

**Forest Service Handbook
National Headquarters - Washington Office
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 6509.11g – Service-Wide Appropriation Use Handbook
Chapter 20 - State and Private Forestry**

Amendment: 6509.11g-2009-4

Effective date: May 05, 2009

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Approved by: Donna M. Carmical, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Date approved: April 6, 2009

Responsible Staff:

Last Change: 6509.11g-2009-3 to 6509.11g_70.

Superseded Document(s): 6509.11g_20, Amendment 6509.11g-2004-1, March 19, 2004

Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

20: Makes minor editorial changes throughout the chapter.

20.1: Adds two new authorities at paragraphs 12 and 18.

21: Adds more detail to direction on State and Private Forestry.

22: Adds direction in paragraph 2 regarding the Hawaii Tropical Forestry Act.

22.1: Clarifies caption and revises text for the use of SPFH and SPS4 funds.

22.11: Changes caption and revises categories from “Detection Surveys”, “Evaluations”, and “Restoration” to “Technical Assistance”, “Detection Surveys and Monitoring, and Evaluations”.

22.12: Changes caption to include “Eradication” and “Restoration”. Adds paragraphs 3 and 4 and sets forth direction on funding eradication and restoration activities.

22.13: Removes previous caption “Restoration” and text and replaces with caption “Technology Development” and text previously found at section 22.14.

22.14: Moves caption and text to section 22.13 and replaces with caption “Other Uses” and text from section 22.15.

22.15: Removes code and moves caption and text to section 22.14.

22.2: Adds to caption “National Fire Plan, Forest Health - State Lands”.

22.21: Changes caption from “Forest Health Surveys, Evaluations, and Technical Assistance - Cooperative Lands” to “Technical Assistance, Detection Surveys, Monitoring and Evaluations - Cooperative Lands”.

22.22: Changes caption to include “Eradication” and “Restoration”.

22.3: Removes title and text in paragraph 5 and renumbers following paragraphs.

23: Adds more detail to direction on Cooperative Fire Protection.

23.1: Adds to caption “National Fire Plan, State Fire Assistance”. Adds paragraphs 2 and 3 discussing what funds can be used for.

23.2: Adds to caption “National Fire Plan, Volunteer Fire Assistance” and clarifies direction on Volunteer Fire Assistance.

24.2: Adds Program Code LGCY to caption and text.

24.4: Adds to caption “National Fire Plan, Economic Action Programs” to caption.

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20.1 - Authority

1. Department of Agriculture Organic Act of September 21, 1944 (Pub. L. 78-425, 7 U.S.C. 2250). Section 703 provides authority to erect, alter, and repair buildings necessary to carry out authorized work, if provision is made in the applicable appropriation.
2. Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, August 17, 1974, as amended (Pub. L. 93-378, 16 U.S.C. 1601 note, 16 U.S.C. 1606 note), sections 2-5. This Act requires preparation of a renewable resource assessment, program, plans, inventories, and budget request and update every 5 years.
3. National Forest Management Act of 1976, October 22, 1976 (Pub. L. 94-588, 16 U.S.C. 472(a-1) and 1601(d)(3)), sections 1-14. Amends Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.
4. Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-192, 16 U.S.C. 2008). This Act authorizes cooperation in soil and water resource appraisal and conservation. The provisions of this Act terminate on December 31, 2018 (16 U.S.C. 2009).
5. Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. 95-313, 16 U.S.C. 2101-2114). This Act includes revisions made by Pub. L. 101-624, the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Title XII, Subtitle A - Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act; Pub. L. 104-127, the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, April 4, 1996, Subtitle G-Forestry, 110 Stat. 1015-1016, sec. 374; and Pub. L. 107-171, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 468. Also, these revisions added new items that did not amend Pub. L. 95-313. This Act:
 - a. Authorizes cooperation and assistance to non-Federal forest landowners and communities in rural forest management, urban and community forest management, production of timber and other forest resources, insect and disease control, rural fire prevention and control, forest management and planning assistance, and technology implementation (sec. 3 of the Act).
 - b. Provides a new Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) for the purpose of providing financial assistance to State Foresters to assist private landowners in actively managing their land; Pub. L. 107-171, May 17, 2002, Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, sections 8001 and 8002, amended section 4 by repealing the forestry incentive program and the stewardship incentive program, and authorizing the FLEP (sec. 4 of the Act). See chapter 80, Transfer and Reimbursable Funds, for additional direction on FLEP.
 - c. Establishes a forest stewardship program to assist nonindustrial private forest landowners to more actively manage their forest resources by utilizing the services of

existing professional expertise and assistance programs; including assistance to State foresters for this purpose; authorizes \$25,000,000 annually for fiscal years 1991 through 1995, and such sums as necessary thereafter (16 U.S.C. 2103b) (sec. 5 of the Act).

