121 Stat. 1844), as amended) to 2023.

The ninth change extends the Interpretive Association Authority (P.L.113-76 (16 U.S.C. 565a-1 note)) to 2023.

The tenth change extends the Puerto Rico Schools authority (P.L.109-54, as amended) to 2023.

The eleventh change extends the Forest Botanical Products authority (P.L. 106–113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note, as amended) to 2023.

The twelfth change extends the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund (P.L. 111-88, as amended) to 2023.

The thirteenth change would provide legislative relief from the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1997.

The fourteenth change amends section 8206(a) of the Agriculture Act of 2014 to include the Bureau of Land Management.

# AGENCY-WIDE PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Summary of Performance and Evaluation section is to provide an update on Performance and Evidence and Evaluation efforts, facilitating compliance with the Government Performance Results Modernization Act (GPRMA) and the Evidence Act of 2018, as well as departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPI). Specifically, the Office of Budget and Program Analysis (OBPA) leads the Department in Performance, Evaluation, Evidence, and Risk Management and chairs the Performance, Evaluation, Evidence Committee (PEEC) and the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) committees. The Forest Service is a member of both the PEEC and ERM committees which are comprised of individuals from different Mission Areas and backgrounds throughout USDA, as well as key evaluation partners, the USDA Chief Data Officer and Statistical Officer. These different perspectives and expertise facilitate buy-in across the Department, augment technical expertise, and create a greater diversity of perspectives. Partnership with the Chief Data Officer and Statistical Officer provide greater insight and advisement on data access, data quality and statistical methods.

The Forest Service was established February 1, 1905, within the Department of Agriculture. The agency has 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 Systems, State and Private Forestry, which includes wildfire management, Research and Development, and International Programs. Within the Forest Service, the Office of Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability spearheads its efforts in Strategic Planning, Performance and Evidence and Evaluation. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer leads Enterprise Risk Management. These offices work directly with OBPA and senior leadership and actively engage with both internal and external stakeholders.

## ALIGNMENT TO USDA 2022 – 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Forest Service contributes to Goals 1, 3, and 5 of the Department's Strategic Goals in the current FY 2022 – 2026 USDA Strategic Plan through fact-based, data-driven, and customer-focused decisions. Departmental KPIs are performance metrics aligned with the Strategic Objectives laid out in the USDA's Strategic Plan and are monitored and evaluated during the Quarterly Strategic Reviews, the Bi-Annual Strategic Review with OMB, and included within the Annual Performance Plan and Report published by OBPA., and is responsible for achieving and measuring results with respect to the following USDA Strategic Goal and Objectives:

Strategic Goal 1: Combat Climate Change to Support America's Working Lands, Natural Resources, and Communities

Objective 1.1: Use Climate-Smart Management and Sound Science to Enhance the Health and Productivity of Agricultural Lands

Objective 1.2: Lead Efforts to Adapt to the Consequences of Climate Change in Agriculture and Forestry

Objective 1.3: Restore, Protect, and Conserve Watersheds to Ensure Clean, Abundant, and Continuous Provision of Water Resources Strategic Goal 3: Foster an Equitable and Competitive Global Marketplace for All Agricultural Producers

Objective 3.2: Expand Markets for Emerging Technologies, Sustainable Products, and Novel Products

Strategic Goal 6: Attract, Inspire, and Retain an Engaged and Motivated Workforce that's Proud to Represent USDA

Objective 6.3: Develop a Customer-Centric, Inclusive, and High-Performing Workforce and Equip Employees to Provide Exceptional Service Delivery to Customers (Internal and External)

## SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

A more detailed report of the performance plan is located at the Forest Service performance website[38]. The following tables summarize the Forest Service's contributions to the Departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

*Table FS-59. KPI -Terrestrial Condition Assessment Target*

| Strategic Objective 1.1 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Terrestrial Condition Assessment** | Results | - | - |
| 1.1.4 Percent of National Forest System (NFS) landscape ecosystems improved, maintained, or recovering due to management actions, Terrestrial Condition Assessment (TCA) | Target | 35 | 38 |

**Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:**

Strategic Objective 1.1: Increase the Sustainability of Our Forest, Crop and Livestock Systems by Deploying Climate and Environmentally Smart Management of Working Lands and Waterways.

- **Terrestrial Condition Assessment (TCA):** Management activities can contribute to the health and integrity of landscape ecosystems and the TCA KPI does so by providing a yearly measure of ecological outcomes. Performance measured by this KPI improves with the implementation and completion of effective management activities of sufficient size and distribution concentrated on targeted landscape ecosystems defined by the TCA.
    - In FY 2023, forest and range management activities will improve landscape sustainability by restoring natural, well-adapted plant communities, and improving soil conditions in the face of drought. Optimum performance and outcomes will require comprehensive strategic and tactical planning as well as enhanced on-the-ground capacity.

*Table FS-60. KPI – Forest Legacy Program*

| Strategic Objective 1.3 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Forest Legacy Program** | Results | - | - |
| **1.3.1** Number of private forest acres protected through the Forest Legacy Program | Target [a] | 69,000 Baseline | 64,000 |

[a] This is a new KPI in FY 2022.

*Table FS-61. KPI – Wildfire Risk Reduction*

| Strategic Objective 1.3 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Wildfire Risk Reduction** | Results | - | - |
| **1.3.2** Number of high priority areas where treatments have occurred to reduce wildfire risk to communities (number of firesheds, annually) [a] | Target | 3 | 3 |

[a] Fireshed is a term similar to watershed. It refers to a geographic region with a similar risk of wildfire to adjacent communities. Reducing hazardous fuels within parts of the fireshed may reduce the overall risk to the adjacent community.

[38] https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance

*Table FS-62. KPI – Hazardous Fuels Reduction*

| Strategic Objective 1.3 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Hazardous Fuels Reduction** | Results | - | - |
| **1.3.3** Annual acreage treated to reduce or maintain fuel conditions on NFS and non-Federal lands (million acres, annually) | Target | 3.7 | 3.8 |

*Table FS-63. KPI – Final Acreage Treatment*

| Strategic Objective 1.3 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Final Acreage Treatment** | Results | - | - |
| **1.3.4** Annual acreage of NFS lands where final treatment effectively mitigates wildfire risk (million acres, annually) | Target | 1.4 | 1.6 |

*Table FS-64. KPI – Timber Volume*

| Strategic Objective 1.3 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Timber Volume** | Results | - | - |
| **1.3.5** Timber volume sold (billion board feet) | Target | 3.4 | 3.4 |

**Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:**

Strategic Objective 1.3: Lead Efforts to Mitigate Climate Change and Adapt to Drought, and Extreme Weather in Agriculture and Forestry Addressing Vulnerabilities such as the Risk of Catastrophic Wildfire

- **Forest Legacy Program:** This KPI measures the number of private acres protected through the Forest Legacy Program, which contributes to mitigating and building resilience to climate change.
    - In FY 2023, the agency projects that the Forest Legacy Program will permanently conserve 64,000 acres of environmentally important forests.
    - To address the effects of climate change, the Forest Legacy Program prioritizes projects for funding that contain attributes such as landscape connectivity, forest health, soil productivity, water resources, and wildlife habitat that mitigate and build resilience to climate change.
- **Wildfire Risk Reduction**: This KPI measures the number of firesheds (high priority areas) that have been treated to a level that reduces the wildfire risk to communities. This planned accomplishment reflects tremendous effort since most landscapes require multiple treatments over several years to reduce the wildfire risk to communities.
    - In FY 2023, the Forest Service plans to treat three firesheds to a level that will reduce the wildfire risk to communities. It will use the spatial data from the final acreage treatment measure (KPI 1.3.4 above), which identifies when a landscape receives the final treatment, in a series of planned treatments, to identify which priority firesheds are treated and the total number of acres treated. The agency will demonstrate that it is treating within identified high priority firesheds.
- **Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** This KPI measures the annual acreage treated to reduce hazardous fuels or maintain the desired condition of the fuels on NFS and non-Federal lands, which reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire and may assist in the mitigation of climate change.
    - In FY 2023, the Forest Service will treat 3.8 million acres of hazardous fuels on federal lands and across boundaries on state lands. This target is at the upper range of the agency's capacity to complete, and future increases in pace and scale will need to see a marked increase in both discretionary funding and staffing.
    - Forest Service scientists continue to conduct research and to refine science-based decision support

tools to inform choices about hazardous fuel treatment locations that will maximize wildfire risk reduction.

- **Final Acreage Treatment:** This KPI measures the annual acreage of NFS lands where a final treatment, in a series of planned treatments, has taken place and effectively mitigated hazardous fuels on NFS lands and which reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and may mitigate the effects of climate change.
    - In FY 2023, the Forest Service plans to complete final hazardous fuels treatments on 1.6 million acres. This planned accomplishment reflects tremendous effort since most landscapes require multiple treatments to reach the desired condition where catastrophic wildfire risk is reduced.
    - This target is at the upper range of the agency's capacity to complete and future increases in pace and scale will need to see a marked increase in both discretionary funding and staffing.
- **Timber Volume:** This KPI measures annual Timber volume sold (billion board feet) addressing vulnerabilities such as the Risk of Catastrophic Wildfire through integration with hazardous fuels mitigation.
    - In FY 2023, the Forest Service plans to align the 3.4 billion board feet target to each Forest's capability at the local level to better deliver the timber output. Increased funding in FY 2023 will drive more integration with the hazardous fuels program, allowing the agency to manage the treatment of forest resources better. New investments in forest management funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) will also allow for planning and preparing new timber sales, stewardship contracts, and good neighbor authority agreements through FY 2023 and FY 2024. The agency expects to increase timber volume output because of these investments, with additional increases in volume in FY 2025 and FY 2026.
    - The agency will continue to follow COVID-19 protocols to ensure partner/contractor and employee safety while allowing continued timber sale preparation. The agency also continues efforts to identify reasons for and solutions to issues around timber sales receiving no bids.

*Table FS-65. KPI – Watershed Restoration*

| Strategic Objective 1.4 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Watershed Restoration** | Results | - | - |
| **1.4.5** Number of watersheds moved to improved condition class or sustained in Condition Class 1 | Target | 15 | 16 |

**Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:**

Strategic Objective 1.4: Restore, Protect, and Conserve Watersheds in Forests, Agricultural and Other Working Lands to Ensure Clean, Abundant, and Continuous Provision of Water Resources

- **Watershed Restoration:** This KPI measures the number of watersheds moved to improved condition class or sustained in Condition Class 1 which contributes to clean, abundant, and continuous provision of water resources.
    - In FY 2023, Forest Service units plan to complete essential Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPS) projects to move 16 watersheds to an improved condition or maintain them in Condition Class 1. The agency plans to use a mix of funding to complete essential projects outlined in the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) WRAPs so that by FY 2026, 100 additional, and 54 percent overall, of National Forest System watersheds will have been moved to Condition Class 1.
    - Units will accomplish this important work using base-level funding and appropriate markups. Increased funding will enable the agency to plan and implement additional essential projects resulting in an increased number of watersheds rated as "Functioning Properly".

*Table FS-66. KPI – National Forest Customer Satisfaction*

| Strategic Objective 6.3 | | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **National Forest Customer Satisfaction** | Results | - | - |
| **6.3.2** Percent of customers satisfied with recreation facilities, services, and settings in National Forest | Target | 95 | 98 |

**Expected Performance Progress Towards the Achievement of Strategic Objectives:**

Strategic Objective 6.3: Develop a Customer-Centric, Inclusive, and High-Performing Workforce and Equip Employees to Provide Exceptional Service Delivery to Customers (Internal and External)

- **National Forest Customer Satisfaction:** In FY 2023, Forest Service units plan to increase the percentage of customers satisfied with recreation facilities, services, and settings in National Forest to 98% which indicates exceptional service delivery to customers.
    - The agency plans to improve service and reduce barriers to access for all users of the national forests and grasslands. They plan to emphasize additional and better-trained on-the-ground staffing who interact directly with customers and who work through partnership agreements to enhance customer service and program delivery efforts.
    - Investments in customer service through such platforms as Recreation.gov will make Forest Service facilities easier to find and will facilitate trip planning that will match recreation user and visitor needs to appropriate resources.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

### BIOMASS AND WOOD INNOVATIONS

*Table FS-67. Forest Service Funding for Wood Products, Wood Energy, and the Wood Education and ResourceCenter (thousands of dollars)*

| Activity | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimate | 2023 Estimate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wood Innovations Program: | | | |
| Geographically Target Wood Utilization [a] | $1,480 | $1,215 | $2,000 |
| Wood Innovation Grants [a] | 7,765 | 8,450 | 10,000 |
| Other Market Development (Wood Products/Wood Energy) [a, b] | 3,209 | 5,335 | 5,500 |
| Subtotal, Wood Innovations Program | 12,454 | 15,000 | 17,500 |
| Other Programs: | | | |
| Bio-economy Research [c] | 8,353 | 9,185 | 9,185 |
| Community Wood Energy [a, d] | 2,000 | 10,000 | 12,500 |
| Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) [e, f] | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Subtotal, Biomass Production | 12,353 | 21,185 | 23,685 |
| **Total, Biomass and Wood Innovations** | **24,807** | **36,185** | **41,185** |

[a] Funded program is Hazardous Fuels.

[b] Includes market development project grants with WoodWorks, U.S. Endowment, and other strategic partners.

[c] Funded program is Forest and Rangeland Research.

[d] Community Wood Energy grant program was funded in FY 2021 at $2.0 million and in FY 2022 at $5 million, using non-Wood Innovations Program funding.

[e] A mix of program funds (Forest Health Management, Hazardous Fuels, National Fire Capacity, Urban and Community Forestry, and Working Forest Lands) 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.

[f] Congressional direction for FY 2021 Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) was $2 million.

### FY 2023

The Forest Service's emphasis on innovative uses for wood and wood fiber materials focuses on developing new products and markets for small and medium-sized trees, underutilized and low-value forestry residuals, and industrial wood residues. Research and Development (R&D), and State and Private Forestry (SPF) Wood Innovations are leading this work using appropriate authorities.

The work planned for FY 2023 is structured around forest bioeconomy research in R&D and the SPF Wood Innovations Program. Wood and biomass extraction are not specifically funded at the national level; however, it is a factor in the agency's national strategy for improving forest conditions and utilizing material removed during forest management and restoration. The following describes the work to be accomplished in FY 2023.

#### *Biomass Production*

In FY 2023, the National Forest System will continue to make material available for wood and biomass markets (wood energy and wood products) as a by-product of restoration work.

In FY 2021, the agency sold over 1.9 million green tons of biomass (fresh cut woody material at a "green" moisture content of half water and half woody material) to various wood energy and wood products markets. The National Forest System will continue to work with the SPF Wood Innovations Program and R&D to grow markets and infrastructure for biomass production and utilization across the country.

### *Bioeconomy Research*

The Forest Service continues to work with academic and industrial partners in basic and developmental research to find high-value markets for forest biomass. In cellulose nanomaterials, researchers continue to investigate applications in transient electronics, packaging, oil drilling, coatings, light-weight automobile materials, sunscreen, and manufacturing technology of cellulose nanomaterials. Forest Service lignin research is still in the early stages; scientists are investigating UV absorbing, antimicrobial, and antioxidation properties of lignin to develop new markets for this by-product of pulping wood. Lignin is currently used as inhouse fuel, and new markets for lignin may generate new revenue for pulp mills. In biotechnology research, scientists are investigating production of high-value materials from biomass with microorganisms, such as nanofibers, sugars, pharmaceuticals, and high-value chemicals. Forest Service scientists are also investigating the development of carbon-based materials from forest biomass and the application of emerging technologies for biomass utilization. To accelerate commercialization of cellulose nanomaterials from forest biomass, the Forest Service works with $P^3$Nano, a public private partnership with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, to fund developmental research in cellulose nanomaterials.

The Forest Service is actively participating in international standards development in the International Organization for Standardization (commonly known as ISO), the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), and American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) International in areas of cellulose nanomaterials, pulp and paper, lignin, and sustainability. The Forest Service continues to participate in the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), the Bioeconomy Initiative, and actively participates in the Subcommittees on Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET), and Advanced Manufacturing (SAM) of the White House National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). Participation in Federal government initiatives allows the Forest Service to leverage cross-department resources, advertise research to non-traditional markets, and be part of Federal government efforts to advance national issues, such as ensuring U.S. global leadership in science, U.S. competitiveness in the global market, and national security.

### *Wood Innovations Program*

The Forest Service established the Wood Innovations Program in 2014 to strategically expand development of wood products and renewable wood energy markets that support forest management and deliver economic and environmental benefits to communities. This work informs business decisions by providing technical assistance, funding, and high-quality data. Annual Wood Innovation Grants (as codified in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) (P.L. 115-334) fund diverse projects for public and private entities across the country. The maximum for each grant is generally $250,000 with a required 100 percent match of the requested Federal funds. The funding level requested in FY 2023 for the Wood Innovations Program is $15 million.

A second competitive funding program, the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation funding opportunity (referred to as Community Wood), was available in FY 2021. The intent of this program is to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build new or expand existing innovative wood products facilities; $2 million was awarded in FY 2021. This program is authorized under the 2018 Farm Bill to be funded at up to $25 million per fiscal year through FY 2023. The funding level requested for FY 2023 is $10 million.

Through the Wood Innovations Program, 24 States have established Statewide Wood Energy Teams to expand wood energy markets. Seventeen States and Puerto Rico have established Statewide Wood Utilization Teams to expand traditional and innovative wood products markets. These teams have been extremely effective in identifying successful opportunities in the highest priority areas of each State. This funding has leveraged substantial private investment, created local jobs, supported forest health priorities, and improved local economies. For the Statewide Energy and Utilization teams, Federal funds are often matched at well beyond the 50 percent match level required prior to 2020 and the 100 percent match level required in 2021. Projects have supported private investment in new manufacturing capacity and wood energy systems. These teams include several State partners, university extensions, and industry representatives, all focused on growing existing and bringing new wood product and energy opportunities to States.

