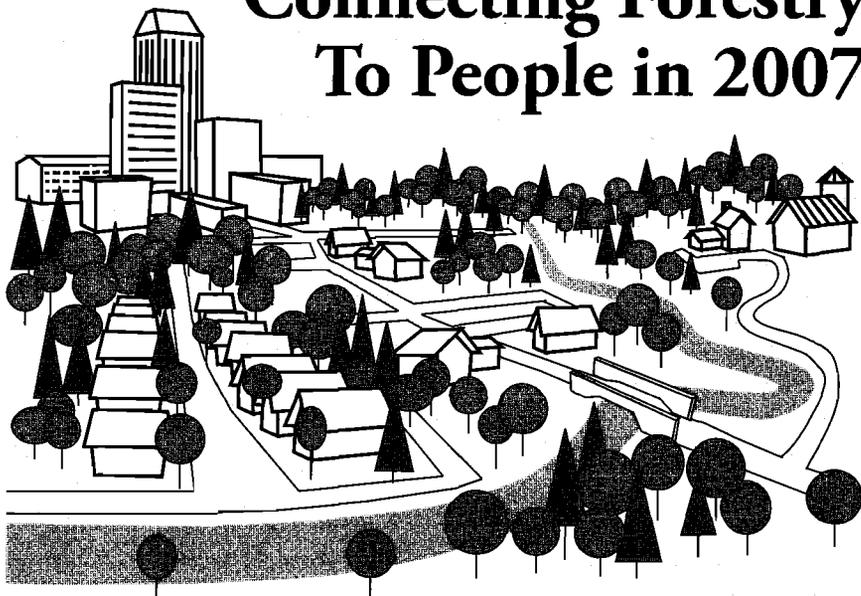


# Connecting Forestry To People in 2007



## *State and Private Forestry and Wildland Fire Management Appropriations*

The State and Private Forestry Deputy Area of the USDA Forest Service is the Federal leader in sustaining the health and productivity of the Nation's 749 million acres of forest lands. These acres include forests and trees in urban areas; forested State, private, tribal lands, and lands managed by other Federal agencies. State and Private Forestry programs offer expert advice, innovative technology, and financial assistance to help landowners and resource managers sustain the Nation's forests and help protect communities and the environment from wildland fires. Through cost-effective, nonregulatory programs and partnerships; individual forest landowners, Tribes, communities, and cities are provided tools to pursue diverse forest stewardship objectives. Outreach programs to educators, government agencies, underserved communities, and private organizations promote environmental literacy, increase public awareness of the multiple benefits of forests, and help build a consistency of future land stewards.

In addition, State and Private Forestry staffs play a key role, along with others within the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, in implementing the NFP, the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, and the

United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

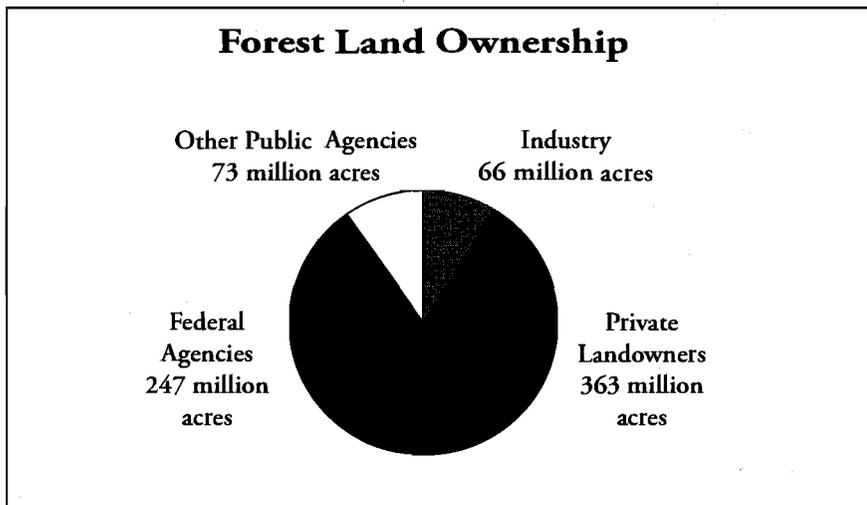


Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to restore ecosystems to healthy, natural conditions and protect communities and the environment from wildland fires.

