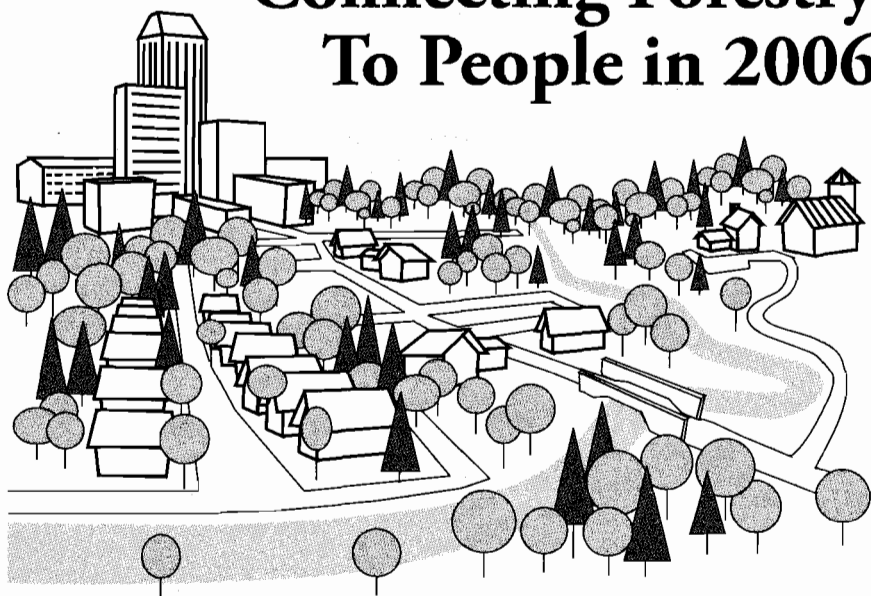


Connecting Forestry To People in 2006



State and Private Forestry and Wildland Fire Management Appropriations

The State and Private Forestry organization of the USDA Forest Service is a federal leader in providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation's forests and protect communities and the environment from wildland fires. State and Private Forestry programs bring assistance and expertise to a diversity of land owners -- including small woodlot, tribal, state, or federal -- through cost-effective, non-regulatory partnerships. Through a coordinated effort in management, protection, conservation education, and resource use, the programs help facilitate the sustainable management of the nation's forests, while enabling individual forest landowners, communities, and cities to pursue diverse objectives. The staffs play a key role, along with others within the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, in implementing the National Fire Plan, the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to restore ecosystems to healthy, natural conditions and protect communities and the environment from wildland fires.

US Department of
Agriculture
Forest Service



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 communities and local economies. On average, every \$1 of federal investment in State and Private Forestry cooperative programs triggers an additional \$10 from nonfederal sources to provide both economic and quality-of-life returns.

Stewardship of Nonfederal Forestland

Across the landscape, over 70 percent of the Nation's forests are in nonfederal ownership, representing 80 percent of the Nation's current wood fiber production potential, including the wages, taxes, and economic vitality it provides. These forest ownerships also have an important role in providing healthy watershed conditions, productive soils, fish and wildlife habitat, biological diversity, recreation, and the natural beauty of the Nation's diverse landscapes. The health, productivity, and sustainability of the Nation's nonfederal forest lands are essential to economic and environmental well-being. 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.

In both rural and urban communities, natural resources -- ranging from individual trees to parks and expansive urban greenways and other regional open space -- are key to the quality of life for the nearly 80 percent of the Nation's population who live 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.

The Nation's supply of wood and other forest resources is dependent on the active and capable stewardship of nonfederal forest lands. Over half of the roundwood supply comes from non-industrial private lands. Well-managed and protected forests provide numerous indispensable benefits to society, while ensuring important sustainable resource supplies for rural resource-dependent communities.