The agency continues to expand the use of wood in the commercial, institutional, and multi-family building sector. Engineered wood products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) for these mid- to high-rise buildings are opening extensive new markets that are offsetting 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. As of September 30, 2021, 1,241 mass timber buildings have been built or are under construction in the United States. However, market research shows that up to 17,000 buildings could be built annually using this construction material. The opportunity to use mass timber to meet net zero carbon goals is substantial if the use of this material can be accelerated.

The agency assists and collaborates with key cellulosic biofuels stakeholders in government and the private sector. The cellulosic biofuels sector has potential to expand significantly over the next five years, which would generate long-term demand for low value forest residues, small trees, and excess industrial wood residues from forest products manufacturing.

### *Wood Education and Resource Center*

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, West Virginia was founded through the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (P.L. 105-277). 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 regions. Viable wood products markets enable sustainable forest management on private, State, Tribal, and Federal lands. WERC also supports the National Wood Energy Technical Assistance team, a highly effective program that collaborates with local communities and public and private sector entities to help them generate renewable energy from forests. In FY 2021, WERC supported the analysis and feasibility study for 70 projects that considered the conversion from natural gas or propane systems to wood energy. This work was done to support thermal wood energy and combined heat and power systems in every Forest Service region. Additionally, WERC funded eight wood markets and wood energy projects that will support wood utilization in the Eastern region.

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 2021, the Forest Service conducted a formal Community Wood competitive funding program. The agency funded six shovel-ready projects for $2.1 million (2.0 million from Community Wood Competitive Grants and $100,000 from Other Market Development Grants) that leveraged $6.6 million of non-Federal investments in six States. These projects are characterized as follows: located at municipal government, sawmill, paper manufacturing, rendering, and furniture manufacturing facilities; use locally sourced biomass or wood residues to generate renewable energy or manufacture innovative wood products, support forest management, and have a significant impact on the local economy; and create demand for low value woody biomass for over 20 years, including areas of high wildfire risk and near National Forest System lands.
- In FY 2021, the Forest Service awarded approximately $9.1 million to fund 44 Wood Innovation Grants ($7.765 million from Wood Innovations Competitive Grants and $1.335 million from Other Market Development 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 in dire need of hazardous fuels reduction. This funding supports traditional wood utilization projects, promotes using wood as a construction material in commercial buildings, and expands wood energy markets. Federal funds were matched by partners at more than $17.1 million.
- Activities implemented through the Wood Innovations Program have resulted in significant growth of the mass timber industry. As of September 30, 2021, there are over 576 mass timber buildings constructed in the

U.S., 665 in design or under construction, 10 operational mass timber manufacturing plants, and additional plants announced or in planning. Key partnerships with private and public organizations have facilitated this growth.

- In FY 2021, the WERC hosted workshops and webinars for entrepreneurs and businesses interested in forest products and wood energy, provided wood energy technical assistance to more than 70 facility owners interested in the use of wood energy, and administered key portions of the national Wood Innovations and Community Wood Grant programs. The WERC National Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team collaborated with the Biomass Thermal Energy Council in the development of a study entitled "Life Cycle Analysis of Renewable Fuel Standard Implementation for Thermal Pathways for Wood Pellets and Chips" to facilitate increased use of wood as a low carbon replacement for fossil fuels, in collaboration with the States of Vermont, Maryland, and Wisconsin.
- In FY 2021, the agency produced over 1.9 million green tons of biomass from National Forest System lands for use in bioenergy production.
- In FY 2021, $P^3$Nano, in partnership with the Forest Service, awarded ten projects totaling $2.4 million to further cellulose nanomaterials research with potential for industrial applications. Some highlighted areas of the awards included replacing carbon black in tires, frost protection of tree fruits, and making oil drilling cleaner.
- In FY 2021, Forest Service scientists continued to develop a continuous production process to produce cellulose nanofibril sheets. This process can produce continuous cellulose nanofibril films with existing equipment at industrially relevant speeds.
- Using nanotechnology principals, a team of academic and Forest Service scientists have successfully demonstrated the concepts of a stronger wood, a transparent wood, and a super insulation wood. To commercialize these technologies, the team plans to establish pilot-scale research at the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory.
- Scientists in the biomass to pharmaceutical project have published in the journal *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* the development of a low-cost pillow reactor for the first step of the four-step process to produce 3-HBL (Hydroxybutyrolactone) and glycolic acid from biomass. The team has also made progress in developing analytical methods, improving catalysts, and increasing yield in other steps of the process.
- R&D experts participated in the development of the 2021 National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) Strategic Plan, the Advanced Manufacturing strategic plan, and the government-wide Sustainable Aviation Fuel Challenge.
- Forest Service experts are leading the revision of the ISO standard cellulose nanomaterials terms and a study to identify strategic areas for cellulose nanomaterials international standards development for the pulp and paper industry.

## CARBON ACCOUNTING

### Background

This exhibit responds to a Congressional Directive from House Report 117-83:

> The Committee recognizes our National Forests as an essential asset in reducing carbon emissions and in the fight against climate change. Healthy forests provide an important carbon sink, and the Committee recognizes the Forest Service's efforts to factor carbon accounting into its land management decisions. The Committee directs the Forest Service to submit a yearly estimate of carbon accounting on Forest Service lands broken down by region in its annual budget materials. The Committee expects the increases given to numerous programs throughout the Forest Service to combat wildfires, invasive species and diseases, rehabilitate burned areas, among others, will help contribute to an increased amount of carbon stored in our National Forests.

### Overview

For nearly a century, the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program has measured millions of trees, on hundreds of thousands of plots in a statistical nationwide framework, providing the information needed to assess one of America's greatest resources—its forests. The collection and development of scientifically credible FIA data, tools, and analyses over decades, integrated with remote sensing products, provide critical status and trend information to resource managers, policy makers, investors, and the public. This annual resource inventory covers both public and private forest lands – all ownerships – across the United States. FIA reports on status and trends in forest area and location; land cover and land use change; species, size, and health of trees; total tree growth, mortality, and removals by harvest; wood production and utilization rates by various products; forest land ownership; and forest carbon stocks.

Given the complexities associated with estimating carbon in forest ecosystems, FIA measures more than just live trees. Dead trees, downed dead wood, forest floor, and soils have been added to the FIA program over the past decades to fully monitor U.S. forest carbon. This work is critical to meeting reporting guidelines under international agreements and is done collaboratively with other agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Resources Inventory. The Forest Service reports annually on the U.S. forest and harvested wood products greenhouse gas emissions and removals to the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In coordination with a host of critical partners who leverage Federal resources (such as States), field inventory data are collected every year in all 50 States, and periodically in territories and former island protectorates. The goal is to publicly release fully processed data within two years of collection. Remote sensing products are used throughout the surveys, from pre-field processes to post-stratification, to increase precision and calculate estimates. Such a collection of annual monitoring data across a robust suite of forest health metrics (e.g., tree mortality and soil health) and forest carbon estimates provides decision makers and policymakers with evidence to support forest investments. The data helps enable the evaluation of tradeoffs between maximizing forest carbon storage and increasing the resilience of U.S. forests to expected global change (e.g., increasing droughts). Recognizing how the future of U.S. forests are entwined with communities and economies, FIA also conducts the nationwide Timber Product Output and National Woodland Owners Surveys, which produce data that support a robust and inclusive national assessment of forest carbon and associated resource decisions.

### Carbon Accounting on Forested National Forest System Lands

The tables below display the Forest Service's assessment of current carbon stock by forest areas and carbon stock by regions. Table FS-68 contains the current carbon stock and forest land acreage, and Table FS-69 provides net carbon change estimates for forest lands on National Forests System lands by region. The estimates are based on Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data used in the most recent Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2019[39] published in April 2021 using the methodology described in the Population Estimation User's Guide

[39] https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks-1990-2019

and Resource Update.[40, 41] Forest carbon estimates are derived by estimating the carbon content of forest biomass by various pools (e.g., live trees or soils) in a year all within the statistical framework employed by the FIA program. Change in stocks is calculated by subtracting the estimates between respective years. Programmatic synergies are achieved because the same FIA datasets used to estimate forest carbon are used by USDA and a host of Federal, State, and private entities for assessing a myriad of additional forest attributes such as wildlife habitat, effects of insects and disease, or old-growth prevalence across all U.S. forests.

In addition to sequestering carbon in live tree biomass via the growth of forests, carbon sequestration also continues in harvested wood, which has been less than 1 million metric tons of carbon per year for wood harvested from all National Forests.[42] Some treatment activities will increase carbon in the landscape, such as restoring burned areas. Other activities such as hazardous fuels treatments to reduce fire risk will reduce carbon in forested landscapes, but that carbon may be stored in wood products or used as a substitute for energy from fossil fuels. Forest carbon is dynamic over time, and healthy forests may contain small or large amounts of carbon stocks change, or flux. Vigorously growing young stands may contain less carbon stocks than stands containing many large dead trees, while sequestering carbon from the atmosphere at higher rates. In summary, the collection and distribution of FIA's forest data empowers the evaluation of the many intricacies associated with forest carbon dynamics beyond the purview of this summary.

*Table FS-68. Carbon stocks (million metric tons carbon) and forested national forest area (million acres) on National Forest System (NFS) lands by Region* [a]

| Region | NFS lands forested area (million acres) | Carbon stock (million metric tons) in forest pool | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Above-ground live biomass | Below-ground live biomass | Dead wood | Forest floor | Soil carbon | Total |
| 01-Northern | 22.32 | 479.8 | 100.8 | 207.1 | 146.0 | 1,055.5 | 1,989.2 |
| 02-Rocky Mountain | 13.18 | 217.9 | 44.8 | 99.6 | 72.3 | 568.3 | 1,002.9 |
| 03-Southwestern | 11.21 | 141.0 | 28.7 | 40.2 | 35.9 | 420.2 | 665.9 |
| 04-Intermountain | 18.24 | 241.6 | 49.3 | 119.0 | 77.8 | 838.8 | 1,326.5 |
| 05-Pacific Southwest | 14.15 | 509.1 | 105.0 | 125.7 | 84.8 | 655.0 | 1,479.6 |
| 06-Pacific Northwest | 22.21 | 946.0 | 198.4 | 264.2 | 141.8 | 1,056.0 | 2,606.4 |
| 08-Southern | 13.12 | 423.6 | 83.0 | 46.7 | 49.7 | 439.2 | 1,042.2 |
| 09-Eastern | 11.71 | 292.1 | 56.9 | 40.1 | 58.4 | 511.8 | 959.3 |
| 10-Alaska[b] | 2.88 | 107.1 | 22.5 | 32.2 | 42.3 | 134.6 | 338.7 |
| **Total** | **129.02** | **3,358.2** | **689.4** | **974.8** | **709.0** | **5,679.4** | **11,410.7** |

[a] Data is representative of inventory years 2009 to 2019, the most recent data available for national reporting.
[b] Some National Forest wilderness areas are not included currently due to limited access.

[40] Pugh, SA et al. 2018. The Forest Inventory and Analysis Database: Population Estimation User Guide (Edition: November 2018). USDA Forest Service. 166 p. [Online]. Available at web address: http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/database-documentation/. [Accessed 27 October 2021]
[41] Domke et al. 2021. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals From Forest Land, Woodlands, and Urban Trees in the United States, 1990–2019. Resource Update FS–307. Madison, WI: USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 5 p. [plus 2 appendixes]. https://doi.org/10.2737/FS-RU-307. [Accessed 4 November 2021]
[42] Heath, LS et al. 2011. Carbon stocks on forestland of the United States, with emphasis on USDA Forest Service ownership. Ecosphere 2(1): art6 doi:10.1890/ES10-00126.1.

*Table FS-69. Net carbon stock change (million metric tons carbon/year) on forested NFS lands by Region[a]*

| Region | Average annual net carbon stock change (million metrics tons/year) in forest pool[b] | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Above-ground live biomass | Below-ground live biomass | Dead wood | Forest floor | Soil carbon | Total |
| 01-Northern | 3.1 | 0.7 | -3.3 | 0.3 | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| 02-Rocky Mountain | 4.4 | 0.9 | -1 | 0.9 | 3.1 | 8.3 |
| 03-Southwestern | 1.6 | 0.3 | -0.4 | 0.1 | 0 | 1.6 |
| 04-Intermountain | 3.5 | 0.8 | -1.4 | 0.6 | 2.9 | 6.4 |
| 05-Pacific Southwest | -0.2 | -0.1 | -1.9 | 0 | 0.1 | -2.1 |
| 06-Pacific Northwest | -5.2 | -1.1 | -1.3 | -0.1 | 0 | -7.7 |
| 08-Southern | -5.6 | -1.1 | -0.4 | 0 | 0 | -7.1 |
| 09-Eastern | -2 | -0.4 | -0.7 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -3.3 |
| 10-Alaska | -0.2 | 0 | -0.3 | -1.1 | 2.7 | 1.1 |
| **Total** | **-0.6** | **0** | **-10.7** | **0.6** | **8.3** | **-2.4** |

[a] Because FIA's annual measurement approach is based on measured data from the nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis program where a portion of all plots are measured in any given year, the change estimates span 5-to-10-year intervals.

[b] Negative carbon changes indicate carbon is increasing in the forest carbon pool.

The majority (6.075 million metric tons) of combined carbon stocks on NFS lands are in Regions 01(Northern), 03 (Pacific Southwest), and 06 (Pacific Northwest). The bulk of the increase of net carbon stock change (-18.1 million metric tons per year) occurs in Regions 06 (Pacific Northwest), 08 (Southern), and 09 (Eastern). Currently, there is a substantial transfer of live biomass carbon to the dead wood pool on National Forest System lands due to recent catastrophic events from fire, insect and disease, and storm damage, resulting in high tree mortality, which remains on in place. FIA's measurement of forest carbon across time and diversity of pools suggests complex tradeoffs between increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems to expected future change within the context of maximizing forest carbon.

## 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 (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), 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 to public lands for recreational purposes. Funds are used to meet public recreation access needs, such as preserving large, intact areas for recreation, by working with landowners to secure rights-of-way, easements, or fee simple land acquisitions that provide or improve public access to existing public lands.

Congress appropriated $17 million in FY 2021 for priority recreational access projects. In FY 2021, the Forest Service acquired 39,045 acres of land that provided or improved public access. Also in FY 2021, under the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), land acquisition funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) became mandatory.[43]

### FY 2023 Criteria

The Forest Service prioritizes land acquisitions that have the broad support of stakeholders, local officials, and others at the local level to mitigate 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.C. 200306(c)).

The agency evaluates proposed recreational access tracts for LWCF 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, or 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 2021, 1,418 acres of land became available for public enjoyment and habitat preservation in the southern Elkhorn Mountains in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. Acquiring this property will improve and enhance public access to 4,000 acres of National Forest lands that were previously inaccessible. The Elkhorn Mountains are a highly desirable area for trophy elk hunting.

The Forest Service partnered with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust, and Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation to acquire the property. The land will provide year-round and winter habitat for elk, as well as habitat for deer, bears, wolves, moose, mountain lions, ferruginous hawks, and a

[43] FY 2021 mandatory funding for Forest Legacy Program was $94,255,000. Mandatory funding for Land Acquisition was $123,885,000.

variety of grassland birds. The east fork of Dry Creek, Turman Creek, Sand Creek, and Dahlman Gulch also flow through the property, contributing to valuable riparian areas.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### Background

This exhibit addresses requirements from House report 117-83:

> The Committee recognizes the importance of environmental education and nature-based learning as a means of building healthy communities and neighborhoods, particularly in urban settings and economically disadvantaged communities. The Committee urges Department of the Interior agencies (including the National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Geological Service and the Bureau of Land Management), EPA, and the Forest Service to continue to develop partnerships with environmental educational organizations that increase access to outdoor focused learning year-round in under resourced urban communities, including those organizations that target programming to children and K–12 schools. The Committee expects these agencies to delineate, in fiscal year 2023 budget justifications, efforts undertaken to support environmental education in urban settings and to partner with non-profit organizations that contribute to the underlying mission of these agencies.

### Overview

Forest Service environmental education efforts help people of all ages understand and appreciate natural and cultural resources and how to conserve those resources for future generations. Successful management of the Nation's forests and grasslands requires the general public, through environmental education, to make informed decisions for the conservation of natural and cultural resources. Forest Service technical expertise and environmental education guides individuals, communities (including urban), organizations, and agencies to expand learning, understanding, and action for these resources.

### Environmental Education Efforts

The Forest Service provides expertise in science, land management, and outdoor experiences as the foundation for environmental literacy through a variety of venues. The Forest Service delivers environmental education through a comprehensive network of agency employees and private and public partnerships and engages an average of 11.5 million individuals of all ages annually (pre-COVID-19 pandemic). Audiences include educators, local community leaders, youth, forest visitors, homeowners, and private landowners.

The Forest Service environmental education efforts rely heavily on a wide variety of partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribal Governments, and non-governmental organizations that leverage expertise and resources to expand program reach, including to urban areas. Forest Service environmental education efforts do not receive dedicated appropriations and do not have a budget line item.

### Environmental Education National Reach and Partnerships

In FY 2020, the Forest Service worked with approximately 1,200 partners nationwide to deliver over 2,000 events that reached 14.3 million individuals, including urban audiences. Events include field trips, summer camps, campfire programs, fishing days, wilderness exploration, career explorations, and professional development workshops. The Forest Service invested over $5 million in these programs, and partners contributed over $20 million. In FYs 2020 and 2021, environmental education efforts were impacted by COVID-19, with many educational opportunities shifting to online and digital environments. FY 2021 also focused on safely re-engaging in-person audiences.

