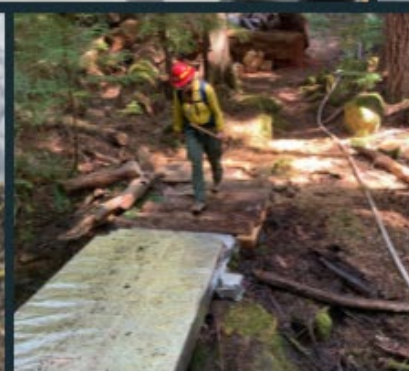




March 2023



FISCAL YEAR 2024

# BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

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## **COVER PHOTOS**

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

USDA

Matt Nelson, a materials handler, prepares supplies at North Operations base in Redding, CA. USDA Forest Service photo by Cecilio Ricardo.

USDA Under Secretary Homer Wilkes and Forest Service Chief Randy Moore tour Lucky Peak Nursery outside of Boise, ID. The tour, led by Nursery Manager Sara Wilson, included seed freezers, sorting equipment, and greenhouses. USDA Forest Service photo by Dave Walsh.

Beetle-killed Engelmann spruce are turned into wood products at the Satterwhite Log Homes Lumber Yard in Sanpete County, UT. USDA Forest Service photo.

A Tribal Youth Conservation Corps crew member does renovation work on the Ottawa National Forest's Black River Harbor pavilion. USDA Forest Service photo.

John Whiting uses a neutron probe on the Sierra National Forest. Subatomic particles shoot into the ground, which scatter back towards the probe after they run into water molecules, revealing the amount of moisture within the bedrock. USDA Forest Service photo by Jamie Hinrichs.

Joy Billings, apprentice firefighter on Idaho Engine 431, looks through binoculars while serving as a lookout for crews in the Silver King Valley on the northwest side of the Slink Fire on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in California. USDA Forest Service photo by Charity Parks.

The 2022 interagency wildland fire briefing at the Jeffco Airtanker Base in Broomfield, CO. USDA Forest Service photo.

A child gets a sled ride from his dad on Chickadee Ridge on the Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo by Rachel Van Horne.

Blue Ridge Hot Shots climb a steep-sloped mountain to suppress the Dixie Fire on the Lassen National Forest in California. USDA Forest Service photo by Cecilio Ricardo.

Firefighters work to prevent fire damage to bridges, homes, and buildings during the Cedar Creek Fire. A lightning storm caused 20 to 30 fires on the Willamette National Forest 15 miles east of Oakridge, OR. It burned over 127,000 acres. USDA Forest Service photo.

Nez Perce dancers lead visitors in a circle dance. USDA Forest Service photo by Jennifer Beca.

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**PREFACE**

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the “Budget” is used to refer to the 2024 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2021 and 2022, enacted levels for 2023, and the President’s Budget request for 2024. Amounts for 2023 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2023. Amounts shown in 2024 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

## AGENCY-WIDE

### **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

#### **Mission**

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

#### **Budget Overview**

The 2024 Forest Service Budget request for discretionary appropriations is \$9.7 billion. This is an increase of \$2.6 billion from the 2023 enacted appropriations. The 2024 Budget request includes \$2.97 billion for Wildland Fire Management, an operational increase of \$674 million<sup>1</sup> from 2023 enacted; \$2.23 billion for the management of National Forest System lands, an increase of \$252 million from 2023 enacted; \$235 million for Capital Improvement and Maintenance, an increase of \$77 million from 2023 enacted; \$349 million for Forest and Rangeland Research, an increase of \$42 million from 2023 enacted; \$328 million for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, a decrease of \$10 million from 2023 enacted; and \$1.32 billion for Forest Service Operations, an increase of \$164 million from 2023 enacted. The Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund (“fire funding fix”) Forest Service share is \$2.30 billion in 2024, an increase of \$90 million from 2023 enacted.

#### **Forest Service Policy Priorities**

The 2024 Budget request prioritizes critical investments to address threats from wildfire, tackle climate change, protect communities, provide economic relief through job creation, advance racial equity, address historic environmental injustice, and further improve our work environment. To address these challenges, the Forest Service requests significant investments for wildfire risk management to implement the Administration’s climate innovation agenda and invest in our wildland fire management workforce. This includes firefighter pay reform, funding for vital health and well-being assistance, facilities maintenance funds prioritized primarily for firefighter housing needs, and the transition of the FireGuard program from the Department of Defense. Wildfire risk management actions help the agency improve the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems from multiyear drought conditions and protect watersheds, habitat, and communities from the negative impacts of wildfires.

Together with the historic investments provided from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law<sup>2</sup> and the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169), the Forest Service will increase and build new capacity by working with partners to improve the resilience of landscapes and watersheds across boundaries, reduce wildfire risk by treating the right acres at the right scale, restore infrastructure, support outdoor recreation, and invest in reforestation of impacted landscapes.

#### ***Wildland Fire Risk Management***

Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of wildfires. The summer of 2021 was one of the worst fire seasons in modern times - the agency was at a record 68 days at Preparedness Level 5, indicating the highest demand for wildland fire suppression resources. While many geographic areas were below their 10-year averages for both number of fires and acres burned in 2022, nationally there were 10,000 additional wildfires reported and an additional 451,000 acres burned in 2022 compared to 2021, requiring the high demand for wildland fire suppression resources. Traditional fire seasons of the past have now extended to year-round events, with wildfires occurring outside of historic fire season timeframes in different parts of the country, and in 2023, the agency anticipates, and is prepared for, another significant fire year.

Wildland fire risk management is a top priority for the Forest Service and aligns with USDA’s Strategic Goal to mitigate wildfire risk. The 2024 Budget dedicates \$323 million toward management for hazardous fuels reduction, an increase of \$116 million from the 2023 enacted level. This will allow the agency to mitigate wildfire risk on 4.2 million acres in high priority and high-risk areas and build on the hazardous fuels funding the Forest Service received from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169), a significant

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<sup>1</sup> The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), Division N, provided disaster relief funding that included funding previously included in Division G: \$160 million for pre-suppression and \$1.011 billion for suppression operations. Additionally, Division N also provided emergency disaster appropriations of \$375 million for suppression activities.

<sup>2</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is titled the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” (P.L. 117-58) and will be referenced as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the remainder of the document.



investment to prioritize and target landscape treatments across multiple jurisdictions under the agency’s 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy<sup>3</sup>.

### ***Compensation for Wildland Firefighters***

Through Wildland Fire Management, the Forest Service protects life, property, and natural resources on National Forest System lands, other Federal lands, and an additional 20 million acres of non-Federal lands under protection agreements. The Budget proposes almost \$3 billion for Wildland Fire Management activities, focusing critical investments in hazardous fuels treatments, firefighter compensation and benefits, and supporting the objectives of the agency’s 10-year strategy to confront the Nation’s wildfire crisis.

The Administration remains committed to the President’s vision for increasing investments in the Federal wildland fire management workforce to deliver an updated, competitive, and equitable pay structure and an improved support system that will address recruitment and retention challenges that have affected this workforce for decades. The Budget takes another significant step forward in ongoing efforts to build a more professional, year-round workforce that is better aligned with the challenges of today’s wildfire activity which are expected to continue to increase due to climate change. The Budget builds upon the historic reforms in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law by providing a permanent solution for Federal wildland firefighters’ compensation and taking steps to improve their quality of life and recognize the difficult and dangerous work they perform. The President looks forward to working with Congress to achieve and fund these reforms by the beginning of 2024.

The cornerstone of the Administration’s solution for wildland firefighter workforce reform is a permanent increase in pay. The Administration proposes authorization of a special base rate salary table that will permanently increase pay for Federal wildland firefighters and create a premium pay for all wildland fire incident responders to provide some additional compensation for rest and sleep time when they are mobilized on incidents. These pay reforms will increase Federal wildland firefighters’ base pay to provide a more livable wage and address long-term competitiveness and equity issues to ensure stable recruitment and strong retention.

The 2024 Budget request for workforce salaries and expenses is \$1.42 billion, a \$509 million increase above the 2023 enacted level to fund the costs of pay reforms for Federal wildland firefighters and increase Federal firefighting capacity to ensure that the Forest Service can effectively meet the demands of wildland fire activity year-round, while also improving the work-life balance of firefighters. In addition, the 2024 Budget includes an investment of \$10 million for firefighter vital health and well-being assistance.

Additionally, the 2024 Budget includes \$50 million to address urgent and necessary deferred maintenance and repairs of Forest Service housing units and housing shortages for firefighters. Many Forest Service duty stations are in areas with historically high rental and home ownership costs; this presents significant challenges for the Forest Service in recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees.

The President recognizes the serious toll that wildland firefighting takes on firefighters’ lives and families. These reforms are intended to help prevent employee burnout and cumulative fatigue from the higher demands on responders because of longer and more intense fire seasons. The Administration believes that this suite of workforce reforms — including improved compensation, increased workforce capacity, vital health and well-being assistance, and improved housing — will transform interagency Wildland Fire Management by improving firefighter recruitment and retention and laying the foundation for further improvements in the future. The President looks forward to working with Congress to enact legislation to institute and fund these reforms.

### ***Tackling the Climate Crisis***

The 2024 Budget builds on the approach to climate change articulated in the 2023 Budget and leverages the historic investments enacted in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to implement the Administration’s climate agenda and support Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” and Executive Order 13990, “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis.” The Budget includes investments that will allow the Forest Service to continue to build climate resilience while laying the foundation for economic growth, creating good paying jobs, and ensuring benefits of climate investments accrue to disadvantaged communities.

Maintaining climate-resilient landscapes is central to Forest Service activities and goals. Working with partners and stakeholders, the agency is taking actions to adapt the Nation’s forests and grasslands to a changing climate and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildfire-crisis>

proactively address challenges, including those stemming from a longer, more severe wildfire season, regional drought, invasive species, and significant outbreaks of insects and disease. The Forest Service is using science innovation and delivery to advance climate-smart land management, ecosystem restoration, and fire management, for the benefit of current and future generations. In 2024, the agency will expand the scope and scale of research and science delivery programs related to reforestation, carbon sequestration, and carbon accounting, all of which are essential to informing policy and spending decisions. Forest and Rangeland Research will continue to support the USDA Climate Hubs through continued 2024 funding and increased science capacity related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. This funding will accelerate science production and technology transfer to aid land management agencies, private landowners, and agricultural producers, including foresters, with information on scientifically sound climate adaptation practices.

The 2024 Budget request supports increasing capacity for carbon sequestration through reforestation, post-fire restoration, mitigating forest pests, and production of sustainable woody biomass for forest products on both public and private lands. The Forest Service will focus investments on planting the right species, in the right place, under the right conditions to create forests that will remain healthy over time. The agency will also continue to leverage partner resources through Shared Stewardship, making integrated decisions on mutually defined projects across all land ownerships.

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

The 2024 Budget request supports considerable economic activity in national, regional, and local economies through natural resource management, research and development, wildland fire management, and by providing sustainable use of the national forests and grasslands. Significant Forest Service economic activity benefits many rural forest and grassland dependent communities. The results of the agency's recent 2021 economic analysis show Forest Service programs and work contributed 373,600 jobs (average of annual full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal) and \$40.3 billion in gross domestic product (GDP). Recreational visitor use, hunting and fishing, energy and minerals development, forest products, and livestock grazing generated 65 percent of the economic activity. National Forest System (NFS) lands continue to see an unprecedented increase in the number of visitors, which started with the pandemic in 2020. This Budget requests a significant additional investment in recreation of \$39 million above the 2023 enacted level so the agency is prepared to meet public demand.

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), enacted in 2020, is allowing the Forest Service to repair and upgrade vital infrastructure and facilities in the national forests and grasslands through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF). GAOA also permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), investing in conservation and recreation opportunities on both Federal and non-Federal forests and grasslands. Projects funded through the LRF and LWCF will enrich the lives of current and future generations by improving landscape resiliency and increasing access. The 2024 LRF projects are estimated to support approximately 3,500 jobs and contribute \$350 million to GDP. In 2021, Congress appropriated \$218 million to implement a total of 63 Forest Service LWCF projects (Forest Legacy and Federal Land Acquisition). Congress also directed \$285 million in funding from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to 556 Forest Service deferred maintenance projects. In 2024, the Forest Service once again proposes \$94 million for Forest Legacy, \$124 million for Federal Land Acquisition, and \$285 million for the Public Lands Restoration Fund. The 2024 LWCF and National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund project lists are included in appendices to the 2024 Budget request. The Forest Service has developed these projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and on LWCF, agency, and Administration priorities. These include creating new and enhanced recreation access, funding projects with substantial local community support, and conserving critical watersheds.

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

The Forest Service is committed to the values of equity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for its employees and the public it serves. The agency continues to proactively undertake actions that provide a safe, resilient, and harassment-free work culture where employees are treated with respect and dignity. Such an environment is paramount to carrying out the agency's mission and delivering needed services to every American. The USDA is committed to ensuring equity across its agencies, removing barriers to access, and building a workforce more representative of America. To that end, the Forest Service strives to maintain a work environment that is equitable, respectful, and free of harassment and bullying of any kind. The Forest Service has taken significant steps to improve policies, raise accountability, upgrade reporting systems, and conduct training focused on workplace environment to stop harassment, bullying, and retaliation. This work is essential and will continue in 2024. At the same time, the agency is working to recruit, hire and retain a workforce that reflects the diversity of America.

The Forest Service also is addressing equity by recognizing opportunities within the agency that ensure historically underserved groups more fully access and participate in Forest Service programs and services. This includes expansion of co-stewardship with Tribes of the nation's forests and grasslands, respectful application of Indigenous Knowledge, and protection of sacred sites. Such co-stewardship is directed by Forest Service policy in manuals, handbooks, and the Strengthening Tribal Consultation and Nation-to-Native Relationships: A USDA Forest Service Action Plan<sup>4</sup>. This focus on enhanced co-stewardship of the National Forest System will support healthy and resilient landscapes, protect Tribal rights and interests on lands managed by the USDA Forest Service, benefit Tribal communities, and help the Forest Service better accomplish its mission through co-stewardship of the National Forest System with Tribes, including cross-boundary partnerships that comply with existing laws, regulations, and policies. These authorities provide opportunity to protect and preserve Tribal trust assets on the National Forest System as well as maintain healthy landscapes.

### **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The Forest Service is an agency of the Department of Agriculture formed in 1905, pursuant to the Transfer Act of 1905 (33 Stat. 628) and the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1906 (33 Stat.872). The Forest Service administers 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands that cover more than 193 million acres of public land; 84 long-term experimental areas<sup>5</sup>; seven research and development laboratories<sup>6</sup>; and 24 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers<sup>7</sup>. The Forest Service also reaches across the boundaries of the national forests to States, Tribes, communities, and non-industrial private landowners.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service balances the short- and long-term needs of people and nature by:

- Working in collaboration with communities and agency partners.
- Delivering world-class science, technology, and land management.
- Providing access to resources and experiences that promote economic, ecological, and social vitality.
- Connecting people to the land and one another.

The Forest Service is composed of four Deputy Areas: 1) Business Operations; 2) Forest and Rangeland Research; 3) National Forest System; and 4) State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.

### **Statutory Program Authorization**

#### ***Forest Service Operations***

Forest Service Operations was authorized in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94), Division D, Title IV, Section 435(a) (16 U.S.C 579e(a)). The account includes base salary and expenses of employees in the Chief's Office, the Work Environment and Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer's Office; for the costs of facility maintenance repairs and leases for buildings and sites; for the costs of utility and communications expenses, business services, and information technology, including cybersecurity requirements; and for such other administrative support function expenses necessary for the operation of the Forest Service.

#### ***Forest and Rangeland Research***

Forest and Rangeland Research was authorized in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-378), (16 U.S.C. 1601-1608) and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-307), (16 U.S.C. 1641-1647). Forest and Rangeland Research conducts ecological, material, and

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<sup>4</sup>Strengthening Tribal Consultation and Nation-to-Native Relationships: A USDA Forest Service Action Plan. Found at: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/Strengthening-Tribal-Relations.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/Strengthening-Tribal-Relations.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> The Forest Service's long-term experimental areas consist of 76 experimental forests, four experimental ranges, and four experimental watersheds; and are the largest and longest-lived ecological research areas in the United States. Additional information on these experimental areas can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/forestsandranges>.

<sup>6</sup> Forest Service Research and Development manages nearly 80 facilities, organized around five research stations and two research centers. Research stations include Rocky Mountain Research Station, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Southern Research Station, and Northern Research Station. The two research centers are the Forest Products Laboratory and International Institute of Tropical Forestry. Additional information on these laboratories can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/stations>.

<sup>7</sup> While the Forest Service administers Job Corps program, at these 24 sites, these and all other Job Corps centers are funded through the Department of Labor.

social science research to understand ecosystems, including human interactions and influences, and improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands. The Joint Fire Science Program was authorized in House Report 105-163 that accompanied the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-83) and provides funding for the Forest Service and Department of the Interior to address issues associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems.

#### ***State, Private, and Tribal Forestry***

State, Private, and Tribal Forestry was authorized, in part, by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-313), (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.). State, Private, and Tribal Forestry provides financial and technical assistance to non-Federal landowners and resource managers to sustain the nation's forests and grasslands, protect communities from wildland fire, and restore fire-adapted ecosystems. These efforts in management, protection, conservation education, and resource use, help facilitate sound stewardship of lands across multiple jurisdictions, on a landscape scale, to produce ecological, social, and economic benefits for the American people.

#### ***National Forest System***

National Forest System was authorized in part by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 551), the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act (16 U.S.C. 528-531). National Forest System administers more than 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. National Forest System programs support planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of programs, projects, and activities that provide a variety of ecosystem services, including water-quality protection, public recreation, energy resources for the Nation, timber and non-convertible forest products, maintenance of open space, and wildlife habitat and habitat connectivity. The National Forest System also supports robust heritage, minerals, geology, and law enforcement programs.

#### ***Capital Improvement and Maintenance***

Capital Improvement and Maintenance was authorized, in part, by the Forest Roads and Trails Act (16 U.S.C. 532-538), and 23 U.S.C. 101 et seq. Capital Improvement and Maintenance constructs, maintains, and improves facilities and recreation sites, roads, and trails on National Forest System lands, and enables the Forest Service to meet critical natural resource needs while providing safe access to public lands.

#### ***Land Acquisition***

Land Acquisition was authorized, in part, by the Weeks Act (16 U.S.C. 515) and the General Exchange Act of 1922 (16 U.S.C. 485, 486). Land Acquisition purchases, exchanges, and accepts donations of lands to achieve a desired national forest landownership pattern, protect critical resource areas, and provide public recreation opportunities on National Forest System lands.

#### ***Other Appropriations***

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

Range Betterment Fund is authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751). Range Betterment Fund provides for the rehabilitation, protection, and improvements of rangelands on National Forest System lands maintain healthy, resilient rangeland ecosystems.

Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research was authorized by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641 et seq.). This account accepts gifts, donations, and bequests for the establishment or operation any forest and rangeland research facility.

Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses is authorized by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-487), Title VIII (16 U.S.C. 3111-3126). This account provides funding for habitat management projects that support subsistence harvesting activities on National Forest System lands in Alaska.

Communications Site Administration was authorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, section 8705. This account allows for the collection and retention of administrative fees for communications site use authorizations, which are used to cover program administrative costs.

***Wildland Fire Management***

Wildland Fire Management is authorized, in part, by the Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C 551). Wildland Fire Management utilizes resources for the protection of life, property, and natural resources on National Forest System and adjacent lands from wildfires.

**Geographic Dispersion of Offices and Employees**

The Forest Service headquarters is located in Washington, DC. The Forest Service is organized under nine Regions, and field activities are managed through 154 administrative units<sup>8</sup>. Region 01 (Northern Region) is in Missoula, Montana. Region 02 (Rocky Mountain Region) is in Lakewood, Colorado. Region 03 (Southwestern Region) is in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Region 04 (Intermountain Region) is in Ogden, Utah. Region 05 (Pacific Southwest Region) is in Vallejo, California. Region 06 (Pacific Northwest Region) is in Portland, Oregon. Region 08 (Southern Region) is in Atlanta, Georgia. Region 09 (Eastern Region) is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Region 10 (Alaska Region) is in Juneau, Alaska.

As of September 30, 2022, there were 29,410 permanent full-time employees, including 2,108 in the headquarters office, 27,302 in regional and field offices, not including vacancies.

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<sup>8</sup> An administrative unit may include more than one proclaimed forest or grassland. Other non-forest or grassland units include national recreation areas, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and the Savannah River Site.

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG) AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (GAO) REPORTS**

The tables below provide a list of Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that were completed or in progress during 2022. The Forest Service continues to take GAO recommendations into consideration to help identify future budgetary needs.