Insects and diseases affect trees, forests, and forested ecosystems across all rural and urban land boundaries. The monitoring, evaluation, and control

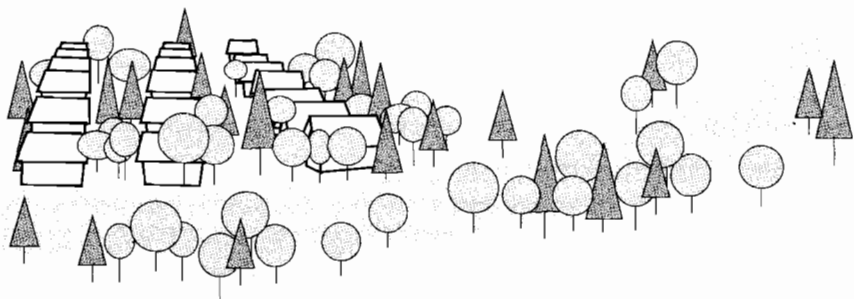
of major forest pests require coordinated actions among federal agencies and states to protect forest health.

The quality and quantity of the Nation's water resources as well as stable and productive soil depend on the quality and condition of forest cover. This forest cover is also home to the forest dependent wildlife populations and millions of diverse and unique plant and animal communities. Watershed health, restoration, and management transcend boundaries and directly impact the financial costs of meeting society's needs for water, and provide the outdoor-based jobs, aesthetics, and satisfaction both city and country dwellers depend upon for recreation and sense of well being.

Increasing landowners awareness of the value of natural and cultural resources helps them take personal responsibility for their relationship with the land and gives them the knowledge to manage their lands in a sustainable way.

Managing Wildland Fire

Wildland fire management programs protect life, property, and natural resources on the 192 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 major disasters. As part of the National Fire Plan 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 Federal Role

State and Private Forestry programs help achieve the stewardship and sustainability of the Nation's rural and urban forestland 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.
- Monitoring trends in sustainability on all forest lands and urban forests.
- Serving as an information clearinghouse.
- Providing educational materials and opportunities about the complexities of ecological issues.

Focus

The programs focus on:

- Supporting the National Fire Plan, the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to restore fire adapted ecosystems, protect lives, property, and the environment from wildland fires, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas.
- Maintaining healthy, sustainable rural and urban 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 communities.
- Reducing loss of open space by protecting forests from fragmentation and conversion to non-forest 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 2006 proposal will continue to:

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

The FY 2006 Budget

Appropriations	FY 2005 ^{4/} Enacted	President's FY 2006 Budget	President's Budget + or (-) from FY 2005
State and Private Forestry	... Dollars in thousands ...		
Forest Health Management			
Federal Lands	54,236	50,023	-4,213
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management	47,629	22,308	-25,321
Subtotal, FHM	101,865	72,331	-29,534
Cooperative Fire Protection			
State Fire Assistance	32,920	20,919	-12,001
Volunteer Fire Assistance	5,917	5,917	0
Subtotal, CFP	38,837	26,836	-12,001
Cooperative Forestry			
Forest Stewardship	32,320	37,099	+4,779
Forest Legacy Program	57,134	80,000	+22,866
Urban and Community Forestry	31,950	27,475	-4,475
Economic Action Programs	[19,032]	0	[-19,032]
Economic Recovery	4,931	0	-4,931
Other Projects	14,101	0	-14,101
Forest Resource Inventory and Analysis	4,958	4,657	-301
Subtotal, CF	145,394	149,231	+3,837
Subtotal, State and Private Forestry ^{1/}	286,096	248,398	-37,698
Wildland Fire Management			
Preparedness	676,470	676,014	-456
Wildland Fire Suppression Operations	648,859	700,492	+51,633
Hazardous Fuel Reduction ^{2/}	262,539	281,000	+18,461
Joint Fire Science Program ^{3/}	7,889	[8,000]	[+111]
Rehabilitation and Restoration	12,819	2,000	-10,819
Research and Development	21,719	16,885	-4,834
State Fire Assistance	40,179	29,415	-10,764
Volunteer Fire Assistance	7,889	7,889	0
Federal Lands FHM	14,792	6,974	-7,818
Cooperative Lands FHM	9,861	4,598	-5,263
Subtotal Wildland Fire Management	1,703,016	1,725,267	+30,140