### Environmental Education Programming Highlights

*Table FS-70. Forest Service Spending and Partner Contribution for Urban Environmental Education Programs in FY 2021.*

| Funding Source | 2021 Actual |
|---|---|
| State and Private Forestry [a] | $1,262,500 |
| Partner Match | 15,620,000 |
| National Forest System [b] | 1,042,267 |

| Funding Source | 2021 Actual |
|---|---|
| Partner Match | 743,608 |
| Forest and Rangeland Research [c] | 298,192 |
| Partner Match | 342,240 |
| **Total, Forest Service Spending on Urban Environmental Education Programs [d]** | **2,602,959** |
| Total, Partner Match for Urban Environmental Education Programs | 16,705,848 |
| **Total, Forest Service Spending on Environmental Education [e]** | **5,314,504** |
| Total, Partner Match for Environmental Education | 20,778,600 |

[a] Funded nine Urban Environmental Education Projects.

[b] Funded 260 Urban Environmental Education Projects.

[c] Funded 14 Urban Environmental Education Projects.

[d] Funded a total of 283 Urban Environmental Education Projects.

[e] Funded a total of 2,051 Environmental Education Projects.

### *Woodsy Owl Conservation Corps*

The Forest Service, collaborating with Corazon Latino, educates and motivates youth to take proactive action for the environment. These opportunities include leadership, community outreach and engagement, water conservation, wildfire prevention, and climate education. Participating communities utilize Woodsy Owl to engage families, schools, faith-based organizations, grassroots organizations, and other groups that have been historically underrepresented in the outdoors and in conservation-related decision-making processes. This program developed out of the activities of the Houston Green Ambassadors, which began in 2015, and currently engages 150 students at Bryant Middle School in Salt Lake City, Utah, 600 students at Munde Verde Public Charter School in Washington, D.C., and 200 students in Juan Ponce de Leon High School in Puerto Rico in environmental education activities and taking action to improve their local environment. The program was expanded in FY 2021 to reach a total of 11 communities in 8 States and territories including Arizona, Arkansas, Michigan, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Utah, District of Columbia, and West Virginia. Each additional project site costs the Forest Service an average of $10,000.

### *Urban Connections Program*

Since 2000, the Urban Connections program has provided nature based educational programming to diverse and underserved communities that connect urban residents to local green spaces and national forests. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of the Urban Connections program, which currently collaborates with local partners in Boston, MA; Detroit, MI; Milwaukee, WI; Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN; and St. Louis, MO. The Urban Connections program averages engagement with over 700,000 individuals of all ages annually. The audience demographics include Black (66 percent), Latino (20 percent), White (8 percent), Asian (5 percent), Native (0.4 percent), Middle Eastern (0.3 percent). Each additional project site costs the Forest Service an average of $100,000.

The Canoemobile program in Minneapolis/St. Paul, funded through the Urban Connections program, is an example program that engages urban audiences about the importance of waterways and is implemented in collaboration with local partners, such as Wilderness Inquiry. Through Canoemobile, students engage in a “floating classroom” to learn about science, history, geography, and culture. The Forest Service provides expertise on a variety of topics including the role forests play in damping flood impacts, climate change, and soil exploration. This program reached 575 urban youth in FY 2021.

### *Latinas in Action (California)*

Since 2017, Chico State Enterprise, the nonprofit arm of the California State University, Chico campus, and the Forest Service have delivered Latinas in Action, engaging five female college students to deliver environmental education programs to 1,000 4th and 5th grade students in Spanish and English annually around environmental issues. The college students also explore natural resource career paths, with many pursuing employment with Federal land management agencies.

### *Every Kid Outdoors*

Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) is a multi-agency Federal public lands youth initiative to get all 4th graders and their families to experience the country's natural treasures, rich history, and vibrant culture. In FY 2021, the Forest Service and partners reached nearly 100,000 individuals through these activities. As an example, partners in the State of Washington include National Park Service (NPS), Washington Trails Association, Discover Your Northwest, Washington Conservation Corps, MobilizeGreen, Libraries of Stevens County, North Central Washington Libraries, Pend Oreille County Library District, and many schools across the state. In FY 2021, programs on two national forests reached over 1,300 youth from both urban and underserved rural communities in the State of Washington, with youth learning about topics such as wildlife biology, winter ecology, forest management, fuels on the landscape, and watersheds. Historically, each additional project location costs $30,000.

### *Urban Forestry (Ohio)*

In 2021, the Ohio Division of Forestry collaborated with the Ohio Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, the Ohio Independent Arborist Association, Ohio State University Extension, and other partners to conduct various environmental educational programs, trainings, and workshops within Ohio urban communities for adult audiences. This included virtual Tree Commission Academy classes, a soil science and reconstruction seminar, and a series of field trips highlighting examples of good management, innovative technologies, and new ways to address challenges in the urban environment, tree planting, tree identification, and risk assessment workshops. The programs, trainings, and workshops reached over 700 citizens in Ohio and provided over 800 hours of outreach and education, thereby supporting the maintenance and growth of urban forests for the benefit of diverse residents across the State.

### *Greening STEM: Growing Green Youth Leaders in the Waiawa Watershed (Hawaii)*

Greening STEM projects engage underserved youth by integrating student-directed investigations of local environmental issues affecting local public lands into the school curriculum. In FY 2020, the Forest Service collaborated with the National Environmental Education Foundation, the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, local non-profits, and Pearl City High School to develop a model program that offered students hands-on exploration of the impacts of urban design, deforestation, indigenous land management systems, and community engagement on their local Waiawa Watershed. This project involved 23 secondary students in conducting data-analysis and completion of community engagement mini-projects. Each Greening STEM project costs an average of $20,000.

### *Nature Explorer Outdoor Classrooms*

The Forest Service collaborates with Dimensions Foundation to develop Nature Explorer Outdoor Classrooms at pre-school and elementary schools, with a specific focus on serving diverse communities. These outdoor classrooms provide dynamic, nature-based play and learning spaces in areas otherwise lacking safe outdoor public spaces. School educators also receive training on how to integrate outdoor classroom use into their instruction. In Los Angeles, the LA Unified School District has committed to building Nature Explorer Outdoor Classrooms at all 88 early childhood centers, with 10 already completed that reach 1,000 youth annually. Each new certified outdoor classroom costs approximately $50,000 to $100,000.

### *Diverse Voices in Green Jobs Guide*

Environmental education serves as a mechanism to integrate natural resources career pathways information into educational settings, thereby addressing the need to increase interest and diversity in green careers. The Forest Service is currently working with Project Learning Tree/Sustainable Forestry Initiative to develop a Diverse Voices in Green Jobs Guide that will profile leaders from underrepresented groups in the forest and natural resources sectors, including Forest Service staff, and is scheduled for release in 2022. The guide will help youth gain the understanding of what is required to pursue similar careers and see themselves in these fields. Past implementation efforts, such as for the Burning Issues Fire Curriculum, to provide training and resources have cost $500,000 to reach 5,000 educators and guidance counselors, who reach at least 50,000 youth.

## EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

### Overview

The EAJA, enacted in 1980, authorizes the payment of attorney fees and court costs to parties that prevail against the government in legal proceedings. The Forest Service has kept detailed records on EAJA payments and other attorney since fiscal year 2009.

### Background

This exhibit addresses the directive included in House Report 112-151 that accompanied the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), where:

> The Committee directs the Department of the Interior, the EPA, and the Forest Service to provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and make publicly available, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, 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 any of the Department of Interior bureaus, the EPA, or 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.

*Table FS-71. FY 2021 EAJA Fee Payments*

| Docket/Court | Case Name | Plaintiff | Judge(s) | Date Obligated | Program | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18-1144 United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit | Cowpasture River Preservation Association v. United States Forest Service | Southern Environmental Law Center | Gregory, Roger L.; Thacker, Stephanie D.; and Wynn, James A. | 11/18/2020 | Land Use Authorization and Access | $124,500 |
| 1:20-cv-00172-DCN United States District Court District of Idaho | Western Watersheds Project v. United States Forest Service | Advocates for the West | Nye, David C. | 12/14/2020 | Hazardous Fuels | 12,989 |
| 19-cv-01449-PAB United States District Courts Tenth Circuit District of Colorado | Wilderness Watch v. Ferebee | Southwest Water and Property Law | Brimmer, Philip A. | 01/11/2021 | Organizational Services | 505 |
| 1:17-cv-02519-LTB-GPG United States District Court for the District of Colorado | Citizens for a Healthy Community v. United States Bureau of Land Management | Western Environmental Law Center | Babcock, Lewis T.; Gallagher, Gordon P. | 01/11/2021 | Minerals and Geology Management | 24,000 |
| 19-35665-3:18-cv-01645-MO United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit | Bark v. United States Forest Service | Bark, Cascadia Wildlands; Oregon Wild | Mosman, Michael W.; Graber, Susan P.; Berzon, Marsha S.; and Higginson, Stephen A. | 02/19/2021 | Hazardous Fuels | 312,730 |

| Docket/Court | Case Name | Plaintiff | Judge(s) | Date Obligated | Program | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2:17-cv-1091-SU United States District Court for the District of Oregon Pendleton Division | Central Oregon Land Watch v. Forson | Crag Law Center | Sullivan, Patricia | 02/19/2021 | Trails | 216,119 |
| 1:17-cv-03025-PAB United States District Court for the District of Colorado Tenth Circuit | High Country Conservation v. United States Forest Service | Earthjustice | Briscoe; Kelly; Lucero, William R.; and Brimmer, Philip A. | 03/04/2021 | Minerals and Geology Management | 147,631 |
| 20-cv-0019-DLC United States District Court for the District of Montana Missoula Division | Friends of the Bitterroot v. Leanne Marten | Ackland Law Firm | Christensen, Dana L. | 04/15/2021 | Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring | 40,000 |
| 9:19-cv-00047-DLC United States District Court for the District of Montana Missoula Division | Helena Hunters and Anglers Association v. Marten | Western Environmental Law Center | Christensen, Dana L. | 04/15/2021 | Hazardous Fuels | 199,000 |
| 19-17479 3:19-cv-06643-EMC United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit | Environmental Protection Information Center v. Ann Carlson | Environmental Protection Information Center | Fletcher, William A.; Lee, Kenneth K.; Settle, Benjamin H.; and Chen, Edward M. | 04/23/2021 | Hazardous Fuels; Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring | 191,000 |
| 1:19-cv-00006-SLG United States District Court for the District of Alaska | Southeast Alaska Conservation Council et al v. United States Forest Service | Earthjustice; Southeast Alaska Conservation Council | Gleason, Sharon L. | 04/23/2021 | Forest Products | 210,000 |
| 19-cv-00481-MO United States District Court for the District of Oregon Portland Division | Cascade Forest Conservancy v. United States Forest Service | Earthrise Law Center | Hernández, Marco A.; Mosman, Michael W. | 04/23/2021 | Minerals and Geology Management | 25,000 |
| 1:19-cv-00445-BLW United States District Court for the District of Idaho Southern Division | Alliance for Wild Rockies v. United States Forest Service | Bricklin & Newman LLC | Winmill, Lynn B. | 06/04/2021 | Organizational Services | 68,000 |

| Docket/Court | Case Name | Plaintiff | Judge(s) | Date Obligated | Program | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4:20-cv-00481-MW- MAF United States District Court Northern District of Florida Tallahassee Division | Friends of the Florida Trail Inc v. Thomas | Friends of the Florida Trail | Walker, Mark E; Fitzpatrick, Martin A. | 06/10/2021 | Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring | 12,101 |
| 2:19-cv-00077-RWS United States District Court Northern District of Georgia Gainesville Division | Georgia Forest Watch v. United States Forest Service | Southern Environmental Law Center | Story, Richard W. | 09/30/2021 | Grazing Management | 30,000 |
| | | | | | **Total Payments** | **1,613,576** |

## NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

### Background

This exhibit addresses requirements contained in House Report 111-180, 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 – and manages portions of 15 additional NS&HTs on National Forest System lands, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, 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. Land acquisition for trails is primarily funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In FY 2021, trail maintenance and volunteer engagement increased to be more comparable to what occurred prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, several catastrophic wildfires in California and Oregon impaired management efforts of several NS&HTs. As a result, NS&HT tasks largely focused on providing safety information to trail users and coordinating with stakeholders to assess COVID-19 risk and develop safety protocols to accomplish field work to the extent possible.

#### *Arizona National Scenic Trail*

The 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) showcases Arizona's diverse landscapes, offering unparalleled backcountry experiences in settings ranging from Sonoran Desert to alpine forests. The AZT connects deserts, mountains, canyons, wilderness, history, cultures, and communities. Eighty five percent of the AZT is on Federal land that includes the Grand Canyon National Park and three other National Park Service (NPS) units, four National Forests, and two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices. Partners include the Arizona Trail Association and numerous local trail clubs, Federal agencies, State and localgovernments, Tribes, and youth corps.

In FY 2021, 1,630 volunteers contributed 18,753 hours of work in support of the AZT. Volunteers installed 12 super gates, six raised cattleguards, two log fences, five trailhead kiosks, and improvements were made to three trailheads and two natural water sources. Interpretive signs were developed and installed at nine locations. Youth corps and volunteers maintained 112 miles of trail, and volunteers repaired or replaced signs along 90 miles of trail. The program constructed eighteen miles of singletrack tread to remove sections of the AZT from paved and dirt roads. In addition, the program analyzed 51 miles of new trail alignment to remove more of the AZT from roads and to improve sustainability. This analysis will support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in FY 2022. A total of eight Trail Skills Institute courses were offered, providing in-depth hands-on training for more than 100 volunteers. Eight Trail Skills Videos were produced and made publicly available.

The AZT continues to be threatened by uncharacteristic wildfires. In FY 2021, wildfires and forest closures due to high risk of fires forced temporary closures of half of the AZT. Two major wildfires burned 16 miles of the AZT. In FY 2021, 13 miles were maintained using emergency stabilization measures due to the Bush Fire of 2020; however, unstable watershed conditions continue to cause damage to parts of the AZT.

#### *Continental Divide National Scenic Trail*

The 3,100-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (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 several 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. In FY 2021, work continued on optimal location reviews for four major "gap" areas along the CDT.

Partners include the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Montana Wilderness Association, Colorado Trail Foundation, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Montana Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Conservation Legacy, American Conservation Experience, Backcountry Horsemen and numerous other Federal, State, and local nongovernmental organizations.

In FY 2021, 90 percent of the CDT allocation went to field units and partners for 31 trail maintenance, reconstruction, and relocation projects. In addition, trail-wide partner organizations such as the Continental Divide Trail Coalition and local partner organizations led a number of volunteer projects that engaged people in trail maintenance and construction. The entire CDT on National Forest System land (approximately 2,200 miles) is a Secretarially-designated priority area for trail maintenance under the 2016 Trails Stewardship Act. Because of this designation, several forests were awarded Great American Outdoors Act funding to address deferred maintenance on the CDT and other trails.

New trail constructed in FY 2021 included:

- The Nacimiento Mine connector trail, which preserves public access to the new CDT section on the Santa Fe National Forest. This access was threatened by tenuous private land access. The connector will also provide access to future day use recreation for locals and visitors along New Mexico State Road 126 (NM126) Scenic Byway.
- Relocation of 5.5 miles the CDT off roads near Togwotee Pass, Wyoming on the Shoshone National Forest.
- New trail of 3.8 miles from the Burton Park Trailhead to the forest boundary to provide a non-motorized route on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.
- New trail construction to relocate the trail from approximately 1.25 miles of road that is moderately used by local motorized recreationists on the Gila National Forest.

### *Florida National Scenic Trail*

The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) consists of a 1,500-mile planning corridor stretching from Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades National Park to Gulf Islands National Seashore in the panhandle of Florida. Currently, 1,127 miles of certified FNST exist, with roughly 400 miles of gaps in the trail. Partners include the Florida Trail Association, Framing Our Community, National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Forest Service, Florida State Parks, and other agencies and organizations.

In FY 2021, COVID-19 limited volunteer hours, and work continues to rebuild trail in prior-year storm damaged areas. Despite volunteer hour setbacks, FNST-volunteers maintained 90 percent of the trail, contributing 12,094 hours. The Forest Service, together with Florida Trail Coalition partners, continue to carry out the goals of the Florida National Scenic Trail Five-Year Strategic Plan.[44]

### *Nez Perce National Historic Trail*

In 1986, Congress acknowledged the significance of the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877 by establishing the 1,170-mile Nez Perce National Historic Trail (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 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.

[44] https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd601682.pdf

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 Homeland Interpretive Center, the Josephy Center for Art and Culture, the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, Friends of the Southern Nez Perce Trail, and the Montana Natural History Center, plus Federal agencies and Tribes.

In FY 2021, COVID-19 and fires hindered trail maintenance efforts compared to previous years. NPNHT accomplishmentsfor the fiscal year include:

- Eighteen miles of trail maintained by the Nez Perce Tribe in central Idaho.
- Five miles of trail were cleared of downed trees on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest due to beetlekill and reoccurring windstorms.
- Fourteen miles of trail were maintained on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; and
- Thirty-one miles of trail were maintained on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

The NPNHT hosted two virtual students to enhance information and maps on the public-facing website. The students also developed a short film titled, "Creative Hearts & Minds of Nez Perce"[45] for YouTube, and installed two new interpretive panels at Sacajawea Rest Park in Darby, MT and Ravalli County Museum in Hamilton, MT. Our partners assisted with Wreaths Across America honoring 1877 Nez Perce and military soldiers. A permanent display was unveiled at the Alvin Josephy for Arts & Culture in Joseph, OR as part of a week-long event which included three tribal artists displaying and speaking of their creations, language experts, and presentations. The Nez Perce Tribe acquired 148 acres of land in Joseph, OR where Chief Joseph and General Howard met in 1877.