Through partnerships that focus technical and financial assistance, Federal resources are dramatically leveraged to help ensure that the Nation's forests continue to provide a variety of goods and services to support thousands of landowners, communities, and local economies. The Federal investment in most State and Private Forestry cooperative programs requires a match from non-Federal sources. However, this public-private funding match often leads to self-sustaining projects that provide long-term economic and environmental benefits far exceeding the initial Federal investment.

## Stewardship of Non-Federal Forest Land

Across the landscape, about 67 percent of the Nation's forests are in non-Federal ownership with 48 percent owned by private landowners, 9 percent by industry, and 10 percent by other public agencies such as State and local governments.



The health, productivity, and sustainability of these non-Federal forest lands are essential to our economic and environmental well-being. These forests also play an important role in providing healthy watershed conditions, productive soils, fish and wildlife habitat, biological diversity, recreation, aesthetic beauty, and spiritual values.

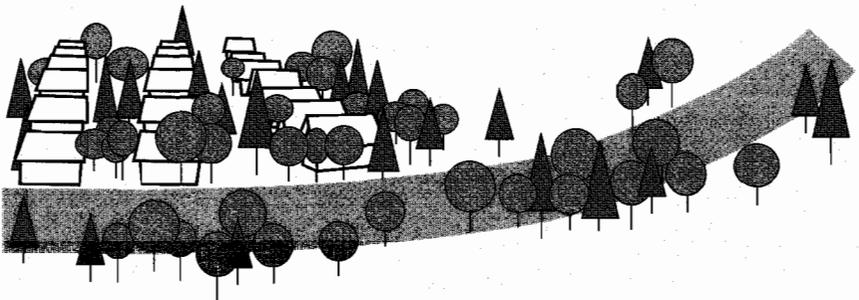
In both rural and urban communities, natural resources ranging from individual trees to expansive urban greenways are key to the quality of life for the nearly 85 percent of the Nation's population living in cities and

towns. Sound stewardship of urban and community forests provides numerous social, economic, and environmental benefits - improving property values and aesthetics, promoting neighborhood and community pride, reinforcing social and cultural values, supporting stormwater and air quality management strategies, moderating climate, and helping to mitigate sprawl.

Representing 80 percent of the Nation's current wood fiber production potential, non-Federal forest lands are a source of wages, taxes, and economic vitality. The Nation's supply of wood and other forest resources are dependent on the active and skilled stewardship of private nonindustrial forest landowners. Over half of the roundwood supply comes from these nonindustrial private lands. Well-managed and protected forests provide numerous indispensable benefits to society and ensure important sustainable resource supplies for natural resource-dependent communities.

Insects, diseases, and invasive plants affect trees, forests, and forested ecosystems across rural and urban landscapes. The monitoring, evaluation, and control of major forest pests require coordinated actions among Federal and State agencies, Tribes, and private landowners to protect forest health.

There is a close link between the quality and quantity of the Nation's water resources and the condition of the Nation's forests. Healthy forested watersheds absorb rainfall and snow melt slowing storm runoff and recharging aquifers; sustain stream flows and aquatic ecosystems that depend on them; filter pollutants from the air and runoff before they enter the waterways; generate and preserve stable and productive soils; and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, forested watersheds provide abundant recreational opportunities, help support local economies, provide an inexpensive source of drinking water, and improve the quality of our lives.



As development pressure, fragmentation, wildfires, invasive species, and other factors continue to threaten the health of our forests, public-private partnerships that conserve their value and function across ownerships - from remote wilderness to urban green space - have never been more critical.

## **Managing Wildland Fire**

Wildland fire management programs protect life, property, and natural resources on the 193 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands; on an additional 20 million acres adjacent to NFS lands that are under protection agreements; and, in cooperation with State Foresters, on all other State and private forest and rangelands. Protection programs are conducted with the highest regard for public and firefighter safety. Cooperation among Federal and State agencies and volunteer fire departments in wildland fire protection has proven effective and valuable. Coordinated initial response to wildland fires prevents nearly 99 percent of wildland fires from growing into large, costly fires. As part of the NFP and the Healthy Forests Initiative, the State and Private Forestry organization works with States and local communities and other Federal agencies to reduce wildland fire hazards to communities, restore fire-adapted ecosystems, and ensure that wildland fire management planning and firefighter personnel and resources are prepared for extreme fire conditions.