^{1/} Does not include funding for the International Forestry budget line item

^{2/} Hazardous Fuel Reduction is proposed within the National Forest System Appropriation in FY 2006, but is shown here and included in the total for comparability

^{3/} Joint Fire Science Program is funded at \$8,000,000 within Preparedness in FY 2006

^{4/} Does not include additional and supplemental funds in FY 2005 from P.L. 108-324, P.L. 108-287, and P.L. 108- 447 (Wildland Fire Management \$425,471,000; State and Private Forestry, \$59,100,000)

Program Highlights

The following are FY 2006 highlights of the State and Private Forestry and Wildland Fire Management appropriations.

Forest Health Management (FHM)

The proposed budget for the FHM Program, including National Fire Plan funding, is \$83,903,000 (\$42,615,000 less than FY 2005). Funding is continued for increased rapid response to new introductions of non-native or invasive pests and suppression capability to protect forest stands. The budget includes \$56,997,000 for Federal Lands FHM and \$26,906,000 for Cooperative Lands FHM.

In FY 2006, the focus will be to:

- Conduct suppression, prevention, and management activities on native and non-native 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 non-native insect and disease pests of forests and trees.
- Continue detection surveys to rapidly detect bio-security threats to the Nation's forests.
- Provide professional technical assistance in forest health management to all forestland 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 weeds on private lands.
- Develop and apply new forest health management technologies.

- Implement two Threat Assessment Centers, in Prineville, OR and Asheville, NC, to develop early warning for forest health threats.

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 Interior and Defense, tribal governments, and state agencies. Technical and financial assistance is given to states and territories to achieve forest health goals on nonfederal forestland.

Maintaining the health of the Nation's urban and rural 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 National Fire Plan funding, is \$64,140,000 (\$22,765,000 less than FY 2005). The funding includes \$50,334,000 for State Fire Assistance and \$13,806,000 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 2006, 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.
- Completion of 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 crews 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.
- Provide fire prevention advertising and education, and promote partnerships designed to reduce wildland fire outbreaks.

Cooperative Forestry (CF)

The proposed budget for the total Cooperative Forestry Program is \$149,231,000 (\$3,837,000 more than FY 2005).

Forest Stewardship: The proposed budget is \$37,099,000 (\$4,779,000 more than FY 2005). The proposal provides technical and financial assistance to states to encourage the long-term stewardship of non-industrial private forest lands. 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/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 17,000 multi-resource Forest Stewardship Plans covering approximately 1.7 million acres. These plans will establish the basis for future management, sustained production, conservation, and income for thousands of landowners. The proposal also supports the conservation and production of high quality native tree seedling stock for a wide variety of public, private, and tribal reforestation and ecosystem restoration efforts.

Forest Legacy Program: The proposed budget is \$80,000,000 (\$22,866,000 more than FY 2005). The program goal is to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses so that America's resources are effectively protected and managed for future generations. 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, 40 States and Territories have Assessments of Needs (AONs) approved and are active in the program: Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. 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. States that are currently in the process of joining the Forest Legacy Program include: Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio and Oklahoma. Since 1992, the program has protected over 1,012,000 acres.

Urban and Community Forestry: The proposed budget is \$27,475,000 (\$4,475,000 less than FY 2005). 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 psychological and social benefits. These benefits become increasingly important as our country transitions from rural to primarily urban environments where over 80 percent of the population currently resides. The proposed Urban and Community Forestry Program budget sets in motion the programs, projects, and community networks to attain the benefits that trees provide for over 70 million acres of urban and rural communities throughout the country. The program will also continue the important ongoing task of expanding partnerships with all levels of local government, state government, and non-governmental organizations 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 2006, the program’s focus will be on expanding partnerships to better serve landowners and 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.