d. Establishes a forest legacy program and the acquisition of land, including conservation easements and rights of public access, to ascertain and protect environmentally important forest areas threatened by conversion to nonforest uses. Pub. L. 104-127 amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act by authorizing grants to States (16 U.S.C. 2103c) (sec. 7 of the Act).

e. Authorizes a forest health protection program to protect trees and forests from insect infestations, diseases, and man-made stresses; directly on National Forest System lands and in cooperation with others on other lands in the United States. This work includes monitoring the health of forest lands of the United States. Also, authorizes cost share assistance to States, subdivisions of States, or other entities on non-Federal lands, to implement an integrated pest management strategy; authorizes \$10,000,000 for integrated pest management, and such sums as may be necessary for other activities (16 U.S.C. 2104) (sec. 8 of the Act).

f. Authorizes an urban and community forest resources education and technical assistance program; a competitive challenge cost-share program for urban and community forestry projects; a Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC); and an urban and community tree planting and forest management program; authorizes \$30,000,000 a year from 1991 to 1995, and such sums as may be necessary thereafter (16 U.S.C. 2105) (sec. 9 of the Act).

g. Authorizes financial, technical, and related assistance to State Foresters and through them to other agencies and individuals, including rural volunteer fire departments, to conduct preparedness and mobilization activities; authorizes \$70,000,000 annually (16 U.S.C. 2106) (sec. 10 of the Act).

h. Authorizes cooperative management with State Foresters and equivalent State officials related to wildfire threats and establishes the Community and Private Land Fire Assistance Program; authorizes \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2007, and such sums as may be necessary thereafter (16 U.S.C. 2106c) (sec. 10a of the Act).

i. Authorizes management assistance, planning assistance, and technology implementation with State Foresters or equivalent State officials (16 U.S.C. 2107) (sec. 11 of the Act).

j. Authorizes consolidated payments to State Foresters (16 U.S.C. 2108) (sec. 12 of the Act).

k. Authorizes Federal and State coordinating committees to advise on State and private forestry issues (16 U.S.C. 2113) (sec. 19 of the Act).

6. Burton-Santini Lake Tahoe Basin Act of December 23, 1980 (Pub. L. 96-586).

Section 2(g) of this Act authorizes payments to localities for water pollution control, soil erosion mitigation, or land acquisition by local government authorities within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Authorization is 15 percent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriation in accordance with section 3 of the Act for Lake Tahoe Basin land acquisitions each year. This authority expires when all Clark County, Nevada, land specified in the Act is sold by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

7. Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-198, 16 U.S.C. 3842; 99 Stat. 1354, Title XII, sections 1231-1236). Authorizes a conservation acreage reserve program, and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to utilize the services of the Forest Service and other Federal and State agencies to carry out the program.

8. Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of November 17, 1986 (Pub. L. 99-663). Authorizes establishment of a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and to protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with its establishment purposes.

9. Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, (Pub. L. 100-446 September 27, 1988), subsequent appropriation acts, and legislative history. These appropriation acts established the Rural Development Program. The program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, No. 10.672, Rural Development, Forestry and Communities.

10. Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624), Title XII, Subtitle B, Chapter 2, section 1241 (Research and Utilization), section 1244 (Forest Land Protection), Subtitle C (America the Beautiful Act of 1990), Subtitle D (Miscellaneous Provisions); and Title XXIII, Subtitle G, chapter 2 (National Forest-Dependent Rural Communities Economic Diversification Act of 1990, amended by Pub. L. 103-115, which changes the definition of rural communities for eligibility for economic recovery).

a. Section 1241 authorizes the Modern Timber Bridge Initiative, with an authorization of \$5,000,000 annually.