## **The Role of State and Private Forestry Deputy Area**

State and Private Forestry programs help achieve the stewardship and sustainability of the Nation's rural, urban, and tribal forests and resources by:

- Providing leading-edge technical expertise.
- Helping build strong State and local forestry programs.
- Strengthening the environmental, social, and economic health of communities.
- Providing targeted financial assistance.
- Reducing Federal expenditures through preventive measures.
- Leveraging public-private investments.
- Monitoring trends in sustainability on all forest lands and urban forests.
- Serving as an information clearinghouse.

- Promoting public awareness and understanding of the multiple societal benefits provided by private forest lands.
- Building strong government-to-government relations with Tribes.
- Fighting wildland fire and implementing the NFP.
- Controlling invasive species.

## Focus

The programs focus on:

- Supporting the NFP, the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to restore fire-adapted ecosystems and protect lives, property, and the environment from wildland fires, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas.
- Maintaining healthy, sustainable rural, urban, and tribal forests through stewardship planning, active management, and professional technical assistance.
- Providing a rapid response to new introductions of invasive insects and pathogens.
- Improving the quality of living conditions in urban areas through the management of urban natural resources.
- Improving the economic well-being of forest resource dependent rural and tribal communities.
- Reducing loss of open space by protecting forests from fragmentation and conversion to nonforest uses.
- Reporting timely, accurate resource information.
- Helping people of all ages, through conservation education activities, understand and appreciate the Nation's natural and cultural resources and the need to conserve them for future generations.

The FY 2007 proposal will continue to:

- Protect lands and conserve forest resources.
- Reduce costs.
- Increase the value and productivity of forests.
- Use nonregulatory approaches in partnership with State Foresters and other partners.

# The FY 2007 Budget

Appropriations	FY 2006 Enacted	President's FY 2007 Budget	President's Budget + or (-) from FY 2006
<b>State and Private Forestry</b>	... Dollars in thousands ...		
Forest Health Management (FHM)			
Federal Lands	53,438	49,849	-3,589
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management	46,928	34,581	-12,347
Subtotal, FHM	100,366	84,430	-15,936
Cooperative Fire Protection (CFP)			
State Fire Assistance	32,930	26,960	-5,970
Volunteer Fire Assistance	5,911	5,858	-53
Subtotal, CFP	38,841	32,818	-6,023
Cooperative Forestry (CF)			
Forest Stewardship	34,189	33,880	-309
Forest Legacy Program	56,536	61,515	+4,979
Urban and Community Forestry	28,451	26,846	-1,605
Economic Action Programs – Projects	9,537	0	-9,537
Forest Resource Inventory and Analysis	4,589	0	-4,589
Subtotal, CF	133,302	122,241	-11,061
Supplemental for Hurricanes	30,000	0	-30,000
<b>Subtotal, State and Private Forestry <sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>302,509</b>	<b>239,489</b>	<b>-63,020</b>
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>			
Preparedness	666,068	655,887	-10,181
Wildland Fire Suppression Operations	690,186	746,176	+55,990
Hazardous Fuel Reduction	281,793	291,792	+9,999
Supplemental/Hurricanes <sup>2/</sup>	[7,906]	[0]	[-7,906]
Joint Fire Science Program	7,882	3,960	-3,922
Rehabilitation and Restoration	6,188	1,980	-4,208
Research and Development	22,877	20,121	-2,756
State Fire Assistance	45,816	29,115	-16,701
Volunteer Fire Assistance	7,772	7,810	+38
Federal Lands FHM	14,780	6,802	-7,978
Cooperative Lands FHM	9,852	4,552	-5,300
<b>Subtotal Wildland Fire Management</b>	<b>1,753,214</b>	<b>1,768,195</b>	<b>+14,981</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Does not include funding for the international forestry budget line item

<sup>2/</sup> Appropriated in the National Forest System appropriation

# Program Highlights

The following are FY 2007 highlights of the State and Private Forestry and Wildland Fire Management appropriations.