*Table FS-1. 2022 Completed OIG Reports*

<b>ID</b>	<b>Date*</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Results</b>
08801-0001-41	10/07/2021	Regional Forester Authorities for Cost Share Agreements – Inspection	Closed – Forest Service implemented OIG recommendations

*Table FS-2. 2022 In-Progress OIG Reports*

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Results</b>
08801-0001-22	Forest Service's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic at Recreation Sites – Inspection	Audit fieldwork in progress
08801-0002-24	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program for At-Risk Communities	Audit fieldwork in progress
08801-0001-21	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Hazardous Fuels Management	Audit fieldwork in progress
08801-0002-41	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Restoration Projects on Federal/Non-Federal Land	Audit fieldwork in progress

*Table FS-3. 2022 Completed GAO Reports*

<b>ID</b>	<b>Date*</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Results</b>
GAO-23-105517	11/17/2022	Wildland Fire: Barriers to Recruitment and Retention of Federal Wildland Firefighters	No GAO recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-21-110	04/05/2021	Native American Culture Resources: Improved Information Could Enhance Agencies' Efforts to Analyze and Respond to Risks of Theft and Damage	Closed – Forest Service implemented GAO recommendations
GAO-21-42	11/24/2020	Disaster Response: Agencies Should Assess Contracting Workforce Needs and Purchase Card Fraud Risk	Closed – Forest Service implemented GAO recommendations
GAO-18-593	08/15/2018	Federal Timber Sales: Forest Service and BLM Should Review Their Regulations and Policies Related to Timber Export and Substitution	Closed – Forest Service implemented GAO recommendations
GAO-16-165	02/22/2016	Hardrock Mining: BLM and Forest Service Have Taken Some Actions to Expedite the Mine Plan Review Process but Could Do More	Closure requested with GAO, awaiting GAO review of Forest Service corrective actions

*Table FS-4. 2022 In-Progress GAO Reports*

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Results</b>
GAO-106213	Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Environmental Modeling: Wildfires, Storms, and Floods	Audit fieldwork in progress
GAO-105408	Abandoned Hardrock Mines: Land Management Agencies Should Improve Reporting of Total Cleanup Costs	Audit fieldwork in progress
GAO-105292	Contracting for Wildfire Response & Recovery	Audit fieldwork in progress
GAO-104723	Effects of Wildfires on Air Quality and Public Health	Audit fieldwork in progress
GAO-105865	Orphaned Well Program	Audit fieldwork in progress

\*All dates are the audit report issuance date

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENTS**

Table FS-5. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In Dollars)

**Forest Service Operations**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$1,152,744,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+ 163,755,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>1,316,499,000</u>

**Forest and Rangeland Research**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$307,273,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+ 41,809,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>349,082,000</u>

**State, Private, and Tribal Forestry**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$337,758,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-10,089,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>327,669,000</u>

**National Forest System**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$1,974,388,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+ 251,892,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>2,226,280,000</u>

**Capital Improvement and Maintenance**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$158,048,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+ 76,952,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>235,000,000</u>

**Land Acquisition**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$814,000
Change in Appropriation.....	0
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>814,000</u>

**Other Appropriations**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$2,863,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+2,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>4,863,000</u>

**Wildland Fire Management**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$945,956,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+ 2,024,664,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>2,970,620,000</u>

**Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund**

Enacted, 2023.....	\$2,210,000,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+ 90,000,000

**Forest Service Operations**

Budget Estimate, 2024 .....	<u>2,300,000,000</u>
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**Permanent Appropriations**

Enacted, 2023 .....	\$577,000,000
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Change in Appropriation.....	<u>0</u>
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Budget Estimate, 2024 .....	<u>577,000,000</u>
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**Trust Funds**

Enacted, 2023 .....	\$341,129,000
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Change in Appropriation.....	<u>+ 6,499,000</u>
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Budget Estimate, 2024 .....	<u>347,628,000</u>
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**REVENUE, RECEIPTS AND TRANSFERS**

Table FS-6. 2021 - 2024 National Forest Fund (NFF) Receipts Availability (thousands of dollars)

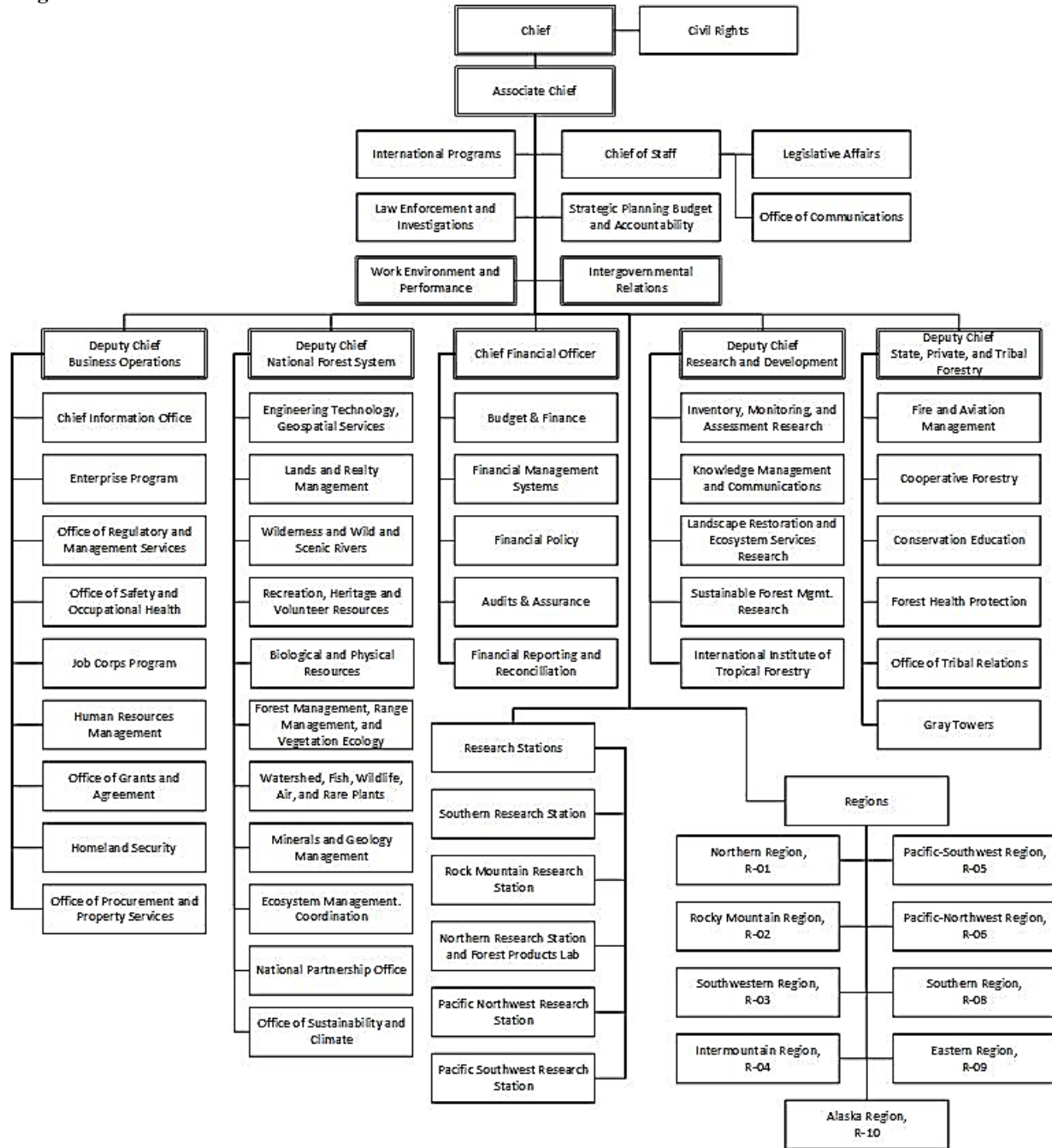
Receipt Type	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Estimate
National Forest Fund Receipts:				
Class 1 – Timber .....	\$9,422	\$5,555	\$10,493	\$10,231
Class 2 - Grazing East.....	144	183	132	144
Class 3 - Land Use .....	25,622	25,492	24,463	24,824
Class 4 - Recreation Special Uses .....	111,867	105,740	90,786	90,920
Class 5 – Power.....	12,735	19,251	12,801	13,936
Class 6 – Minerals.....	1,048	860	880	857
Class 8 - Grazing West.....	4,927	5,092	5,204	5,176
Class 9 – Quartz Crystals .....	1	0	1	1
Subtotal, NFF Receipts .....	165,766	162,173	144,759	146,088
Additions and Reductions other than Payments to States:				
DOI:ONRR/MMS Minerals Revenue NFF <sup>a</sup> .....	14,774	25,766	16,896	17,580
Minnesota Boundary Water Canoe Area.....	-6,150	-6,150	-6,150	-6,150
Timber Roads - Purchaser Election Program .....	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Acquisition of Lands for National Forest Special Acts.....	-664	-664	-664	-664
50% Grazing (Range Betterment Fund).....	-2,474	-2,546	-2,604	-2,591
10% Roads & Trails.....	-18,888	-20,171	-17,034	-17,320
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Expansion .....	-794	-937	-744	-786
Other Special Act Payments (Arkansas Quartz and Quinault Special Management Area) <sup>b</sup> .....	-2	-49	-14	-17
Subtotal, Additions and Reductions other than Payments to States .....	-16,198	-6,751	-12,314	-11,949
Payments to States Reductions:				
PTS - 25% 7-year Rolling Average of Receipts Payment <sup>b, c</sup> ...	-13,412	-13,984	-13,120	-13,242
SRS - Title II Allocation - SRS2.....	-25,757	-23,568	-23,635	-23,746
SRS - Failure to Elect Allocation – SRSA .....	-206	-220	-197	-201
SRS - Allocation to Treasury .....	-124	-132	-118	-120
Subtotal, Payments to States Reductions .....	-39,499	-37,904	-37,070	-37,308
<b>Total, Receipts Available for SRS - Title I and III.....</b>	<b>110,069</b>	<b>117,518</b>	<b>95,375</b>	<b>96,831</b>

<sup>a</sup> Compensation programs related to energy and mineral development on National Forest System lands are administered by the Department of the Interior.

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

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

Organization Chart



**AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTEs**

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE
<b>Forest Service Operations:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	\$1,051,396	2,359	\$1,078,920	2,547	\$1,152,744	2,577	\$1,316,499	2,548
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	-	-	210,369	98	71,562	170	71,562	187
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	-	105,000	2	-	2	-	-
Offsetting Collections.....	-	-	374	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	258,347	1,442	296,616	1,467	307,273	1,492	349,082	1,611
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	-	-	66,500	-	40,450	20	40,450	40
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	4	25,000	3	2,000	25	-	15
<b>State, Private, and Tribal Forestry:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	260,958	387	315,198	386	337,758	396	327,669	486
Mandatory Appropriations.....	94,255	7	83,813	18	77,940	33	94,255	37
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	-	-	273,196	4	269,411	58	269,411	59
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117- 169).....	-	-	2,750,000	-	-	21	-	103
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	-	50,000	-	148,000	-	-	-
<b>National Forest System:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	1,770,352	13,166	1,866,545	13,298	1,974,388	13,362	2,226,280	14,654
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	-	-	496,159	273	447,806	303	447,806	726
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117- 169).....	-	-	350,000	-	-	-	-	-
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	65	710,000	30	210,000	84	-	65
Offsetting Collections.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	140,107	95	159,049	-	158,048	-	235,000	-
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	-	-	60,120	-	55,511	-	55,511	-
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	15	470,000	11	150,000	46	-	41
<b>Land Acquisition:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	-3,475	12	814	2	814	-	814	-
Mandatory Appropriations.....	126,762	25	127,158	44	126,995	25	126,995	25
<b>Other Appropriations:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	3,840	4	2,863	-	2,863	-	4,863	-
Offsetting Collections.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wildland Fire Management:</b>								
Discretionary Appropriations <sup>a</sup> .....	4,691,234	10,281	2,005,106	9,716	2,116,956	9,749	2,970,620	14,838
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) .....	-	-	551,550	63	36,000	409	36,000	8
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117- 169).....	-	-	1,800,000	-	-	373	-	472
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	2	-	-	375,000	-	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE
Wildfire Suppression Operations								
Reserve Fund:								
Discretionary Appropriations .....	-730,000	-	350,000	-	440,000	-	530,000	-
Permanent Appropriations:								
Mandatory Appropriations.....	755,414	893	860,787	872	877,624	961	889,000	961
Offsetting Collections.....	5,641	23	113	21	-	21	-	21
Trust Funds:								
Mandatory Appropriations.....	115,907	368	333,777	248	357,129	453	347,628	453
Offsetting Collections.....	24,934	106	25,439	91	25,439	91	25,439	91
Total Discretionary								
Appropriations .....	7,442,759	27,746	6,075,111	27,416	6,490,844	27,576	7,960,827	34,137
Total Mandatory Appropriations .....	1,092,338	1,293	1,405,535	1,182	1,439,688	1,472	1,457,878	1,476
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>b</sup> .....	-	-	1,657,894	438	920,740	960	920,740	1,020
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	-	4,900,000	-	-	394	-	575
Total Supplemental Appropriations <sup>d</sup>	-	86	1,360,000	46	885,000	157	-	121
Total Offsetting Collections.....	30,575	129	25,926	112	25,439	112	25,439	112
<b>Total Appropriations<sup>e</sup> .....</b>	<b>8,565,672</b>	<b>29,254</b>	<b>15,424,466</b>	<b>29,194</b>	<b>9,761,711</b>	<b>30,671</b>	<b>10,364,884</b>	<b>37,441</b>
Deferral for Roads and Trails for								
States .....	-13,189	-	-18,888	-	-19,000	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	297,642	-	351,322	-	231,712	-	235,170	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	3,610,421	-	3,217,547	-	11,032,875	-	9,757,011	-
<b>Total Available.....</b>	<b>12,460,546</b>	<b>29,254</b>	<b>18,974,447</b>	<b>29,194</b>	<b>21,007,298</b>	<b>30,671</b>	<b>20,357,065</b>	<b>37,441</b>
Lapsing Balances.....	-652	-	-186	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY.....	-3,217,547	-	-11,032,875	-	-9,757,011	-	-8,664,099	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>9,242,347</b>	<b>29,254</b>	<b>7,941,386</b>	<b>29,194</b>	<b>11,250,287</b>	<b>30,671</b>	<b>11,692,966</b>	<b>37,441</b>
<b>Total Other FTEs.....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,953</b>				
<b>Total FTEs.....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,254</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,147</b>				

<sup>a</sup> The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2024.

<sup>b</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) provided \$1,666,360,000 appropriations in FY 2022 and provided \$945,160,000 advance appropriations in FY 2023 and FY 2024.

<sup>c</sup> The Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169) provided \$4.9 billion appropriations in FY 2022.

<sup>d</sup> FY 2022 supplemental appropriations include disaster relief (P.L. 117-43), which provided \$1,360,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021. FY 2023 supplemental appropriations include emergency supplemental (P.L. 117-328, Division N), which provided \$885 million for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. Division N also provided \$1.171 billion in base recurring funds for Wildland Fire Suppression and Forest Fire Presuppression.

<sup>e</sup> The discrepancy between the project statement and Max schedule X is reimbursable funds.

**PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND Full Time Equivalent (FTE's)**

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

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024					
	D.C.	Field	Actual Total	D.C.	Field	Actual Total	D.C.	Field	Estimated Total	D.C.	Field	Estimated Total
SES <sup>a</sup>	14	53	67	49	64	113	52	70	122	55	74	129
GS-15	51	377	428	178	450	628	209	529	738	250	633	883
GS-14 <sup>b</sup>	188	586	774	288	195	1,089	339	229	568	405	274	679
GS-13 <sup>b</sup>	202	2,210	2,412	213	2,190	2,405	255	2,581	2,836	304	3,079	3,383
GS-12	148	3,149	3,297	82	2,988	3,072	96	3,513	3,608	115	4,206	4,321
GS-11	63	4,756	4,819	73	4,145	4,218	86	4,873	4,958	103	5,827	5,929
GS-10	-	167	167	-	427	427	-	502	502	-	604	604
GS-9 <sup>b</sup>	43	4,504	4,547	65	4,041	4,106	76	4,751	4,827	91	5,697	5,788
GS-8	8	1,545	1,553	3	1,606	1,609	4	1,888	1,892	5	2,257	2,262
GS-7 <sup>b</sup>	11	4,075	4,086	22	3,540	3,562	26	4,162	4,188	31	4,977	5,008
GS-6	2	2,003	2,005	2	1,855	1,856	2	2,180	2,183	3	2,607	2,610
GS-5 <sup>b</sup>	6	2,712	2,718	2	2,315	2,317	2	2,722	2,724	3	3,255	3,258
GS-4	2	749	751	-	847	847	-	995	995	-	1,190	1,190
GS-3	-	86	86	-	130	130	-	153	153	-	183	183
GS-2	-	7	7	2	9	13	2	11	13	3	13	16
GS-1	-	3	3	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	3	3
Other												
Graded <sup>c</sup> ...	2	860	862	-	850	850	-	999	999	-	1,195	1,195
Total												
Permanent	740	27,842	28,582	979	25,653	27,243	1,150	30,160	31,310	1,367	36,075	37,441
Unfilled, EOY .....	-	-	7,311	-	-	2,167	-	-	1,960	-	-	1,960
Total Perm. FT EOY ...	740	27,842	35,893	979	25,653	29,410	1,150	30,160	33,270	1,367	36,075	39,401
FTE .....						31,147			33,270			39,401

<sup>a</sup> Includes pay plans ES, SL, and ST.

<sup>b</sup> Includes pay plan GL.

<sup>c</sup> Includes pay plans WG, WL, and WS

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

**MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET**

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

The Forest Service vehicle fleet supports approximately 28,000 permanent full-time employees and an additional 12,000 seasonal employees, the majority of which are hired for fire suppression activities. There are approximately 15,400 fleet vehicles that support year-round missions. An additional 2,300 vehicles are retained beyond their minimum replacement standard to support the seasonal workforce. Although these vehicles receive lower utilization, they provide a cost-effective alternative to commercial leases or rental options. At any given time, there are roughly 1,200 vehicles in the process of being prepared for service or prepared for disposal<sup>9</sup>. All vehicles are reported annually through the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST).

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

The Forest Service aims to manage its fleet program in the most cost-effective way possible, including alternative-fueled vehicles to fulfill mission goals. The Forest Service also works to meet or exceed the required annual utilization rate benchmarks for vehicles, which can be challenging given the seasonality of agency work and limited access to remote sites or work areas within National Forest System lands. The Forest Service continues to share vehicles and explore other opportunities to increase utilization rates. Finally, as oversight of fleet programs increases, the agency is aligning and automating data to better respond to oversight and audit requirements in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

**Replacement Criteria**

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

**Fleet Size**

At the end of 2022, the agency's motor vehicle fleet totaled 18,284 of these motor vehicles 17,624 were in active inventory and 602 were in the process of being sold. The remaining 58 are in the process of being upfitted for service. The on-hand fleet inventory was higher than anticipated at the end of the fiscal year due to an increase in the agency's mission associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. This legislation is increasing the pace and scale of efforts to mitigate wildfire risk and invest in renewal of infrastructure within National Forest System lands. Due to uncertainty in the production and delivery of new vehicles to support these two legislative priorities, additional vehicles are being held in the holdover fleet for longer periods of time to allow for our fleet capacity to expand as staffing increases. The Forest Service is continuing to monitor fleet utilization to identify vehicles to reallocate internally before acquiring additional vehicles and will continue to implement fleet telematics in 2023 to monitor and manage fleet utilization more effectively. This initiative will also provide the types of fleet operational data needed to accelerate the transition towards hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and electric battery vehicles in support of government-wide fleet decarbonization objectives. The Forest Service will continue to prioritize resources in support of the Administration's goal to transition the Federal motor vehicle fleet to clean and zero emission vehicles (ZEVs). This Budget requests increased funding specifically for ZEVs and to accelerate the installation of charging infrastructure. In addition, base funding in the fleet program supports USDA's efforts to bring ZEVs into the fleet and accelerate the installation of charging stations.

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<sup>9</sup> "Disposal" is defined in the FAST reporting system as removal from the agency fleet.

**Price and Cost Increases**

The transition away from petroleum-fueled vehicles will also serve as a hedge against future fuel price increases. According to the Federal Reserve Economic Data website, the weekly price per gallon for motor fuels in 2022 rose 18.8 percent. While the consumer price indices (CPI) also increased for new vehicles, maintenance and repair, and parts (by 9.4 percent, 11.1 percent, and 13.4 percent, respectively), the CPI for used cars and trucks is helping to offset some of these price increases by increasing revenue from the sale of used vehicles (up 7.2 percent during 2022). Overall, these numbers indicate that vehicle costs will continue to increase – especially when considering the additional costs involved in adding fleet telematics and deploying electric vehicle supply equipment to support vehicle recharging.

Fleetwide operating costs will also grow significantly based on the increase in the number of vehicles needed for expanding missions associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. As additional vehicles are ordered, their initial acquisition will be funded through donations to the WCF from the requesting programs’ appropriations. Once delivered and placed in service, programs pay monthly and mileage rates into the WCF.

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

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons		SUVs	Light Trucks	Light Trucks	Medium Duty	Buses	Heavy Duty	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
	Vans	4X2		4X4	Vehicles	Vehicles				
<b>2018 End of Year</b>										
Operating Inventory ....	277	79	2,301	461	5,882	6,539	80	2,079	17,698	\$88,608,809
<b>2021 End of Year</b>										
Operating Inventory ....	221	101	2,542	344	5,789	6,875	81	2,171	18,124	94,715,779
2022 Planned Acquisitions	7	3	164	20	436	666	7	174	1,477	
2022 Planned Disposals ....	30	12	232	36	414	458	7	128	1,317	
<b>2022 End of Year</b>										
Operating Inventory ....	198	92	2,474	328	5,811	7,083	81	2,217	18,284	99,472,988
2023 Planned Acquisitions	63	25	207	52	703	807	3	37	1,897	
2023 Planned Disposals ....	63	25	159	52	439	514	3	32	1,287	
<b>2023 End of Year</b>										
Operating Inventory ....	198	92	2,522	328	6,075	7,376	81	2,222	18,894	123,349,987
2024 Planned Acquisitions	26	16	244	35	666	751	7	32	1,777	
2024 Planned Disposals ....	26	16	244	35	666	751	7	32	1,777	
<b>2024 End of Year</b>										
Operating Inventory ....	198	92	2,522	328	6,075	7,376	81	2,222	18,894	128,283,986

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

**SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS**

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

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
Materiel Management Service.....	\$928	\$874	\$712	\$748
Mail and Reproduction Services .....	820	482	506	519
Integrated Procurement Systems .....	8,235	8,637	8,543	8,746
Procurement Operations Services.....	126	73	90	101
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems .....	1,154	1,064	997	918
Subtotal, Administrative Services .....	11,263	11,130	10,848	11,032
Communications:				
Creative Media and Broadcast Center .....	496	434	492	590
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center.....	8,116	8,708	8,302	8,635
Financial Management Systems .....	-	575	313	314
Internal Control Support Services .....	489	382	299	307
Financial Management Support Services .....	47,085	45,341	45,450	48,855
Subtotal, Finance and Management.....	55,690	55,006	54,364	58,111
Information Technology:				
AskUSDA Contact Center.....	-	-	1,102	1,145
Client Experience Center.....	23,159	56,884	53,147	54,606
Department Administration Information Technology Office....	10	1,123	12	12
Digital Infrastructure Services Center .....	41,791	51,691	39,534	37,695
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services.....	-	-	8,718	9,093
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services.....	-	-	1,497	1,549
Enterprise Network Services .....	16,940	15,172	29,966	29,035
Subtotal, Information Technology.....	81,900	124,870	133,976	133,134
Correspondence Management Services:				
Personnel Document Security .....	-	-	1,547	1,657
Office of the Executive Secretariat.....	509	401	490	512
Subtotal, Correspondence Management Services.....	509	401	2,037	2,170
<b>Total, Working Capital Fund</b>	<b>149,858</b>	<b>191,841</b>	<b>201,717</b>	<b>205,037</b>
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	267	285	313	313
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	2,071	1,962	2,540	2,540
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility .....	-	-	677	677
Human Resources Priority Goals Program.....	2	-	1,289	1,289
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network .....	1,022	1,079	1,124	1,124
Medical Services .....	126	144	202	202
National Capital Region Interpreting Services.....	75	30	118	118
Office of Customer Experience.....	2,901	2,708	1,016	1,016
Personnel and Document Security Program.....	640	667	-	-
Physical Security .....	1,287	1,322	1,438	1,438
Security Detail.....	1,384	1,400	1,638	1,638



2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Security Operations .....	1,944	1,927	2,227	2,227
Talent Group .....	-	-	1,141	1,141
TARGET Center .....	356	398	552	552
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services .....	1,631	1,366	-	-
<b>Total, Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs.....</b>	<b>13,706</b>	<b>13,288</b>	<b>14,275</b>	<b>14,275</b>
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business .....	28	37	34	34
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan .....	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Human Resources Integration.....	-	72	-	-
E-Rulemaking .....	41	51	45	37
E-Training .....	-	-	-	-
Financial Management Line of Business .....	79	85	85	85
Geospatial Line of Business .....	12	13	12	13
Benefits.gov .....	-	-	-	-
Grants.gov .....	4	11	9	9
Human Resources Line of Business .....	90	90	93	93
Integrated Acquisition Environment .....	739	193	238	212
<b>Total, E-Gov .....</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>483</b>
<b>Total, Forest Service .....</b>	<b>164,557</b>	<b>205,681</b>	<b>216,508</b>	<b>219,795</b>

**FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$1,152,744,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+163,755,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>1,316,499,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

1 *Forest Service Operations*

2 For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [~~\$1,152,744,000~~]\$1,316,499,000, to  
 3 remain available through September 30, [~~2026~~]2027: *Provided*, That a portion of the funds made available under  
 4 this heading shall be for the base salary and expenses of employees in the Chief's Office, the Work Environment and  
 5 Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer's Office to carry out  
 6 administrative and general management support functions: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this  
 7 heading for organizational services, \$1,200,000 shall be available for the hire and purchase of zero emission  
 8 passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure: *Provided further*, That funds provided  
 9 under this heading shall be available for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites  
 10 where these administrative, general management and other Forest Service support functions take place; the costs of  
 11 all utility and telecommunication expenses of the Forest Service, as well as business services; and, for information  
 12 technology, including cyber security requirements: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be  
 13 used for necessary expenses to carry out administrative and general management support functions of the Forest  
 14 Service not otherwise provided for and necessary for its operation.