b. Section 1271 authorizes assistance to landowners who suffer destruction of 35 percent or more of a commercial tree stand due to damaging weather, related condition, or wildfire (16 U.S.C. 2106a).

c. Section 2371 authorizes the establishment of an economic development and global marketing program (7 U.S.C 6601). Activities include:

(1) transfer technologies to natural resource-based industries in the United States to make such industries more efficient, productive, and competitive;

(2) assist businesses to identify global marketing opportunities, conduct business on an international basis, and market themselves more effectively; and

(3) train local leaders in strategic community economic development. The Healthy Forest Initiative amended section 2371 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601) by adding a new program called, “Rural Revitalization Technologies” which provides for the accelerated adoption of technologies using biomass and small-diameter materials; creates community-based enterprises through marketing activities and demonstration projects; and establishes small-scale business enterprises to make use of biomass and small-diameter materials.

d. Sections 2372-2379 authorize assistance to rural communities in or near national forests; establishment of rural forestry and economic diversification action teams; and loans to economically disadvantaged rural communities (7 U.S.C. 6611-6617). Section 2379 authorizes appropriations of an amount not to exceed 5 percent of receipts from sales of timber and other forest products and user fees, plus additional sums as necessary, as provided in appropriations acts.

11. International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (Title VI of Pub. L. 101-513); The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624, November 28, 1990), Title XXIV Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990, section 2405-2407; Pub. L. 104-127, the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996; and Pub. L. 107-171, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. These Acts:

- a. Authorize support (including cooperation, and financial and technical assistance without reimbursement) for international forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions with a focus on those countries that could have a substantial impact on emissions of greenhouse gases related to global warming.
- b. Authorize support of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and activities specifically addressing tropical deforestation and degradation.
- c. Authorize the Institutes of Tropical Forestry in Puerto Rico and in the Pacific Islands.

12. Hawaii Tropical Forestry Recovery Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4593, 16 U.S.C. 4505a, 4503 et seq.). This act grants authorities to the Secretary of Agriculture to treat invasive plants on Federal and non-Federal ownerships in Hawaii and in tropical forests on Federal lands in other States.

13. Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act and Subsequent Appropriations Acts (Pub. L. 102-381). Starting in FY 1993, the Administrative or General Provisions language allows employees to interact with and provide technical assistance to rural communities for sustainable rural development outside the boundaries of National Forest System lands.

14. Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (112 Stat. 2681, Pub. L. 105-277), section 323, amended by Pub. L. 109-54, section 434, Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreements (also known as the Wyden amendment). This law authorizes the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements with willing Federal, tribal, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resources on public or private land, the reduction of risk from natural disaster where public safety is threatened, or a combination thereof or both that benefit these resources within the watershed. This Act is authorized until fiscal year 2011.

15. Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Pub. L. 106-506). This Act enables the Forest Service to plan and implement environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, along with other Federal, State, local, regional, tribal, and private entities to improve water quality. Water quality activities can occur on Federal lands as well as erosion and sediment control projects on non-Federal lands if the projects benefit the Federal land. General categories of activities include: erosion and sediment control; acquisition of environmentally sensitive land from willing sellers; wildfire risk reduction; cleaning up hydrocarbon contamination; and management of vehicular parking and traffic in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

16. Consolidated Appropriations Act FY 2008 (Pub. L. 110-161), Division F, Title II, and subsequent appropriations acts (Pub. L. 108-108). This Resolution authorizes financial, technical, and related assistance for States for management of invasive or noxious plants on non-Federal lands (117 Stat. 250), and for restoration and rehabilitation of National Forest System lands damaged by forest pests and pathogens (insects and diseases). Also, authorizes the use of Forest Service funds for interactions with and providing technical assistance to rural communities for sustainable rural development purposes (117 Stat. 256).

17. Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-148, December 3, 2003). This Act improves the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire.

18. Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246), June 18, 2008).

Title XIII (Forestry), Title XIV (Energy), Title X (Horticulture and Organic Agriculture).

Title XIII (Forestry), Subtitle A-Amendments to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.

- a. Long-term State-Wide Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources (Section 8002). Requires states to conduct assessments for their state forest resources in order to receive funds through the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (CFAA). Authorizes appropriations up to \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year 2008 through 2012.