### *Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail*

The 2,650-mile Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. The PCT crosses 25 national forests, seven BLM field offices, six NPS units, five national monuments, and 48 designated wilderness areas. More than one-half of the PCT is contained in designated wilderness, and the trail crosses 16 Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Partners include the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), American Conservation Experience (ACE), Student Conservation Experience (SCA), Washington Trails Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Northwest Youth Corps, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, California Conservation Corps, Washington Conservation Corps, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Backcountry Horsemen of California, Oregon, Washington, and many other organizations.

FY 2021 was a year of change & opportunity for the PCT program; a new Administrator was hired in July, the first of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) funds were awarded to support the Trail, and a Foundation Document was drafted. The first GAOA project to support PCT deferred trail maintenance was awarded at $4.2 million, and agreements with the PCTA, SCA, and ACE were executed to leverage partnerships & corps crews to complete the trail work for the next four years. Project staffing was approved to support the administration of the GAOA project. The Foundation Document acts as a guiding document that aggregates the legislative history, legal and policy requirements, special mandates, and administrative commitments, and the Comprehensive Management Plan. It documents the nature and purposes of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and what makes it significant, and it identifies the fundamental resources and values. The development of the Foundation Document was a collaborative effort between partners, government agencies, and local tribes.

This year was a success in overcoming continued challenges with COVID-19, increased visitor use on public lands, and new and on-going impacts from catastrophic fires and fire restoration efforts. The PCTA and other trail partners coordinated with each management unit to assess and mitigate COVID-19 risks to allow for volunteers & corps crews to complete planned trail assessments, construction, and maintenance work. The volunteer Trailhead Host programs on the Cleveland & Inyo National Forests resumed in the FY 2021 season, which resulted in increased public contacts and education in areas with high recreation use. Long distance permit issuance resumed with continued emphasis on trail user safety during COVID-19. To continue better understanding visitor use management, academic research is being funded in more locations along the Trail. The PCTA and other trail

[45] https://youtu.be/yH5qeKyXZGw

partners provided fire closure information, damage assessment and facilitated repairs to the Trail as it was impacted by the fires and subsequent suppression efforts.

In FY 2021, two significant multiyear projects were continued as priority work. These were the Sky River relocation in Southern California and work in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Resource management planning efforts included providing national trail input on two Forest Plans, five over-the-snow travel plans, California High Speed Rail, and several proposed energy projects. A comprehensive database was finalized that cataloged all easements for the entire Trail. The collaborative management with California State Parks continued to address motorized conflict and to ensure timely resolution of issues. The PCT program also continues to collaborate with wilderness managers in the southern Sierra for the sixth year on visitor use management concerns along the John Muir Trail 170-mile overlap with the PCT.

### *Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail*

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (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), various Back Country Horsemen chapters from across the trail, Washington Trails Association, University of Montana, and other organizations.

Despite ongoing challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, along with wildfires that burned on and near the PNNST, PNTA was able to grow its Performance Trail Crew program in FY 2021. Leveraging Great American Outdoors Act funding, PNTA brought on additional Performance Trail Crews in eastern and western Washington as well as two highly skilled Technical Advisors to assist crew leaders with complex projects. While volunteer hours remained below pre-pandemic levels, volunteers made valuable contributions, often working alongside Performance Trail Crews in remote backcountry areas. In FY 2021, PNTA debuted a new online volunteer events calendar, making it easier for potential volunteers to learn about and register for volunteer service opportunities.

The highlight of FY 2021 was the long-awaited restoration of the Bogachiel section of the PNNST through Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. Due to poor conditions, agency trail crews had previously had difficulty reaching this remote section (partially located in the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness) and it went unmaintained for a decade. The dynamics of the temperate rainforest setting were evident in the number and size of trees that had fallen across the trail and places where its tread had been undercut or washed out by floods. In FY 2021, volunteers and PNTA Performance Trail Crews contributed 3,336 hours to restore more than 23 miles of trail. This section can once again provide access for hikers and equestrians to enjoy the scenic Bogachiel river valley and serve as a crucial connection for continuous travel on the PNNST from the Olympic Mountains to the Pacific Coast. This accomplishment was the culmination of a multi-year collaborative effort by the Forest Service, National Park Service, PNTA, Back Country Horsemen, and Washington Trails Association,

Other notable accomplishments in FY 2021 include the realignment and construction of several sections of the PNNST in eastern and central Washington to eliminate five miles of road walking and improve the trail experience between Republic and Oroville. In the fire impacted Pasayten Wilderness, crews cleared fallen logs from across the trail, repaired tread, built 500 feet of new tread, and marked an improved route from Goodenough Peak to Horseshoe Basin. In western Washington, 25 volunteer sawyers cleared 84 trees that had fallen across the trail near Baker Lake. Along Swift Creek in the Mt. Baker Wilderness, crews performed logout, replaced three puncheons[46], and built 50 feet of new tread.

Through a partnership with the Forest Service, a team of researchers from the University of Montana collected the fifth year of trail use monitoring data for sites along the PNNST in Montana and expanded monitoring to include three new sites in Idaho. The team also completed a multi-year effort to analyze existing geospatial data from the Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as GPS data collected for PNNST thru-hikers, identifying locations along the PNNST in the area of the Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone and eastern Selkirk Grizzly

[46] A puncheon is a wooden walkway used to cross areas with frequently saturated soils, small streams, or boulder fields.

Bear Recovery Zone in Montana and Idaho where there may be greater potential for human-grizzly bear interactions. Results were reported back to the federal agencies as well as interested stakeholders.

The Forest Service made progress in recruiting volunteers to serve on the PNNST advisory council and in preparing the trail-wide comprehensive plan for the PNNST. The plan will be completed by December 31, 2023. The Forest Service continued to implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI). The KTOI is a Federally recognized Indian Tribal Government and 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 fosters awareness and understanding of issues that concern the KTOI and provides opportunities for the parties to mutually identify possible solutions.

### *Other National Scenic and Historic Trails*

The Forest Service coordinates management with other Federal public land agencies for an additional 15 NS&HTs totaling more than 6,700 miles. These trails include Appalachian, 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.

*Table FS-72. Funding for National Scenic and Historic Trails (thousands of dollars)*

| Name | 2021 Trails Funding | 2021 Salaries and Expenses | 2021 Total | 2022 Trails Funding | 2022 Salaries and Expenses | 2022 Total | 2023 Trails Funding | 2023 Salaries and Expenses | 2023 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | $289 | $223 | **$512** | $445 | $135 | **$580** | $377 | $135 | **$512** |
| Continental Divide | 1,446 | 200 | **1,646** | 2,399 | 350 | **2,749** | 1,340 | 350 | **1,690** |
| Florida | 1,079 | 238 | **1,317** | 1,753 | 247 | **2,000** | 1,070 | 247 | **1,317** |
| Nez Perce | 50 | 258 | **308** | 635 | 190 | **825** | 430 | 190 | **620** |
| Pacific Crest | 1,571 | 275 | **1,846** | 2,409 | 350 | **2,759** | 1,496 | 350 | **1,846** |
| Pacific Northwest | 575 | 280 | **855** | 945 | 155 | **1,100** | 700 | 155 | **855** |
| All others | 1,079 | - | **1,079** | 1,487 | - | **1,487** | 1,079 | - | **1,079** |
| **Total** | **6,089** | **1,474** | **7,563** | **10,073** | **1,427** | **11,500** | **6,492** | **1,427** | **7,919** |

*Table FS-73. FY 2021 National Scenic and Historic Trails Accomplishments and Partner Contributions*

| Name | Volunteer Hours | Volunteer In-kind Contributions | Non-Cash Contributions | Miles of Trail Maintained | Miles of Trail Improved/ Constructed | Acres Acquired | Major Structures Constructed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 18,753 | $535,210 | $135,119 | 126 | 30 | - | 6 |
| Continental Divide | 30,228 | 862,707 | - | 1,750 | 27 | - | 5 |
| Florida | 12,094 | 345,162 | 13,000 | 1,008 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Nez Perce | 28,735 | 820,096 | 250,880 | 68 | 6 | 148 | 8 |
| Pacific Crest | 52,051 | 1,485,536 | 70,729 | 1,245 | 9 | - | 1 |
| Pacific Northwest | 5,804 | 165,646 | 124,570 | 377 | 7 | - | - |
| **Total** | **147,665** | **4,214,357** | **594,298** | **4,574** | **80** | **148** | **21** |

## 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.

*Table FS-74. Office of General Counsel Reimbursement FY 2020 through FY 2023 (dollars in thousands)*

| FY 2020 Actual Reimbursement | FY 2021 Planned Reimbursement[a] | FY 2022 Planned Reimbursement | FY 2023 Planned Reimbursement |
|---|---|---|---|
| $93 | - | $5,000 | $5,000 |

[a] No costs incurred in FY 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

## Background

This exhibit addresses the requirement from 2022 Senate report 117-000:

> The Service is directed to report in the annual budget submission on prescribed fire activities by region for the previous fiscal year.

## Overview

Hazardous fuels treatments are the intentional removal or manipulation of flammable vegetation to reduce the spread or intensity of wildfires and includes the use of prescribed fire and other techniques such as mechanical thinning. A prescribed fire is a fire intentionally lit by forest managers to achieve desirable outcomes such as reducing wildfire risk to communities by removing excessive vegetation, improving wildlife habitat, recycling soil nutrients, and removal of dead or decadent[47] vegetation to promote new plant growth. Prescribed fires are carefully planned and implemented to provide for a safe and controllable fire, while achieving the desired effects. Additional information about the Forest Service's use of prescribed fire is available online.[48]

### FY 2021

In FY 2021, the Forest Service conducted the highest level of prescribed fire activity ever recorded; over 1.8 million acres of National Forest System lands were treated with prescribed fire, exceeding the 10-year average of 1.4 million acres and previous record of 1.6 million acres of prescribed fire. FY 2021 success can be attributed to favorable weather creating more opportunities for burning, and a coordinated, intentional, and national approach to mobilizing the agency's workforce to take advantage of the favorable conditions for prescribed fire. In FY 2021, prescribed fire accounted for roughly half (49 percent) of all hazardous fuels accomplishments. The Regional breakout of FY 2021 hazardous fuels and prescribed fire accomplishments are shown in Table FS-75.

Successful prescribed fires require specific weather conditions, such as temperature, humidity, and wind. The Southern Region performs the most prescribed burns because it is generally snow-free throughout the year with intermittent drying between rain events, which offers many opportunities throughout the year to conduct prescribed fire. Because of the warm and moist conditions in the southeast, vegetation grows much faster and needs treatment about every three years to maintain fuels at a desirable level and avoid build-up. Alaskan forests, on the other hand, are mostly rainforests, thus even when snow-free, they receive over 100 inches per year in many places and the need or opportunity to conduct prescribed fire in the Alaska Region is less than other regions. The recent rise in spruce beetle activity causing the death of black spruce trees in and around the Chugach National Forest in Alaska may increase the need for fuels treatment and prescribed fire to mitigate wildfire risk to communities in future years.

*Table FS-75. Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Acres Accomplished in FY 2021.*

| Region | FY 2021 Hazardous Fuels Accomplishments – All Methods (acres) | FY 2021 Prescribed Fire Accomplishments (acres)[a] | FY 2021 Hazardous Fuels Work Accomplished by Prescribed Fire (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 – Northern | 90,684 | 24,062 | 27% |
| 02 – Rocky Mountain | 197,536 | 42,584 | 22% |
| 03 – Southwestern | 223,866 | 174,210 | 78% |
| 04 – Intermountain | 212,316 | 33,378 | 16% |
| 05 – Pacific Southwest | 179,866 | 45,501 | 25% |
| 06 – Pacific Northwest | 271,503 | 94,067 | 35% |
| 08 – Southern | 1,595,492 | 1,287,175 | 81% |

[47] A plant with a high proportion of dead to live biomass.
[48] https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/prescribed-fire

| Region | FY 2021 Hazardous Fuels Accomplishments – All Methods (acres) | FY 2021 Prescribed Fire Accomplishments (acres)[a] | FY 2021 Hazardous Fuels Work Accomplished by Prescribed Fire (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09 – Eastern | 254,623 | 109,182 | 43% |
| 10 – Alaska | 2,035 | 53 | 3% |
| Beneficial Wildfire[b] | 642,867 | - | 0% |
| **Total, Hazardous Fuels Acres Accomplished** | **3,670,788** | **1,810,212** | **49%** |

[a] Data from Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) on 11/29/21; does not include brush disposal (burning debris from logging operations).

[b] Acres of accomplishment resulting from naturally occurring wildfires.

## STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING

### Background

This exhibit addresses 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: 1) the status of development, execution, and administration of contracts under subsection (b); 2) the specific accomplishments that have resulted; and 3) the role of local communities in development of agreements or contract plans.

### Overview

Stewardship contracts and agreements manage natural resources through implementation of ecosystem restoration projects. Stewardship contracts support new and emerging markets by using forest products removed through restoration activities, including woody biomass for energy and sustaining traditional markets. Stewardship contracting helps the Forest Service achieve land and 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. Stewardship contracting selection criteria include capability, use of local workforce, creation of jobs, and price. The intent is 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, 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 decommissioning 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; and
- Controlling noxious and invasive weeds and reestablishing native vegetation.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141) amended the stewardship authority to increase agreements and contracts from 10 to 20 years in locations meeting certain conditions. 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 (first) year. The agency has operationalized the 20-year stewardship contracting authority by extending the current executed agreements beyond 10 years and by entering into new 20-year stewardship agreements. Currently, the Forest Service has 19 agreements over 10 years in length. Some work and project development in other regions were also delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while other regions continue to evaluate the use of this authority. The Washington Office is in the process of updating the stewardship directives to include guidance on the implementation of these new authorities.

In FY 2021, the Forest Service continued to inform stakeholders about stewardship contracting through brochures, local field trips, and training opportunities. These efforts ensure 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 2021, stewardship contracting training courses were conducted in a virtual platform to capitalize on the COVID-19 virtual environment. The Forest Service also developed a new, smaller structured stewardship agreement training focused on partner understanding and technical training. This training will give partners a better understanding of the processes and procedures used within the agency for the reporting and accounting of project accomplishments.

### *Specific Accomplishments*

Table FS-76 displays accomplishments between FY 2018 and FY 2021. 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.

*Table FS-76. Actual Stewardship Contracting Accomplishments (FY 2018 to FY 2021)*

| Measure | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acres of forest vegetation established | 3,591 | 3,624 | 4,678 | 2,715 |
| Acres of forest vegetation improved | 24,938 | 33,269 | 21,759 | 12,692 |
| Acres of noxious weeds and invasive plant treatments | 3,879 | 5,977 | 9,103 | 4,951 |
| Acres of wildlife habitat restored or improved | 33,693 | 49,042 | 79,009 | 83,625 |
| Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced | 110 | 118 | 38 | 130 |
| Miles of roads decommissioned | 14 | 2 | 12 | - |
| Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF)) | 754 | 859 | 888 | 670 |
| Green tons of biomass made available for energy production | 229,958 | 276,236 | 161,379 | 87,271 |
| Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires (non-WUI) | 31,695 | 49,574 | 46,360 | 52,573 |
| Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated | 163,332 | 83,784 | 34,984 | 245,468 |
| Stewardship contracts and agreements contributing to watersheds in fully functioning condition | 5 | 2 | - | 1 |

Table FS-77 shows the acres awarded, number of contracts or agreements awarded, and volume awarded from FY 2018 to FY 2021. 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.

*Table FS-77. Acres Awarded, Number of Contract or Agreements Awarded, and Volume Awarded*

| Measure | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acres Awarded | 161,947 | 129,710 | 70,930 | 165,448 |
| Number of Contracts and Agreements | 266 | 150 | 156 | 141 |
| Volume Awarded (thousand board feet (MBF)) | 793,374 | 859,060 | 888,000 | 670,399 |

### *Local Communities*

Collaboration with local communities, from development through implementation and monitoring, is a key component of successful stewardship contracting and provides a sense of community ownership in the project, a better understanding by communities of natural resource issues, and increased public support. Collaboration also allows the Forest Service to tailor stewardship offerings that address local issues, needs, and capabilities. In FY 2021, the agency issued its new policy manual on stewardship contracting and agreements. This new manual will lay the foundation for the successful implementation of the stewardship authorities. The corresponding handbook guiding the implementation is under development.