**Change Description**

*The first change* (lines 6 through 8 of paragraph 1) adds language for funding provided for zero emission vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

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

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Facilities Maintenance and Leases .....	\$158,900	-	\$160,900	-	\$169,900	-	\$245,900	-	+\$76,000	-	(1)
Information Technology and Centralized Processing .....	406,006	-	405,742	-	450,000	-	502,149	-	+52,149	-	(2)
Organizational Services.....	136,413	-	142,278	-	143,438	-	163,757	-	+20,319	-	(3)
Salaries and Expenses .....	350,077	2,359	370,000	2,547	389,406	2,577	404,693	2,548	+15,287	-29	(4)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.....	1,051,396	2,359	1,078,920	2,547	1,152,744	2,577	1,316,499	2,548	+163,755	-29	
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :											
Information Technology and Centralized Processing (BIL) .....	-	-	93,586	-	37,272	-	37,272	-	-	-	
Organizational Services (BIL) .....	-	-	54,048	-	26,945	-	26,945	-	-	-	
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	62,735	98	7,345	170	7,345	187	-	+17	
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	-	-	210,639	98	71,562	170	71,562	187	-	+17	
Supplemental Appropriations:											
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>b</sup> ...	-	-	105,000	2	-	2	-	-	-	-2	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	-	-	105,000	2	-	2	-	-	-	-2	
Offsetting Collections:											
COVID-19 Emergency Leave.....	-	-	374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections .....	-	-	374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	1,051,396	2,359	1,394,663	2,647	1,224,306	2,749	1,388,061	2,735	+163,755	-14	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	-25,233	-	-218,142	-	-71,562	-	-71,562	-	-	-	
<b>Total, Appropriations<sup>c</sup> .....</b>	<b>1,026,163</b>	<b>2,359</b>	<b>1,176,521</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>1,152,744</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>1,316,499</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>+163,755</b>	<b>-14</b>	
Transfers In:											
Capital Improvement and Maintenance .....	264	-	11,520	-	8,729	-	8,729	-	-	-	
Forest and Rangeland Research .....	413	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
National Forest System .....	15,668	-	128,027	-	30,791	-	30,791	-	-	-	
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....	6,034	-	47,770	-	27,722	-	27,722	-	-	-	
Wildland Fire Management.....	4,025	-	30,000	-	4,320	-	4,320	-	-	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Total, Transfers In.....	26,404	-	220,317	-	71,562	-	71,562	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out:											
Department of the Interior.....	-1,171	-	-2,175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Transfers Out.....	-1,171	-	-2,175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-	-	9,935	-	4,416	-	6,341	-	+1,925	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-	-	29,920	-	211,352	-	146,562	-	-64,790	-	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>1,051,396</b>	<b>2,359</b>	<b>1,434,518</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>1,440,074</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>1,540,964</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>+100,890</b>	<b>-14</b>	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-29,920	-	-211,352	-	-146,562	-	-128,285	-	+18,277	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>1,021,476</b>	<b>2,359</b>	<b>1,238,031</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>1,293,512</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>1,412,679</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>+119,167</b>	<b>-14</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides funding in 2022 through 2026. Funds aligned to BIL items are transfers in from other accounts.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 117-43 provided \$105,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

<sup>c</sup> The discrepancy between the project statement and Max schedule X is reimbursable funds.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Facilities Maintenance and Leases .....	\$149,544	-	\$156,497	-	\$169,150	-	\$240,246	-	+\$71,096	-
Information Technology and Centralized Processing .....	404,977	-	427,663	-	453,038	-	506,324	-	+53,286	-
Organizational Services.....	127,341	-	149,864	-	144,441	-	163,787	-	+19,346	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	339,614	2,359	369,822	2,547	389,242	2,577	404,582	2,548	+15,340	-29
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	1,021,476	2,359	1,103,846	2,547	1,155,871	2,577	1,314,939	2,548	+159,068	-29
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :										
Information Technology and Centralized Processing (BIL) .....	-	-	52,040	-	43,828	-	40,182	-	-3,646	-
Organizational Services (BIL) .....	-	-	21,072	-	23,362	-	24,759	-	+1,397	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	12,008	98	21,760	170	25,181	187	+3,421	+17
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	-	-	85,120	98	88,950	170	90,122	187	+1,172	+17
Supplemental Obligations:										
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>b</sup> ..	-	-	48,691	2	48,691	2	7,618	-	-41,073	-2
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations .....	-	-	48,691	2	48,691	2	7,618	-	-41,073	-2
Offsetting Collections:										
COVID-19 Emergency Leave.....	-	-	374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections Obligations..	-	-	374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>1,021,476</b>	<b>2,359</b>	<b>1,238,031</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>1,293,512</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>1,412,679</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>+119,167</b>	<b>-14</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Facilities Maintenance and Leases .....	9,356	-	13,534	-	14,628	-	20,776	-	+6,148	-
Information Technology and Centralized Processing .....	1,029	-	4,764	-	5,047	-	5,641	-	+594	-
Organizational Services.....	9,072	-	7,787	-	7,505	-	8,510	-	+1,005	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	10,463	-	3,709	-	3,903	-	4,057	-	+154	-
Information Technology and Centralized Processing (BIL) .....	-	-	41,546	-	34,990	-	32,080	-	-2,910	-
Organizational Services (BIL) .....	-	-	32,976	-	36,559	-	38,745	-	+2,186	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	50,727	-	36,312	-	18,476	-	-17,836	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>b</sup> ..	-	-	56,309	-	7,618	-	-	-	-7,618	-
Total, Balances Available, EOY .....	29,920	-	211,352	-	146,562	-	128,285	-	-18,277	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>1,051,396</b>	<b>2,359</b>	<b>1,449,383</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>1,440,074</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>1,540,964</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>+100,890</b>	<b>-14</b>
Less:										
Total Transfers In.....	-26,404	-	-220,207	-	-71,562	-	-71,562	-	-	-
Total Transfers Out .....	1,171	-	2,175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-	-	-9,935	-	-4,416	-	-6,341	-	-1,925	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-	-	-29,920	-	-211,352	-	-146,562	-	+64,790	-
<b>Total Appropriation.....</b>	<b>1,026,163</b>	<b>2,359</b>	<b>1,191,496</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>1,152,744</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>1,316,499</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>+163,755</b>	<b>-14</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides funding in 2022 through 2026. Funds aligned to BIL items are transfers in from other accounts.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 117-43 provided \$105,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

**JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement.

**Facilities Maintenance and Leases**

- (1) An increase of \$76,000,000 (\$169,900,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

An increase of \$14,300,000 to offset anticipated inflationary increases in Forest Service leasing and security costs. This increase is needed for the agency to continue to adequately fund leases for buildings and sites that support the Forest Service workforce in accomplishing its program of work. The agency continues to pursue consolidation and co-location opportunities to reduce lease costs, however these efforts will not outrun inflation. In 2023 and 2024 the agency will continue to struggle to perform health and safety maintenance when leasing costs are projected to consume 75 percent of program funding in 2024. Insufficient program funding hampers the agency’s ability to invest in USDA and Forest Service priorities of reducing emissions and decarbonizing Federal operations and infrastructure. This funding will allow the agency to right size our fire, administrative, and other facilities portfolio and shift future investments to owned facility maintenance. If this funding is not provided, the Forest Service would be negatively impacted with the inability to pay leasing and security costs for the agency’s currently leased facilities.

An increase of \$11,700,000 to expedite repairs and improvements to existing Forest Service-owned facilities. In 2022, the Forest Service struggled to address pressing health and safety maintenance needs and critical repairs of old water and wastewater systems, leaking roofs, heating and cooling systems, and structural deficiencies of fire, administrative and other facilities. At the requested level, the program would be able to address a small portion of the fire, administrative, and other facility maintenance needs that relate to caring for employees and make a positive impact on recruitment and retention of a diverse and inclusive workforce. If this funding is not provided, the Forest Service would be negatively impacted with the inability to perform critical health and safety maintenance for Forest Service owned facilities. Deferring necessary maintenance to owned facility deterioration and higher costs in outyears to fund the repairs.

An increase of \$50,000,000 to address urgent and necessary deferred maintenance and repairs of Forest Service housing units and housing shortages primarily for firefighters. A shortage of Forest Service employee housing leads employees to seek other housing and/or employment options. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and an overall increase in cost of living have led to a lack of available and affordable housing across the nation—a trend expected to continue over the next few years. Many Forest Service duty stations are in areas where having agency-owned housing in good condition could mitigate significant challenges for the Forest Service in recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees. A robust workforce is needed to deliver critical projects and services to the American public and the lack of suitable housing impacts our capacity to do the restoration work outlined in in the “Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A 10-Year Implementation Plan.”

**Information Technology and Centralized Processing**

- (2) An increase of \$52,149,000 (\$450,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The Forest Service Information Technology and Centralized Processing program funds all agency information technology support including funds transferred to the Department under the Working Capital Fund (WCF) Program. This increase includes \$1 million to be used on a pilot to leverage the recreation.gov platform for providing customers with digital maps of Federal lands, in accordance with MAPLand Act directives. This increase also will partially address anticipated cost increases in information technology systems. The Department request for information technology WCF program costs increased \$25 million from 2022 to 2024. The increase includes funding for the new Enterprise Cyber Security and Data & Analytics Services Activity Centers. In 2022, the Forest Service continued to refine the information technology baseline expenses post-budget structure modernization, the USDA WCF and departmental shared services related to information technology, and the ongoing implementation of an increased remote workforce. In 2021, the program was appropriated \$374 million; however, total program obligations exceeded \$438 million that fiscal year. In 2022, the total available program funds – including 2022 appropriations and 2021 carryover balances – was \$397 million (\$396 million in appropriations and \$1 million in carryover balances); however, total program

obligations exceeded \$570 million. The current process for offsetting these funding shortfalls is to continue to use prior year carryover balances, transfer funds from other programs, utilize recovered funds, and make use of supplemental appropriations. However, this process of taking from other areas and relying on recovered funds is not a sustainable way to fund vital information technology requirements.

The President’s Budget requests for 2021 and 2022 were formulated prior to the convergence of the above-named drivers and did not account for increased costs to support the Forest Service workforce temporarily shifting to a remote work environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Forest Service continued to obligate funds toward traditional facilities and infrastructure during the pandemic to maintain operations and provide service to the public, including \$47 million for landline telephones, hardwire computer networks, and office printers, which resulted in a net increase to information technology costs without a corresponding offset in decreased facility costs. This, along with ongoing exploration of how to modernize and improve program efficiencies, is an area for further analysis and potential cost savings that will continue to evolve as the Forest Service’s remote work strategy continues to take shape. In the meantime, the Forest Service continues to accomplish its mission through a combination of in-office, telework, and remote work options.

Two years after budget structure modernization and with two years of actual cost data, total information technology costs are becoming clearer. Program expenditures are expected to exceed \$571 million in 2023 and the current agency estimates for 2024 program expenditures are expected to be around \$603 million. The Forest Service appreciates Congress’ anticipation of these challenges by granting broad transfer authority as an interim measure to allow for flexibility, and this increase provides a step toward matching the base funding for IT costs to their actual expenditures. Without these funds, the Forest Service would be negatively impacted by the ongoing need to consume prior year and current year program funds to support information technology requirements or by reducing information technology services.

### **Organizational Services**

(3) An increase of \$ 20,319,000 in Organizational Services (\$143,438,000 enacted in 2023).

The Forest Service Organizational Services program funds the general and administrative support agreements and contracts across the agency including energy savings performance contracts that support the Administration initiatives on climate resilience. Additionally, these funds are the only funding source for contracts, acquisitions, and agreements for the Chief’s Office, the Work Environment and Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer’s Office to carry out administrative and general management support functions for the entire agency. These funds pay for agency-wide efforts supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion, an anti-harassment hotline, employee wellbeing, executive dashboards, data analytics, agency utility services, administrative fleet costs, surety bond law and regulation reviews, business requirements for robotics processing automation, and surge capacity contracts across business and financial operations.

This increase will offset projected inflationary increases in several programs. Specifically, the Forest Service projects a higher than normal, 10 percent or \$5 million, increase in administrative vehicle fleet costs and agency utility costs. Also, a large portion of these funds are used to fund must pay bills including Department Shared Cost Program costs. Additionally, \$1.2 million will be used to support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057 by accelerating procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles for light duty vehicle replacement for general and administrative support functions. If this funding is not provided, the Forest Service would be negatively impacted by the need to reduce support for human resources, acquisitions, general & administrative support throughout the agency, and delay the agency’s transition to zero emission vehicles.

### **Salaries and Expenses**

(4) An increase of \$15,287,000 (\$389,406,000 and 2,755 FTEs enacted in 2023).

This increase will support the annualization of the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2024 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase. This level of funding will provide limited support for Forest Service Operations employees and may not be sufficient to cover cost of living adjustment or FERS increases. Without this increase, Forest Service Operations would be unable to fully fund all projected FTE’s without potentially reducing services that could negatively impact agency operations and priorities, including in wildland fire risk management, climate resilience, and environmental justice.



Forest Service Operations Salaries and Expenses activities provide the agency’s administrative backbone supporting the Administration, USDA, and Forest Service strategic goals and priorities. Specifically, these programs provide services and support diversity, equity, and inclusion, the human resources lifecycle including recruitment, hiring, development, retention, and separation; acquisitions including leases, contracts, grants, and agreements, information technology, financial and accounting services. Additionally, the Forest Service Operations Salaries and Expenses program funds national efforts for all agency employees including background investigations, fingerprinting, national training efforts and leadership development programs for new employees, supervisors, line officers, and senior executives, and unemployment compensation payments. In 2022 Forest Service Operations Salaries and Expenses programs expanded agency-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and employee well-being programs including dedicated wildland firefighter support. Additionally, the agency completed three waves of national hiring events resulting in over 1,500 selections.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

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

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$21,774	\$25,291	\$26,266	\$25,162
	Personnel compensation, field.....	193,812	216,135	224,464	215,034
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	215,586	241,426	250,730	240,196
12.0	Personal benefits .....	79,573	90,033	93,502	89,574
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	38,869	38,175	39,646	37,981
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits .....	334,028	369,634	383,878	367,751
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons .....	381	1,984	1,383	1,588
22.0	Transportation of things .....	1,528	1,781	1,935	2,222
23.1	Rental payments to GSA .....	32,738	38,780	41,930	47,960
23.2	Rental payments to others .....	59,123	62,060	70,850	81,115
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges .....	83,840	99,252	107,122	122,967
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	218	394	358	411
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	2,414	5,971	4,902	5,631
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources....	86,042	121,379	121,270	139,307
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources .....	344,029	444,887	461,351	530,002
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities .....	2,577	2,923	3,123	3,694
25.5	Research and development contracts.....	1,470	2,081	2,076	2,385
25.6	Medical care.....	21	27	28	32
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment...	4,385	3,737	4,749	5,455
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	17,367	20,913	22,381	25,902
31.0	Equipment .....	42,244	46,729	52,019	59,756
32.0	Land and structures .....	2,634	7,896	5,948	7,072
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	6,295	6,896	7,712	8,859
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities.....	121	677	467	536
43.0	Interest and dividends.....	2	4	4	4
44.0	Refunds .....	-	-21	-12	-14
91.0	Unvouchered .....	-	-1	-1	-1
92.0	Undistributed.....	19	26	26	30
	Total, other objects.....	687,448	868,375	909,621	1,044,913
99.9	Total, new obligations .....	1,021,476	1,238,031	1,293,512	1,412,679
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) .....	4,819	5,458	5,831	6,297
Information Technology Investments:					
Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC):					
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....	\$2,673	\$3,006	\$4,200	\$4,347

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Total, Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) .....	2,673	3,006	4,200	4,347
	Mission Support Services:				
	External Labor (Contractors).....	2,055	6,275	5,751	5,952
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....	36,468	15,554	17,532	18,145
	Hardware .....	0	265	1,095	1,133
	Software .....	9,988	2,475	5,439	5,629
	Total, Mission Support Services.....	48,511	24,569	29,817	30,859
	Natural Resource Manager (NRM):				
11	Internal Labor.....	6,485	5,654	4,851	5,021
	External Labor (Contractors).....	20,285	18,872	18,108	18,211
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....	2,160	-	-	-
	Software .....	-	507	1,007	1,042
	Other IT.....	-	5	-	-
	Total, Natural Resource Manager (NRM)	28,930	25,038	23,966	24,274
	Open Forest (Forest Service Enterprise ePermit):				
	External Labor (Contractors).....	3,200	-	-	-
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....	700	-	-	-
	Total, Open Forest (Forest Service Enterprise ePermit) .....	3,900	-	-	-
	Recreation.gov:				
	External Labor (Contractors).....	15,074	-	-	-
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....		17,569	18,200	18,837
	Total, Recreation.gov .....	15,074	17,569	18,200	18,837
	Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS):				
	External Labor (Contractors).....	1,500	-	-	-
	Total, Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) .....	1,500	-	-	-
	USDA Public Safety Land Mobile Radio System:				
11	Internal Labor.....	20,945	21,277	22,352	23,134
	External Labor (Contractors).....	2,043	1,450	1,671	1,730
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....	2,032	225	-	-
	Hardware .....	17,558	36,613	36,051	37,313
	Software .....	-	20	22	23
	Other IT.....	-	1,359	5,940	6,147
	Total, USDA Public Safety Land Mobile Radio System.....	42,578	60,944	66,036	68,347
	Wildland Fire and Aviation Management:				
	External Labor (Contractors).....	718	-	20,768	21,496
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting).....	31,128	25,949	29,847	9,157
	Hardware .....	1,611	139	143	148
	Software .....	5,403	1,879	1,753	1,814
	Other IT.....	50	-	-	-
	Total, Wildland Fire and Aviation Management .....	38,910	27,967	52,511	32,615

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
	Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals..	25,269	17,007	32,461	32,044
	Mission Area Standard Investment Totals .....	165,317	147,841	175,612	181,084
25.3	Mission Area WCF Transfers.....	158,421	240,176	293,743	304,023
	Total Non-Major Investment .....	349,007	405,024	501,816	517,151
	Total IT Investments .....	531,083	564,117	696,546	696,430
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$192,131	\$194,607	\$203,559	\$214,144
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	82,803	85,953	89,907	94,582
	Average Grade, GS Position .....	10.7	10.9	10.9	10.9

**STATUS OF PROGRAMS****Facilities Maintenance and Leases*****Current Activities***

Facilities Maintenance and Leases provides funding for costs associated with facility maintenance and repair for more than 16,000 fire<sup>10</sup>, administrative, and other (FA&O) facilities owned by the agency. Facility maintenance includes preventative, annual, and deferred maintenance activities required to preserve fixed assets. Facility maintenance also includes decommissioning.<sup>11</sup> Security equipment and installation, when associated with a fixed asset, is also funded through this program. Facility maintenance does not include activities meant to expand the capacity of fixed assets or upgrading facilities to provide for a need different from which a facility was originally intended.

This program also provides funding for costs associated with long-term facility leases on more than 650 Forest Service and General Services Administration leases, including co-locations with other USDA agencies and the Department of the Interior, security costs paid through Federal Protection Services, leases paid to partners through agreements, and the Washington Office Headquarters lease and security costs paid through USDA (also referred to as Greenbook charges). Short-term, emergency, or fire-related incident leases continue to be funded through supplemental funds and Wildland Fire Management Suppression, respectively.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

**National Facility and Lease Strategy:** The Forest Service continues to implement the National Facility and Lease Strategy (NFLS) to right-size the Agency's facility portfolio between leased and owned FA&O facilities. The strategy emphasizes facility investment prioritization, supports the Office of Management and Budget's Reduce the Footprint Initiative, supports the USDA's co-location and consolidation efforts, and identifies a five-year program of work for owned and leased facilities, improving consistency and transparency in facilities asset management. As part of the strategy's allocation methodology, the Forest Service will implement projects that yield a large return on investment and an economically sustainable leased to owned facility portfolio. The Forest Service has several large leases with expiration dates approaching that will be examined to determine the best business decision for the Forest Service as it continues to face the dual challenges of maintaining owned assets under current funding levels and of redefining facility requirements due to expanded telework. As part of the National Strategy, the agency is projected to realize space reductions in owned and leased footprint of 51,614 square feet in 2023. Additionally, investments in owned facility maintenance on non-recreational facilities, including decommissioning, are estimated at \$4.8 million in 2023 and \$4.9 million in 2024.