## Forest Health Management (FHM)

The proposed budget for the FHM Program, including NFP funding, is \$95,784,000 (\$29,214,000 less than FY 2006). Funding is continued for increased rapid response to new introductions of nonnative or invasive pests and suppression capability to protect forest stands. The budget includes \$56,651,000 for Federal Lands FHM and \$39,133,000 for Cooperative Lands FHM.

In FY 2007, the focus will be to:

- Conduct suppression, prevention, and management activities on native and nonnative insect and disease forest pests, for example: southern pine beetle, gypsy moth, sudden oak death, western bark beetles, emerald ash borer, white pine blister rust, and hemlock woolly adelgid.
- Work jointly with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to promptly eradicate new introductions of nonnative insect and disease pests of forests and trees.
- Continue detection surveys to rapidly detect biosecurity threats to the Nation's forests.
- Provide professional technical assistance in forest health management to all forest land managers.
- Focus pest suppression on major native insect and disease infestations in the wildland urban interface and on Condition Class 2 and 3 lands in Fire Regimes 1 and 2.
- Map forest areas at risk to future impacts of insects, diseases, and other agents, and prescribe preventative measures to ensure ecosystem security.
- Continue full implementation of the gypsy moth Slow-The-Spread Program by applying proven technologies to prevent the rapid spread of the insect into previously uninfested regions of the country.
- Continue delivery, in cooperation with the States, of the Forest Health Monitoring Program to identify and monitor trends in forest health, including risk from insects, diseases, air pollution, and other impacts.
- Train land managers and coordinate activities to ensure safe and effective use of pesticides.

- Assist in the management and control of invasive plants on private lands.
- Develop and apply new forest health management technologies.

The budget provides funding for a coordinated and efficient effort of forest insect and disease detection, monitoring, evaluation, prevention, restoration, and suppression to promote practices that restore and improve overall forest health. These activities are accomplished on all Federal, tribal, State, and private lands in cooperation with other Federal agencies, such as the Departments of the Interior and Defense, tribal governments, and State agencies. Technical and financial assistance is given to States and territories to achieve forest health goals on non-Federal forest land.

Maintaining the health of the Nation's urban, rural, and tribal forests, especially by reducing the impacts of insects and diseases, is essential for forest health and sustainability.

## **Cooperative Fire Protection (CFP)**

The proposed budget for the CFP Program, including NFP funding, is \$69,743,000 (\$22,686,000 less than FY 2006). The funding includes \$56,075,000 for State Fire Assistance and \$13,668,000 for Volunteer Fire Assistance and begins to address the overall strategy in rural fire protection in America.

One of the most significant conservation issues facing the Nation today is the need to protect lives and property in wildland-urban interface areas. With almost 80 percent of all wildland fires occurring on State and private lands, the need for a strong Federal role in helping State and local governments promote safe and effective fire protection and suppression programs has never been greater.

The proposed budget for the CFP Program addresses this issue by helping States and volunteer fire departments build capacity and develop leading-edge wildland fire prevention and suppression techniques.

In FY 2007, the focus will be to:

- Address the urgent need to reduce the threat of wildland fires in wildland-urban interface areas.
- Assist communities with implementation of hazard mitigation projects in critical high-risk wildland-urban interface areas.
- Complete community wildfire protection plans.

- Help State and local governments maintain a base level of wildland fire protection readiness.
- Strengthen a national cadre of rural volunteer fire departments.
- Train State and local firefighters in the Incident Command System's wildland firefighting structure.
- Provide modern, reliable communications for more efficient action on incidents.
- Continue a strong program for use of Federal Excess Personal Property by State and local wildland firefighting organizations.
- Implement the new Fire Fighter Assistance program with Department of Defense to enhance State and local fire departments ability to acquire excess Federal property for fire fighting and emergency use.
- Provide fire prevention advertising and education, and promote partnerships designed to reduce wildland fire outbreaks.

## Cooperative Forestry (CF)

The proposed budget for the total CF Program is \$122,241,000 (\$11,061,000 less than FY 2006).