In addition, authorizes the Secretary to use other funds available for planning under the CFAA, for a combined total not to exceed 10,000,000 in any fiscal year.

b. Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Section 8003). Establishes a program to provide federal matching grants to help local government, tribes, or NGOs acquire private forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Properties acquired are working forests open to public access. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary.

c. Competition in Programs under CFAA (Section 8007). Allows for a portion of CFAA funds, determined by the Secretary, to be competitively allocated to State Forestry agencies. No new authorization of appropriations.

d. Cooperative Forestry Innovation Partnership Projects (Section 8008, Sec. 13B). Allows the Secretary to competitively allocate up to 5% of CFAA funds for innovative education, outreach, or technology transfer projects. Funds would be available to States, Tribes, local governments, land-grant, or private entities with a 50% cost share. No new authorization of appropriations.

Title IX (Energy).

Community Wood Energy Program (Section 9013). Establishes a grant program for state and local communities to plan, develop, and acquire community wood energy systems. Authorizes appropriations of up to \$5 million/FY.

Title X (Horticulture and Organic Agriculture), Subtitle A-Horticulture and Organic Agriculture.

Pest and Disease Revolving Loan Fund (Section 10205). Establishes a revolving loan fund to provide low interest loans to local governments to finance purchases of authorized equipment to monitor, remove, dispose of, and replace infested trees. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as are necessary.

21 - General Usage

State and Private Forestry (S&PF) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation's urban and rural forests. In addition, S&PF protects communities and the environment from wildland fires, insects, disease, and invasive plants. State and Private Forestry programs help facilitate sound stewardship across lands of all ownerships on a landscape scale, through a coordinated effort in management, protection, conservation education, and resource use. State and Private Forestry programs play a key role, along with the National Forest System, Forest and Rangeland Research, and the Department of Interior, in implementing the National Fire Plan to manage the impact of wildland fires on communities and the environment. Funds in the State and Private Forestry appropriation also support the International Forestry Program.

Use the State and Private Forestry (fund code SPSP, Treasury Symbol 12X1105) appropriations for necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, and others, as authorized by law.

22 - Forest Health Management

Use Forest Health Management funds to protect trees and forests by:

1. Maintaining healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases across all land ownerships.
2. Providing financial, technical, and related assistance for management of invasive plants as authorized in the annual appropriations act and the Hawaii Tropical Forestry Act. Use of Forest Health Management funds for the treatment of invasive plants is restricted to non-Federal land and in tropical forests on Federal lands, excluding National Forest System lands.
3. Providing financial, technical, and related assistance to States, territories, possessions, and others for forest health management, and
4. Developing and applying new and improved technologies for use in forest insect, disease, and invasive plant survey, monitoring, technical assistance, prevention, and suppression activities.

22.1 - Forest Health Management - Federal Lands (Program Code SPFH); National Fire Plan, Forest Health - Federal Lands (Program Code SPS4)

Use SPFH and SPS4 funds for technical assistance, detection surveys, monitoring, evaluations, prevention, and suppression of insect and disease outbreaks on Federal lands, including the National Forest System, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, military installations, and tribal lands in Federal trust; eradication of isolated gypsy moth infestations in accordance with the USDA Forest and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Memorandum of Understanding for the management of the European gypsy moth; restoration of National Forest System lands damaged by forest insects and diseases; management of invasive plants in tropical forests on Federal lands, excluding National Forest System lands; development of technology to accomplish these activities more effectively and efficiently; and management of the use of pesticides.

22.11 - Technical Assistance, Detection Surveys and Monitoring, and Evaluations - Federal Lands

Use SPFH and SPS4 funds for providing technical assistance, detection surveys and monitoring, and evaluations.

1. Technical Assistance. Use these funds to provide technical assistance for:
 - a. The preparation of environmental evaluations including environmental and economic analyses and other National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities,

- b. Integrated pest management,
 - c. Forest health,
 - d. Prevention and restoration strategies, and
 - e. Proper use and handling of pesticides.
2. Detection Surveys and Monitoring. Use these funds for all activities concerned with the detection and monitoring of forest insect and disease problems, such as:
- a. Aerial sketch mapping surveys,
 - b. Ground surveys,
 - c. Forest health monitoring, and
 - d. Other types of detection, such as the use of remote sensing techniques.
3. Evaluations. Evaluate outbreaks of forest insects and diseases by gathering, analyzing, interpreting, and presenting technical data so that the resource manager has the necessary biological information to help decide on a management alternative. Use SPFH and SPS4 funds to conduct and report on biological evaluations, loss assessments, and pre and post-treatment evaluations.