**Safety Inspections of Communications Assets:** Collaboration continues with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the five-year interagency agreement to perform structural safety inspections for all communication assets on National Forest System lands. This agreement helps improve compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration and American National Standards Institute requirements for periodic safety inspections. The agency owns and administers more than 1,700 communications assets used to facilitate law enforcement, wildland fire suppression, public safety, and routine forest management. In 2022, approximately 18 percent (308 out of 1,738) of the towers on National Forest System lands were inspected by the FAA. As of 2022, this five-year interagency agreement is in its fourth year and has completed approximately 72% (1,255 out of 1,739) of the tower inspections.

**Information Technology and Centralized Processing*****Current Activities***

Information Technology (IT) and Centralized Processing provides funding for costs associated with information technology, including cybersecurity requirements and telecommunications.<sup>12</sup> All program management and spending are managed by the USFS Chief Information Officer (CIO) office. Any information technology costs resulting from fire-related incidents are funded by Wildland Fire Management Suppression.

The current IT investment strategy is driven by the Secretary's direction to mitigate wildland fire and improve the conditions of national forests and grasslands by using innovative technology modernization. The CIO office

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<sup>10</sup> Fire facilities include airports, heliports, hangars, airtanker bases, fire management centers, and fire lookouts.

<sup>11</sup> Decommissioning is the demolition, dismantling, removal, disposal, and cleanup of a deteriorated or otherwise unneeded fixed asset or component.

<sup>12</sup> Information technology is defined in the Office of Management and Budget's memorandum "Management and Oversight of Federal Information Technology (M-15-14). The memorandum is located at <https://management.cio.gov/implementation/>.

manages seventeen Enterprise Standard, Major, and Non-Major IT investments with CIO product owners and subject matter experts, developing lifecycle management and acquisitions plans to support technology modernization and standardization across the IT portfolio. Efforts focus on improving cyber security and enterprise network infrastructure and sustaining mission area business applications while planning for modernization and migration to approved hosting environments.

Base funding primarily supports Operations and Maintenance, USDA Shared Costs (also referred to as Greenbook charges), and USDA Working Capital Fund costs. The Forest Service incorporates service consolidation into acquisition planning across the portfolio, coordinating with the Department to transition IT customer support functions to enterprise services managed by OCIO as part of Customer Experience Center consolidation in support of E.O. 14058, Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust in Government and the President’s Management Agenda priority to deliver excellent, equitable, and secure Federal services for improvement of customer experience measurement and modernization. This Budget includes multiple customer experience investments for Forest Service including improving public-facing websites to include enhancing the recreation.gov platform for providing customers with digital maps of Federal lands, increasing productivity around special use permits and digitization of both rights-of-way and easements. USDA is also a part of cross-agency efforts for life experience projects centered on disaster recovery efforts and analysis. USDA has initiated technology cost reassessments with the agencies to right-size cost, baseline service level agreements, and realign cost with the Department.

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

#### **Public-Facing Websites:**

In 2022, the Agency met many milestones and delivered key website products to customers and the Agency. Forest Service modernized nearly 60% of Agency public-facing websites to comply with the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (IDEA) by applying the USDA Digital Strategy Playbook guiding principles. These websites now have a consistent and modern look-and feel, improved Search Engine Optimization (SEO) functionality, and are mobile device friendly. Examples of these websites are the roll-out of the National Research & Development ([www.fs.usda.gov/research](http://www.fs.usda.gov/research)) website and the redesign of 135 National Forest System websites (example: [www.fs.usda.gov/r3](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r3) and [www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab](http://www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab)). Additionally, the Forest Service addressed a nearly decade long issue to decommission the fs.fed.us domain for over 150 public-facing Agency websites and thousands of e-mail addresses. This now brings the Forest Service in alignment with compliance with the 2020 DotGov Act for Agency public-facing websites to have a .gov domain (example [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov)).

### **Organizational Services**

#### ***Current Activities***

Organizational Services provides funding for utility expenses, business services, and other administrative support functions necessary for the operation of multi-functional facilities and personnel.<sup>13</sup> Common expenses include, but are not limited to, utilities, janitorial services, security for government-owned facilities, furniture, office move contracts, basic office materials, and supplies that support administrative and management employees.

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

**Workforce Planning:** In 2021 and 2022, the Forest Service conducted workforce planning and updated its Human Capital Plan for 2021- 2025, the five-year road map outlining strategies to guide recruitment and hiring and confirming workforce planning alignment to agency budgets. The agency is also proactively incorporating workforce planning on an annual basis by conducting workforce planning annual cycles that run January – March to coincide with the Forest Service’s strategic planning and budget cycle. By guiding annual workforce planning to forecast position needs above its historical baseline, the Agency can identify funding priorities for critical agency positions.

**Procurement and Property Services:** In 2022, the Procurement and Property Services (PPS) office accumulatively awarded 35,000 actions valued at \$2.5 billion, up 27 percent and 61 percent, respectively, from 2021. These numbers represent requests from PPS mission partners and include \$200 million for the Great American Outdoors Act, \$78 million for disaster relief efforts, over \$25 million for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58), and \$968 million in fire suppression support. Highlights include a pilot contract for Outreach Admissions / Career

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<sup>13</sup> Multi-functional buildings are fixed assets, such as District and Supervisor’s offices that support multiple programs or administrative programs; single-functional buildings, such as research stations and fire facilities, are funded through those program’s funds, for example research stations are funded by Research and Development.

Transition Services (OA/CTS) covering five Job Corps Centers, admission and career transition services, award of an eMedical contract to provide medical exam services for wildland firefighters nationwide, and a transition to the new Multiple Award Task Order contract (MATOC) process for multiple major aviation projects with Type I, II, and III helicopter request for proposals. In particular, the utilization of MATOCs will give the program, contracting, and the vendors greater flexibility to complete tasks efficiently and allows new vendors to be added in later years if they miss the initial solicitation.

PPS awarded multiple contracts supporting the 2022 fire season including blanket purchase agreements for equipment and services, crews, retardant, showers, and transportation of cache assets to the front line. A National Energy Savings Performance Contract,<sup>14</sup> funded by a grant from the Department of Energy, will reduce the Forest Service emissions footprint. Multiple mine reclamation contracts provided environmental support efforts nationwide and efforts to return lands to native species.

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<sup>14</sup> Energy savings performance contract, using funds from the Department of Energy to provide grants, allow Federal agencies to procure energy savings and facility improvements with no advanced capital costs or special appropriations from Congress.

**FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$307,273,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+41,809,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>349,082,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

1 *Forest and Rangeland Research*

2 For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, [~~\$307,273,000~~]\$349,082,000, to  
 3 remain available through September 30, [~~2026~~] 2027: *Provided*, That of the funds provided,  
 4 [~~\$32,197,000~~]\$30,197,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program: *Provided further*, That of the funds  
 5 provided, \$4,000,000 is for the Joint Fire Science Program: *Provided further*, That all authorities for the use of  
 6 funds, including the use of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, available to execute the Forest and  
 7 Rangeland Research appropriation, are also available in the utilization of these funds for Fire Science Research.

8 **[Forest and Rangeland Research]**

9 [For an additional amount for "Forest and Rangeland Research", \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for  
 10 necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and  
 11 other natural disasters. ]

**Change Description**

*The first change* (lines 4 and 5 of paragraph 1) adds language for funding provided to the Joint Fire Science Program.

*The second change* (lines 8 through 11, paragraph 2) deletes language associated with the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023.



2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

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

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Forest Inventory and Analysis.....	\$17,576	21	\$22,197	-	\$32,197	-	\$30,197	-	-\$2,000	-	(1)
Research and Development Programs..	41,347	47	54,000	-	59,500	-	80,000	-	+20,500	-	(2)
Salaries and Expenses .....	199,424	1,374	220,419	1,467	215,576	1,492	238,885	1,611	+23,309	+119	(3)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.....	258,347	1,442	296,616	1,467	307,273	1,492	349,082	1,611	+41,809	+119	
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :											
Forest Inventory and Analysis (BIL)....	-	-	6,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joint Fire Science (BIL) .....	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-
Research and Development Programs (BIL).....	-	-	33,057	-	30,750	-	30,750	-	-	-	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	24,843	-	7,700	20	7,700	40	-	+20	
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	-	-	66,500	-	40,450	20	40,450	40	-	+20	
Supplemental Appropriations:											
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>b</sup> .....	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	-	25,000	3	-	25	-	15	-	-10	
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>d</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	-2,000	-	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	-	4	25,000	3	2,000	25	-	15	-2,000	-10	
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	258,347	1,446	388,116	1,470	349,723	1,537	389,532	1,666	+39,809	+129	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	413	-	-63,710	-	-38,450	-	-38,450	-	-	-	
<b>Total, Appropriations<sup>e</sup> .....</b>	<b>258,760</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>324,406</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>311,273</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>351,082</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>+39,809</b>	<b>+129</b>	
Transfers In:											
National Forest System .....	-	-	54,980	-	29,450	-	29,450	-	-	-	
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....	-	-	4,020	-	3,500	-	3,500	-	-	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Wildland Fire Management.....	-	-	7,000	-	5,500	-	5,500	-	-	-	-
Total, Transfers In.....	-	-	66,000	-	38,450	-	38,450	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out:											
Forest Service Operations .....	-413	-	-2,290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Transfers Out .....	-413	-	-2,290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	3,731	-	2,547	-	1,158	-	1,046	-	-112	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	14,206	-	10,388	-	97,499	-	51,380	-	-46,119	-	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>276,284</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>401,051</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>448,380</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>441,958</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>-6,422</b>	<b>+129</b>	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-10,388	-	-97,499	-	-51,380	-	-51,526	-	-146	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>265,896</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>298,032</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>397,000</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>390,432</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>-6,568</b>	<b>+129</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides \$2,000,000 each year from 2022 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$3 million to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 117-43 provided \$25 million to the Forest and Inventory Analysis program for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$2 million for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

<sup>e</sup> The discrepancy between the project statement and Max schedule X is reimbursable funds.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Forest Inventory and Analysis.....	\$19,127	21	\$22,323	-	\$32,097	-	\$30,371	-	-\$1,726	-
Research and Development Programs.....	49,058	47	61,228	-	63,852	-	79,523	-	+15,671	-
Fire Plan Research and Development .....	9	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Forest Products.....	1,049	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forest and Rangeland Research – Other .....	193,647	-	201,793	-	9	-	10	-	+1	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	-	1,374	-	1,467	217,119	1,492	238,020	1,611	+20,901	+119
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	262,890	1,442	285,354	1,467	313,079	1,492	347,926	1,611	+34,847	+119
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :										
Forest Inventory and Analysis (BIL).....	-	-	-	-	6,468	-	129	-	-6,339	-
Joint Fire Science (BIL) .....	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Research and Devel. Programs (BIL).....	-	-	3,232	-	53,912	-	33,298	-	-20,614	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	51	-	2,878	20	6,055	40	+3,177	+20
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law....	-	-	5,283	-	65,258	20	41,482	40	-23,776	+20
Supplemental Obligations:										
Disaster Relief Approp. (P.L. 116-20) .....	125	-	-	-	57	-	-	-	-57	-
Coronavirus Relief Apprp. (P.L. 116-136) <sup>b</sup>	2,881	4	19	-	6	-	-	-	-6	-
Disaster Relief Approp. (P.L. 117-43) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	-	7,376	3	17,600	25	24	15	-17,576	-10
Disaster Relief Approp. (P.L. 117-328) <sup>d</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations .....	3,006	4	7,395	3	18,663	25	1,024	15	-17,639	-10
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>265,896</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>298,032</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>397,000</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>390,432</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>-6,568</b>	<b>+129</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Forest Inventory and Analysis.....	719	-	373	-	804	-	761	-	-43	-
Joint Fire Science .....			21						-	-
Research and Development Programs.....	3,243	-	6,567	-	6,748	-	8,963	-	+2,215	-
Fire Plan Research and Development .....	144	-	71	-	190	-	203	-	+13	-
Forest Products.....	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Forest and Rangeland Research – Other .....	447	-	645	-	827	-	930	-	+103	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	5,777	-	10,982	-	9,492	-	10,406	-	+914	-
Forest Inventory and Analysis (BIL).....	-	-	6,600	-	132	-	3	-	-129	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Joint Fire Science (BIL) .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Research and Devel. Programs (BIL).....	-	-	29,825	-	6,663	-	4,115	-	-2,548	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	24,792	-	11,499	-	14,320	-	+2,821	-
Disaster Relief Approp. (P.L. 115-123) .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Relief Approp. (P.L. 116-20) <sup>e</sup> .....	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coronavirus Relief Approp. (P.L. 116-136) <sup>b</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Relief Approp. (P.L. 117-43) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	-	17,623	-	14,024	-	11,824	-	-2,200	-
Disaster Relief Approp. (P.L. 117-328) <sup>d</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-1,000	-
Total, Balances Available, EOY .....	10,388	-	97,499	-	51,380	-	51,526	-	+146	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>276,284</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>395,531</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>448,380</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>441,958</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>-6,422</b>	<b>+129</b>
Less:										
Total Transfers In.....	-	-	-66,000	-	-38,450	-	-38,450	-	-	-
Total Transfers Out .....	413	-	2,290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-3,731	-	-2,547	-	-1,158	-	-1,046	-	+112	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-14,206	-	-10,388	-	-97,499	-	-51,380	-	+46,119	-
<b>Total Appropriation .....</b>	<b>258,760</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>318,886</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>311,273</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>351,082</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>+39,809</b>	<b>+129</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides \$2,000,000 each year from 2022 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$3 million to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 117-43 provided \$25 million to the Forest and Inventory Analysis program for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$2 million for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

<sup>e</sup> P.L. 116-20 provided \$1,000,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires. All remaining funds were obligated in 2021.

**JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement.

**Forest Inventory and Analysis**

- (1) A decrease of \$2,000,000 (\$32,197,000 enacted in 2023).

This funding level will allow the Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA) to maintain current plot remeasurement cycle lengths and sustain FIA program delivery. Where possible, the program will seek to increase remeasurement frequency for targeted locations and forest types. FIA will also be able to make investments in soil carbon sampling, harmonizing new soil carbon data with existing soil survey data from National Forests. The use of remote sensing technologies (as directed in report language contained in Sec. 8632 of the 2018 Farm Bill) will continue to be part of FIA's forward-looking work.

As the Nation's foremost continuous forest census covering all 50 States, FIA is critical to supporting the Administration's priorities of climate risk reduction and facilitation of public access to climate-related information to support Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments in climate planning and resilience activities. FIA data, tools, syntheses, and geospatial analyses are essential to understanding and informing climate-smart practices with respect to carbon management. This funding level will enable FIA to contribute to the development of a forest carbon action plan for the agency. FIA will also continue to produce and update data and tools to inform infrastructure investments by the forest products industry and State forest management plans. A portion of the FIA budget will fund partnership agreements and contracts with States to survey FIA plots and assist with data analysis.

**Research and Development Programs**

- (2) An increase of \$20,500,000 (\$59,500,000 enacted in 2023).

The Forest Service will invest \$12 million towards climate science research, to include increased funding in support of the US Global Change Research Program. This increase will also fund scientific research to address Administration priorities, including deepening understanding of the effects of climate change on forest resources, increasing adaptation and resilience to climate change, and pursuing nature-based solutions for climate risk reduction. In support of the OMB Circular A-11 Section 290 call on Federal agencies to use evidence for decision-making, this research will be used inform ecosystem restoration and management decisions to enhance carbon sequestration and storage. This increase will allow the Forest Service to make additional investments in the science of wildfire risk management; including fire prediction, planning, decision support, strategic reduction of hazardous fuels, impact assessment, and recovery; and in watershed research to sustain and improve watershed resiliency, risk assessment, and restoration in consideration of increasingly frequent and extreme hydrological events, from droughts to floods, that impair essential ecosystem services.

Relative to 2023, Forest and Rangeland Research will expand the scope and scale of research and science delivery programs related to reforestation, carbon sequestration, and carbon accounting, which are essential to climate adaptation, mitigation, and risk reduction. Expanding the scope and scale of this research allows the Forest Service to meet the ask of the Evidence Act to make decisions based on the best available evidence. For example, this funding will accelerate the agency's development and testing of science-based conservation investment planning tools. These tools can then be used to inform the targeted selection of sites for hazardous fuels treatments to optimize risk reductions to communities and structures from uncharacteristically severe wildfire associated with climate change. This increase will aid in research and development of innovative wood uses, generating new products and supporting new and emerging markets. This increase will also make possible renewed investments in foundational research disciplines, including forest soils, air quality, hydrology, silviculture, genetics, and forest ecology, needed to discover and design innovative adaptation strategies to promote the resilience of forest and rangeland ecosystems to climate change.

This increase will support the collaborative work of agency scientists with partners in the scientific community and with Forest Service land managers to co-produce findings that are relevant and applicable to present-day and emerging land management challenges. For example, Forest and Rangeland Research funding will provide continuing support of the five USDA Climate Hubs sponsored by the Forest Service: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Caribbean, and Northern Forests Hubs. Climate Hubs provide region-specific research and science

information synthesis, tool development, implementation assistance, and outreach to support robust agricultural production and natural resources under increasing conditions of climate variability and change. Sustained funding for these five Climate Hubs will foster scientific discoveries and technology transfer to provide scientifically sound climate adaptation resources to land management agencies, private landowners, Tribes, and agricultural producers, including foresters.

The 2024 target number of peer-reviewed scholarly publications Forest Service research scientists will produce is 1,100. This target has been tracked internally previously and will be elevated to a key performance indicator for the agency beginning in 2024. The Forest Service will continue to look for opportunities to align research to support of deliverables and activities outlined in the Presidential Memo on Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking, Evidence Act, OMB M-21-27, and OMB Circular A-11 Section 290.

Projects funded through the interagency Joint Fire Science Program provide critical science and technology to address the challenges of wildland fire. These projects also improve understanding of the effects of climate and climate change on wildland fire and enhance the ability of land management agencies to assess and manage fire risk effectively.

The proposed 2024 level of funding is \$4 million and enables activities consistent with the 2022 funded level.

### Salaries and Expenses

- (3) An increase of \$23,309,000 and an increase of 99 FTE's (\$215,576,000 and 1,442 FTEs enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

An increase of \$10,456,000 and 0 FTEs for pay and employee costs. This increase will support the annualization of the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2024 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase. If this funding is not provided, Forest and Rangeland Research may need to reduce the number of FTEs to accommodate increases in pay and employee costs.

An increase of \$12,853,000 and an increase of 99 FTEs for pay and employee costs. This increase would enable the Forest Service to grow the workforce of scientists needed to support sustainable management of the Nation's Forest and grasslands; inform management decisions related to wildfire risk reduction, flooding, and drought; advance understanding of climate change and the development of mitigation and adaptation solutions; and provide comprehensive information about the status of forested lands. This increase would build capacity for science delivery (i.e., FTEs, travel, and training), improve agency engagement with Tribal partnerships, and support recruitment of a diverse group of scientists into careers with the Forest Service.

In 2022, Forest Service research scientists provided tools, resources, and expertise across the spectrum of forest conservation and management, including in the areas of urban forestry, hazardous fuels reduction strategies, wildfire smoke composition and distribution, water quality, forest inventory and analysis, carbon stock and flux assessments, nature-based solutions for landscape resilience and climate risk reduction, and innovative wood products. This expertise and the formation of interdisciplinary teams of scientists working closely with partners in land management and the forest products industry resulted in new patents for lignin byproducts, publications on water quality and forest lands relationships, enhanced smoke composition and movement models, forest composition and health inventories, wildland fire planning and management decision support systems, and hazardous fuels risk analyses. These tools, products, services, and publications touch every demographic; impact every community; and support the entire suite of Forest Service strategic goals and priorities. An increase to the science workforce is imperative in continuing and expanding these efforts and products, in particular science delivery efforts and products, through 2024.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

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

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C. ....	\$4,884	\$5,231	\$5,469	\$5,670
	Personnel compensation, field.....	134,647	136,789	143,024	148,270
11.0	Total personnel compensation .....	139,531	142,020	148,493	153,940
12.0	Personal benefits.....	52,891	55,457	57,985	60,111
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits....	192,422	197,477	206,478	214,051
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons .....	1,799	5,192	7,293	7,039
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1,028	1,158	2,648	2,158
23.1	Rental payments to GSA .....	-	1	1	1
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	201	10	229	212
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges....	154	248	437	405
24.0	Printing and reproduction .....	70	68	150	139
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	16	16	35	32
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources .....	8,683	8,480	18,757	16,870
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.	14,365	20,834	38,745	35,618
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities .....	54	115	184	170
25.5	Research and development contracts.....	27,556	34,711	67,789	62,749
25.6	Medical care .....	2	-	2	2
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment .....	299	291	806	798
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	3,270	3,248	7,089	7,169
31.0	Equipment.....	2,201	3,285	6,138	6,403
32.0	Land and structures.....	2	695	758	702
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	13,608	21,927	39,159	35,634
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities.....	1	255	278	258
43.0	Interest and dividends.....	1	-	1	1
92.0	Undistributed .....	-	21	23	21
	Total, other objects .....	73,310	100,555	190,522	176,381
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	265,732	298,032	397,000	390,432
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position .....	\$181,691	\$183,027	\$191,446	\$201,401
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	89,256	91,378	95,581	100,552
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8

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## **STATUS OF PROGRAMS**

### **Forest and Rangeland Research**

#### ***Current Activities***

Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) works at the forefront of science to improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands. By producing and delivering innovative science and technology to support sustainable management of the Nation's diverse forests and rangelands, R&D enhances the rigor and impact of Forest Service programs and activities. Forest Service R&D programs encompass basic and applied research, inventory and assessment of forest resources, and science delivery and decision support. R&D conducts this work at five geographically based research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, 81 Experimental Forests and Ranges, Urban Field Stations, and in our Washington D.C. headquarters.