## 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, 2021.

*Table FS-78. Forest Service Status of ULO Balances in Prior Fiscal Years as of September 30, 2021 (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | FY 2018 and Prior | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forest Service Operations: | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | - | $39,425 | $39,425 |
| Facilities Maintenance and Leases | - | - | - | 38,909 | 38,909 |
| Information Technology | - | - | $7,009 | 143,952 | 150,961 |
| Organizational Services | - | - | - | 51,465 | 51,465 |
| Total, Forest Service Operations | - | - | 7,009 | 273,751 | 280,760 |
| Forest and Rangeland Research: | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | - | 11,032 | 11,032 |
| Forest and Rangeland Research | $7,563 | $13,201 | 35,839 | 30,551 | 87,154 |
| Forest Inventory and Analysis | 568 | 1,915 | 10,399 | 14,960 | 27,842 |
| National Fire Plan | 182 | - | - | - | 182 |
| Joint Fire Science | 300 | 1,718 | 2,539 | 3,000 | 7,557 |
| Forest Products | 66 | - | - | - | 66 |
| Forest and Rangeland Research – Other | 319 | 393 | 829 | - | 1,541 |
| Disaster Funding | - | 426 | 2,014 | - | 2,440 |
| Total, Forest and Rangeland Research | 8,998 | 17,653 | 51,620 | 59,543 | 137,814 |
| State and Private Forestry: | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | - | 2,782 | 2,782 |
| Landscape Scale Restoration | 9,848 | 9,514 | 11,807 | 12,982 | 44,151 |
| FHM - Federal Lands | 3,249 | 3,566 | 8,048 | 8,699 | 23,562 |
| FHM - Cooperative Lands | 7,530 | 8,937 | 19,976 | 26,905 | 63,348 |
| Working Forest Lands | 4,235 | 5,133 | 8,437 | 10,270 | 28,075 |
| Forest Legacy Program | 38,091 | 42,535 | 37,377 | - | 118,003 |
| Community Forest and Open Space Conservation | 327 | 1,478 | 1,677 | 3,964 | 7,446 |
| Urban and Community Forestry | 6,736 | 9,813 | 17,521 | 31,209 | 65,279 |
| International Programs and Trade Compliance | 1,739 | 1,087 | 3,980 | 11,933 | 18,739 |
| State Fire Capacity Grants | 20,365 | 37,284 | 56,469 | 71,821 | 185,939 |
| Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants | 1,481 | 4,947 | 11,899 | 19,000 | 37,327 |
| State and Private Forestry – Other | 2,336 | 1,744 | 1,147 | - | 5,227 |
| Disaster Funding | 1,972 | 6,477 | - | - | 8,449 |

| Item | FY 2018 and Prior | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total, State and Private Forestry | 97,909 | 132,515 | 178,338 | 199,565 | 608,327 |
| National Forest System: | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | - | 80,311 | 80,311 |
| Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot | 4,587 | - | - | - | 4,587 |
| Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration | 4,644 | 2,464 | 7,441 | 9,212 | 23,761 |
| Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring | 2,952 | 5,112 | 14,851 | 11,879 | 34,794 |
| Hazardous Fuels | 28,288 | 41,400 | 84,373 | 128,973 | 283,034 |
| Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness | 5,408 | 5,271 | 14,960 | 14,048 | 39,687 |
| Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management | 2,816 | 3,646 | 7,052 | 11,392 | 24,906 |
| Grazing Management | 745 | 812 | 2,317 | 1,934 | 5,808 |
| Forest Products | 9,229 | 8,881 | 15,075 | 13,743 | 46,928 |
| Vegetation and Watershed Management | 4,585 | 7,395 | 18,329 | 19,654 | 49,963 |
| Minerals and Geology Management | 2,716 | 2,730 | 5,346 | 8,456 | 19,248 |
| Land Use Authorization and Access | 1,105 | 1,972 | 3,174 | 3,419 | 9,670 |
| Law Enforcement Operations | 1,348 | 1,428 | 4,339 | 5,367 | 12,482 |
| National Forest System – Other | 3,785 | 4,360 | 9,202 | - | 17,347 |
| Disaster Funding | 3,583 | 5,352 | 9,560 | - | 18,495 |
| Total, National Forest System | 75,791 | 90,823 | 196,019 | 308,388 | 671,021 |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance: | | | | | |
| Facilities | 7,381 | 10,903 | 31,460 | 36,252 | 85,996 |
| Roads | 3,863 | 5,292 | 18,185 | 32,670 | 60,010 |
| Trails | 3,254 | 2,184 | 4,675 | 8,425 | 18,538 |
| Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement | 507 | - | - | - | 507 |
| Legacy Roads and Trails | 775 | - | - | - | 775 |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Other | 910 | 795 | 1,679 | - | 3,384 |
| Disaster Funding | 11,008 | 2,995 | 15,486 | - | 29,489 |
| Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance | 27,698 | 22,169 | 71,485 | 77,347 | 198,699 |
| Land Acquisition: | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | 3,788 | 2,129 | 2,595 | - | 8,512 |
| Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts | 66 | 149 | - | 450 | 665 |
| Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges | 86 | - | - | - | 86 |
| Total, Land Acquisition | 3,940 | 2,278 | 2,595 | 450 | 9,263 |
| Other Appropriations: | | | | | |
| Range Betterment Fund | 121 | 182 | 225 | 93 | 621 |
| Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses | 45 | 267 | 304 | 804 | 1,420 |
| Total, Other Appropriations | 166 | 449 | 529 | 897 | 2,041 |
| Wildland Fire Management: | | | | | |
| Salaries and Expenses | - | - | 0 | 54,947 | 54,947 |

| Item | FY 2018 and Prior | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Preparedness | 40,405 | 16,823 | 49,062 | 24,188 | 130,478 |
| Suppression | 12,957 | 1,092 | 16,807 | 589,916 | 620,772 |
| Hazardous Fuels | 26,407 | - | - | - | 26,407 |
| National Fire Capacity | 14,014 | - | - | - | 14,014 |
| Rural Fire Capacity | 923 | - | - | - | 923 |
| Wildland Fire Management – Other | 2,410 | 3,450 | 5,440 | 367 | 11,667 |
| Disaster Funding | - | - | 1,878 | - | 1,878 |
| Total, Wildland Fire Management | 97,116 | 21,365 | 73,187 | 669,418 | 861,086 |
| **Total, Forest Service** | **311,618** | **287,252** | **573,773** | **1,315,608** | **2,769,011** |

## USDA WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEPARTMENTAL SHARED COST PROGRAMS, AND E-GOVERNMENT

### Background

This exhibit is included to provide a four-year summary of USDA Working Capital Fund (WCF) and USDA Shared Cost Programs actual and estimated fees to the Forest Service for centralized services, as well as actual and estimated charges to the Forest Service that contribute to E-Government initiatives.

### USDA Working Capital Fund

***Overview***

The USDA WCF (7 U.S.C. 2235) provides services that the Secretary, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, determines are performed more effectively as central services rather than as separate services within USDA agencies. The USDA WCF is used to finance services to USDA and non-USDA[49] agencies on a centralized, fee-for-service basis. The USDA WCF does not receive appropriated funds; all costs are reimbursed in full. The USDA WCF finances activity centers under five functional categories: Administration, Communications, Financial Management, Information Technology, and Correspondence Management.

Pursuant to the terms contained in 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 a 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.

*Table FS-79. Forest Service actual and estimated fees made to the USDA WCF between FY 2020 and FY 2023 (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimated | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administration: | | | | |
| Materiel Management Service Center | $928 | $780 | $792 | $798 |
| Mail and Reproduction Services | 820 | 628 | 574 | 573 |
| Integrated Procurement Systems | 8,235 | 8,611 | 8,637 | 8,583 |
| Human Resources Enterprise System Management | 1,154 | 1,126 | 1,064 | 1,097 |
| Procurement Operations Division | 126 | 123 | 79 | 84 |
| Subtotal, Administrative Services | 11,263 | 11,268 | 11,146 | 11,135 |
| Communications: | | | | |
| Creative Media and Broadcast Center | 496 | 229 | 449 | 556 |
| Financial Management: | | | | |
| National Finance Center | 8,116 | 8,456 | 8,550 | 8,655 |
| Financial Shared Services | 47,085 | 45,840 | 45,636 | 47,493 |
| Internal Control Support Services | 489 | 394 | 382 | 281 |
| Subtotal, Finance and Management | 55,690 | 54,690 | 54,568 | 56,429 |
| Information Technology: | | | | |
| Digital Infrastructure Services Center | 41,791 | 37,918 | 35,206 | 34,799 |

[49] Services to non-USDA agencies help reduce USDA's share of fixed costs for WCF-supported services.

| Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimated | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department Administration Information Technology Office. | - | 1,214 | 12 | 12 |
| Client Experience Center ..... | 23,159 | 50,796 | 55,530 | 55,633 |
| Enterprise Network Services..... | 16,940 | 15,069 | 16,292 | 15,243 |
| Subtotal, Information Technology..... | 81,890 | 104,997 | 107,040 | 105,687 |
| Correspondence Management: | | | | |
| Office of the Executive Secretariat ..... | 509 | 318 | 401 | 401 |
| **Total, Working Capital Fund.....** | **149,848** | **171,502** | **173,604** | **174,208** |

***USDA WCF Centralized Services***

*Administration*

USDA WCF Administration activities are managed under the Assistant Secretary for Administration and includes the following:

Materiel Management Service Center provides on-demand forms and publications acquisition, management, warehousing, and distribution; excess personal property accountability, reuse, sales, and disposal; and office and general supply acquisition, receipt and shipment of parcels, warehousing, and sales.

Mail and Reproduction Services is responsible for managing and directing centralized printing and copier systems; mailing list systems; package[i] delivery and chauffeur services; and staff support systems related to financial management, program analysis, and administration.

Integrated Procurement Systems provides modernized and integrated Department-wide procurement automation tools and systems.

Human Resources Enterprise System Management provides modernized, cost-effective, and standardized Department-wide human resource solutions that support the strategic management of human capital.

Procurement Operations Division provides a variety of contracting support services to USDA agencies.

*Communications*

USDA WCF Communications includes the Creative Media and Broadcast Center, which provides creative design, radio and video production studios, and multimedia development and maintenance to USDA agencies.

*Financial Management*

USDA WCF Financial Management is managed by USDAs Office of the Chief Financial Officer and includes the following:

National Finance Center processes payroll for Federal employees and provides payroll-related data management and reconciliation for Office of Personnel Management government programs mostly related to employee health benefits and insurance.

Financial Shared Services administers financial management applications to USDA agencies and is responsible for providing accounting services, administrative payments processing and disbursement certification, intragovernmental payment and collection reconciliation, Treasury fund balances, and Treasury reporting

Internal Control Support Services provides services to USDA agencies related to internal control compliance efforts, such as annual financial reporting, efficiencies to administrative and financial processes, and information technology.

Financial Management Support Services administers financial management, including fiscal reporting and budget execution, to USDA WCF activity centers and staff offices.

*Information Technology*

USDA WCF Information Technology is managed by USDAs Office of the Chief Information Officer and includes the following:

Digital Infrastructure Services Center provides hosting services, workforce development services, program management and software engineering, and telecommunications management for USDA agencies and non-USDA customers.

Department Administration Information Technology Office provides centrally managed information technology solutions to USDA administrative and staff offices that adhere to functionality, accessibility, and compliance requirements of governing bodies and end-users.

Client Experience Center provides Department-wide fee-for-service activities related to information technology operations, security, and technical support services.

Enterprise Network Services provides Department-wide management, support, and compliance related to telecommunications services.

*Correspondence Management*

USDA WCF Correspondence Management includes the Office of the Executive Secretariat, which manages the official correspondence and records of the Office of the Secretary, provides departmental records management, establishes departmental directives, and assists the Office of the Secretary with special projects.

## Departmental Shared Cost Programs

***Overview***

Shared cost agreements may be entered into under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2263. This language authorizes the USDA to transfer funds from USDA agencies to pay for department-wide initiatives that benefit multiple USDA agencies. Forest Service shared cost transfers between FY 2020 and FY 2021, and estimated transfers between FY 2022 and FY 2023, are detailed in Table FS-79 below.

*Table FS-80. Forest Service transfers to USDA shared cost programs for FY 2020 through FY 2023 (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimated | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Advisory Committee Liaison Services | $189 | $267 | $302 | $302 |
| Agency Partnership Outreach | 2,312 | 2,071 | 2,330 | 2,330 |
| Honor Awards | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard | 181 | - | - | - |
| Intertribal Technical Assistance Network | 962 | 1,022 | 1,079 | 1,079 |
| Medical Services | 24 | 126 | 143 | 143 |
| National Capital Region Interpreting Services | - | 75 | 60 | 75 |
| Office of Customer Experience | 1,729 | 2,901 | 2,763 | 2,763 |
| Personnel and Document Security | 520 | 640 | 670 | 670 |
| Physical Security | 1,764 | 1,287 | 1,339 | 1,364 |
| Security Detail | 1,394 | 1,385 | 1,432 | 1,444 |
| Security Operations | 1,758 | 1,944 | 1,941 | 1,941 |
| TARGET Center | 342 | 356 | 419 | 421 |
| USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services | 2,442 | 1,631 | 1,406 | 1,406 |
| **Total, Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs** | **13,620** | **13,707** | **13,887** | **13,941** |

### *Shared Cost Programs*

Advisory Committee Liaison Services is managed by the USDAs Office of the Secretary and provides guidance and direction to USDA agencies on Advisory Committees and Boards. Costs to support this function and screening/selection of members are reimbursed from agencies to the Office of the Secretary.

Agency Partnership Outreach is managed by the USDAs Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement and supports multiple USDA partnership and outreach activities that benefit rural and underserved communities.

Honor Awards are sponsored by USDA's Secretary and are USDA's most prestigious honor, with a 70-year history of recognizing the Department's greatest accomplishments.

Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard served[50] as a single sign-on portal for multiple USDA human resources systems; and included an interface for calculating retirement benefits for USDA employees.

Intertribal Technical Assistance Network provides technical assistance and program access – in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs – to American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal governments.

Medical Services provides preventative health measures (flu shots, health screening, nutritional principles, and fitness awareness) for USDA employees and contractors in the National Capital Region.

Office of Customer Experience is a Department-wide program targeted toward increasing efficiencies in customer-facing processes; simplifying the public's access to USDA programs; and developing and improving practices that contribute to increased USDA employee accessibility, responsiveness, professionalism, and expertise to the public.

Personnel and Document Security[51] is responsible for the protection of classified national security information by providing security clearance, training, policies, and guidance for USDA personnel.

Physical Security includes physical security, identity, credentialing, and access management.

Security Detail provides funding for the Secretary of Agriculture.

Security Operations provides Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP), training, and reenactment exercises to ensure USDA agencies can continue to provide critical essential functions during emergency situations.

Technology and Accessible Resources Give Employment Today (TARGET) Center provides services related to improving the accessibility and experience of individuals with disabilities.

USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services provides access to data-driven, fact-based, customer-focused information that supports several administrative areas, including finance, human resources, information technology, procurement, property, fleet operations, and homeland security.

## USDA E-Government (E-Gov)

### *Overview*

The E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347), signed into law December 17, 2002, established the Office of Electronic Government within the Office of Management and Budget; established a Chief Information Officers

[50] Starting in FY 2021, the Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard no longer receives Departmental Shared Cost Program funding.

[51] The Personnel Security and Classified National Security Information programs were consolidated into the Personnel and Document Security program in FY 2018.

Council[52]; established an E-Government Fund[53]; and included provisions requiring the use of "Internet-based information technology to enhance citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes."

*Table FS-81. Forest Service contributions to E-Gov initiatives for FY 2020 through FY 2023 (thousands of dollars)*

| Item | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Estimated | 2023 Estimated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business | $30 | $39 | $37 | $37 |
| E-Rulemaking | 9 | 36 | 51 | 53 |
| Financial Management Line of Business | 100 | 87 | 85 | 85 |
| Geospatial Line of Business | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Grants.gov | 5 | 8 | 11 | 13 |
| Hiring Assessment Tool | - | - | 72 | 72 |
| Human Resources Line of Business | 90 | 92 | 90 | 90 |
| Integrated Acquisition Environment | 573 | 623 | 193 | 193 |
| **Total, E-Gov** | **819** | **897** | **551** | **555** |

***USDA E-Gov Initiatives***

USDA E-Gov initiatives, managed by the USDAs Office of the Chief Information Officer, provide efficient, cost-effective electronic services and resources to USDA customers, partners, and personnel.

Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business (LoB) collaborates with partner agencies on best practices for Federal budgeting (budget formulation, budget execution, and workforce planning).

E-Rulemaking is managed by the General Services Administration under the Program Management Office and is responsible for maintaining the Regulations.gov[54] web site; a resource that provides regulatory materials to the public and promotes participation in the legislative process.

Financial Management LoB provides financial management standards, requirements, tools, and services in support of USDAs financial activities.

Geospatial LoB provides geospatial-related services, applications, data, hardware, and software to agencies and partners to achieve mission goals.

Grants.gov manages the Grants.gov[55] web site; a resource that publishes grant opportunities and application packages and provides forms and resources for applying for grants.

Hiring Assessment Tool provides resources designed to recruit and acquire talent to the Federal governments using various strategies.

Human Resource Management LoB is responsible for managing employee human resource information.

Integrated Acquisition Environment offers services related to the Federal acquisition process and manages several acquisition systems.

[52] The Chief Information Officers Council is responsible for "improving agency practices related to the design, acquisition, development, modernization, use, operation, sharing, and performance of Federal Government information resources" (Public Law 107-347 § 3603(d)).
[53] The E-Government Fund is administered by the General Services Administration and is used to fund initiatives and lines of business that utilize the Internet and other electronic methods for delivering information and resources electronically to the public.
[54] https://www.regulations.gov/
[55] https://www.grants.gov/

# APPENDICES

## NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), enacted in 2020, allows the Forest Service to repair and upgrade vital infrastructure and facilities in the national forests and grasslands through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund.

In FY 2023, the Forest Service proposes $285 million for the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. These levels are subject to a 5.7 percent sequestration rate, and this is reflected in the tables below. The FY 2022 sequestration pop-up (payback), once returned, will act as the FY 2023 contingency fund. The Forest Service has developed the projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance. The full project information, including the project descriptions, will be transmitted to Congress concurrently with the FY 2023 Budget request. This project list may differ from that provided in an enacted appropriations bill.