*Forest Stewardship:* The proposed budget is \$33,880,000 (\$309,000 less than FY 2006). The proposal provides technical and financial assistance to States to enable both landscape and individual landowner level planning to encourage the long-term stewardship of strategically important non-Federal forest resource areas. Technical assistance results in the active management of nonindustrial private forest lands that are resource rich but threatened by wildfire, development, or forest health concerns. Long-term multi-resource forest stewardship plans provide landowners with the information they need to achieve their unique objectives while sustaining a variety of environmental goods and services, including clean air and water, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat. Forest stewardship plans enable landowners to keep their forests in a healthy condition to reduce the risk of wildfire and pest or disease infestations. Forest stewardship plans also contribute to the future supply of forest products from private lands and thus, the health of our rural economies. The proposed budget could potentially result in the development of more than 16,000 multiresource forest stewardship plans covering approximately 1.6 million acres. These plans will establish the basis for future management, sustained production, conservation, and income for thousands of landowners. In addition, the budget will support efforts to monitor 30 million acres of private

forest land already covered by forest stewardship plans to assess resource management outcomes and management challenges. The proposal also supports the conservation and production of high quality native forest seedling stock for a wide variety of public, private, and tribal reforestation and ecosystem restoration efforts.

**Forest Legacy Program:** The proposed budget is \$61,515,000 (\$4,979,000 more than FY 2006). The program goal is to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses so that the public goods and services provided by private forests will be protected and managed for future generations. Since FY 1992, the program has protected over 1,159,000 acres. The program uses conservation easements and other mechanisms to conserve private forests, and operates on a "willing seller and willing buyer" basis. Eminent domain or adverse condemnation is not authorized.

To date, 45 States and Territories have Assessments of Needs (AONs) approved and are active in the program: Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. States that are currently in the process of joining the Forest Legacy Program include: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. The AON is a document that analyzes the need for the program and describes how the program will work in the State. A State participates in the Forest Legacy Program upon approval of the AON by the Secretary of Agriculture.

**Urban and Community Forestry:** The proposed budget is \$26,846,000 (\$1,605,000 less than FY 2006). Healthy trees and forests in urban and community areas provide many benefits, including: improved air and water quality, improved watershed function, energy conservation, increased property values, as well as numerous social benefits. These benefits are particularly important when one considers that the U.S. is now an urban nation, and, unlike most other programs within the Agency or the Department of Agriculture, the Urban and Community Forestry program serves this urban demographic. The proposed budget sets in motion the programs, projects, and community networks to realize the benefits that neighborhood trees and forests provide for over 70 million acres of land which contains 85 percent of our nation's population in cities, suburbs, and towns throughout the country. The program will also continue the

important ongoing task of expanding partnerships at all levels of State and local government, as well as with non-governmental organizations and industry that are critical to the program's success, and allow it to leverage about 1.4 times more resources for program delivery than it devotes in direct dollars.

In FY 2007, the program will focus its efforts on the new performance tracking system, and making that system compatible with geographic information systems so program performance can be mapped and visually displayed. Associated with that effort is the program's focus on helping communities work to achieve the national performance measures of: professional urban forestry staffing; urban forest ordinances or policies; urban forest management plans; and, the presence of an urban forest advisory or advocacy group in the community. The program will also continue its work on expanding partnerships to better serve communities; effectively delivering technical and financial assistance to partners; strengthening technology transfer to advance resource analysis; and monitoring and assessing overall program function, delivery, and outcomes to assure maximum benefit.

## **Wildland Fire Management**

### **Principles fundamental to the success of wildland fire management:**

- Firefighter and public safety are the first priorities in every fire management activity.
- The role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process and natural change agent is incorporated into the land management planning process.
- Fire management programs, plans, and activities support land and resource management plans and their implementation.
- Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities.
- Fire management programs are economically viable, based upon safety, values to be protected, costs, and land and resource management objectives.
- Fire management plans and activities are based upon the best available science and incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations.
- Federal, State, tribal, and local interagency coordination and cooperation are essential.
- Standardization of policies and procedures among Federal agencies is an ongoing objective.