Forest Service R&D prioritizes investments that produce research and science applications to inform Forest Service land management responsibilities and to advance national priorities. These investments are focused on increasing research and science delivery to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the wildland fire management mission; improving understanding of the effects of climate change on ecosystems; informing climate adaptation and resilience through nature-based climate solutions such as forest carbon restoration and management; sustaining and improving watershed resilience, risk assessment, and restoration; conducting forest inventory and trend analysis; and advancing wood product innovations and wood product markets.

#### **Wildfire**

Forest Service R&D conducts extensive research and develops analysis and decision support tools to improve the agency's understanding of how wildfire moves across the landscape and through communities, where and how to effectively reduce hazardous fuels through mechanical treatments and prescribed burning, and how to better predict the impacts of wildfire smoke. Forest Service fire scientists also study wildfire to understand its effects on ecosystems, including impacts to wildlife, soils, hydrology, and forest regeneration. Forest Service scientists are developing more realistic and accurate three-dimensional models of hazardous fuels, which will support building the next generation of fire spread and behavior models. These models will help land managers and communities, including those with socially vulnerable populations, and determine where to invest new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law resources to reduce hazards and future fire risk. Forest Service scientists are also working to understand fire-atmosphere interactions that can drive extreme fire spread and to improve smoke forecasting models to better predict air quality impacts. Forest Service scientists also participate in research partnerships with indigenous communities to foster the reintroduction of indigenous cultural burning practices and fire stewardship.

#### **Climate**

Forest Service scientists project risks and study the effects of changing climate across the U.S. and investigate potential solutions for adapting to these changes, including improving carbon storage on forested and non-forested lands. Forest Service scientists also study the effects of climate change on forest health and are investigating strategies to promote ecosystem resilience to insect infestations and disease. Forest Service research shows that forest management and agroforestry offer excellent opportunities for simultaneous climate change adaptation and mitigation. Climate vulnerability assessments produced by the Forest Service-led USDA Climate Hubs provide specific adaptive management strategies to increase the resilience of working lands that communities depend on, including underserved and socially vulnerable populations.

Forest Service R&D is the authoritative source of data, models, assessments, and trend information about forestland carbon stocks across all carbon pools, including increases and decreases in carbon storage over time. For instance, Forest Service scientists study soil carbon, including the effects of management actions and wildfire on the accumulation and loss of soil carbon, and the carbon storage effects of augmenting soil carbon with biochar. Forest Service R&D continually seeks to improve methods for carbon science and to refine carbon estimates.

#### **Watersheds**

Forest Service scientists are investigating how hydrologic patterns and processes are shifting across the nation's forests and grasslands in response to changing climate and increases in water use. Forest Service R&D is leading soil moisture monitoring and modeling efforts across forests to enhance the understanding and prediction of drought and its impacts. Developing better models and data collection methods will help guide terrestrial and aquatic conservation and restoration efforts, enabling land managers to better identify changes in flood risk and timing,

frequency and duration of droughts, threat of wildfire and storm damage, and water temperature variability. Forest Service scientists study how management choices made before and in response to extreme events can mitigate impacts on watershed structure and function, water supply, and human and ecological communities. R&D has developed methods to improve aquatic species detection and monitoring, so restoration can be targeted to locations where it will have the greatest benefits in the long term. Forest Service scientists also study how resource management decisions affecting watershed structure and function intersect with environmental justice and equity.

#### Wood Products

Forest Service scientists develop new, sustainable processes using wood and wood components to make products such as biopolymers and chemicals. Forest Service scientists provide leadership in the development of international standards that remove barriers to bringing laboratory discoveries to market. Currently, the agency is focused on utilization of biomass from hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration projects.

#### Equity and Environmental Justice

Recent Forest Service R&D contributions related to environmental justice include publications highlighting how people access, use, and/or benefit from forests and natural resources and the barriers that some communities may encounter. Forest Service scientists are also exploring environmental justice implications of forest and natural resource management efforts. Recent publications have responded to the needs of forest and recreation managers who seek to improve engagement with diverse populations and address challenges created by increased outdoor recreation demand and climate-related threats. Forest Service scientists are also studying how health partnerships may facilitate therapeutic outdoor experiences on national forests, building on the growing evidence of the multiple health benefits of activities and time spent in nature.

Today more than 80 percent of people live in urban areas. Forest Service R&D's urban forestry research programs provide knowledge and tools to care for the more than 140 million acres of urban forests where many people live. Urban forests offer significant human health benefits, carbon sequestration, and water quality improvement. Data, knowledge, and tools, such as R&D's i-Tree guide decisions for managing these forests and trees for maximum benefit and help to quantify their value and document their return on investment.<sup>15</sup>

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

Publication of scientific assessment of wildland fire smoke: A new book by Forest Service scientists and partners synthesizes the latest knowledge about wildfires and prescribed fires with respect to smoke composition, movement, and impacts.<sup>16</sup> It explores the social implications of wildland fire smoke and reports on new modeling tools to predict smoke movement and concentrations, which will help improve smoke forecasting systems. The book provides a foundation for improving how wildland fire smoke can be managed in the coming decades.

Completion and application of the Accelerated Pace and Scale of Treatments (ACCEL) project: The ACCEL project, which was initiated in 2020 and completed in 2022, was conducted by Forest Service scientists at the Pacific Southwest Research Station in collaboration with the State of California. The ACCEL project developed a set of common metrics for measuring forest resilience when planning large landscape restoration projects. These metrics can be used by decision support software, such as Forest Service R&D's ForSys Scenario Investment Planning Platform, to facilitate project planning and prioritization and to support increasing the pace and scale of restoration and hazardous fuel reduction. The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force identified the ACCEL metrics as key to achieving its goals in the Sierra Nevada and recommended it as a model for the rest of the State. The Task Force also provided ACCEL data as part of regional resource kits to stakeholders across the Sierra Nevada region.

Quantification of the role of forests in drinking water supply: Forest Service scientists completed a first-of-its-kind assessment of the role of forested lands in supplying drinking water to the nation, finding that public drinking water systems rely extensively on national forests and grasslands.<sup>17</sup> This research showed that in the West, national forests

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.itreetools.org/> - i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban and rural forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools.

<sup>16</sup> Peterson, David L.; McCaffrey, Sarah M.; Patel-Weynand, Toral, eds. 2022. Wildland Fire Smoke in the United States: A Scientific Assessment. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland AG. 341 p. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-87045-4>.

<sup>17</sup> Liu, Ning; Dobbs, G. Rebecca; Caldwell, Peter V.; Miniati, Chelcy F.; Sun, Ge; Duan, Kai; Nelson, Stacy A.C.; Bolstad, Paul V.; Carlson, Christopher P. 2022. Quantifying the role of National Forest System and other forested lands in providing surface drinking water supply for the conterminous United States. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-100. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington Office. 40 p. plus supplement. <https://doi.org/10.2737/WO-GTR-100>.

and grasslands supply drinking water to almost 90% of the people served by public water systems. Some western cities, like Aspen, Colorado, and Portland, Oregon, are more than 90% dependent on national forests alone for their drinking water. The study also found that in the East, drinking water is also provided by forested lands, though these are mostly privately owned forests. Within the lower 48 states, over 99% of people who rely on public drinking water systems receive some of their drinking water from forested lands.

**Innovative carbon and graphene products from lignin:** In a joint project with Mississippi State University and an industrial partner, Forest Service scientists at the Forest Products Laboratory invented a process to produce graphene from lignin, a component of wood.<sup>18</sup> Lignin is the second most abundant natural polymer in wood and can be produced either as a by-product of pulping or by biorefineries. The invention lowers the cost of graphene production and the patent from this invention has been licensed by a pulp and paper company. Forest Service scientists also patented a technology to produce carbon foam from lignin. The carbon foam is a stiff and porous material that is strong but lightweight, nonflammable, capable of absorbing sound and radiation, and able to maintain its performance at high temperatures. This technology has potential high-value application for light-weight airplane and automobile materials from a waste byproduct.

## **Forest Inventory and Analysis**

### ***Current Activities***

Forest Service R&D's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is the Nation's foremost continuous forest census covering all 50 states, and territories. As directed in legislation, using nationwide statistically robust surveys, the FIA program collects original data that can be used to document past and current extent of forest area, including increases or decreases in forest land; tree numbers by species; the size and health of trees; tree growth, mortality, harvests and removals; the effects of disturbances such as hurricanes and wildland fires; wood production and tree utilization; urban forests; and the characteristics of forest ownership. FIA analyzes survey data with the latest geospatial technologies, including remote sensing; produces annual and five-year data sets for each U.S. State; makes data available online; and offers analytical results through data summarization tools with standard and custom design and filtering (e.g., [EVALIDator](#) and [DATIM](#)), reporting tools that allow for creation and sharing of customized reports (e.g., [My City's Trees](#), [FIA One-Click Report](#), and [NRS-FIA 5-yr digital reports](#)), and online interactive spatial tools for sharing analysis and visualizations (e.g., [FIA Geospatial Showcase](#)). These data are increasingly incorporated into forest carbon and greenhouse gas monitoring and modeling, used by landowners and non-profits to inform projects aiming to store additional carbon, and used by researchers and land managers to improve climate adaptation, biodiversity, and ecosystem benefits. FIA works extensively with state forestry agencies, universities, and other partners, leveraging one partner dollar for every six Federal dollars.

At the national level, FIA program data and products are fundamental to assessing forest carbon stocks and change over time. Using FIA data and enhanced peer-reviewed methodologies, the FIA program calculates authoritative estimates of carbon stocks and change on forest land, forest land conversions, trees outside of forests (such as urban forests and agroecosystems), and harvested wood products in the United States annually. These are submitted as a component of the United States National Inventory Report as required by the United States commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). FIA and the Forest Service Resources Planning Act (RPA) assessment program work together to also provide carbon stock assessments for the UNFCCC United States Biennial Report. Current research includes investigation of carbon monitoring system designs for forest carbon assessments in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Carbon Monitoring System, as well as estimating carbon benefits from forest management activities at the landscape level.

FIA continues to inform forest management to reduce fire risk. Through partnerships and other national and regional efforts, FIA supports Federal, State, local, and private land managers with authoritative information to aid management decisions. Contributions include the development and maintenance of LANDFIRE,<sup>19</sup> a comprehensive set of geospatial data and resources that support cross-boundary fire planning, management, and operations; the development of TreeMap,<sup>20</sup> a tree-level model of US forests used to reduce risks to wildfire responders and to

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<sup>18</sup>**Graphene** is an extremely electrically conductive form of elemental carbon that is composed of a single flat sheet of carbon atoms arranged in a repeating hexagonal lattice. "Graphene." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/graphene>.

<sup>19</sup> <https://landfire.gov> – the LANDFIRE program provides more than 25 national geo-spatial layers (e.g. vegetation, fuel, disturbance, etc.), databases, and ecological models that are available to the public for the United States and insular areas.

<sup>20</sup> Riley, Karin L.; Grenfell, Isaac C.; Finney, Mark A.; Wiener, Jason M. 2021. TreeMap, a tree-level model of conterminous US forests circa 2014 produced by imputation of FIA plot data. *Scientific Data*. 8: 11.

inform scenario planning for hazardous fuels treatments;<sup>21</sup> contributions to updating national risk maps with the Forest Service Forest Health Assessment and Applied Science Team; and the delivery and integration of forest inventory data with other tools such as the agency's Forest Vegetation Simulator.

The FIA program continues to partner with universities, industry, and other Forest Service entities to increase the precision of estimates using FIA inventories for smaller geographic areas and/or over shorter time intervals. Small area estimation (SAE) integrates multi-scaled remotely sensed data and other ancillary information with FIA inventory data to produce estimates using various techniques. Examples of FIA SAE applications include a national ownership map and county-level estimates using the National Woodland's Owner Survey data and county-level carbon estimates using FIA traditional and urban inventory. The FIESTA (Forest Inventory ESTimation and Analysis) online tool allows users to access FIA databases, import spatial layers, and choose from a suite of SAE estimation techniques to produce county, eco-subsection, and watershed estimates.

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

**Estimating old-growth forest areas on National Forest Systems lands:** In 2022, FIA collaborated with the NFS deputy area of the Forest Service to develop estimates of areas of "Old Forests" on NFS lands, as defined by NFS Land Management Plans. FIA and NFS compiled region-specific NFS old growth definitions, and then experienced FIA analysts interpreted the definitions in application to FIA data to quantify national and regional estimates of old forest.

**Enhancing consistency and completeness of the Timber Product Output Survey:** The Timber Products Output (TPO) Survey, which collects information about the location, size, and types of mills within a state; the type, volume, species, and geographic origin of roundwood each mill receives; the amount and type of products each produces; and the wood residues generated during processing; is transitioning from four periodic regional systems for data collection to a new single national database and reporting system. The national reporting system improves consistency and is increasing TPO's responsiveness to user needs. Enhanced products from the national reporting system include state-level, one-click fact sheets, an interactive reporting tool, and the ability to download TPO data.

### ***Program Evaluations***

The FIA program publishes an annual national business report.<sup>22</sup> The report presents program results accomplished with the available financial resources, along with plans for the coming year based on budgeted financial resources. This extensive report includes costs and partner contributions; information about agreements; status of surveys including data, reports, and analyses; program updates; and tables of metrics and other information. The FIA business report informs leadership discussions within the program, across the Forest Service, and with partners as to opportunities for improvement and assessing progress toward implementing the FIA Strategic Plan.

The FIA program also conducts extensive internal review processes throughout the year with FIA leadership, which includes field program managers, and the regional FIA leaders responsible for data collection, information management, reporting, and implementing strategic plan goals.

The program works with professional societies and non-profits to co-sponsor an annual national users' group meeting, during which users of FIA data and products provide feedback and recommendations. Partner organizations also host an annual special focus session on a large aspect of the FIA program to gather external feedback. In 2022, this session focused on forest carbon and the challenges in forest carbon estimation, identifying barriers to better forest carbon information, and providing tangible solutions for improving forest carbon estimates.

### ***Joint Fire Science***

#### ***Current Activities***

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) provides funding and science delivery for scientific studies associated with managing wildland fire, fuels, and fire-impacted ecosystems to respond to emerging needs of Forest Service managers, practitioners, and policymakers from local to national levels. Forest Service R&D partners with the Department of the Interior to deliver the JFSP. An inter-agency Governing Board makes decisions about JFSP funding awards based on an annual cycle of open, competitive, peer-reviewed proposal solicitations for current

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<sup>21</sup> Riley, Karin L.; O Connor, Christopher D.; Dunn, Christopher J.; Haas, Jessica R.; Stratton, Richard D.; Gannon, Benjamin. 2022. A national map of snag hazard to reduce risk to wildland fire responders. *Forests*. 13: 1160.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.fia.fs.usda.gov/library/bus-org-documents/index.php> – current and past Forest Inventory and Analysis Annual Business Reports

wildland fire research priorities in three categories – science delivery, primary research, and graduate research innovation.

Science delivery is accomplished primarily through the JFSP Fire Science Exchange Network (FSEN), which is a national collaboration of 15 regional fire science exchanges. The FSEN provides the most relevant, current wildland fire science information to Federal, state, local, tribal, and private stakeholders within ecologically similar regions. For primary research in 2022, JFSP focused on key scientific needs including the social and ecological recovery of communities and ecosystems impacted by wildfire and the collaborative development of ecosystem mapping products for fire and fuels management. For graduate research, Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) projects supplement already approved thesis or doctoral work by adding a component that addresses the management or policy relevance of the research.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Science delivery within the Fire Science Exchange Network (FSEN): More than 20,000 individuals participated in FSEN-organized wildland fire science delivery activities. Activities included hosting virtual conferences and webinars, developing factsheets, short courses and videos, actively disseminating fire science information on social media and more. The exchanges delivered over 2,700 events and activities and developed over 8,700 posts on social media channels. The largest participant groups were Federal agencies, state governments, and the academic community.

Investments in priority fire and fuels research to support communities and decision making: In 2022, JFSP funded science to support the socioecological recovery of communities impacted by wildfire. This research will inform the development or improvement of strategies, tools, and resources used for post-fire community recovery so that such recovery efforts increase the resilience of social-ecological systems to future wildfires. In other funded research, researchers are using a collaborative framework to prototype mapping protocols and products that capture current ecosystem condition, desired future condition, and departure from desired condition at spatial and temporal resolutions relevant to fire and fuels management decisions.

***Program Evaluations***

In 2022, JFSP initiated 42 projects (11 with signed agreements and 31 with pending agreements), funded 20 GRIN projects, completed 28 research projects, and supported 13 refereed publications.

In 2023, JFSP will be conducting a comprehensive program review to take stock and provide agency and department leaders an opportunity to confirm or alter the strategic direction of the program. To date, the JFSP has completed four program reviews: 2002, 2009, 2013 and 2017. The 2023 program review will allow the Governing Board and Program Office to evaluate the effectiveness of program components and suggest refinements or new directions the program should pursue.

**STATE, Private, and Tribal Forestry**

**LEAD-OFF Tabular Statement**

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$337,758,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-10,089,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>327,669,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

1 *State and Private Forestry*

2 For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories,  
 3 possessions, and others, and for forest health management, including for invasive plants, and conducting an  
 4 international program and trade compliance activities as authorized, [~~\$337,758,000~~]\$327,669,000, to remain  
 5 available through September 30, [~~2026~~]2027, as authorized by law[, of which \$30,167,000 shall be for projects  
 6 specified for Forest Resource Information and Analysis in the table titled "Interior and Environment Incorporation  
 7 of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items" included for this division in the  
 8 explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act)].

9 **[State and Private Forestry]**

10 [For an additional amount for "State and Private Forestry", \$148,000,000, to remain available until expended, for  
 11 necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and  
 12 other natural disasters: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, up to  
 13 \$20,000,000 is for grants to states to support economic recovery activities in communities damaged by wildfire:  
 14 *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, no less than \$100,000,000 is  
 15 for cooperative lands forest management activities.]

**Change Description**

*The first change* (lines 5 through 8 of paragraph 1) deletes language included in the 2023 budget for Community Project Funding.

*The second change* (lines 9 through 15, paragraph 2) deletes language associated with the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Landscape Scale Restoration.....	\$12,637	-	\$14,000	-	\$17,000	-	\$14,000	-	-\$3,000	-	(1)
Federal Lands Forest Health Management.....	12,126	11	16,000	-	17,000	-	20,000	-	+3,000	-	(2)
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management.....	29,545	6	32,000	-	33,000	-	35,000	-	+2,000	-	(3)
State Fire Capacity Grants (State Fire Assistance) .....	73,235	-	75,000	-	76,000	-	76,000	-	-	-	
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (Volunteer Fire Assistance).....	19,000	-	20,000	-	21,000	-	21,000	-	-	-	
Forest Legacy.....	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Forest Stewardship (Working Forest Lands).....	10,519	2	12,000	-	12,500	-	14,000	-	+1,500	-	(4)
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation.....	3,966	-	5,500	-	6,000	-	7,000	-	+1,000	-	(5)
Urban and Community Forestry.....	31,378	1	36,000	-	40,000	-	42,000	-	+2,000	-	(6)
Forest Resource Information and Analysis.....	-	-	29,956	-	30,167	-	-	-	-30,167	-	(7)
International Programs and Trade Compliance .....	15,395	1	17,000	-	20,000	-	22,000	-	+2,000	-	(8)
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry – Other.....	-	37	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Salaries and Expenses .....	53,157	324	57,742	337	65,091	396	76,669	486	+11,578	+90	(9)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.....	260,958	387	315,198	386	337,758	396	327,669	486	-10,089	+90	
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act) <sup>d</sup> .....	94,255	7	83,813	18	77,940	33	94,255	37	+16,315	+4	(10)
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations .....	94,255	7	83,813	18	77,940	33	94,255	37	+16,315	+4	
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :											

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Landscape Scale Restoration (BIL)...	-	-	-	-	92	-	92	-	-	-	-
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management (BIL).....	-	-	7,635	-	8,713	-	8,713	-	-	-	-
State Fire Capacity Grants (BIL) .....	-	-	14,171	-	15,354	-	15,354	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (BIL) .....	-	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	-
Forest Stewardship (BIL).....	-	-	8,799	-	8,714	-	8,714	-	-	-	-
Urban and Community Forestry (BIL) .....	-	-	7,737	-	8,713	-	8,713	-	-	-	-
Byproducts (BIL).....	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Wildfire Defense Grants (BIL).....	-	-	79,875	-	86,860	-	86,860	-	-	-	-
Firewood Banks (BIL) .....	-	-	1,287	-	1,394	-	1,394	-	-	-	-
Invasive Species Federal Lands Forest Health Management (BIL) ..	-	-	8,128	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	-
Invasive Species Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management (BIL) ..	-	-	7,000	-	7,685	-	7,685	-	-	-	-
Mined Lands (BIL) .....	-	-	1,153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
National Revegetation (BIL).....	-	-	7,752	-	9,207	-	9,207	-	-	-	-
Portable Skidder Bridges (BIL).....	-	-	8,042	-	8,713	-	8,713	-	-	-	-
State Forestry Action Plans (BIL).....	-	-	7,987	-	8,621	-	8,621	-	-	-	-
Wildland Fire Defense Grants (BIL).	-	-	80,515	-	87,230	-	87,230	-	-	-	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	9,115	4	9,115	58	9,115	59	-	+1	-
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	-	-	273,196	4	269,411	58	269,411	59	-	+1	-
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169):											
Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	2,750,000	-	-	21	-	103	-	+82	-
Subtotal, Inflation Reduction Act...	-	-	2,750,000	-	-	21	-	103	-	+82	-
Supplemental Appropriations:											
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>b</sup> .....	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	148,000	-	-	-	-148,000	-	-



2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	-	-	50,000	-	148,000	-	-	-	-148,000	-	
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	355,213	394	3,471,872	408	833,109	508	691,335	685	-141,774	+177	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	12,030	-	32,179	-	35,949	-	35,949	-	-	-	
Sequestrations .....	-	-	-5,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total, Appropriations<sup>e</sup> .....</b>	<b>367,243</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>3,499,033</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>869,058</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>727,284</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>-141,774</b>	<b>+177</b>	
Transfers In:											
National Forest System .....	-	-	21,153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total, Transfers In.....	-	-	21,153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers Out:											
Forest and Rangeland Research .....	-	-	-4,020	-	-3,500	-	-3,500	-	-	-	
Forest Service Operations .....	-6,034	-	-47,700	-	-27,722	-	-27,722	-	-	-	
Department of the Interior.....	-187	-	-85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
National Forest System .....	-	-	-	-	-3,200	-	-3,200	-	-	-	
Office of Inspector General.....	-	-	-1,527	-	-1,527	-	-1,527	-	-	-	
Total, Transfers Out.....	-6,221	-	-53,332	-	-35,949	-	-35,949	-	-	-	
Rescissions .....	-5,809	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sequestrations .....	-	-	5,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Recoveries, Other .....	24,686	-	21,743	-	21,242	-	21,151	-	-91	-	
Balance Available, SOY .....	65,806	-	75,368	-	3,104,562	-	2,576,856	-	-527,706	-	
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>445,705</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>3,568,983</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>3,958,913</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>3,289,342</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>-669,571</b>	<b>+177</b>	
Lapsing Balances .....	-19	-	-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-75,368	-	-3,104,562	-	-2,576,856	-	-1,580,586	-	+996,270	-	
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>364,509</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>459,602</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>1,382,057</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>1,708,756</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>+326,699</b>	<b>+177</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides \$305,360,000 each year from 2022 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 117-43 provided \$25,000,000 to the Forest and Inventory Analysis program for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$148,000,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

<sup>d</sup> Funding for Forest Legacy is \$94,255,000 not \$77,940,000. MAX indicates \$77 million.