22.12 - Prevention, Suppression, Eradication, and Restoration

Use SPFH and SPS4 funds to prevent and reduce unacceptable tree and forest resource losses by suppressing forest insects and diseases eradicating isolated infestations of gypsy moth.

Management of the European gypsy moth and invasive plants in tropical forests, and restoration of National Forest System lands damaged by forest insects and diseases, must be in accordance with the USDA Forest Service and APHIS Memorandum of Understanding.

1. Prevention. Prevention activities include:
- a. Providing technical assistance to managers who use silvicultural and other practices in the form of training, pilot projects, demonstrations of management techniques and procedures, technical input to interdisciplinary forest planning teams, and review of management plans and prescriptions.
 - b. Performing preventive thinning to reduce tree stand susceptibility to insect and disease attack. Support this use by a documented risk evaluation using current technology.
 - c. Providing pesticide and forest health information to Federal land managers, managers of intermingled and adjacent lands, and Congress.

- d. Cooperating, participating, and consulting with States or other authorities on the protection strategies for non-Federal and intermingled lands.
2. Suppression. Suppression projects include:
 - a. Removing or destroying infested or infected trees.
 - b. Reducing destructive insect and disease populations.
 - c. Removing or destroying alternate hosts.
 - d. Reducing fire or erosion hazards resulting from insect and disease suppression activities.
 - e. Eradicating isolated gypsy moth infections.
3. Eradication. Use these funds to eradicate isolated infestations of gypsy moth in accordance with the USDA Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Memorandum of Understanding for management of European gypsy moth.
4. Restoration. Use these funds for restoration and rehabilitation of National Forest System lands damaged by forest insects and diseases.

22.13 - Technology Development

Use SPFH and SPS4 funds for the development, improvement, and demonstration of new technologies, materials, methods, and strategies to improve the effectiveness of the management of forest insects, diseases, and invasive plants.

22.14 - Other Uses

State and Private Forestry programs help facilitate:

1. Pest Quarantine Enforcement. Use SPFH and SPS4 funds to work with and support the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service quarantine enforcement activities. Such activities involve forest insects and diseases on National Forest System lands, affecting trees and forests, wood projects, stored wood, and wood-in-use.
2. Road Construction and Maintenance. Use SPFH and SPS4 funds to construct, maintain, or close temporary roads as necessary to carry out SPFH and SPS4 funded projects. Use of Forest Health Management funds in this situation must be included in, and approved, as a part of a forest health prevention and suppression project.

22.2 - Forest Health Management - Cooperative Lands (Program Code SPCH); National Fire Plan, Forest Health - State Lands (Program Code SPS5)

Use SPCH and SPS5 funds for cooperating with and providing financial and technical assistance to States, territories, and possessions to conduct forest health management, including detection

surveys, monitoring, evaluation, prevention, and suppression of insect, disease, and invasive plant outbreaks on non-Federal lands. This also includes land owned by States, tribes, local governments, private organizations, and individual forest landowners. There is no authority for the treatment of invasive plants unless treatment is specifically authorized in the annual appropriations act.

22.21 - Technical Assistance, Detection Surveys and Monitoring, and Evaluations - Cooperative Lands

Use SPCH and SPS5 funds on or in conjunction with activities on non-Federal lands to:

1. Train State personnel to conduct detection surveys and evaluations. When requested, and upon mutual agreement, funds may be used to conduct necessary surveys on State and private lands.
2. Conduct biological, economic, and environmental evaluations on State and private lands.
3. Provide technical assistance to State and private forest land managers who use silvicultural and other practices to prevent insect and disease outbreaks.
4. Coordinate forest health and prevention strategies that benefit all landowners.
5. Develop forest insect, disease, and invasive plant status information needed by forest health specialists to monitor, assess, and report regional forest health trends and problems that can affect all land ownerships.