*Table FS-82. Fiscal Year 2023 National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund – Proposed Projects*

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | R&D | Research and Development Stations | Research and Development Deferred Maintenance | AK, CA, CO, GA, MN, MT, NC, PR, UT, WA, WI | AK-At Large, CA-32, CO-02, GA-10, MN-04, MT-At Large, NC-11, PR-At Large, UT-01, WA-10, WI-02, WI-07 | Admin Facility, Research Facility, Water/Wastewater System | $12,686,500 |
| 2 | 01 | Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest | Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MT | MT-At Large | Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Wastewater System | 1,441,000 |
| 3 | 01 | Bitterroot National Forest | Bitterroot National Forest Deferred Maintenance | ID, MT | ID-01, MT-At Large | Road, Recreation Site, Water System | 1,105,000 |
| 4 | 01 | Custer Gallatin National Forest | Custer Gallatin National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MT | MT-At Large | Road, Road Bridge, Trail, Admin Facility, Recreation Site | 4,030,300 |
| 5 | 01 | Dakota Prairie Grasslands | Dakota Prairie Grasslands Deferred Maintenance | ND, SD | ND-At Large, SD-At Large | Road, Trail, Recreation Site | 374,000 |
| 6 | 01 | Flathead National Forest | Flathead National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MT | MT-At Large | Road, Trail, Road Bridge, Trail Bridge, Water/Wastewater System, Recreation Site | 2,208,800 |
| 7 | 01 | Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest | Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MT | MT-At Large | Road, Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site | 5,020,000 |

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 01 | Idaho Panhandle National Forest | Idaho Panhandle National Forests Deferred Maintenance | ID | ID-01 | Trail, Trail Bridge, Trail Tunnel | 6,369,000 |
| 9 | 01 | Kootenai National Forest | Kootenai National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MT | MT-At Large | Recreation Site, Trail, Water/Wastewater System, Road | 1,784,000 |
| 10 | 01 | Lolo National Forest | Lolo National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MT | MT-At Large | Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site, Water System, Tunnel, Trail, Trail Bridge | 2,255,000 |
| 11 | 01 | Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests | Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Deferred Maintenance | ID | ID-01 | Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site, Road | 4,215,100 |
| 12 | 02 | Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland | Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Deferred Maintenance | CO | CO-02, CO-04 | Road, Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site, Water System | 4,764,300 |
| 13 | 02 | Bighorn National Forest | Bighorn National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WY | WY-At Large | Road, Trail, Road Bridge, Recreation Site, Water System | 2,832,100 |
| 14 | 02 | Black Hills National Forest | Black Hills National Forest Deferred Maintenance | SD | SD-At Large | Dam, Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site, Water/Wastewater System | 3,981,400 |
| 15 | 02 | Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests | Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CO | CO-03 | Trail, Road, Recreation Site, Trail Bridge | 3,825,800 |
| 16 | 02 | Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest | Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CO | CO-02, CO-03, WY-At Large | Recreation Site, Road | 572,500 |
| 17 | 02 | Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands | Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands | CO | CO-02, CO-03, CO-05 | Trail, Recreation Site, Water System | 867,000 |
| 18 | 02 | Rio Grande National Forest | Rio Grande National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CO | CO-03 | Recreation Site, Water System, Admin Facility | 313,000 |
| 19 | 02 | Shoshone National Forest | Shoshone First Forest and Facility Maintenance | WY | WY-At Large | Recreation Site | 334,000 |

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 02 | White River National Forest | White River National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CO | CO-02, CO-03 | Recreation Site, Admin Facility, Trail, Trail Bridge, Water/Wastewater System | 6,792,000 |
| 21 | 03 | Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests | Forest-Wide Developed Recreation Site Renovation | AZ | AZ-01 | Recreation Site | 650,000 |
| 22 | 03 | Carson National Forest | Carson National Forest Deferred Maintenance | NM | NM-03 | Road, Dam, Trail, Recreation Site, Wastewater System | 3,087,100 |
| 23 | 03 | Cibola National Forest | Sandia Crest Recreation Complex Design and Construction | NM | NM-01 | Recreation Site, Road | 1,601,500 |
| 24 | 03 | Coconino National Forest | Coconino National Forest Deferred Maintenance | AZ | AZ-01 | Recreation Site, Trail | 870,000 |
| 25 | 03 | Coronado National Forest | Coronado National Forest Deferred Maintenance | AZ | AZ-01, AZ-02, AZ-03 | Road, Road Bridge, Trail, Recreation Site | 2,473,000 |
| 26 | 03 | Gila National Forest | Gila National Forest Deferred Maintenance | NM | NM-02 | Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge | 5,640,000 |
| 27 | 03 | Kaibab National Forest | Road 307 and Road 310 Improvements and Parking Lot Reconstruction | AZ | AZ-01 | Road | 578,000 |
| 28 | 03 | Lincoln National Forest | Cedar Creek Trail Access Capital Improvement | NM | NM-02 | Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge | 175,000 |
| 29 | 03 | Prescott National Forest | Trails Deferred Maintenance | AZ | AZ-04 | Trail | 225,000 |
| 30 | 03 | Santa Fe National Forest | Santa Fe National Forest Deferred Maintenance | NM | NM-03 | Road, Trail, Recreation Site, Water/Wastewater System | 8,193,000 |
| 31 | 03 | Southwestern Region | Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) Deferred Maintenance | AZ | AZ-01, AZ-02, AZ-03, AZ-04 | Trail, Recreation Site | 360,000 |
| 32 | 03 | Tonto National Forest | Retrofitting Four Composting toilets to Vault toilets | AZ | AZ-01 | Recreation Site, Water/Wastewater System | 130,000 |
| 33 | 04 | Ashley National Forest | Ashley National Forest Deferred Maintenance | UT, WY | UT-01, WY-At Large | Recreation Site, Road, Admin Facility, Water/Wastewater System | 1,743,000 |
| 34 | 04 | Boise National Forest | Boise National Forest Deferred Maintenance | ID | ID-01, ID-02 | Recreation Site, Road, Water System | 1,659,000 |

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | 04 | Bridger-Teton National Forest | Bridger-Teton National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WY | WY-At Large | Recreation Site, Road | 788,000 |
| 36 | 04 | Caribou-Targhee National Forest | Caribou-Targhee National Forest Deferred Maintenance | ID, WY | ID-02, WY-At Large | Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge, Water System | 2,082,000 |
| 37 | 04 | Dixie National Forest | Duck Creek Campground Deferred Maintenance Reduction | UT | UT-02 | Facility-Recreation, Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Water System, Wastewater System | 1,578,500 |
| 38 | 04 | Fishlake National Forest | Fishlake National Forest Deferred Maintenance | UT | UT-02 | Road, Recreation Site, Trail, Wastewater System | 4,171,200 |
| 39 | 04 | Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest | Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CA, NV | CA-01, CA-04, CA-08, NV-02, NV-03 | Road, Trail, Trail Bridge | 1,515,000 |
| 40 | 04 | Manti-La Sal National Forest | Manti-La Sal National Forest Deferred Maintenance | UT | UT-03 | Road, Trail, Recreation Site, Road Bridge, Water System | 1,123,700 |
| 41 | 04 | Payette National Forest | Payette National Forest Deferred Maintenance | ID | ID-01 | Road, Trail, Recreation Site, Admin Facility, Water/Wastewater System | 1,174,000 |
| 42 | 04 | Salmon-Challis National Forest | Salmon-Challis National Forest Deferred Maintenance | ID | ID-02 | Road, Trail, Trail Bridge | 1,169,300 |
| 43 | 04 | Sawtooth National Forest | Sawtooth National Forest Deferred Maintenance | ID | ID-02 | Road Bridge, Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site, Fire Facility | 708,800 |
| 44 | 04 | Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest | Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Deferred Maintenance | UT | UT-03 | Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Water/Wastewater System | 4,841,800 |
| 45 | 05 | Angeles National Forest | Angeles National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CA | CA-25, CA-26, CA-27 | Recreation Site, Trail, Road, Admin Facility, Fire Facility, Water/Wastewater System | 1,750,000 |
| 46 | 05 | Eldorado National Forest | Eldorado National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CA | CA-04 | Road, Recreation Site, Nursery System | 3,570,000 |

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 47 | 05 | Inyo National Forest | Inyo National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CA | CA-04, CA-08, CA-23 | Road, Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge, Water/Wastewater System | 13,840,300 |
| 48 | 05 | Klamath National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest | Northern California Wilderness Trails Priority Area Maintenance | CA | CA-02 | Trail, Trail Bridge | 169,000 |
| 49 | 05 | Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit | Bayview Parking Lot Upgrades | CA | CA-02 | Facility - Recreation | 400,000 |
| 50 | 05 | Lassen National Forest | Recreation Deferred Maintenance | CA | CA-01 | Recreation Site | 555,600 |
| 51 | 05 | Mendocino National Forest | Critical Forest-Wide Roof Replacement | CA | CA-01, CA-02 | Facility, Recreation Site | 122,000 |
| 52 | 05 | Modoc National Forest | Blue Lake Recreation Improvements | CA | CA-01 | Road, Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Trail | 2,550,000 |
| 53 | 05 | Plumas National Forest | Plumas Fire Detection and Rec Lookout DM Upgrades | CA | CA-01 | Facility, Facility - Fire, Facility- Recreation, Wastewater System | 531,000 |
| 54 | 05 | San Bernardino National Forest | Recreation Sites Water System Improvements | CA | CA-08, CA-36 | Water System | 101,000 |
| 55 | 05 | Sierra National Forest | Sierra National Forest Deferred Maintenance | CA | CA-04 | Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site | 8,619,300 |
| 56 | 05 | Tahoe National Forest | Tahoe Public Service Center and Hotshot Facilities Modernization | CA | CA-01 | Facility | 1,400,000 |
| 57 | 06 | Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area | Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Deferred Maintenance | WA | WA-03, WA-04 | Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site, Trail | 565,000 |
| 58 | 06 | Colville National Forest | Colville National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WA | WA-05 | Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge, Water/Wastewater System | 1,705,000 |
| 59 | 06 | Deschutes National Forest | Forest-Wide Trail Bridge Reconstruction | OR | OR-02 | Trail Bridge | 130,000 |
| 60 | 06 | Fremont-Winema National Forest | Oregon Timber Trail Access Improvements Recreation | OR | OR-02 | Trail, Recreation Site | 150,000 |
| 61 | 06 | Gifford Pinchot National Forest | Gifford Pinchot National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WA | WA-03 | Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Trail Bridge | 2,775,000 |

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 62 | 06 | Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest | Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WA | WA-01, WA-08 | Road, Road Bridge, Dam, Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site, Admin Facility | 4,836,700 |
| 63 | 06 | Mt. Hood National Forest | Timberline Lodge Boiler System Replacement | OR | OR-03 | Facility, Recreation Site | 7,000,000 |
| 64 | 06 | Ochoco National Forest | Ochoco National Forest Deferred Maintenance | OR | OR-02 | Road | 3,425,500 |
| 65 | 06 | Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest | Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WA | WA-08 | Road, Recreation Site, Trail | 1,810,000 |
| 66 | 06 | Pacific Northwest Region | Pacific Northwest Region-Wide Deferred Maintenance | OR, WA | OR-01, OR-02, OR-03, OR-04, OR-05, WA-01, WA-03, WA-04, WA-05, WA-06, WA-08 | Trail, Recreation Site | 1,300,000 |
| 67 | 06 | Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest | Quosatana Campground Septic Replacements | OR | OR-04 | Wastewater System | 175,000 |
| 68 | 06 | Siuslaw National Forest | Visitor Center and Roof Replacements | OR | OR-04, OR-05 | Facility, Recreation Site | 400,000 |
| 69 | 06 | Umpqua National Forest | Umpqua National Forest Deferred Maintenance | OR | OR-04 | Road, Trail | 2,310,000 |
| 70 | 06 | Wallowa-Whitman National Forest | Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Deferred Maintenance | OR | OR-02 | Road | 1,800,000 |
| 71 | 06 | Willamette National Forest | Willamette National Forest Deferred Maintenance | OR | OR-04 | Road, Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge, Water System | 1,670,000 |
| 72 | 08 | Cherokee National Forest | Cherokee National Forest Deferred Maintenance | TN | TN-01, TN-03 | Recreation Site, Road, Road Bridge, Dam, Water/Wastewater System, Trail, Trail Bridge | 9,595,700 |
| 73 | 08 | Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests | Palmetto Trail Enoree Passage Rehabilitation | SC | SC-05 | Trail, Trail Bridge, Trail Bridge | 70,000 |
| 74 | 08 | George Washington and Jefferson National Forests | George Washington-Jefferson National Forest Deferred Maintenance | VA | VA-05, VA-06, VA-09 | Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Road Bridge, Trail Bridge, Water/Wastewater System | 3,936,700 |

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 75 | 08 | National Forests in Alabama | National Forests in Alabama Deferred Maintenance | AL | AL-03, AL-04, AL-07 | Dam, Recreation Site, Water System, Road, Road Bridge, Trail Bridge | 2,379,500 |
| 76 | 08 | National Forests in Florida | National Forests in Florida Deferred Maintenance | FL | FL-03, FL-05, FL-11 | Recreation Site, Admin Facility | 2,070,000 |
| 77 | 08 | National Forests in Mississippi | Turkey Fork Recreation Area Boat Launch Resurfacing | MS | MS-04 | Recreation Site | 450,000 |
| 78 | 08 | National Forests in North Carolina | National Forests in North Carolina Deferred Maintenance | NC | NC-11 | Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Water System | 3,781,300 |
| 79 | 08 | Ouachita National Forest | Shady Lake Recreation Site Day Use Renovation | AR | AR-04 | Facility, Recreation Site | 1,300,000 |
| 80 | 08 | Ozark-St. Francis National Forests | Ozark-St Francis National Forest Deferred Maintenance | AR | AR-01, AR-04 | Dam, Wastewater System, Recreation Site | 6,868,000 |
| 81 | 09 | Allegheny National Forest | Allegheny National Forest Deferred Maintenance | PA | PA-15 | Recreation Site, Road, Trail | 6,849,300 |
| 82 | 09 | Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest | Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WI | WI-07, WI-08 | Road, Recreation Site, Trail, Water/Wastewater System | 1,603,000 |
| 83 | 09 | Chippewa National Forest | Chippewa National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MN | MN-08 | Recreation Site, Road | 638,700 |
| 84 | 09 | Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests | Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest Deferred Maintenance | NY, VT | NY-23, VT-At Large | Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge, Road, Road Bridge | 661,200 |
| 85 | 09 | Hiawatha National Forest | Hiawatha National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MI | MI-01 | Recreation Site, Trail Bridge | 990,900 |
| 86 | 09 | Hoosier National Forest | Hoosier National Forest Deferred Maintenance | IN | IN-08, IN-09 | Recreation Site | 866,000 |
| 87 | 09 | Huron-Manistee National Forests | Huron-Manistee National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MI | MI-01, MI-02, MI-04, MI-05 | Water/Wastewater System, Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge, Road, Road Bridge | 2,075,000 |
| 88 | 09 | Mark Twain National Forest | Mark Twain National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MO | MO-03, MO-04, MO-07, MO-08 | Trail, Recreation Site | 1,650,200 |

| Item No. | Region | Unit | Project Title | State | Congressional District | Asset Type | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 89 | 09 | Monongahela National Forest | Monongahela National Forest Deferred Maintenance | WV | WV-03 | Road, Road Bridge, Trail | 1,092,000 |
| 90 | 09 | Ottawa National Forest | Ottawa National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MI | MI-01 | Recreation Site, Road | 1,115,000 |
| 91 | 09 | Shawnee National Forest | Shawnee National Forest Deferred Maintenance | IL | IL-15 | Recreation Site, Road | 2,500,000 |
| 92 | 09 | Superior National Forest | Superior National Forest Deferred Maintenance | MN | MN-08 | Admin Facility, Fire Facility, Road, Trail, Trail Bridge | 2,420,000 |
| 93 | 09 | Wayne National Forest | Wayne National Forest Deferred Maintenance | OH | OH-06, OH-15 | Dam, Trail Bridge | 855,300 |
| 94 | 09 | White Mountain National Forest | White Mountain National Forest Deferred Maintenance | NH | NH-01; NH-02 | Recreation Site, Trail, Road Bridge | 967,900 |
| 95 | 10 | Chugach National Forest | Chugach National Forest Deferred Maintenance | AK | AK-At Large | Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site | 2,085,000 |
| 96 | 10 | Tongass National Forest | Tongass National Forest Deferred Maintenance | AK | AK-At Large | Trail, Trail Bridge, Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site, Facility | 14,398,000 |
| **Total, Project Funds** | | | | | | | **247,186,800** |
| Mission Support Funds | | | | | | | 21,568,200 |
| 5.7% sequestration | | | | | | | 16,245,000 |
| **Total, National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund** | | | | | | | **285,000,000** |

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

## Fiscal Year 2023 Land and Water Conservation Fund Proposed Acquisition Lists

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), enacted in 2020, permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), investing in conservation and recreation opportunities in public and private lands.

In FY 2023, the Forest Service is requesting $123.9 million for Federal Land Acquisition projects and program administration and $94.3 million for Forest Legacy projects and program administration. These levels are subject to a 5.7 percent sequestration rate, and this is reflected in the tables below. The Forest Service has developed the projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance. The full project sheets will be transmitted to Congress concurrently with the FY 2023 Budget request. These project lists may differ from those provided in an enacted appropriations bill.