<sup>e</sup> The discrepancy between the project statement and Max schedule X is reimbursable funds.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Landscape Scale Restoration.....	\$13,787	-	\$12,423	-	\$16,124	-	\$14,849	-	-\$1,275	-
Federal Lands Forest Health Management.....	15,606	11	15,345	-	17,729	-	20,354	-	+2,625	-
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management .....	30,705	6	27,964	-	32,694	-	35,087	-	+2,393	-
State Fire Capacity Grants (State Fire Assistance).....	75,276	-	64,978	-	75,165	-	76,842	-	+1,677	-
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (Volunteer Fire Assistance) .....	19,146	-	18,942	-	21,627	-	21,886	-	+259	-
Forest Legacy .....	2,459	5	22,296	-	15,231	-	11,536	-	-3,695	-
Forest Stewardship (Working Forest Lands).....	11,833	2	10,018	-	12,333	-	13,882	-	+1,549	-
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation.....	3,997	-	3,101	-	4,759	-	6,060	-	+1,301	-
Urban and Community Forestry.....	31,866	1	30,825	-	38,969	-	41,986	-	+3,017	-
Forest Resource Information and Analysis .....	-	-	17,846	-	25,187	-	10,182	-	-15,005	-
International Programs and Trade Compliance.....	14,565	1	19,171	-	20,494	-	22,489	-	+1,995	-
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry – Other.....	7,674	37	9,758	49	8,894	-	8,462	-	-432	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	48,806	324	49,761	337	57,931	396	72,455	486	+14,524	+90
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	275,720	387	302,428	386	347,137	396	356,070	486	+8,933	+90
Mandatory Obligations:										
Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act) .....	87,908	7	89,432	18	76,827	33	89,065	37	+12,238	+4
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations.....	87,908	7	89,432	18	76,827	33	89,065	37	+12,238	+4
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :										
Landscape Scale Restoration (BIL).....	-	-	-	-	71	-	87	-	+16	-
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management (BIL)...	-	-	2,026	-	3,800	-	5,104	-	+1,304	-
State Fire Capacity Grants (BIL) .....	-	-	4,832	-	8,420	-	10,784	-	+2,364	-
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (BIL).....	-	-	1,365	-	2,264	-	2,856	-	+592	-
Forest Stewardship (BIL).....	-	-	2,551	-	4,338	-	5,607	-	+1,269	-
Urban and Community Forestry (BIL).....	-	-	3,132	-	5,391	-	6,736	-	+1,345	-
Byproducts (BIL) .....	-	-	4,989	-	7,835	-	9,971	-	+2,136	-
Community Wildfire Defense Grants (BIL).....	-	-	3,809	-	7,769	-	11,540	-	+3,771	-
Firewood Banks (BIL) .....	-	-	1,117	-	1,357	-	1,389	-	+32	-
Invasive Species Federal Lands Forest Health Management (BIL).....	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Invasive Species Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management (BIL).....	-	-	-	-	12,629	-	8,377	-	-4,252	-
Mined Lands (BIL) .....	-	-	1,153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
National Revegetation (BIL).....	-	-	537	-	1,138	-	1,697	-	+559	-
Portable Skidder Bridges (BIL).....	-	-	-	-	12,901	-	9,676	-	-3,225	-
State Forestry Action Plans (BIL).....	-	-	2,387	-	4,250	-	5,556	-	+1,306	-
Wildland Fire Defense Grants (BIL).....	-	-	-	-	129,164	-	96,875	-	-32,289	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	838	4	8,891	58	9,006	59	+115	+1
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	-	-	33,736	4	215,218	58	190,261	59	-24,957	+1
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169):										
Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	-	-	625,000	21	1,026,000	103	+401,000	+82
Subtotal, Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	-	-	625,000	21	1,026,000	103	+401,000	+82
Supplemental Obligations:										
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>b</sup> .....	881	-	257	-	984	-	-	-	-984	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	-	33,749	-	16,251	-	-	-	-16,251	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>d</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	100,640	-	47,360	-	-53,280	-
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations .....	881	-	34,006	-	117,875	-	47,360	-	-70,515	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>364,509</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>459,602</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>1,382,057</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>1,708,756</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>+326,699</b>	<b>+177</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Landscape Scale Restoration.....	1,158	-	2,314	-	4,224	-	3,890	-	-334	-
Federal Lands Forest Health Management.....	1,611	-	3,362	-	3,544	-	4,069	-	+525	-
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management .....	441	-	4,272	-	5,521	-	5,925	-	+404	-
State Fire Capacity Grants (State Fire Assistance).....	1,638	-	12,251	-	14,857	-	15,189	-	+332	-
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (Volunteer Fire Assistance) .....	76	-	1,990	-	2,346	-	2,374	-	+28	-
Forest Legacy .....	45,705	-	24,238	-	16,558	-	12,541	-	-4,017	-
Forest Stewardship (Working Forest Lands).....	-209	-	2,055	-	2,413	-	2,716	-	+303	-
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation.....	65	-	2,514	-	4,034	-	5,137	-	+1,103	-
Urban and Community Forestry.....	369	-	5,832	-	7,757	-	8,358	-	+601	-
Forest Resource Information and Analysis .....	-	-	12,110	-	17,092	-	6,910	-	-10,182	-
International Programs and Trade Compliance.....	2,360	-	649	-	813	-	892	-	+79	-
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry – Other.....	10,641	-	8,913	-	8,212	-	7,814	-	-398	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Salaries and Expenses .....	4,351	-	9,925	-	17,177	-	21,483	-	+4,306	-
Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act) .....	6,347	-	7,477	-	6,590	-	7,780	-	+1,190	-
Landscape Scale Restoration (BIL).....	-	-	-	-	21	-	26	-	+5	-
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management (BIL)...	-	-	5,609	-	10,522	-	14,131	-	+3,609	-
State Fire Capacity Grants (BIL) .....	-	-	9,339	-	16,273	-	20,843	-	+4,570	-
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (BIL).....	-	-	2,635	-	4,371	-	5,515	-	+1,144	-
Forest Stewardship (BIL).....	-	-	6,248	-	10,624	-	13,731	-	+3,107	-
Urban and Community Forestry (BIL).....	-	-	4,605	-	7,927	-	9,904	-	+1,977	-
Byproducts (BIL) .....	-	-	15,011	-	23,576	-	30,005	-	+6,429	-
Community Wildfire Defense Grants (BIL).....	-	-	76,066	-	155,157	-	230,477	-	+75,320	-
Firewood Banks (BIL) .....	-	-	170	-	207	-	212	-	+5	-
Invasive Species Federal Lands Forest Health Management (BIL).....	-	-	3,128	-	3,128	-	3,128	-	-	-
Invasive Species Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management (BIL).....	-	-	7,000	-	2,056	-	1,364	-	-692	-
Mined Lands (BIL) .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
National Revegetation (BIL).....	-	-	7,215	-	15,284	-	22,794	-	+7,510	-
Portable Skidder Bridges (BIL).....	-	-	8,042	-	3,854	-	2,891	-	-963	-
State Forestry Action Plans (BIL).....	-	-	5,600	-	9,971	-	13,036	-	+3,065	-
Wildland Fire Defense Grants (BIL).....	-	-	80,515	-	38,581	-	28,936	-	-9,645	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	8,277	-	8,501	-	8,610	-	+109	-
Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	2,750,000	-	2,108,305	-	1,069,905	-	-1,038,400	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>b</sup> .....	815	-	949	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	-	16,251	-	47,360	-	-	-	-47,360	-
<b>Total, Balances Available, EOY .....</b>	<b>75,368</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,104,562</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,576,856</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,580,586</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-996,270</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>439,877</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>3,564,164</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>3,958,913</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>3,289,342</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>-669,571</b>	<b>+177</b>
Less:										
Rescission.....	5,809	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers In.....	-	-	-21,153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers Out .....	6,221	-	53,332	-	35,949	-	35,949	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	-	-	-5,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-24,686	-	-21,743	-	-21,242	-	-21,151	-	+91	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or	FTE Inc.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Dec.	or Dec.
Balance Available, SOY .....	-65,806	-	-75,368	-	-3,104,562	-	-2,576,856	-	+527,706	-
<b>Total Appropriation.....</b>	<b>361,415</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>3,494,214</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>869,058</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>727,284</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>-141,774</b>	<b>+177</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides \$305,360,000 each year from 2022 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 115-123 provided \$20,652,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

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

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$148,000,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

**JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement:

**Salaries and Expenses**

(9) An increase of \$11,578,000 and 90 FTE (\$65,091,000 and 396 FTEs enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) An increase of \$3,157,000 for 2024 Pay.

This increase would support the annualization of the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2024 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase. If this funding is not provided, it would impact the level of assistance the agency provides to partners.

B) An increase \$8,421,000 and 90 FTE (for a total of 486 FTE) for pay and employee costs.

This increase would improve the level of technical assistance the agency provides to partners to keep working forests intact and facilitate sound stewardship of lands across all ownerships on a landscape scale. Impacts include increased ability to work with Tribes, States, and partners to provide an avenue for nature-based climate solutions to enhance ecosystem and human community resilience to climate change. This increase would also bolster the ability to support mission-essential travel and training that is critical for employee development and satisfaction.

**Landscape Scale Restoration**

Landscape Scale Restoration is a competitive grant program that provides funding and technical assistance for collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes. Eligible grant applicants include State forestry or appropriate agencies, non-profit organizations, universities, local governments, and Federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.

Landscape Scale Restoration projects contribute to healthy, climate-resilient rural forests and communities; and help: 1) reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires; 2) improve fish and wildlife habitats, including for threatened and endangered species; 3) maintain or improve water quality and watershed function; 4) mitigate invasive plants, insects, and diseases; 5) improve important forest ecosystems; and 6) measure ecological and economic benefits, including air and soil quality and productivity. By fostering more resilient lands and waters, projects contribute to climate policy objectives and the Administration's goal to conserve 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030.

The program also contributes to Executive Order 13985 Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and the USDA Equity Action Plan. In 2022, the program developed national guidance to integrate equity into the regional project selection process. Project proposals that showed direct benefits to and engaged historically underserved communities received priority consideration. The program also launched the first competitive Request for Proposals for Federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to expand Tribal participation in the Landscape Scale Restoration Program and to restore priority forest landscapes on Tribal land.

2024 funds will be competitively awarded to cross-boundary, place-based projects that achieve on-the-ground outcomes in priority forest landscapes. The program will continue to prioritize and fund projects that engage and benefit historically underserved communities and will double the funding available for Tribes.

(1) A decrease of \$3,000,000 (\$17,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) A decrease of \$3,000,000 would reduce the number of Landscape Scale Restoration projects.

This decrease would reduce the number of projects with Tribes, States, and other eligible partners by 12 projects and result in reduced land treatment and restoration activities on non-Federal lands, based on prior year performance data. It would reduce planned funding for Tribes by \$1 million, which is one of ten key priorities identified in the USDA Equity Action Plan. Past performance of projects supported by the Landscape Scale Restoration program have demonstrated success in reducing wildland fire risk, improving

forest conditions, and mitigating impacts from insects and disease and leveraging public and private resources.

### **Federal Lands Forest Health Management**

Forest Health Management on Federal Lands program (FHM-Federal Lands) conducts management activities on Federal lands supporting ecological resilience, sustainable timber production, recreation opportunities, clean water, clean air, robust economies, and promotes climate adaptive forests and grasslands. Threats from insects, diseases, hazard trees, and wildland fire are mitigated through efficient, effective forest health management.

This program helps the National Forest System, and other actively managed Federal lands, to suppress forest insects and diseases. FHM-Federal Lands' work includes technical assistance, suppression and prevention efforts, as well as long-term management strategies to slow-the-spread of forest insects and diseases. FHM-Federal Lands program supports forest insect and disease detection surveys, and long-term monitoring activities which gather data on forest health conditions to inform management activities across Federal forested lands in the United States. The program works to improve forest health and reduce wildland fire risk on National Forest System lands with multiple Federal partners including the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Defense (DoD) to address insect and disease infestations.

FHM-Federal Lands directly supports the Administration and Agency strategic goals and initiatives to improve forest health and mitigate climate change. Several examples include:

*Reducing Risk and Damage on National Forests.* FHM-Federal Lands works with National Forest System partners to provide technical assistance, surveys, and forest health treatment funding to reduce forest susceptibility to insects, pests, and disease. Treatments, such as forest thinning, promote forest health in a holistic manner that can reduce forest susceptibility to pests while also reducing wildland fire hazard. In 2022, FHM accomplished over 240,000 acres of treatment for native pests and over 260,000 acres for invasive species on Federal lands.

*Technical Assistance and Treatment Funding to Federal Agencies.* FHM-Federal Lands partners with DOI bureaus and DOD to provide technical assistance, survey, and treat lands that have infestations of insects and diseases. In 2022, FHM-Federal Lands provided \$1.5 million to DOI and DOD agencies to treat infestations at more than 25 facilities.

*Supporting Healthy Tribal Forests.* FHM-Federal Lands works with Tribes to provide technical assistance, survey, and treatments of insects and diseases impacting culturally valuable and climate sensitive ecosystems. In 2022, FHM-Federal Lands supported whitebark pine restoration with the Yakima Nation and applying traditional ecological knowledge to restoring culturally important pinyon landscapes with the Washoe Tribe.

*Working Cross boundary for Watershed Protection.* In 2022, projects in the Tahoe Basin in California were conducted to increase resilience of forests to bark beetle infestations and wildfire. Within the Tahoe National Forest, 700 acres of forests were thinned to increase tree health, reduce risk of bark beetle impacts and reduce hazardous fuel loads. Associated with this effort, a cross boundary project in partnership with the Mooretown Maidu Tribe treated more than 200 acres in the Sierraville area to improve forest and tree health and reduce the risk of wildfire and beetles.

In 2024, FHM-Federal Lands will continue to target and focus treatment investments driven by science obtained from ongoing detection surveys and field evaluations. The program is well integrated with the National Forest System and Research and Development functions of the Agency to deliver a unified and integrated approach to addressing forest health improvement across all lands.

(2) An increase of \$3,000,000 (\$17,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$3,000,000 for additional funding to expand forest health improvement activities.  
 This increase provides additional funding to expand forest health improvement activities on Federal lands. This would increase the program's ability to locate and suppress forest pests. Invasive species are expanding across Federal lands and are causing forest mortality and damage. Early detection is critical to slowing the spread of these pests. Landscapes degraded by invasive pests have a higher risk of wildfire. This increased funding would improve the ability to monitor forest conditions for emerging or expanding

pests, increase the opportunity to invest in innovative technologies to improve efficiency, and increase the number of acres treated to suppress and prevent forest pests, diseases, and invasive plants. The program also connects citizens to engage in forest science and learn the impacts of forest insects, diseases, and invasive species on communities, watersheds, and human health. These activities would be expanded with the increased funding. This would also bolster the program’s ability to address the effects of climate change on public lands and support the Administration’s conservation priorities.

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

<b>RD - (Research Appropriation) SPTF – (State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, Forest Health Appropriation)</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Estimated</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>
<b>Asian Longhorned Beetle (Total)</b> .....	<b>\$294</b>	<b>\$338</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$365</b>
SPTF .....	-	-	-	25
RD .....	294	338	300	340
<b>Emerald Ash Borer (Total)</b> .....	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,000</b>
SPTF .....	334	200	500	500
RD .....	1,196	1,552	1,300	1,500
<b>Gold Spotted Oak Borer, Thousand Canker Disease, Laurel Wilt (Total)</b> .	<b>903</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,050</b>
SPTF .....	338	500	500	500
RD .....	565	390	600	550
<b>Spongy Moth (Total)</b> .....	<b>7,885</b>	<b>9,823</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,325</b>
SPTF .....	7,610	9,500	8,200	8,000
RD .....	275	323	300	325
<b>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Total)</b> .....	<b>2,625</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,850</b>
SPTF .....	1,785	1,700	1,700	2,000
RD .....	840	761	900	850
<b>Invasive Plants (Total)</b> .....	<b>3,778</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>4,400</b>
SPTF .....	2,477	1,900	2,250	3,000
RD .....	1,301	1,400	1,400	1,400
<b>Oak Wilt (Total)</b> .....	<b>707</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>990</b>
SPTF .....	537	600	700	700
RD .....	170	289	190	290
<b>Port Orford Cedar Root Disease (Total)</b> .....	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>
SPTF .....	75	75	100	75
<b>Sirex Woodwasp (Total)</b> .....	<b>160</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>160</b>
RD .....	160	155	180	160
<b>Southern Pine Beetle (Total)</b> .....	<b>3,731</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,700</b>
SPTF .....	3,540	3,220	4,200	4,500
RD .....	191	200	200	200
<b>Subterranean Termites (Total)</b> .....	<b>1,025</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>900</b>
RD .....	1,025	840	1,100	900
<b>Sudden Oak Death (Total)</b> .....	<b>1,909</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>2,300</b>
SPTF .....	1,700	1,700	2,000	2,000
RD .....	209	300	230	300
<b>Western Bark Beetles (Total)</b> .....	<b>5,853</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>7,300</b>
SPTF .....	4,190	4,000	4,500	5,500
RD .....	1,663	1,800	1,800	1,800
<b>Whitebark Pine Pests (Total)</b> .....	<b>452</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>590</b>
SPTF .....	196	200	150	250
RD .....	256	342	342	340
<b>White Pine Blister Rust (Total)</b> .....	<b>317</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>390</b>
SPTF .....	234	300	250	300



<b>RD - (Research Appropriation) SPTF – (State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, Forest Health Appropriation)</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Estimated</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>
RD .....	83	78	90	90
<b>Total Funding</b> .....	<b>31,244</b>	<b>32,663</b>	<b>33,982</b>	<b>36,395</b>
<b>SPTF Total</b> .....	<b>23,016</b>	<b>23,895</b>	<b>25,050</b>	<b>27,350</b>
<b>RD Total</b> .....	<b>8,228</b>	<b>8,768</b>	<b>8,932</b>	<b>9,045</b>

**Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management**

The Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands (FHM-Cooperative Lands) program works across land ownership boundaries to reduce risk and improve forest conditions at landscape and watershed scales. The program produces data, analysis, and forest health condition reports to assist active forest management decisions and cross-boundary treatment plans with partners.

Pest management methods are more effective in an all-lands approach. The FHM-Cooperative Lands program works with States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, Freely Associated States, and other partners to provide technical and financial assistance to monitor, assess, and mitigate forest health threats on non-Federal lands before they spread to healthy forests. Investments in this program are typically matched dollar for dollar by partners. Program work also includes active coordination with other USDA agencies, such as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, on forest pest activities to foster agency-to-agency coordination and collaborative survey and monitoring efforts across the country.

The Forest Health Assessment and Applied Science team produces annual Forest Conditions Reports and the National Insect and Disease Risk Map, which characterizes and predicts forest pest mortality and damage across Federal, state, tribal, and private lands. The current edition of the Risk Map estimates that approximately 27 million acres could be affected by forest insects and diseases over the next five years, depending on infestation rates and long-term weather patterns. This analysis project helps guide management focus and target areas designated for attention by Farm Bill programs. The program is an example of shared stewardship to include working with States and other partners to set priorities and co-manage risk, using science-based tools to target treatment investments, and focusing on landscape-scale outcomes using all active management tools. The program fosters collaboration between National Forests, States, Tribes, and private interests that embody the concepts of shared stewardship and supports implementation activities.

FHM-Cooperative Lands works to conserve America’s lands and waters, helps address climate change impacts, and expands service to underserved communities. Examples include:

*Sudden Oak Death in Oregon and California.* This program continues to support Sudden Oak Death (SOD) detection and containment efforts with implementation funds provided to support state and county-level efforts. Treatments to reduce SOD spread were supported with FHM-Cooperative Lands program funds for multiple land ownerships, with the majority (71%) applied to private lands. FHM-Cooperative Lands funding to support detection, treatments, and education have been critical to slow the rate of spread of this disease.

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

*Advanced racial equity and outreach to underserved communities through our Healthy Forest Healthy People Initiative with Corazon Latino.* This program activates with underserved communities to explore the impact of the forest health on human health. The protection and conservation of our forests and green spaces are critical to improving human health, particularly in communities that suffer from health and socio-economic disparities. In 2022, the partnership doubled down on efforts to reach Latino communities, invested more deeply in programming online by providing timely, relevant information on topics including health and nature, conservation, environmental education, and citizen science. Since its inception in 2018, the program has organized more than 300 grassroots

activities and approximately 50 online activities (town halls, online concerts, webinars) that have engaged more than 40,000 members of the public in person and over 5 million online across 20 states, Puerto Rico, and in 5 countries.

The Forest Health Management staff worked with the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) to develop a set of performance metrics to better illustrate the full range of impacts by the Forest Health Management program. Implementation was launched in 2022 and will help guide our program direction in 2024.