22.22 - Prevention, Suppression, Eradication, and Restoration

Use SPCH and SPS5 funds on non-Federal lands to:

1. Coordinate suppression projects on land ownerships intermingled with, or adjacent to, Federal lands.
2. Reduce unacceptable forest resource losses on State and private forests by cooperatively suppressing damaging forest insects, diseases, and invasive plants.
3. Eradicate isolated gypsy moth infestations on State and private lands, in accordance with the USDA Forest Service and APHIS Memorandum management of the European gypsy moth.

22.23 - Other Forest Health Management - Cooperative Fund Uses

Use SPCH and SPS5 funds on or in conjunction with activities on non-Federal lands for:

1. Urban Tree Pests. In addition to cost-sharing suppression activities in conventional forestry situations, funds may be used for technical assistance and to share the cost of suppression projects to control major insects and diseases in urban areas.

2. Special Forest Tree Crops. Use funds to finance the cost of suppressing unanticipated outbreaks of insects and diseases in forest nurseries and seed orchards, Christmas tree plantations, naval store orchards, shelter belts, and similar areas from which special forest products are obtained.
3. Protection of Wood, Wood Products, Stored Wood, and Wood-in-Use. Use funds to provide technical assistance on the protection of wood, wood products, and wood-in-use.
4. Technology Transfer. Use funds to finance activities and projects that encourage the use of new and improved technology for protecting forest resources from insects, diseases, and invasive plants.
5. Equipment Development. Use funds to finance equipment development projects approved by the Office of the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry.

22.3 - Prohibited Uses of Forest Health Management Funds

1. Tree felling and removal. Do not use funds to pay for felling and removing dead or dying trees unless it is determined necessary to prevent the spread of a major insect infestation or disease epidemic severely affecting trees.
2. Compensation for property damage. Do not use funds to compensate for the value of property injured, damaged, or destroyed by any cause.
3. Nuisance Insects. Do not use funds to finance the suppression of insects that are primarily a nuisance to people and do not damage trees, forests, wood products, stored wood, or wood-in-use. Nuisance insects include pests such as: flies, mosquitoes, gnats, yellow jackets, and black flies.
4. Rangeland Insects and Diseases. Do not use funds to finance the prevention or suppression of insects or diseases affecting rangeland plants.
5. Research. Do not use funds to conduct research.
6. Road Construction or Maintenance. Do not use funds to construct or maintain roads included or to be included in the transportation system.
7. Routine Maintenance Activities. Do not use funds to finance recurring maintenance measures such as regular applications of pesticides to prevent insect or disease attacks, as in seed orchards and nurseries.
8. Timber Stand Improvement. Do not finance timber stand improvement work with funds when the primary management objective is to increase the growth and quality of timber, even though such work may accomplish varying degrees of insect and disease prevention as a result of such work.
9. Pesticide Storage Facilities. Do not construct or maintain pesticide storage buildings with funds. Use Facility Capital Improvement and Maintenance (CMFC) funds instead.

23 - Cooperative Fire Protection

The Cooperative Fire Protection program provides technical and financial assistance to State and local fire agencies to promote efficient fire protection on State and private lands. Program activities focus on mitigating hazards, protecting homes and structures in the growing wildland urban interface (WUI), and reducing Federal wildland fire suppression costs.

23.1 - State Fire Assistance (Program Code SPCF); National Fire Plan, State Fire Assistance (SPS2)

The State Fire Assistance Program provides financial assistance to State Foresters for all fire management activities, including training, planning, hazardous fuel treatments, and purchase and maintenance of equipment. Emphasis is on fire planning to ensure that Federal, State, and local agencies deliver a uniform and coordinated suppression response to wildland fire. Funding enables State and local fire protection organizations to be effective first responders in all types of disasters. The Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention program is a component within this activity and includes the “Smokey Bear” program.

Use SPCF and SPS2 funds to:

1. Provide financial assistance, technical training, equipment and technology to States, territories, and possessions, to ensure delivery of an efficient, uniform, and coordinated wildland fire protection program.
2. Provide financing to manage the cooperative fire-related Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP), and to conduct public service advertising, education, and special fire prevention activities.

23.2 - Volunteer Fire Assistance (Program Code SPVF); National Fire Plan, Volunteer Fire Assistance (Program Code SPS3)

The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program provides technical and financial assistance, through the States, to local fire districts and departments to protect State and private forestlands threatened by wildfire. Local fire agencies are often the first line of defense in meeting expanded fire protection needs within the WUI. Volunteer and rural fire departments are often the only line of defense to respond to natural and human-caused disasters in rural America. The activity supports local fire suppression efforts by providing technical assistance and grants for training, fire department development and organization and equipment for volunteer fire departments in communities with populations in communities with populations of less than 10,000.