**Preparedness:** The proposed budget is \$655,887,000 (\$10,181,000 less than FY 2006). Preparedness funding provides the capability to implement wildland fire prevention, planning, detection, and crew training activities; and to supply and equip firefighters, including engines, helicopters, and hand crews. The Forest Service is committed to maintaining firefighting capability to protect communities and the environment from wildland fires. Coordinated initial response to wildland fires prevents nearly 99 percent of wildland fires from growing into large costly fires.

**Wildland Fire Suppression Operations:** The proposed budget is \$746,176,000 (\$55,990,000 more than FY 2006). This level funds:

- Wildland fire suppression activities on the 193 million acres NFS lands and an additional 20 million acres of adjacent State and private lands protected through protection agreements.
- Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) of severely burned NFS lands to promptly stabilize soil, control water runoff, minimize sediment and debris movement, and minimize threats to human life and property (expended on an emergency, as-needed basis).
- Increased preparedness activities when predicted or actual burning is severe (expended on an emergency, as-needed basis).

**Other Wildland Fire Operations:** This component of the Wildland Fire Management appropriation provides \$291,792,000 for hazardous fuel reduction on 1.95 million acres of NFS lands to reduce the threat of wildland fire in high risk areas, primarily the wildland-urban interface; \$3,960,000 for the Joint Fire Sciences Program; \$20,121,000 for research and development; \$1,980,000 for rehabilitation and restoration; \$29,115,000 for State fire assistance; \$7,810,000 for volunteer fire assistance, and \$11,354,000 for forest health management. Total Other Wildland Fire Operations funding is \$366,132,000 compared with \$396,960,000 in FY 2005, a decrease of \$30,828,000. Funding is not included for the reconstruction and restoration of fire facilities and economic action programs.

## **The National Fire Plan: Protecting Communities and the Environment**

In response to the severe wildland fires in 2000, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior developed a plan to address the impacts of wildland fire on rural communities, reduce the threat of future wildland

fires, and ensure sufficient firefighting capability. The response resulted in the report, *Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment: A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000*, or the National Fire Plan (NFP). The NFP focuses on cooperation and collaboration among Federal agencies, States, counties, local governments, tribal governments, contractors, and other service providers.

In FY 2001, subsequent collaborative efforts produced the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and its related Implementation Plan. These documents guide the implementation of the NFP by focusing on improving fire prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, restoring fire adapted ecosystems, and promoting community assistance.

The President’s budget for FY 2007 continues to implement the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy, developed in close collaboration with State Governors, communities, and the Department of the Interior. The proposed budget includes over \$1.8 billion for the Forest Service to continue the NFP. The proposed budget will continue to protect communities at risk to wildland fires, support an optimal level of fire preparedness, reduce hazardous fuel especially in the wildland-urban interface, and reduce the spread of invasive forest insects and pathogens due to fires.

Proposed funding supporting the NFP is displayed below:

National Fire Plan	FY 2006 Enacted	President’s FY 2007 Budget	President’s Budget + or (-) from FY 2006
	... Dollars in thousands ...		
Preparedness	666,068	655,887	-10,181
Wildland Fire Suppression Operations	690,186	746,176	+55,990
Hazardous Fuel Reduction	281,793	291,792	+9,999
Supplemental/Hurricanes <sup>1/</sup>	[7,906]	[0]	[-7,906]
Joint Fire Science Program	7,882	3,960	-3,922
Rehabilitation and Restoration	6,188	1,980	-4,208
Research and Development	22,877	20,121	-2,756
State Fire Assistance <sup>2/</sup>	78,746	56,075	-22,671
Volunteer Fire Assistance <sup>2/</sup>	13,683	13,668	-15
Federal Lands FHM	14,780	6,802	-7,978
Cooperative Lands FHM	9,852	4,552	-5,300
<b>Total Fire Plan</b>	<b>1,792,055</b>	<b>1,801,013</b>	<b>+8,958</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Appropriated in the National Forest System Appropriation

<sup>2/</sup> Includes funding from the State and Private Forestry appropriation, totaling \$38,841,000 in FY 2006 and \$32,818,000 in FY 2007 for the two cooperative fire programs

For additional information, please contact:

Deputy Chief,  
State and Private Forestry  
USDA Forest Service  
PO Box 96090  
Washington, DC 20090-6090  
202-205-1657

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.