(3) An increase of \$2,000,000 (\$33,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) An increase of \$2,000,000 would increase acres treated.

This increase would provide for more acres treated to prevent the spread of insects and disease and invasive plants, compared to 2023. This would also increase support for priorities around climate adaptation and resilience and protection of biodiversity on State and private lands. It would also support the progress on identification and agreement on outcome performance measures for the America the Beautiful initiative and other climate resilience outcomes. The expansion and new introduction of invasive insects and forest diseases have created landscape-level forest mortality and damage, putting areas in greater wildfire and forest health risk. This increase would support the State's capacity to deliver assistance to landowners to manage their forested lands and monitor forest conditions for emerging or expanding pests. The program has engaged in efforts to expand tribal land assistance and to improve the assessment and assistance to urban forest health monitoring and management. This increase would expand service to underrepresented populations and lands such as tribal lands and in urban areas. The increase of funds may bolster the expansion of performance outcomes which demonstrate the contribution and impact of forest health management activities on State, Tribal, and private lands, and foster cross-boundary work.

**Forest Stewardship (Working Forest Lands)**

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is a partnership between the Forest Service and State forestry agencies to deliver technical assistance and support to non-industrial private forest landowners who own nearly 40 percent of the Nation's forests (253 million acres). Healthy, resilient forests provide timber, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreational opportunities, carbon sequestration, and other benefits to communities, including rural, underserved communities.

Over the last ten years, FSP assistance has developed forest management plans for more than 140,000 landowners to sustainably manage 21.5 million acres of forests. Landowner outreach is fundamental to program success. In 2023, the program accomplished assisting nearly half a million landowners and developed 11,000 management plans for the sustainable management of 550,000 acres. In addition to the base funding, remaining program funds are allocated competitively based on past performance, rewarding continued effective program implementation within state-identified priority areas.

Sustainably managed private forests can increase carbon storage and are more resilient to a changing climate, presenting an opportunity to support the Nation's carbon reduction and climate resiliency goals. The FSP connects landowners with the technical assistance needed to carry out forest resilience practices and activities that increase carbon storage and other benefits. In alignment with Department goals to make equity a priority, the program partner with several different organizations to address barriers and ensure access to programs for new and historically disadvantaged landowners. These partners are developing unique strategies to connect with disadvantaged landowners and ensure that the FSP is accessible to all landowners.

The 2024 funding will enable States to achieve conservation goals outlined in each State Forest Action Plan through delivery of technical assistance, education, and outreach to private forest landowners. This assistance, along with long-term trusted relationships with professional foresters, is critical to the ongoing health and long-term legacy of private forests. By improving the management of private forests, States are addressing critical conservation priorities to protect public benefits.

(4) An increase of \$1,500,000 (\$12,500,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) An increase of \$1,500,000 would support State forestry agencies' ability to deliver technical assistance to private forest landowners.

This increase would support State forestry agencies' ability to deliver planning and technical assistance to private forest landowners to help them actively manage their forests. Actively managed forests provide timber, fuel wood, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreational opportunities, and other ecosystem services, and contribute to healthier, more resilient landscapes. In 2024, with an increased budget, additional funding would be available for competitive allocation to State forestry agencies. In 2023, 41 percent of the State FSP funding was allocated competitively based on performance whereas with this increase, 48 percent of the funding would be allocated competitively in 2024. Increased funding levels will allow for continued financial support for partnerships with minority-serving institutions that are working to address barriers to program access experienced by minority landowners, as well as increased support for State forestry agencies to provide technical assistance to all non-industrial landowners.

### **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation**

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (Community Forest Program) is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to Tribes, local governments, and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to acquire and establish community forests that provide community benefits. Community benefits include economic benefits through active forest management, clean water, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, and public access for recreation. The Forest Service has agreements in place with the First Nations Development Institute and The Trust for Public Land to increase outreach to Tribes and to provide technical assistance to help Tribes successfully apply to the program.

Projects are selected through a competitive process that evaluates community benefits, contribution to landscape conservation initiatives, and likelihood of land conversion. The project review panel also considers the climate resiliency score, using The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land Mapping Tools, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability (SVI) index for the location of each proposed project during the review process.

The Community Forest Program offers a unique opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, protect cultural resources, and provide economic benefits through forest management. By permanently conserving forests that are actively managed for multiple community benefits, projects contribute to the national climate policy objectives and the Administration's goal to conserve 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030. Projects funded in disadvantaged communities also advance Executive Order 13985.

Fiscal year 2024 funds will be competitively awarded to projects that provide defined community benefits, demonstrate public engagement and participation, contribute to broader landscape initiatives, and are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The program will continue to prioritize and fund projects that engage and benefit disadvantaged communities and provide outreach and technical assistance to Tribal applicants to facilitate Tribal participation in the program.

#### **(5) An increase of \$1,000,000 (\$6,000,000 enacted in 2023).**

The funding change is requested for the following items:

#### **A) An increase of \$1,000,000 would provide financial assistance grants to Tribes, local governments, and qualified nonprofit organizations.**

This increase would provide financial assistance grants to Tribes, local governments, and qualified nonprofit organizations to acquire and establish working community forests. Based on prior performance, this increase would result in up to two additional permanent land conservation projects, which provide recreation access, educational opportunities, and conservation benefits in perpetuity. Competitive project selection considers a variety of factors in ranking and selecting projects using tools such as the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and national data illustrating climate resilience and biodiversity, in addition to more detailed local data and information provided by the applicant. This increase supports collaborative efforts with Tribes and disadvantaged communities to facilitate climate resilience and ensure that the benefits of climate investment are equitably distributed.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is optimizing the Nation's urban forests to provide community benefits such as green jobs, clean air, relief from extreme heat, natural disasters, high energy costs, and flooding. UCF directly engages with historically underrepresented and disadvantaged communities, the very audiences who

stand to benefit most from improved tree planting and maintenance efforts. UCF supports urban forest health, creates jobs, enhances community resilience, and preserves the unique sense of place in cities and towns of all sizes.

UCF provides funding and technical support to state forestry agencies and non-profit partners to help communities maintain and protect about 12 billion trees. It also works with cooperators to leverage private funding to maintain tree canopy, resulting in about 1 million trees planted annually in communities across the Nation. UCF authorities enable states to deliver technical and financial assistance to nearly 7,500 communities nationwide to better manage and benefit from urban trees. City and community trees help to reach national and local climate mitigation goals, are a major source of green jobs, and are an effective way to increase energy efficiency.

In alignment with the UCF 10-year Urban Forestry Action Plan and Executive Order 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government,” specifically, the Justice 40 initiative, funding for the UCF Program provides innovative investments in communities experiencing low tree canopy cover and environmental injustice.

Urban forests represent 20 percent of all forests in the U.S. and provide an important opportunity to increase carbon sequestration and mitigate the effects of climate change, such as extreme heat. In addition, urban trees provide tremendous social, public health, economic, and environmental benefits to the public. With 2024 funding, UCF will continue to seek opportunities to increase reforestation in urban forests and on State, Tribal, and private lands across the country, and is committed to increasing the urban tree canopy in historically marginalized communities.

(6) An increase of \$2,000,000 (\$40,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) An increase of \$2,000,000 would provide numerous benefits to historically underrepresented and disadvantaged communities.

This increase would provide financial and technical assistance that includes: 1) combating heat-related disasters – which kill more Americans than all other disasters combined – by assisting communities in creating and implementing plans for heat mitigation; and 2) pairing job opportunities while achieving landscape scale restoration in vulnerable communities by providing tree planting and tree maintenance training and employment to residents. As a Justice40 covered program, program funds would be used for projects that plan, budget, promote, execute, and deliver 40 percent of the benefits of the agency’s investments through established partnerships with local organizations working to support disadvantaged communities to increase access, provide education, and promote use of vulnerability- and equity-based data tools.

### **Forest Resource Information and Analysis**

(7) A decrease of \$30,167,000 (\$30,167,000 enacted in 2023).

Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending for Forest Resource Information and Analysis was an item funded in 2023 enacted but was not included in the 2024 President’s Budget.

### **International Programs and Trade Compliance**

Forest Service International Programs and Trade Compliance (International Programs) promotes sustainable forest management globally and brings important technologies and innovations back to the United States. The program represents the interests of the entire U.S. forestry community and its stakeholders through international engagement. International Programs also improves the management of forest invasive species by supporting collaborative work with USDA APHIS and Universities globally to control and prevent invasions. International Programs works to prevent migratory species from becoming listed under the United States Endangered Species Act and decreases the number of species currently listed by improving habitat for key migratory species outside of the United States. International Programs also supports the United States Special Envoy for Climate priorities with technical assistance.

Effective forest management at the global level is necessary to protect American trade interests, such as the ability for domestic timber producers to compete equally to ensure the sustainability of critical domestic and global natural resources, and to support climate change mitigation and climate resilience. Through the Wood Identification and Screening Center, International Programs analyzed suspected illegal timber imports, aiding in 12 Department of

Homeland Security and USDA APHIS investigations. Additionally, International Programs established two new laboratories for wood identification and screening in Peru and Vietnam, and gained commitments for additional laboratories in Gabon, Mexico, Namibia, and India, which will further enhance global efforts to combat illegal logging and improve forest governance.

In 2024, International Programs will continue work to reduce emissions from deforestation, degradation, and land use change, and to promote climate-resilient natural resource management. This includes partnering with the Polar Geospatial Center (PGC) at the University of Minnesota for programs focused on mangrove monitoring, rangeland mapping, and land use change detection, and supporting the Special Envoy for Climate to support Administration priorities overseas, including 25 new partnerships to promote climate action on the ground with a focus on disadvantaged communities most at risk from climate change. International Programs also leads interagency coordination on technical assistance for the National Security Council's Forest Climate Strategy.

(8) An increase of \$2,000,000 (\$20,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) An increase of \$2,000,000 for support of important international initiatives.

This increase would support important international initiatives, including support for conservation of coastal wetland habitat along the Pacific to support threatened shorebirds' habitat, engaging with the private sector and non-governmental organizations on economically and environmentally sustainable use of wetlands that enhance rural livelihoods.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

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

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$2,238	\$13,990	\$18,419	\$18,864
	Personnel compensation, field .....	38,880	29,660	37,930	39,994
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	41,118	43,650	56,349	58,858
12.0	Personal benefits .....	15,231	16,674	20,761	22,484
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits .....	56,349	60,324	77,110	81,342
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	405	1,564	3,577	4,530
22.0	Transportation of things .....	390	271	1,019	1,522
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	656	667	2,440	3,043
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	7	2	17	21
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	31	6	68	85
24.0	Printing and reproduction .....	126	86	391	488
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	4	2	11	14
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	16,638	10,174	49,458	61,679
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	4,187	5,346	17,585	21,930
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	59	7,701	14,314	17,851
25.5	Research and development contracts .....	6	22	52	64
25.6	Medical care.....	1	4	9	12
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	46	13	109	136
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	1,409	1,555	5,067	6,818
31.0	Equipment.....	1,118	554	3,084	3,846
32.0	Land and structures .....	-	104	192	239
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	283,079	371,197	1,207,540	1,505,118
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities .....	-	10	18	23
44.0	Refunds .....	-2	-	-4	-5
	Total, other objects.....	308,160	399,278	1,304,947	1,627,414
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	364,509	459,602	1,382,057	1,708,756
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$178,999	\$183,724	\$192,175	\$202,168
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	104,775	103,203	107,950	113,564
	Average Grade, GS Position .....	12	11.8	11.8	11.8

## **STATUS OF PROGRAMS**

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

#### ***Current Activities***

Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) is a competitive grant program that funds collaborative, science-based restoration projects that cross multiple jurisdictions, including in priority rural forest landscapes, by leveraging State, Tribal, and partner capacity with strategic Federal investments.<sup>23</sup> The program addresses large-scale issues including wildfire risk reduction, watershed protection and restoration, and the spread of invasive species, insect infestation and disease by supporting cross-boundary, landscape-scale projects identified in a science-based restoration strategy, such as State Forest Action Plans,<sup>24</sup> to deliver on-the-ground results.

In 2022, the LSR program benefited landscapes and communities by restoring health and resilience within State priority areas using \$12.5 million in competitive grants to fund 49 projects in 32 States and 3 territories. This was a similar geographic reach as 2021, where \$12.5 million in grants were awarded for 54 projects in 41 States and 3 territories. These projects include assistance for disadvantaged landowners and forestry practices that support climate resilience, with projects ranging from riparian forest restoration in Washington State’s Middle Snohomish Landscape to address climate vulnerabilities, to focusing on food security in the Federated States of Micronesia as a component of landscape conservation and restoration.

#### ***Program Evaluations***

For the agency’s regional competitive grant awards in 2022 and future years, the scoring criteria for LSR project selection has been updated so that project proposals showing direct benefits to, or intentional engagement of underserved communities will receive priority consideration. Additionally, in 2022 the program launched the first competitive request for proposals for Federally Recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to expand tribal participation in the LSR program and to restore priority forest landscapes on Tribal land.<sup>25</sup>

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

Protecting and Sustaining the Source Waters of Kawaihae and Honokoa Watersheds through Restoration and Community Stewardship in Hawaii: The Kohala Watershed Partnership protects and sustains a primary water source for 26,000 people in Hawaii’s Kohala district, in the forested summit region of Eke on Kohala Mountain. This priority landscape includes Kawaihae and Honokoa watersheds and totals 22,000 acres from summit to sea. By partnering on watershed restoration to control nonnative feral swine, raise public awareness about native forest ecosystems, and engage community members in forest to reef stewardship, the headwaters of five important streams will be protected from ongoing threats by invasive nonnative species. Project activities included fencing, ungulate removal, weed control, community stewardship, and water quality and quantity monitoring. In 2022, project partners carried out stewardship activities that included data collection, plant identification, seed collection, and invasive species removal. More than 30 acres were treated for invasive ginger plants and nearly 300 community members engaged in 18 learning excursions.

Restoring Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) forests on the Cumberland Plateau in Kentucky and Tennessee: Green Forests Work and other partners are restoring shortleaf pine-upland oak forest types on Kentucky’s Cumberland Plateau. Project sites include reclaimed mine tracts in Kentucky and former clear cuts in Tennessee. This collaborative, science-based restoration project addresses priority goals associated with both the Shortleaf Pine Restoration Initiative<sup>26</sup> and the White Oak Initiative.<sup>27</sup> A holistic suite of restoration activities includes invasive plant control, soil decompaction, and planting of native shortleaf pine and upland oaks. Reforestation of these sites improves air and water quality, improves forest resiliency, reduces forest fragmentation, and benefits wildlife. In 2022, project partners planted over 100,000 seedlings across nearly 150 acres.

<sup>23</sup> For the purposes of this program, “rural” refers to any city or town with a population of 50,000 or less according to the latest census.

<sup>24</sup> A State Forest Action Plan is a document that generally provides detailed statewide analysis of forest conditions and trends. State Forest Action Plans can be found at: <https://www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/>.

<sup>25</sup> “Tribe” is defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)). As of this printing, there are 574 officially recognized tribes in the contiguous 48 states and Alaska.

<sup>26</sup> <https://shortleafpine.org/shortleaf-pine-initiative>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/>

## Federal Lands Forest Health Management

### *Current Activities*

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

The Federal Lands Forest Health Management program helps the National Forest System and other actively managed Federal lands suppress forest insects and diseases. FHM-Federal Lands' work includes technical assistance, suppression and prevention efforts, as well as long-term management strategies to *slow-the-spread* of forest insects and diseases. The FHM-Federal Lands program funds forest insect and disease detection surveys and long-term monitoring activities that gather data on forest health conditions to inform management activities across Federal forested lands in the United States.

Table FS-24. Acres treated to prevent the spread of native and invasive pests on Federal and non-Federal lands in 2022.

Forest Health Management Activity	Acres treated
Native pests on Federal lands <sup>a</sup>	243,623
Invasive pests on Federal lands <sup>a</sup>	269,107
Native pests on non-Federal lands <sup>b</sup>	37,757
Invasive pests on non-Federal lands <sup>b</sup>	600,433
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,150,920</b>

<sup>a</sup> Funded through Forest Health Management on Federal Lands

<sup>b</sup> Funded through Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands

### *Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Reducing Risk and Fostering Restoration in Partnership with Tribes in Oregon: The Forest Health Management program is protecting and restoring sensitive pine forests with the Warm Springs Tribe of Central Oregon. In 2022, together they identified over 500 acres in 19 mixed conifer stands for suppression of white pine blister rust. The stands were selected due to the potential for successful treatments on the Warm Springs Reservation east of the Cascades. These treatments on the Reservation appear to be effective and support the Tribe's efforts to restore this species.

Santa Fe National Forest fuels reduction and restoration projects in New Mexico: The Forest Health Management program has partnered with the Santa Fe National Forest to fund fuels reduction and restoration projects. In 2022, the program contributed funds to treat approximately 150 acres of forest that will produce fuelwood for local communities. The Santa Fe National Forest joined the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the Tri Chapter Navajo to treat the area and to deliver the removed material to the Navajo Reservation Tribal communities in need of firewood. This represents the first formal Wood for Life Tribal Fuelwood Initiative in the state of New Mexico, which expands on successes from Arizona and the western side of the Navajo Nation.<sup>28</sup> This agreement with NFF also provides funding to establish ancestral lands youth conservation crews to participate with stewardship activities on NFS lands and empower tribal youth to pursue careers in natural resource management.

### *Program Evaluations*

The Forest Health Management program initiated a USDA Executive Dashboard in 2022. The dashboard displays analysis and data on insect and disease detection surveys, forest insect and disease risk information, and treatment accomplishments. The dashboard will communicate forest health indicators that will guide future assessment needs and aid in targeting management and treatment investments.

## Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management

### *Current Activities*

Pest management methods are more effective with an all-lands approach. The Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands (FHM-Cooperative Lands) program works with States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, Freely Associated States, and other partners to provide technical and financial assistance to monitor, assess, and mitigate forest health threats on non-Federal lands before they spread to healthy forests. Investments in

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.nationalforests.org/regional-programs/southwest/wood-for-life-tribal-fuelwood-initiative>



this program are typically matched dollar for dollar by partners. The Forest Health Assessment and Applied Science team produces the annual Forest Conditions Reports<sup>29</sup> and the National Insect and Disease Risk Map (Risk Map) that characterizes and predicts forest pest mortality and damage across Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands.<sup>30</sup> The current edition of the Risk Map, which covers 2013-2027, estimates that approximately 27 million acres across all lands could be affected by forest insects and diseases over the next five years depending on infestation rates and long-term weather patterns. These analysis projects help guide focused land management and target areas designated for attention by Section 8204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79).

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

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

Expanded Partnership to Address Emerald Ash Borer: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to impact ash (*Fraxinus*) trees in both urban and native forests. It is now found in 36 states, and the Forest Service is working with State partners to help communities deal with the impacts of this invasive beetle. In 2022, EAB was found for the first time on the West Coast in Oregon. The Forest Service is working closely with state partners (Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry) and the USDA APHIS to coordinate activities and implement a response plan. The Forest Service also coordinated an information session for State and municipal agencies to understand the best possible survey and management actions. The Forest Service continues to provide technical assistance, outreach materials, and financial support to Oregon, as well as other EAB-infested states, to address one of the most impactful pests affecting urban and native forests.

Cooperative Partnership to Fight Invasive Plants across the Pacific Islands: In 2022, the FHM cooperative invasive plant program worked with a suite of state, non-profit, and university partners to plan and implement strategies for invasive plant management across the Pacific Islands. Activities included early detection and eradication of newly established invasive plants, as well as treatments, and biological control for long-term management of established species. Approximately 900 acres of invasive plants were treated, and protocols and techniques for utilizing unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to deploy biocontrol agents were developed. These efforts helped to prevent new introductions and control established invasive plant populations which resulted in enhanced environmental resilience, food security, livelihoods, and cultural resources throughout Pacific Island communities.

Whitebark Pine Partnership with the Yakama Nation: The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation values whitebark pine (nirik-aaš, *Pinus albicaulis*) and recognizes the role this species plays in supporting high-elevation ecosystems. Whitebark pine is a culturally significant species at risk and is proposed to be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in the United States. Natural resources important to the culture and heritage of the Yakama people such as the whitebark pine may be altered or lost. Until now, only 250 acres of the suspected 4,100 acres of whitebark pine forest type on the Yakama Reservation had been surveyed. In 2022, the Forest Health Management program initiated a Forest Health Monitoring investment to support the tribe by surveying remote upper elevation portions of the reservation to determine the presence and condition of whitebark pine. Tribal forestry crews received training from Forest Service pathologists, and the data collection will assist five-needle pine (white pine) tree inventories and restoration strategies. The funding was provided through a direct Cooperative Agreement which supports the shared stewardship goals in the partnership to assess, manage, and restore whitebark pine forests across all lands.

### ***Program Evaluations***

In 2022, FHM and the National Association of State Foresters launched the implementation of a set of performance metrics to better illustrate the full range of impacts by the FHM program. For many years, the program has expressed its accomplishments in the form of “acres treated” alone. However, forest health programs have made great progress on targeting treatments through improved survey and monitoring, application technology, and

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/publications/fhp/index.shtml>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/applied-sciences/mapping-reporting/index.shtml>

pesticide management. Forest health programs also use education and outreach to engage landowners and the public in behaviors that help reduce the need for treatment, such as preventing spread of invasive species. To better represent the work and accomplishments achieved by forest health programs, the new set of performance metrics will capture data that encompass forest health treatments, survey and monitoring, as well as education and outreach.

### **State Fire Capacity Grants (State Fire Assistance)**

#### ***Current Activities***

More than one-third of all homes in the United States are in fire-prone wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. Local fire departments or State agencies are the first responders on almost 75 percent of wildfires across the Nation, including some wildfires that ignite on national forest lands. Collaboration between the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and non-Federal government entities is essential for an effective, all-lands approach to wildland fire management. Through the State Fire Capacity program, the Forest Service supports and assists State Foresters and local communities in building capacity for wildfire risk mitigation, control, and suppression on non-Federal lands.