*Table FS-83. Fiscal Year 2023 National Forest System Land Acquisition Program – Proposed Projects*

| Priority Order | Forest | State | Funding Request |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Chugach National Forest | AK | $4,000,000 |
| 2 | Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest | WA | 6,500,000 |
| 3 | National Forests in North Carolina | NC | 3,700,000 |
| 4 | Lolo National Forest | MT | 9,000,000 |
| 5 | Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests | GA | 8,050,000 |
| 6 | Umatilla National Forest | OR | 10,000,000 |
| 7 | Rio Grande National Forest | CO | 8,000,000 |
| 8 | Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest | MT | 3,000,000 |
| 9 | Prescott National Forest | AZ | 9,500,000 |
| 10 | Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests | VT | 2,300,000 |
| 11 | Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests | SC | 5,000,000 |
| 12 | Tahoe National Forest | CA | 9,750,000 |
| 13 | Custer Gallatin National Forest | MT | 2,000,000 |
| 14 | El Yunque National Forest | PR | 2,387,500 |
| 15 | Pike and San Isabel National Forests | CO | 3,400,000 |
| **Total, Project Funds** | | | **86,587,500** |
| 5.7% Sequestration | | | 7,061,446 |
| Acquisition Contingencies | | | - |
| Recreation Access | | | 10,486,054 |
| Acquisition Management | | | 14,000,000 |
| Critical Inholdings | | | 5,500,000 |
| Cash Equalization | | | 250,000 |
| **Total Funding** | | | **123,885,000** |
| 16 | Cherokee National Forest | TN | 8,900,000 |
| 17 | Ottawa National Forest | MI | 4,700,000 |
| 18 | National Forests in Alabama | AL | 3,666,000 |
| 19 | Rio Grande National Forest | CO | 1,200,000 |
| 20 | Ouachita National Forest | AR | 10,400,000 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | San Juan National Forest | CO | 3,200,000 |
| 22 | San Bernardino National Forest | CA | 10,000,000 |
| 23 | Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest | UT | 9,902,726 |
| 24 | Gila National Forest | NM | 3,325,000 |
| 25 | Bridger-Teton National Forest | WY | 16,500,000 |
| **Total, Supplemental Project List** | | | **71,793,726** |
| Supplemental Acquisition Management Funds | | | 7,000,000 |
| **Total with Supplemental Project List** | | | **$202,678,726** |

*Table FS-84. Fiscal Year 2023 Forest Legacy Program – Proposed Projects*

| Rank | State | Project Name | Funding Level |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | MT | Upper Thompson Connectivity Project | $6,000,000 |
| 2 | WI | Pelican River Forest Project | $15,000,000 |
| 3 | ID | International Selkirk Loop Conservation Project | $7,000,000 |
| 4 | FL | Wolfe Creek Forest Project | $9,155,000 |
| 5 | ME | South Bog Stream & Beaver Mountain Project | $3,665,000 |
| 6 | HI | Kaneohe Pali Project | $1,800,000 |
| 7 | VT | Miles Mountain Project | $6,970,000 |
| 8 | CA | Trinity Timberlands Project | $3,000,000 |
| 9 | GA | Suwannee River Headwaters Forest Project | $1,860,000 |
| 10 | VA | Southern Shenandoah Borderlands Project | $7,095,000 |
| 11 | WA | Kittitas Working Forest Project | $5,700,000 |
| 12 | MS | Wolf River Forest Conservation Project | $7,000,000 |
| 13 | AR | Hot Springs Forest Project | $1,345,000 |
| 14 | SC | Southern Coastal Biodiversity Project | $3,975,000 |
| 15 | HI | Maunawili Valley Project | $1,345,000 |
| Administrative Funds | | | $7,972,465 |
| 5.7% Sequestration | | | $5,372,535 |
| Subtotal Project Funds | | | $80,910,000 |
| **Total Funding** | | | **$94,255,000** |
| | HI | Maunawili Valley Project-remainder | $3,605,000 |
| 16 | AZ | Cochise Stronghold Woodlands Project | $1,740,000 |
| 17 | CO | Higher Ground Headwaters Project | $3,000,000 |
| 18 | MS | Pearl River Conservation Corridor Project | $535,000 |
| 19 | OR | Minam River Phase 2 | $9,755,000 |
| 20 | MA | Nashua-Squannacook-Nissitissit Wild & Scenic River Project | $9,915,000 |
| 21 | UT | Coldwater Project | $10,545,000 |
| 22[a] | WA | Mt. Adams Forest | $8,032,500 |
| **Subtotal Supplemental Project List** | | | **$47,127,500** |
| **Total with Supplemental Project List** | | | **$141,382,500** |

[a] WA Mt. Adams Forest FY 2023 request is $8,032,500. The total cost of the project is $8,250,000.

FY 2023 SPEND PLAN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT, 2022 – PUBLIC LAW 117- 58

## Forest and Rangeland Research

**Overview of BIL Funding**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL), 2022 (P.L. 117-58) provides the Forest Service an additional amount for Forest and Rangeland Research of $10,000,000. Of this total, $2 million is appropriated in each year from FY 2022 through FY 2026. Each year's appropriation has a four-year period of availability. Funds are to carry out activities of the Joint Fire Science Program, as authorized in section 40803 of Division D of the Act.

The biggest challenge to implementation in the short-term is a shortage of contracting, grants, and agreements staff. There are no long-term challenges to note.

FY 2023 funds will be obligated to an interagency agreement with Bureau of Land Management within 90 days of apportionment. BIL funding will be awarded to Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) projects following the established annual JFSP timeline for the solicitation, submission, and selection of projects.

The FY2023 Spending Plan for the BIL Forest and Rangeland Research programs are summarized below.

**Forest and Rangeland Research – Joint Fire Science Program - $2 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $2 million will be made available to competitively fund research and development projects to advance fire science and science applications under the Joint Fire Science Program and through an interagency agreement with the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.*

*Table FS-85. Joint Fire Science Program FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | - | $2 | - | $2 | - | - | $2 | - | $2 |
| **Total .....** | **-** | **2** | **-** | **2** | **-** | **-** | **2** | **-** | **2** |

## State and Private Forestry

**Overview of BIL Funding**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) 2022 (P.L. 117-58) provides the Forest Service an additional amount for State and Private Forestry of $1,526,800,000. Of this total, $305,360,000 is appropriated in each year from FY 2022 through FY 2026. Each year's appropriation has a four-year period of availability. Funds are to carry out wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem restoration activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in section 40803 and 40804 of division D of the Act, for grants to at-risk communities for wildfire mitigation activities, State Fire Assistance, and Volunteer Fire Assistance.

The biggest challenges to implementation in the short-term are shortages of grants and agreements staff. Another challenge to implementation is the ability to increase and expand partnerships through the many authorities provided to the Agency. Working in a shared leadership stance with partners is critical to the Agency's ability to accomplish the expectations of the act as well as the desired need to expand the shared stewardship of our public lands.

FY 2023 Projected Accomplishments:

- Increase in at-risk community resilience
- Increase in ability for States to implement priorities in their State Forest Action Plans.
- Increase in capacity for communities and Tribes to prepare for and respond to wildland fire
- Increase in capacity for States to meet revegetation goals following wildland fires
- Increase in number of communities with up-to-date Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Increase in opportunities for small businesses and private landowners to harvest timber
- Increase in the operational capacity in support of the Agency's mission through human resource management, procurement and contracting, grants and agreements, budget formulation and execution, and critical investments in technology

For BIL line-item funds that will be competed, in whole or in part, announcements will be posted to grants.gov and follow the USDA protocol.

The FY 2023 Spending Plan for the BIL State and Private Forestry programs are summarized below.

**State and Private Forestry – Unallocated – $83.76 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $83.76 million will be made available primarily for making grants to States, Tribes and communities to carry out the purposes of Sections 40803 and 40804 of the Act and to help States carry out the priorities in their State Forest Action Plans.*

*Table FS-86. Unallocated FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | $10.83 | $66.65 | $10.83 | $15.8 | $35.17 | $15.68 | $77.6 | - | $77.6 |
| S&E [a] ..... | 0.9 | 2.62 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 3.52 | - | 3.52 |
| Research Transfer..... | - | 4.02 | - | - | - | - | 4.02 | - | 4.02 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 10.05 | - | - | - | - | 10.05 | - | 10.05 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.42 | - | - | - | - | 0.42 | - | 0.42 |
| **Total .....** | **11.73** | **83.76** | **11.71** | **16.68** | **36.05** | **16.68** | **95.61** | **-** | **95.49** |

[a] Salary, Expense, and Administration limited to 3% of appropriated funding.

[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

The authorized activities receiving BIL funding within the program:

- Provide financial assistance to fuelwood banks

- Establish a new rental program for States and Tribes for portable skidder bridges, bridgemats, or other temporary water crossing structures, to minimize stream bed disturbance.
- Invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication on Federal and non-Federal lands.
- Implement the National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Carrying out priorities in each States' Forest Action Plan

**State and Private Forestry – Community Wildfire Defense Grants - $200 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $200 million will be made available for Community Wildfire Defense Grants authorized until Section 40803(c)(12) of Division D of the Act, for at-risk communities to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and for carrying out fuels treatment projects established in CWPPs.*

*Table FS-87. Community Wildfire Defense Grants FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | - | $168.55 | - | - | $168.55 | - | $168.55 | - | $168.55 |
| S&E [a]..... | $1 | 5.97 | $1.74 | $1.74 | 1.74 | $1.74 | 6.97 | - | 6.97 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 24.48 | - | - | - | - | 24.48 | - | 24.48 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Total .....** | **1** | **200** | **1.74** | **1.74** | **170.29** | **1.74** | **201** | **-** | **201** |

[a] Salary, Expense, and Administration limited to 3% of appropriated funding.

[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

The authorized activities receiving BIL funding within the program:

- Award community wildfire defense grants to at-risk communities to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
- Carrying out fuels treatment projects in CWPPs.

**State and Private Forestry – State Fire Assistance – $17.6 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $17.6 million will be made available for State Fire Assistance*

*Table FS-88. State Fire Assistance FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | - | $14.88 | - | - | $14.88 | - | $14.88 | - | $14.88 |
| S&E [a]..... | - | 0.53 | $0.13 | $0.13 | 0.13 | $0.13 | 0.53 | - | 0.53 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 2.11 | - | - | - | - | 2.11 | - | 2.11 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.09 | - | - | - | - | 0.09 | - | 0.09 |
| **Total .....** | **-** | **17.6** | **0.13** | **0.13** | **15.01** | **0.13** | **17.6** | **-** | **17.6** |

[a] Salary, Expense, and Administration limited to 3% of appropriated funding.

[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

**State and Private Forestry – Volunteer Fire Assistance – $4 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $4 million will be made available for Volunteer Fire Assistance.*

*Table FS-89. Volunteer Fire Assistance FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | - | $3.98 | - | - | - | $3.22 | $3.22 | $0.76 | $3.98 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.02 | - | - | - | - | 0.02 | - | 0.02 |
| **Total .....** | **-** | **4** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **3.22** | **3.24** | **0.76** | **4** |

## National Forest System

**Overview of BIL Funding**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL), 2022 (P.L. 117-58) provides the Forest Service an additional amount for National Forest System of $2,854,000,000. Of this total, $535,540,000 is appropriated in each year FY 2022 to FY 2026. These funds remain available until expended. Funds are to carry out wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem restoration activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in section 40803 and 40804 of division D of the Act, hazardous fuels reduction, and burned area recovery.

The biggest challenges to implementation in the short-term are shortages of acquisition and procurement staff, grants and agreements staff, and national forest system program staff responsible for the implementation of the activities outlined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Another challenge to implementation is the ability to increase and expand partnerships through the many authorities provided to the Agency. Match requirements create a huge challenge for many partners, inhibiting their ability to participate in the opportunities that BIL provides. Working in a shared leadership stance with partners is critical to the Agency's ability to accomplish the expectations of the act as well as the desired need to expand the shared stewardship of our public lands.

FY 2023 Accomplishments

- Increased pace and scale for ecosystem restoration producing desired outcomes such as community protection, forest and grassland restoration, watershed restoration, mine remediation, and wildlife habitat improvement on National Forest system lands. Funding will provide the capacity for planning, collaboration, project design and implementation.
- Increased community resilience through hazardous fuels projects and related activities such as the development and improvement of control locations (fuel breaks).
- Increased contracts and agreements with partners, states, and tribes to perform ecosystem restoration activities on National Forest system lands providing jobs to local communities.
- Increased ability to provide recreation experiences that match visitation demands.
- Increased ability to operate, repair, reconstruct, and construct recreation cabins and repair or reconstruct historic buildings.
- Creation of incentives for increased use of biomass.
- Implementation of FY 2023 projects to permanently plug and remediate orphaned wells, reporting results as outlined in the Act.
- Continued participation in the process of identifying and permanently plugging and remediating orphaned wells through the transfer of funds from the Department of Interior as outlined in the Act.
- Continued focus on the successful management and operations of the established civilian climate corps, creating and providing jobs for young people, providing the Agency the necessary skills, experiences, and resources necessary to conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience, increase reforestation, increase carbon sequestration, protect biodiversity, improve recreation, and address climate change.
- Increased operational capacity in support of the Agency's mission to include human resource management, procurement and contracting, grants and agreements, budget formulation and execution and critical investments in technology.

Funds will primarily be distributed via contract awards or through agreements with States, Tribes, and partners. Contract opportunities or procurement notices are announced through the Contract Opportunities website at SAM.gov[56]. Agreements utilizing authorities such as Good Neighbor Authority, Tribal Forest Projection Act, Stewardship Authority, etc. do not require funding announcements.

The FY 2023 Spending Plan for the BIL National Forest System programs are summarized below.

**National Forest System –$382 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $382 million will be made available for Natural Resource related Infrastructure and Ecosystem Restoration Management Activities as authorized in section 40803 and 40804 of division D of the Act.*

*Table FS-90. National Forest System FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | $6.71 | $238.68 | $44.73 | $74.05 | $88.4 | $38.22 | $245.39 | - | $245.39 |
| NFS S&E ..... | - | 46.94 | 11.74 | 11.74 | 11.74 | 11.72 | 46.94 | - | 46.94 |
| WFM S&E [a].... | - | 9.39 | - | - | - | - | 9.39 | - | 9.39 |
| Research Transfer..... | - | 39.24 | - | - | - | - | 39.24 | - | 39.24 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 45.84 | - | - | - | - | 45.84 | - | 45.84 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 1.91 | - | - | - | - | 1.91 | - | 1.91 |
| **Total .....** | **6.71** | **382** | **56.47** | **85.79** | **100.14** | **49.94** | **388.71** | **-** | **388.71** |

[a] WFM S&E will be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation to reflect operations under the new budget structure.

[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

The authorized activities receiving BIL funding within the program:

- Collaboration and collaboration-based activities including facilitation, certification of collaboratives, and planning and implementing projects under the CFLRP program
- Thinning to include mechanical thinning, timber harvesting, and precommercial thinning
- Planning and conducting prescribed fires and related activities
- Developing or improving potential control locations, to include installing fuel breaks
- Contracting or employing labor crews to modify and remove flammable vegetation
- Restore the ecological health on Federal lands through the use of contracts, including Stewardship contracts or agreements.
- Good Neighbor agreements with States and Tribes for restoration projects on federal land
- Financial assistance to facilities that purchase and process byproducts from ecosystem restoration projects
- Restoration, preparation, or adaptation of recreation sites on Federal land, including tribal forest land or rangeland experiencing increased visitation beyond carrying capacity.
- Operation, repair, reconstruction, and construction of public use recreation cabins on National Forest System land.
- Repair or reconstruction of historic buildings.
- Restoration of native vegetation and environmental hazard mitigation on federal and non-federal mined lands.
- Establish and implement a national revegetation effort on Federal and non-federal land.

[56] https://sam.gov/content/opportunities

- Establish a collaborative-based, landscape-scale restoration program to restore water quality or fish passage on Federal land in coordination with DOI

**National Forest Systems - Hazardous Fuels Management – $102.8 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $102.8 million will be made available for Hazardous Fuels Management Activities.*

*Table FS-91. Hazardous Fuels Management FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | $15 | $73.95 | $57.19 | $14.06 | $13.59 | $4.11 | $88.95 | - | $88.95 |
| WFM S&E [a].... | - | 16 | - | - | - | - | 16 | - | 16 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 12.34 | - | - | - | - | 12.34 | - | 12.34 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.51 | - | - | - | - | 0.51 | - | 0.51 |
| **Total .....** | **15** | **102.80** | **57.19** | **14.06** | **13.59** | **4.11** | **117.80** | **-** | **117.80** |

[a] WFM S&E will be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation to reflect operations under the new budget structure.

[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

The authorized activities receiving BIL funding within the program:

- Planning and conducting hazardous fuels projects and related activities
- Creating incentives for increased use of biomass to include the Community Wood Energy Program and the Wood Innovation Grants program
- Hazardous fuels funding for Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) projects

**National Forest System – Burned Area Recovery – $45 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $45 million will be made available for Burned Area Recovery.*

*Table FS-92. Burned Area Recovery FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | - | $22.27 | $3.07 | $7.55 | $8.58 | $3.07 | $22.27 | - | $22.27 |
| NFS S&E ..... | - | 11.25 | 2.81 | 2.81 | 2.81 | 2.81 | 11.25 | - | 11.25 |
| WFM S&E [a].... | - | 2.25 | - | - | - | - | 2.25 | - | 2.25 |
| Research Transfer..... | - | 3.6 | - | - | - | - | 3.6 | - | 3.6 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 5.4 | - | - | - | - | 5.4 | - | 5.4 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.23 | - | - | - | - | 0.23 | - | 0.23 |
| **Total .....** | **-** | **45** | **5.88** | **10.36** | **11.39** | **5.88** | **45** | **-** | **45** |

[a] WFM S&E will be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation to reflect operations under the new budget structure.

[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

Note: Agency will seek to use authorities provided in the Act to transfer the Burned Area Recovery funds to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation to match how the Department of the Interior is managing their funds.

## Capital Improvement and Maintenance

**Overview of BIL Funding**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL), 2022 (P.L. 117-58) provides the Forest Service an additional amount for Capital Improvement and Maintenance of $360,000,000. Of this total, $72 million is appropriated in each year from FY 2022 through FY 2026. Each year's appropriation has a four-year period of availability. Funds are to carry out activities of the Legacy Road and Trails Remediation Program, for the construction of temporary roads or reconstruction and maintenance of roads to facilitate projects that reduce wildfire risk, and for the removal of non-hydropower federal dams.

The biggest challenge to implementation in the short-term is a shortage of contracting, and engineering staff responsible for the implementation of the activities outlined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Another challenge to implementation is the ability to increase and expand partnerships through the many authorities provided to the Agency. Match requirements create a huge challenge for many partners, inhibiting their ability to participate in the opportunities that BIL provides. Working in a shared leadership stance with partners is critical to the Agency's ability to accomplish the expectations of the act as well as the desired need to expand the shared stewardship of our public lands.

Funds will primarily be distributed via contract awards. Contract opportunities or procurement notices are announced through the Contract Opportunities website at SAM.gov[57].

FY 2023 Accomplishments

- Increased ability to restore fish passages, decommission roads, prepare roads for long-term storage, relocate roads and convert roads to trails on National Forest System lands.
- Increased ability to construct temporary roads, reconstruct and maintain roads to facilitate forest restoration and management projects in support of the wildfire risk reduction.
- Increased operational capacity in support of the Agency's mission to include human resource management, procurement and contracting, grants and agreements, budget formulation and execution and critical investments in technology.