Use SPVF and SPS3 funds to provide financial and technical assistance to local volunteer fire departments, including Indian tribes or other native groups through the States, territories, and possessions.

24 - Cooperative Forestry

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

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) is described in FSH 6509.11g, chapter 80, Transfer and Reimbursable Programs and Activities.

24.1 - Forest Stewardship Program (Program Code SPST)

Use SPST funds to provide for the sustainable management of America's non-Federal forests for the benefit of society by enabling non-industrial private forest landowners to better manage, protect, and use their natural resources. See the following list of activities which include:

1. Financial, technical, educational, and related assistance to State foresters,
2. Assistance to help State foresters provide financial assistance to other State and local natural resource entities, for the delivery of information and professional assistance to owners of non-industrial private forest lands. States must direct the information and assistance to help the landowners to:
 - a. Understand and evaluate alternative actions they might take to protect, manage, and enhance the productivity of the timber, fish and wildlife, soil and water, and recreational and aesthetic values of their forest lands, and
 - b. Develop a forest stewardship plan, that is approved by the State forester and prepared by a professional resource manager, which identifies and describes the actions to be taken by the landowner to protect and enhance the productivity of the soil, water, range, timber, recreation, fish, and wildlife resources on such land, prior to approval for funding.
3. Improvements to supplies of high quality, genetically improved tree-seed and planting stock for reforestation.

24.2 - Forest Legacy Program (Program Code LGCY and SPLG)

Use LGCY and SPLG funds to provide for the acquisition of lands and interests therein, including conservation easements and rights of public access, for the purpose of protecting environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Share costs with State, regional, and other units of government to ensure that the Federal Government's share does not exceed 75 percent.

24.3 - Urban and Community Forestry (Program Code SPUF)

Use SPUF funds to provide financial, educational, technical, and related assistance to States, territories, possessions, units of local government, and others for urban and community forestry activities such as:

1. Improving the understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover in urban areas and communities.
2. Encouraging owners of private residences and commercial properties to maintain trees and expand forest cover.
3. Providing education programs and technical assistance to State and local organizations (including community associations and schools) in maintaining forested lands and individual trees in urban and community settings, and in identifying appropriate tree species and sites for expanding forest cover.
4. Providing assistance through competitive matching grants, awarded to local units of government, to approved organizations, that meet the requirements of section 502(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or to other local community tree volunteer groups.
5. Implementing tree planting programs to complement urban and community tree maintenance and open space programs and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, conserve energy, and improve air quality, in addition to providing other environmental benefits.
6. Promoting the establishment of demonstration projects in selected urban and community settings, to illustrate the benefits of maintaining and creating forest cover and trees.
7. Enhancing the technical skills and understanding of sound tree maintenance and arboricultural practices, involving the cultivation of trees, shrubs, and complementary ground covers.
8. Expanding education efforts and transferring results of existing research both intended to improve understanding of:
 - a. Tree growth and maintenance, tree physiology and morphology, species adaptations, and forest ecology;
 - b. The value of integrating trees and ground covers;
 - c. The economic, environmental, social, physical, and psychological benefits of trees and forest cover in urban environments; and
 - d. The role of urban trees in conserving energy and mitigating the urban heat island.

9. Providing challenge cost-share funding, not to exceed 50 percent agreement amount, in consultation with the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

24.4 - Economic Action Programs (Program Code SPEA); National Fire Plan, Economic Action Programs (Program Code SPS6)

Economic Action Programs (EAP) are composed of the following:

1. Rural Community Assistance (sec. 24.41),
2. Forest Products Conservation and Recycling (sec. 24.42),
3. Market Development and Expansion (sec. 24.43), and
4. Resource Conservation and Development (sec. 24.44).

Because SPS6 funds are related to the fire plan, the focus of SPS6 is on helping local communities to identify, develop, and expand economic opportunities, related to historically underutilized materials and wood removed through hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Also, use SPS6 funds to finance projects that allow communities to add wildfire risk assessments and defensible space planning to their community action plans.