Forest Resource Information and Analysis: The proposed budget is \$4,657,000 (\$301,000 less than FY 2005). The program provides cost-share financial assistance to states for participation in the Forest Service's nationwide Forest Information and Analysis (FIA) Program. The FIA Program monitors and reports on the status and trends of the Nation's forested resources, both public and private. The FIA Program is the only resource inventory program that monitors the extent, condition, uses, impacts of management, and health of forest ecosystems across all ownerships of the Nation.

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP): FLEP is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation as part of the "Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002". FLEP provides technical, educational and financial assistance to nonindustrial private forest land owners for sustainable forestry activities. The program has been implemented in all States and territories since funds were first made available in FY 2003. For FY 2005 there will be \$10 million available for allocation.

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 will be 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.
- Fire management plans and activities 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 \$676,014,000 (\$456,000 less than FY 2005). 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 major disasters.

Wildland Fire Suppression Operations: The proposed budget is \$700,492,000 (\$51,633,000 more than FY 2005). This level funds:

- Wildland fire suppression activities on the 192 million acres of National Forest System (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 run-off, minimize sediment and debris movement, and to 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 \$16,885,000 for research and development; \$2,000,000 for rehabilitation and restoration; \$29,415,000 for state fire assistance; \$7,889,000 for volunteer fire assistance, and \$11,572,000 for forest health management. Total Other Wildland Fire Operations funding is \$67,761,000 compared with \$377,687,000 in FY 2005, a decrease of \$309,926,000. The majority of this decrease (\$281,000,000) is due to Hazardous Fuel Reduction being proposed within the National Forest System appropriation in FY 2006. Funding is not included for the reconstruction and restoration of fire facilities and economic action programs. Joint Fire Science is funded within Fire Preparedness at \$8,000,000.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction: This proposed budget is \$281,000,000 (\$262,539,000 in FY 2005). This program funds hazardous fuel reduction on 1.8 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands to reduce the threat of wildland fire in high risk areas, primarily the wildland-urban interface. This program is proposed within the National Forest System appropriation in FY 2006.

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 2001, subsequent collaborative efforts produced the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy* and its related *Implementation Plan*. These documents guide the implementation of the *National Fire Plan* 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 2006 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 \$1.7 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 National Fire Plan is displayed below:

National Fire Plan	FY 2005 ^{4/} Enacted	President's FY 2006 Budget	President's Budget + or (-) from FY 2005
	... Dollars in thousands ...		
Preparedness	676,470	676,014	-456
Wildland Fire Suppression Operations	648,859	700,492	+51,633
Hazardous Fuel Reduction ^{1/}	262,539	281,000	+18,461
Joint Fire Science Program ^{2/}	7,889	[8,000]	[+111]
Rehabilitation and Restoration	12,819	2,000	-10,819
Research and Development	21,719	16,885	-4,834
State Fire Assistance ^{3/}	73,099	50,334	-22,765
Volunteer Fire Assistance ^{3/}	13,806	13,806	0
Federal Lands FHM	14,792	6,974	-7,818
Cooperative Lands FHM	9,861	4,598	-5,263
Total Fire Plan	1,741,853	1,752,103	+18,139

^{1/} Hazardous Fuels is proposed within the National Forest System Appropriation in FY 2006 , but is shown here and included in the total for comparability

^{2/} Joint Fire Science Program funded within Preparedness at \$8,000,000 in FY 2006

^{3/} Includes funding from the State and Private Forestry appropriation, totaling \$38,837,000 in FY2005 and \$26,836,000 in FY 2006 for the two cooperative fire programs

^{4/} Does not include additional and supplemental funds in FY 2005 from P.L. 108-324, P.L. 108-287, and P.L. 108- 447 (Wildland Fire Management \$425,471,000; State and Private Forestry, \$20,000,000)

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