The FY 2023 Spending Plan for the BIL Capital Improvement and Maintenance programs are summarized below.

**Capital Improvement & Maintenance – cons and Trails – $50 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $50 million will be made available to carry out activities of the Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program as amended by section 40801 of division D of the Act.*

*Table FS-93. Legacy Roads and Trails FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | $1.5 | $28.75 | $5.51 | $9.03 | $11.7 | $4.01 | $30.25 | - | $30.25 |
| NFS S&E [a] ..... | - | 15 | - | - | - | - | 15 | - | 15 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 6 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.25 | - | - | - | - | 0.25 | - | 0.25 |
| **Total .....** | **1.5** | **50** | **5.51** | **9.03** | **11.7** | **4.01** | **51.5** | **-** | **51.5** |

[a] NFS S&E will be transferred to the National Forest System appropriation to reflect operations under the new budget structure.

[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

**Capital Improvement & Maintenance – Roads – $20 million in FY 2023**

[57] https://sam.gov/content/opportunities

*Summary: $20 million will be made available for the construction of temporary roads or reconstruction and maintenance of roads to facilitate forest restoration and management projects that reduce wildfire risk.*

*Table FS-94. Roads FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | $0.5 | $11.5 | $2.09 | $3.65 | $4.65 | $1.61 | $12 | - | $12 |
| NFS S&E [a] ..... | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 6 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 2.4 | - | - | - | - | 2.4 | - | 2.4 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.1 | - | - | - | - | 0.1 | - | 0.1 |
| **Total .....** | **0.5** | **20** | **2.09** | **3.65** | **4.65** | **1.61** | **20.5** | **-** | **20.5** |

[a] NFS S&E will be transferred to the National Forest System appropriation to reflect operations under the new budget structure.
[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

**Capital Improvement & Maintenance – Dams – $2 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $2 million will be made available for the removal of non-hydropower Federal dams and dam removal technical assistance*

*Table FS-95. Dams FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | $0.06 | $1.15 | $0.22 | $0.39 | $0.44 | $0.16 | $1.21 | - | $1.21 |
| NFS S&E [a] ..... | - | 0.6 | - | - | - | - | 0.6 | - | 0.6 |
| FS Ops Transfer [b] ..... | - | 0.24 | - | - | - | - | 0.24 | - | 0.24 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.01 | - | - | - | - | 0.01 | - | 0.01 |
| **Total .....** | **0.06** | **2** | **0.22** | **0.39** | **0.44** | **0.16** | **2.06** | **-** | **2.06** |

[a] NFS S&E will be transferred to the National Forest System appropriation to reflect operations under the new budget structure.
[b] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

## Wildland Fire Management

**Overview of BIL Funding**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL), 2022 (P.L. 117-58) provides the Forest Service an additional amount for Wildland Fire Management of $696,200,000. Of this total, $552,200,000 was appropriated in FY 2022 and $36,000,000 is appropriated in FY 2023 through FY 2026. These funds remain available until expended. Funds are to carry out wildfire risk reduction activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in section 40803 of division D of the Act. The Department of the Interior (DOI) received complementary appropriations for wildland fire management, and the two agencies are collaborating on and coordinating implementation.

The FY 2023 Spend Plan for the BIL Wildland Fire Management programs are summarized below. Note that the Spend Plan follows BIL's Division J (appropriations).

**Wildland Fire Management - Salaries and Expense - $480 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $480 million will be made available to implement Section 40803(d) of Division D, including conversion of seasonal Wildland Firefighters to full-time, permanent, year-round Federal employees and increasing the base*

*salaries of Federal wildland firefighters located within a specified geographic area in which it is difficult to recruit or retain Federal wildland firefighters.*

*Table FS-96. Salaries and Expenses FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S&E [a] ..... | $357.6 | - | $55 | $55 | $70 | $70 | $250 | $107.6 | $357.6 |
| **Total .....** | **357.6** | **-** | **55** | **55** | **70** | **70** | **250** | **107.6** | **357.6** |

[a] One-time appropriation that will be obligated over approximately 2.5 years.

There are two short-term challenges to implementation: (1) ensuring consistency with the Department of Interior, and (2) coordinating with the Office of Personnel Management to determine eligibility for the pay increase. There are also two long-term challenges to implementation: (1) reconciling the increased base pay policy with a potential new pay scale associated with the new distinct Wildland Firefighter occupational series, and (2) creating a workforce management plan that ensures a sustainable and effective workforce of wildland firefighters. The agency will also continue to expand existing capabilities to address and mitigate the significant mental health challenges and line-of-duty environmental hazards faced by our wildland firefighter workforce.

FY 2023 Projected Spend Plan Accomplishments

- Continuation of initiative started in FY 2021 to ensure equitable pay for firefighters
- Coordination with DOI and OPM to implement the new distinct occupational series and pay scale for firefighters that recognizes their specialized training and hazardous work they perform
- Improvement in wildland firefighter workforce morale and retention through compensation and workforce management reform, including investment in mental and physical health programs
- Increase in ability to recruit and retain wildland firefighters in certain geographic areas determined jointly with OPM

**Wildland Fire Management – Wildfire Risk Reduction - $36 million in FY 2023**

*Summary: $36 million will be made available to implement the wildfire risk reduction activities authorized in 40803(c) of Division D.*

*Table FS-97. Wildfire Risk Reduction FY 2023 estimated spend plan (dollars in millions).*

| Item | 2022 Carryover | 2023 Approp-riations | 2023 Q1 Obligations | 2023 Q2 Obligations | 2023 Q3 Obligations | 2023 Q4 Obligations | Total Planned Obligations /Transfers | Estimated EOY Balance | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Program Funds | $8.09 | $27.51 | $6.42 | $16.31 | $11.38 | $1.49 | $35.6 | - | $35.6 |
| S&E..... | - | 0.5 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.11 | 0.52 | - | 0.5 |
| Research Transfer..... | - | 3.49 | - | - | - | - | 3.49 | - | 3.49 |
| FS Ops Transfer [a]..... | - | 4.32 | - | - | - | - | 4.32 | - | 4.32 |
| OIG Transfer... | - | 0.18 | - | - | - | - | 0.18 | - | 0.18 |
| **Total .....** | **8.09** | **36** | **6.55** | **16.44** | **11.51** | **1.62** | **44.11** | **-** | **44.09** |

[a] FS Ops Transfer is for general program support.

Note: Additional fire related funding, Hazardous Fuels ($102.8 million) and Burned Area Rehabilitation ($45 million), are appropriated under the National Forest System. The Forest Service continues to engage with Congress to realign all Hazardous Fuels under WFM.

The authorized activities receiving BIL funding within the program:

- Establish and operate a Reverse 911 telecommunication system

- Fire response workshops
- Post-fire restoration activities.

The biggest challenge to implementation in the short-term is a shortage of contracting, grants, and agreements staff. The challenge in the long-term is creating and sustaining Information Technology systems that can fully support these new capabilities into our operational decision-making process.

FY 2023 Projected Spend Plan Accomplishments

- Improve the effectiveness of wildland fire suppression response by refining and socializing the use of emerging technology
- Increase in the ability to pre-plan and align with suppression response partners before a fire comes, and increase the effective and efficient use of firefighting resources as a result
- Increased capacity and resources for post-fire landscape restoration activities

**Timeline for Implementation – FY 2023 and Later Years**

Currently, the Forest Service is beginning implementation planning for all aspects of the law through coordination with our partners, including DOI and OPM, as noted above. Key efforts to date have included establishing interagency wildland firefighter workforce working groups and contracting for a workforce assessment (see below for more information).

The law establishes several deadlines that will serve as milestones for implementation, including the following:

- Beginning October 1, 2021 (no deadline for completion set in the law): Forest Service and DOI will:
  - Seek to convert not fewer than 1,000 seasonal wildland firefighting positions to permanent year-round positions that are full-time and reduce hazardous fuels on Federal land not fewer than 800 hours per year (each position); and
  - Increase the salary of wildland firefighters by an amount equal to the lesser of $20,000 or 50 percent of base salary if the DOI and USDA Secretaries and the OPM Director determine that a position is in a geographic area where it is difficult to recruit or retain Federal wildland firefighters.
- Mid-December 2021: USDA, DOI, and DHS (through the FEMA Administrator) jointly established a Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission to (1) study and make recommendations on preventing, mitigating, suppressing, and managing wildland fires, and (2) rehabilitate land devastated by wildfires. Commission members are to be appointed by January 15, 2022 (60 days post-enactment), and the Commission will issue a report within one year of the first Commission meeting.
- March 14, 2022 (120 days post-enactment): Forest Service and DOI will establish a five-year monitoring, maintenance, and treatment plan.
- May 13, 2022 (180 days post-enactment): Forest Service and DOI will develop a distinct wildland firefighter job series, in coordination with OPM.
- Annually December 31, 2022-2026: Forest Service and DOI will submit a report to Congress on the number of acres of land on which projects carried out using the BIL's treatment funds improved the Fire Regime Condition Class of the land.
- October 1, 2022: Forest Service and DOI will develop and adhere to recommendations for mitigation strategies for wildland firefighters to minimize exposure to line-of-duty environmental hazards; and to recognize and address mental health needs, including post-traumatic stress disorder care.
- November 15, 2026: Forest Service and DOI will publish a long-term, outcome-based monitoring, maintenance, and treatment strategy.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE WILDLAND FIRE WORKFORCE FRAMEWORK, MARCH 2022

### Introduction

This report responds to Public Law 117-43, Division A, Title VII, Sec. 1701 (g): Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Senate Committee on Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry, the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform, a framework to modernize the wildland firefighting workforce beginning in fiscal year 2022.

The majority of the Federal government's wildfire response apparatus is located within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI). DOI's Wildland Fire Management program comprises the Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) and four bureaus: (1) the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), (2) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), (3) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and (4) the National Park Service (NPS).

Wildland fire is generally a natural and essential component of a healthy ecosystem, but it can be destructive and costly in unhealthy ecosystems. The average wildfire has become larger58, costlier59, and more complex, and wildfire "season" has grown to be almost year-round. Wildfire itself contributes to climate change through the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere.60

Climate change has led to severe drought conditions across the western United States that have contributed to more frequent and severe wildfires. For example, in the United States, based on a 10-year average for 2011-2021, more than 62,000 wildfires burn 7.5 million acres61 every year. In 2021, 58,985 wildfires burned over 7.1 million acres of land; this is in line with the average number of wildfires that burned over the past 10 years and about 95 percent of the average number of acres burned. At the height of last year's fire season, every geographic area was experiencing large wildfires for extended periods. This was illustrated by how early the Nation reached Preparedness Level (PL) 4—June 22, 2021— and the highest PL of 5 on July 14, 2021, as well as how long the Nation stayed at either PL 4 or PL 5—99 days—which is a record for the highest number of consecutive days at either PL 4 or 5.

To manage an effective wildland fire program, it is critical to take a proactive and cooperative approach that mitigates the negative effects of wildfires while actively managing the use of fire to achieve resource management goals. However, the wildland fire workforce framework from earlier decades must be revised to more effectively meet these objectives and manage current conditions. This requires a workforce that is fairly compensated, available year-round to respond to wildland fire, cared for both physically and mentally, and has all the necessary tools to accomplish their mission safely, effectively, and efficiently.

### Strategic Direction

Human capital is the DOI and FS wildland fire organizations' greatest investment. To ensure this investment accomplishes the increasingly challenging and complex mission of managing wildland fire on DOI and FS lands, we must focus on:

1. Ensuring that compensation and benefits reflect the true value of the work that is performed
2. Ensuring an organizational culture that promotes a sustainable work-life balance

[58] https://www.nifc.gov/sites/default/files/document-media/TotalFires.pdf
[59] https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/statistics/suppression-costs
[60] Source: https://www.csl.noaa.gov/factsheets/csdWildfiresFIREX.pdf
[61]National Interagency Coordination Center Wildland Fire Summary and Statistics Annual Report, 2021 (https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/2021_statssumm/annual_report_2021.pdf), page 12

3. Establishing programs that enable employees to properly manage their health, wellbeing and resilience
4. Providing the resources that are needed to develop and support training, education and opportunities that ensure critical emergency response, business acumen and land management competencies
5. Ensuring that work is accurately described, and that a distinct occupational series reflects the true competencies and certifications that are needed to perform the work
6. Developing a robust recruitment strategy to provide a relevant and diverse candidate pool
7. Providing clear career paths from hiring to retirement.

### Strategic Workforce Framework

Phase 1 - Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, DOI and the USDA FS have individually contracted for Wildland Fire Workforce Assessments. These assessments will:

- Gather and review background documents including staffing patterns, pay and compensation, organizational charts, position descriptions and performance plans, budget plans, relevant reports, and other documents.
- Analyze workforce demographics across organizational, occupational, geographic, diversity and other dimensions.
- Identify key Departmental, agency staff, and labor representatives for interviews, as appropriate, to gather background information on prior studies or recommendations on how to recruit and retain wildland firefighters.
- Conduct interviews and other fact-finding methods.
- Analyze all data and information collected through research, interviews, and other sources to determine valid staffing needs for current and future workforce.
- Draft and finalize an Assessment Summary, highlighting baseline data on the current workforce in various dimensions including geographic location, pay and compensation, financial and nonfinancial incentives, diversity, occupational series and grade, and other factors that also focus on future workforce capacity needs.

Phase 2 – Complete the workforce analysis and draft the Departments' wildland fire workforce plans.

Phase 3 – Departments will conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of wildland fire management recruitment strategy. Results of the evaluation will be disseminated to Departmental leadership and will be used to support recommendations that improve recruitment strategies and identify areas where efficiencies may be gained. Finalize the DOI and USDA FS Departmental Strategic Wildland Fire Workforce Plans.

Phase 4 – Continual monitoring, evaluation, and revision as necessary to incorporate changes and identify best practices, as the Departmental Strategic Workforce Plans for fire will be dynamic. Monitor, evaluate, and revise the workforce action plans. Identify best practices.

### Workforce Reform Short Term Goals

1. **Wildland Firefighter Compensation and Benefits**: Evaluate the need for a market-based, special salary rate for wildland firefighters as well as exploring other compensation changes, like an increased base pay for leave and hazard pay for prescribed fire. This will be done in tandem with the increase in base pay that was directed in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).
    a. *Note: There is a need to develop, in partnership with the Office of Personnel Management, a new distinct wildland firefighter occupational series that adequately describes the duties performed by these positions.*
2. **Conversion to a More Permanent Workforce**: As directed by the BIL, convert temporary wildland fire response positions to permanent, full-time positions available for fire response activities year-round. DOI and USDA FS began conversions with funding received in FY 2021 and will continue workforce transformation efforts through the BIL funding and FY 2022 and FY 2023 budget requests.
3. **Increase Firefighter Capacity:** Consistent with DOI's and USDA FS' FY 2022 and FY 2023 budget requests, and to meet the demands of nearly year-round wildfire activity, the workforce assessment in Phase 1 and the workforce analysis in Phase 2 will inform decisions to increase investment in core fighting capacity including hotshots, analysts, logistics (cache and dispatch), and base firefighters (engines, equipment operators,

etc.). There would also be associated investment in the support of these individuals including equipment, vehicles, facilities, and agency administrative support functions. We will also be implementing robust succession planning to ensure these individuals would fill much-needed Incident Management Team capacity.

4. **Health, Well Being and Resilience**: Wildland firefighters work in an arduous, stressful environment that is physically and mentally taxing. They spend months away from family and friends, endure death and serious injury among their community, and face very real hazards every time they are deployed. The BIL requires the establishment of a program to recognize and address mental health needs and develop recommendations for mitigation strategies for wildland firefighters to minimize exposure due to environmental hazards. The FY 2023 Forest Service departmental budget requests, and funding within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, further seek to address significant discrepancies within both the "hard" and "soft" infrastructure that supports the minds and bodies of our wildland firefighters when not on incident, to include mental health programs that take aim at the challenges faced by arduous and dangerous work on the fire line; and investing in the professional development and growth of our wildland firefighters now and for a post-firefighting career.

### Workforce Reform Long Term Goals

1. **Administrative Program Support for Wildland Fire Operations**: The wildland fire system does not function autonomously. It is through the support and effort of many aspects of the USDA FS and DOI that our national wildland fire response operations are successful each year, including contracting, incident finance, and human resources. Assessment and analysis of core capacity needs could require additional investment in these critical administrative support functions.
2. **Modernization of Wildland Fire Information Technology**: The information technology systems, infrastructure, and tools that support our modern wildland fire response are falling behind what is currently available and being widely utilized by our partners and cooperators. It is necessary to invest in cutting-edge technologies such as hazardous fuels/risk mapping, satellite early detection systems, and unmanned aerial systems to provide our modern wildland firefighting workforce with the tools they need to maximize their effectiveness during response.
3. **Critical Response Infrastructure:** There are critical components of the wildland fire system that are absolutely necessary for a safe and effective fire response operation: dependable vehicles and fire engines, and hand-held radios. The investments in these system components have not kept pace with an increasing operational tempo, resulting in fewer vehicles that are shared among more responders. In addition, the interagency radio systems that provide essential and life-saving communications on the fireline are outdated and require significant annual maintenance. DOI and FS will coordinate to right-size the Federal wildland firefighting fleet and to invest in a modern radio platform for our firefighters.
4. **Wildland Firefighting Facility Improvement and Maintenance**: The wildland fire cache system that manages and distributes critical supplies to fire camps around the country, often in very remote areas, needs an overhaul. The cache facilities are often too small, underequipped, or understaffed—putting significant strain on the backbone of the wildland fire logistical support component of the system. The fire caches are not the only support facilities in need of support. There are also engine bays, helipads, airtanker hangars, and smokejumper facilities that need repairs or upgrades to meet the demands of our modern fire response equipment.