See sections 24.41 - 24.44 which set forth the usage of SPEA and SPS6 funds.

24.41 - Rural Community Assistance

The Rural Community Assistance (RCA) component has the following programs:

1. Economic Recovery (sec. 24.41a) and
2. Rural Development (sec. 24.41b).

24.41a - Economic Recovery

The Economic Recovery Program provides assistance to eligible rural communities that are experiencing acute economic problems associated with changes in resource management policies and decisions. Use SPEA and SPS6 funds for local, broad-based strategic planning, organizing, training, networking, and implementing projects.

24.41b - Rural Development

The Rural Development Program provides for the long-term economic health of rural areas by building on the opportunities available through the sustainable uses of natural resources. Use SPEA and SPS6 funds to provide technical and financial assistance for local natural resource-related projects that contribute to, or stimulate, the improvement of rural communities.

24.42 - Forest Products Conservation and Recycling

The Forest Products Conservation and Recycling (FPC&R) component provides technology transfer and technical and financial assistance to communities and natural resource-based business. Use SPEA funds to:

1. Increase economic opportunities through market and community development.
2. Reduce environmental impact of harvesting and processing forest products.
3. Improve use of wood waste and residue.
4. Extend the useful life of forest products.
5. Improve the understanding of forest resource values.
6. Support the Wood Education and Resource Center that focuses on Eastern hardwood species, business development, and distance learning.

24.43 - Market Development and Expansion

This broad category provides technology transfer and technical and financial assistance to communities and natural resource-related business. Use SPEA funds to conduct market or product feasibility studies, create marketing plans, develop or enhance merchandising expertise, and conduct other activities associated with developing or expanding markets for natural resource-based products or technology, or for commercializing technology to benefit small, locally-owned businesses and industries.

The Wood in Transportation program, within this Economic Action Programs (EAP) category, promotes the use of wood in transportation by:

1. Providing financial assistance to States, on a competitive basis, to construct short-to-medium span demonstration timber bridges throughout the country to improve rural transportation networks, expand markets for wood products, and create additional service industries for construction of wooden bridges.
2. Targeting wood use in local transportation networks; pedestrian, vehicular, and railway bridges and culverts; railing; sound barriers; retaining walls; sign and light posts; and docks and other fresh and saltwater marine facilities.

24.44 - Resource Conservation and Development

Use SPEA funds to provide financial assistance to accelerate forestry, rangeland, and other natural resource technical assistance to Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) councils. Funds transferred from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) can be used when identified for this purpose.

24.5 - Special Projects (Program Code SPEA)

Congressional Reports related to the annual Appropriations Act include funds in a section called "Special Projects". While the section is included under the various Economic Action Programs (EAP), these projects are sometimes outside of traditional EAP. In these cases, various authorities, other than EAP authorities, must be used. If the earmarks are explicitly mentioned in the appropriations language, then the Appropriations Act is the appropriate authority.

24.6 - Forest Resource Information and Analysis (Program Code SPIA)

Use SPIA funds to provide cost-share financial assistance to States for participation in the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program.

25 - International Programs (Program Code SPIF)

This program provides international activities, such as hosting international visitors and providing training, policy advice, and technical assistance to other countries. Use SPIF funds for:

1. Developing and analyzing international policies that support sustainable forest management.
2. Engaging in the exchange of science and technology with institutions and scientists in other countries.
3. Developing and implementing forest partnerships to promote long-term institutional linkages between national forests in the United States and counterpart agencies in other countries.
4. Coordinating Forest Service technical assistance and training programs with global partners on tropical forestry issues; sharing information, research results, and practical approaches to sustainable tropical forestry management; and contributing to related research in developing countries.
5. Cooperating with tropical countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as carried out by the International Institute of Tropical Forestry in Puerto Rico.
6. Cooperating with countries in the Pacific basin, as carried out by the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry in Hawaii.
7. Carrying out technical cooperation and training to promote sustainable forest management in other countries.
8. Collaborating with the following organizations:
 - a. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID),
 - b. U.S. Peace Corps,

- c. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),
- d. United Nations Development Program (UNDP),
- e. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO),
- f. World Bank,
- g. Center for International Forestry Research,
- h. International Center for Research in Agroforestry,
- i. International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, and
- j. Other organizations that promote sustainable forest management.