The program helps State agencies create more fire-adapted communities and resilient landscapes by implementing pre-fire prevention and mitigation programs and emphasizing pre-fire planning and risk reduction in the WUI. These wildfire risk reduction efforts are critical to implement the “National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy”<sup>31</sup> and the agency’s “Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A 10-Year Implementation Plan.”<sup>32</sup> The program funds important training for safer initial attack responses to wildfire. While the focus of these funds is on non-Federal lands, the investments benefit all wildland fire management partners by enabling States to increase and maintain wildfire suppression capacity, which in turn increases national capacity for both fire and non-fire emergencies, such as hurricanes and floods. Many state and local agencies make their resources available to the national system through regional coordination centers.

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

Southern Appalachian Collaborative in Georgia: A collaborative group of private landowners and resource conservation and development councils provides fire prevention education to residents across the Southern Appalachian region. The Appalachian Resource Conservation and Development Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (AppCo) is supported by fire professionals from the Forest Service and State forestry agencies, and works closely with State employees, including those from the Georgia Forestry Commission. AppCo’s goal is to educate homeowners about wildfire risks and help residents take ownership of their surroundings. State Fire Capacity grants fund these education projects through the Georgia Forestry Commission. The grants have benefited homeowners in more than 75 counties across Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. The grant funding has allowed AppCo to add an additional 60 Firewise USA communities and complete 96 mitigation projects.<sup>33</sup> Through this community outreach, a network of local citizens collaborated to make their communities less prone to fire. In 2022, for example, 24 of the 124 communities in Towns County, Georgia are now designated as fire-adapted.

Fire Networks of The Nature Conservancy: State Fire Capacity funding supports various fire networks of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), including the Fire Learning Network (FLN), the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (FACNet), Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN), the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES), and as of Spring 2022, the Women-in-Fire TRES, which had taken a two-year pause due to COVID-19. These fire networks develop local capacity, support project implementation, and spread best practices and learning to other practitioners. In 2022, the Prescribed Fire Learning Group taught 80 people from 19 states and 3 countries about developing prescribed fire programs or projects, including sessions on fire conditions, cooperative burning, indigenous fire management, and successional planning. In Oregon, the FLN assisted the Klamath Tribes with developing a new fire management program, which the tribes are building with \$6 million in state funds allocated for recovery from the Bootleg Fire. The Heart of the Appalachians FLN landscape hosted 29 people for two weeks of burning, mentoring, and exploring the role and challenges of women in the field. WTRES also developed a public Facebook page, providing an opportunity for people to learn more about gender representation in the fire workforce.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>31</sup> The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and Risk Analysis – Phase III Report (forestsandrangelands.gov)

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Wildfire-Crisis-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/WomensTRES/>

## **Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (Volunteer Fire Assistance)**

### ***Current Activities***

The Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant program provides technical and financial assistance to eligible local volunteer fire departments that protect communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer. There are over 24,000 rural and predominantly volunteer fire departments nationwide. In many rural areas across the Nation, the local volunteer fire department is the first responder to protect local communities from wildfire, and actively supports community wildfire risk mitigation efforts.

The Volunteer Fire Capacity grant program focuses on increasing the capacity of local fire departments to provide initial attack on wildfires by providing additional firefighter training and assistance to departments with grant funding to purchase equipment for wildland firefighters. Recipients match grants dollar-for-dollar to increase the value of the Federal investment. Rural fire departments also play a key role in engaging communities about fire adaptation and mitigation and help meet expanded fire protection needs within the WUI. Together, these initiatives combine to create more fire-adapted communities.

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

Corrales Fire Department in New Mexico: In 2022, the Volunteer Fire Capacity grant program and the State of New Mexico provided funding to the Corrales Fire Department for wildland firefighting gear and equipment for brush trucks, such as hoses, appliances, hand tools, and float pumps that work in the nearby river and irrigation ditches. This funding is critical for this rural fire department to safely and effectively suppress wildfires when small, preventing larger and more expensive conflagrations.

Volunteer Fire Departments in Kentucky: Kentucky has experienced an increase in natural disasters over the previous 24 months, with snow and ice, tornados, and flash flooding. These disasters have caused substantial infrastructure damage in several communities that help the Kentucky Division of Forestry with wildland firefighting. In 2022, Volunteer Fire Capacity grants funded replacement wildland firefighting gear for these affected communities, so that they are equipped to support the State with wildland firefighting. Communities used this newly-acquired wildland firefighting gear to respond to brush fires this fall, allowing them to safely and effectively extinguish the fires.

## **Forest Legacy**

### ***Current Activities***

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) protects critical forest landscapes threatened by land conversion through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases in partnership with State agencies and private landowners. The program does not add to the Federal estate. Purchase of conservation easements assist landowners to conserve and actively manage private working forests. Fee acquisitions by States create or add to State forests, State parks, and State wildlife management areas securing public benefits, including recreational access. This locally driven, nationally scaled program is a key contributor to the Administration's goal to conserve 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030.

The FLP is funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act. The LWCF Act was amended in August 2020 by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152) which provides up to \$900 million in mandatory funding annually for all Federal and State land acquisition and easement programs across the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. This mandatory funding first became available in 2021. In 2022, FLP received \$88.8 million of new funding and direction to use an additional \$6.6 million of recovered prior year funding for new projects.

Conservation across landscapes and ownerships is essential to addressing large-scale conservation issues, including watershed protection, wildfire risk mitigation, and protection of at-risk species. Intact working forests provide clean drinking water, sequester carbon, protect wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and offer recreation access. Conserving working lands supports local, regional, and national economies. To select projects for funding, FLP uses a two-tiered competitive process at both the State and national levels. To date, FLP has conserved nearly 3 million acres, including almost 55,000 acres in 2022. Historically, FLP leverages more than one dollar for every Federal dollar spent.

The Forest Legacy Program received an additional \$700 million over 10 years in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-169) (IRA). The Forest Service has continued to implement its GAOA staffing strategy and is adding additional capacity to meet the additional needs to implement the IRA. The focus on additional capacity is

not limited to the Forest Service. The Forest Service is working with State partners to build capacity to pursue and acquire interests in lands and to steward them over the long term. Department-level reporting on GAOA performance continues through LWCF stakeholder listening sessions with Congressional and other interested stakeholders. The Forest Service has also launched a series of partner engagement opportunities to discuss the new opportunities with the IRA funds.

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

**Roanoke River in Virginia:** A fee acquisition<sup>35</sup> completed in 2022 created the Charlotte State Forest and conserves nearly 2,500 acres of productive forest, wetlands, and streams. These lands have been sustainably managed for over a century for timber resources, high quality wildlife habitat, and water quality. The project includes 13 miles of the Roanoke Creek and Wards Ford Creek, two tributaries to the Roanoke River, a Virginia Scenic River. The water from this forest flows into Kerr Lake which provides drinking water to 500,000 residents of Virginia and North Carolina. As a State Forest the land will be a certified forest managed to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's (SFI) standards.<sup>36</sup> Virginia forests contribute \$21 billion annually to the State's economy, support the employment of more than 100,000 Virginians in forestry and related industries, and represent the third leading industry in the Commonwealth<sup>37</sup>. The Charlotte State Forest also creates new recreation opportunities that will contribute to the local and state economies.

**Kootenai Forestlands (Phase 2) in Montana:** A conservation easement<sup>38</sup> (CE) project that closed in 2022 conserves nearly 30,000 acres of highly productive forest in northwest Montana. This project ensures continued sustainable timber management, supports wood product jobs, protects wildlife habitat and key landscape connectivity, and secures free, permanent public access to recreation land. The CE is projected to generate more than \$6 million of economic activity per year. The property currently provides over 25,000 days of recreation through public hunting and angling. The CE secured public access for hunting and fishing, as well as hiking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and other outdoor activities. Outdoor recreation generates \$64 million in income for residents of Lincoln County. The project lands provide key habitat for 42 Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in Montana's 2015 "State Wildlife Action Plan" (SWAP), including, but not limited to, westslope cutthroat trout (23 stream miles), wolverine, peregrine falcon, and western toad.<sup>39</sup> The project includes 47 miles of streams and 14 miles of the Kootenai River, including 14 miles of critical habitat for the threatened bull trout that are found on the property. The project complements the 2019 Kootenai Forestlands CE (Phase I), nearly 23,000 acres, as well as the FLP 2003-funded 142,000-acre Thompson-Fisher CE and other FLP projects in Montana and Idaho. It shares 16 miles with the Thompson-Fisher CE and 109 miles of border with the Kootenai National Forest and state land.

### ***Program Evaluations***

The Forest Service is working with partners to evaluate the impacts of the program on carbon sequestration and climate change resilience. Mechanisms of identifying and evaluating carbon rich project opportunities are being explored. The FLP is currently evaluating tools to understand the impact of the program on disadvantaged communities. Additionally, the 2024 project evaluation guidance asks states to discuss the impact of projects on disadvantaged communities.

## **Forest Stewardship Program (Working Forest Lands)**

### ***Current Activities***

Healthy, resilient forests provide timber, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreational opportunities, carbon sequestration, and many other ecosystem benefits for communities and the Nation. The Forest Stewardship program (FSP) is a partnership between the Forest Service and State forestry agencies to help non-industrial private forest landowners care for their nearly 300 million acres (nearly 40 percent of the Nation's forests) and ensure we continue to receive these benefits from privately owned forests. In 2022, over 550,000 landowners were informed about tools and assistance available to them to support sustainable forest management activities, more than 200,000 landowners were assisted by a forester to learn about managing their land, and nearly 2 million acres are under new or updated

<sup>35</sup> Fee acquisition is a land conveyance where a purchaser acquires all rights, title, and interest in a property from a seller or owner. The Forest Legacy Program provides funding to States to acquire lands from willing landowners.

<sup>36</sup> <https://forests.org/standards/>

<sup>37</sup> Virginia Department of Forestry (<https://dof.virginia.gov/about/>)

<sup>38</sup> Conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and an eligible entity (governmental or nonprofit land trust organization) that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Forest Legacy funded conservation easements are held by State agencies and other units of state government.

<sup>39</sup> <https://mtfwp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=70ffd149a1674e53bf49d50212fc3ab7>

Forest Stewardship plans, where those landowners know the current condition of their land and actions to maintain healthy forests in the future.

Assistance offered through the program provides landowners with access to multiple services and incentives, such as USDA conservation programs, forest certification programs, forest product and ecosystem service markets, and tax incentives that can help landowners maintain their forests and the benefits the Nation receives from them. In 2022, technical assistance provided through the program qualified landowners for \$32 million in cost share assistance through the Emergency Forest Restoration Program to reforest private land damaged from hurricanes, tornadoes, severe storms, and wildfires. Additionally, this partnership provided technical assistance that allowed qualified landowners to access funding from the Conservation Reserve Program for reforestation and forest management activities on nearly 250,000 acres.

The Forest Service maintains longstanding partnerships to coordinate and streamline technical assistance and address diverse landowner needs. Program staff collaborate with partners on market development to support landowners by expanding market opportunities, including participation in emerging carbon markets or payments for forest watershed services. The program supports rural economic development that promotes healthy, climate resilient forests that help mitigate the effects of climate change. Landowners with access to markets are more likely to keep their forests as forests rather than convert the land to other uses. See the Biomass and Wood Innovations Special Exhibit for additional information on wood products, energy, and markets.

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

**Partnerships to ensure equity and inclusion:** Education is the first step to establishing a long-term relationship with landowners that can ultimately lead to healthier, more sustainable, and resilient forests. Through strategic partnerships, the Forest Stewardship Program educates woodland owners to improve management of private forest lands for public benefits. In 2022, the FSP supported several partnerships including:

- Women Owning Woodlands – this network delivered educational programs focused on the needs of minority women landowners.
- American Forest Foundation – this partnership improved access to carbon market opportunities for minority and disadvantaged landowners.
- Mano Y Ola – this partnership with the Southern region expanded outreach and education for Hispanic landowners.
- Khuba International and Cornell University – these partnerships with the Eastern region engaged and supported minority landowners.

**Forest Stewardship Prioritization:** In 2021, the program implemented a performance-based allocation system, outcomes-based reporting methodology, and prioritized Federal assistance. In 2022, states are using their Federal funding in key areas that are relevant to their state goals and forest action plans. New Mexico, for example, identified key watersheds to engage with landowners in wildfire risk reduction and forest health activities to improve drinking water and biodiversity, and to protect infrastructure.

**Woodland Owner Data:** The lack of available data on landowners and their properties is one of the challenges with developing landowner programs. The National Woodland Owner Survey (NWOS) provides this data to support program implementation. In 2022, the Forest Stewardship Program provided funding to support the new initiative by the NWOS to use parcel data from across the United States to develop better estimates at smaller scales (counties/watersheds) for private landowner properties, including acres and locations. This data helps to identify priority areas, locate educational activities, and ensure forester capacity to meet the need.

### **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation**

#### ***Current Activities***

The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) provides financial assistance grants for acquiring and establishing working community forests that provide public benefits. CFP was authorized in 2008, and the first grants were awarded in 2012. Projects are selected through a competitive process that evaluates community benefits, contribution to landscape conservation initiatives, and likelihood of land conversion.

CFP works directly with local governments, Tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations to acquire and establish working community forests. These areas provide public benefits such as clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, public access and recreation opportunities, economic benefits from timber and non-timber products, and educational opportunities to local communities. In 2022, the agency awarded \$5.5 million in 12 new grants to communities in

nine States, totaling nearly 8,000 acres. Projects included a Tribal project located within the ancestral homelands of the Pomo people that will restore Tribal access for traditional ecological knowledge and traditional community uses, and the first project in Alaska that will permanently protect over 300 acres of intact coastal forests, salmon streams, trails, and habitat for wildlife near downtown Anchorage. Since the first grant in 2012, the program has protected nearly 30,000 acres.

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

Armintrout-Kalamazoo River Community Forest in Michigan: In 2022, the Armintrout-Kalamazoo River Community Forest permanently conserved 140 acres of dynamic riverside forestlands in rural Allegan County, Michigan, including three miles of river frontage with wild bends and oxbows, and 40 acres of diverse wetland communities. Wetland communities provide critical habitat for amphibians, reptiles, fish, waterfowl, declining songbird species, such as prothonotary warblers, and filtration for river water and storage for stormwater, improving water quality in the area. The forest also contains culturally important plants such as wild rice and animals that are important to Tribes. Located near downtown Allegan, the forest establishes free and easy public access for recreation including hiking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, paddling, and hands on education opportunities for the Allegan Public Schools large rural school system with many low-income students.

Lakeview Community Forest in Maine: In 2022, the 2,025 acres Lakeview Community Forest tract provides an essential expansion to the existing Downeast Lake Community Forest and is a much-needed puzzle piece connecting a mosaic of Tribal, State, and private land. The Lakeville Community Forest Tract will serve new residents due to its proximity to major population centers and location on Lower Sysladobsis Lake, ranked as a Resource Class 1A Lake by the State of Maine for its multiple outstanding natural values. Four-season recreation opportunities will be expanded in support of the area's largest industry (outdoor recreation) to include hunting and fishing in addition to hiking, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking on over 8 miles of interior wood roads. Located adjacent to the land owned by the Penobscot Indian Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe, both Tribes are engaged and support the acquisition.

### ***Program Evaluations***

The Forest Service is using new data sets to analyze the benefits CFP projects provide to disadvantaged communities and contribute to climate resilience when reviewing projects. The project review panel considered the climate resiliency score, using The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land Mapping Tools and the Center for Disease Control Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for the location of each proposed project when reviewing projects. Three of the selected projects were identified as highly value for resilience to climate change and five were identified as having high biodiversity value using The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Lands Mapping Tool. Nine of the projects align to objectives of Executive Order 13985 to support disadvantaged communities. The Forest Service has active agreements in place with the First Nations Development Institute and The Trust for Public Land to increase outreach to Tribes and to provide technical assistance to help Tribes successfully apply to the program. The Pomo Tribe's project received support from both partnerships.

## **Urban and Community Forestry**

### ***Current Activities***

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is the only dedicated urban forest program in the Federal government to conserve, protect, and enhance trees across various landownership types. UCF is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program, delivering nature-based solutions for climate and environmental justice, and green jobs and training where more than 84 percent of Americans live, work, and play. The program is delivered in partnership with all 50 States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and affiliated Pacific Island Nations, more than 30 national partners, and more than 150 community tree groups.

In 2022, the program assisted more than 7,447 communities to better manage their trees to produce public benefits. With limited exceptions, the program requires a 1:1 match to Federal funds, but this value is often far exceeded. According to a 2021 study by the Arbor Day Foundation, urban and community trees provide a \$73 billion benefit to society from environmental benefits derived from urban tree canopy which shades and cools extreme heat radiated from built urban infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, and buildings, sequesters carbon, filters out harmful air pollutants, and reduces peak stormwater runoff in storm events.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Economics of Urban Forestry in the United States (arborday.org).

Historic funding levels of \$1.5 billion provided to the Urban and Community Forestry Program through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) affords unparalleled opportunities for States and partner organizations to assist disadvantaged communities across our nation and apply nature-based solutions to chronic and emergent economic, social, and environmental challenges. As a Justice40 covered program, IRA funding directed to disadvantaged and underserved communities experiencing low urban tree canopy, extreme heat, severe flooding, and limited awareness or access to green job workforce opportunities will become more resilient to climate change, benefit from the cooling effects of increased urban tree canopy and attain broadened exposure and access to environmental career pathways.

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

**Addressing Urban Forest Health:** In 2022, the UCF appropriation included \$4 million to restore urban forests due to catastrophic losses from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and build climate change resiliency. In partnership with the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Urban Forestry Committee, the State Urban Forest Resilience Program (SUFR) competitively awarded funds to 11 recipients in 11 States. Selected projects will leverage over \$4 million in matching funds to help communities respond to and recover from infestations. Customer service and accountability processes were built into the design of the competitive process, with project monitoring schedules, a process improvement review, and a new online portal for project proposal submissions in support of Executive Order 14058, Transforming Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust in Government and the President’s Management Agenda priority to deliver excellent, equitable, and secure Federal services for improvement of customer experience measurement and modernization.

**Delivering an Equitable Urban & Community Forestry Program:** UCF is a Justice 40 covered program and has an active USDA Equity Action Plan. In 2022, UCF conducted equity and inclusion centered events and peer-to-peer learning opportunities between stakeholders through conferences, workshops, organized town halls and roundtables. UCF invited non-traditional stakeholder groups to share feedback, challenges and requests for more inclusive urban forests and more equitable access to program resources. More than 2,500 people attended these community engagement events.

### ***Program Evaluations***

In 2021, the National UCF program established a national Federal-State working group of UCF program managers and coordinators to assess and update national performance definitions on the required Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) database. These updates were approved by the Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) and were incorporated into National UCF program guidance documents and allocation methodology language. In 2022, a UCF CARS Questions Team was established to answer peer questions and interpret definitions. The team has streamlined customer service and technical assistance inquiry responses for UCF program elements, assistance, and volunteer hours.

## **Forest Resource Information and Analysis**

### ***Current Activities***

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103) provided \$29,955,500 for congressionally directed spending in this program. The congressionally directed spending, also known as community project funding, included 39 projects in 17 States. As of January 15, 2023, 89 percent of the total funding received has been awarded to project sponsors. These projects take advantage of the various State, Private, and Tribal Forestry authorities and will benefit communities through fuels and forest health treatments, watershed protection, and economic development.

## **International Programs and Trade Compliance**

### ***Current Activities***

Forest Service International Programs and Trade Compliance promotes sustainable forest management globally and brings important technologies and innovations back to the United States. The program represents the interests of the entire U.S. forestry community and its stakeholders through international engagement. Effective forest management at the global level is necessary to protect U.S. trade interests, such as the ability of domestic timber producers to compete in domestic and global markets, ensure the sustainability of critical domestic and global natural resources, and to support climate change mitigation and climate resilience.

International Programs provide technical assistance to other countries to combat illegal logging, which costs the United States forest products industry \$1 billion annually in lost export opportunities and depressed wood prices. International Programs and Trade Compliance also improves the management of forest invasive species, which annually cause \$4.2 billion in loss and damage in the forest products industry, by supporting collaborative work to

control and prevent invasions. International Programs and Trade Compliance also works to prevent key migratory species from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act, and decreases the number of species currently listed, by improving habitats outside of the United States. International Programs and Trade Compliance also supports the United States Special Envoy for Climate priorities through technical assistance.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

**Combating Illegal Logging:** In 2022, International Programs and Trade Compliance invested about \$4 million supporting enforcement of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 3371-3378), expanding the scope and operation of the Wood Identification and Screening Center, and initiated new partnerships and provided technical assistance to timber-producing countries for combatting illegal logging and improving forest governance. Work included:

- Establishing two new laboratories for wood identification and screening in Peru and Vietnam, and gaining counterpart commitments for additional laboratories in Gabon, Mexico, Namibia, and India.
- Supporting the Department of Homeland Security and USDA APHIS through forensic analysis of suspected illegal timber imports for 12 investigations.

**Protecting the United States against Invasive Species:** International Programs and Trade Compliance invested about \$2 million in 2022 for work to identify and monitor pest and pathogen damage on North American trees. Work included:

- Monitoring 10 newly established sentinel forest gardens (trees planted outside of their native range to monitor vulnerability to insects and pathogens) in Asia, Europe, and the United States, and monitoring mature trees in botanic gardens in Europe and South America. Information gathered from these sites will provide the United States with a head start on identification and response to new damaging non-native species.
- Partnering with USDA Agricultural Research Service on two highly invasive plants (cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)) to identify and test biocontrol agents that could reduce invasive grass populations and restore native habitat.

**Supporting Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency:** International Programs and Trade Compliance invested about \$3 million in 2022 to reduce emissions from deforestation, degradation, and land use change, and to promote climate-resilient natural resource management. Work included:

- Partnering with the Polar Geospatial Center (PGC) at the University of Minnesota for programs focused on mangrove monitoring, rangeland mapping, and land use change detection.
- Working with the Special Envoy for Climate to support Administration priorities overseas, including 25 new partnerships to promote climate action on the ground with a focus on disadvantaged communities most at risk from climate change.
- Leading interagency coordination on technical assistance for the National Security Council's Forest Climate Strategy.



NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

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

Item	Amount
Enacted, 2023.....	\$1,974,388,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+251,892,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>2,226,280,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

- 1 *National Forest System*
- 2 For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement,
- 3 and utilization of the National Forest System, [and for hazardous fuels management on or adjacent to such lands,
- 4 \$1,974,388,000]~~\$2,226,280,000~~, to remain available through September 30, [2026]2027: *Provided*, That of the
- 5 funds provided, [~~\$32,000,000~~]\$80,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration
- 6 Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f): *Provided further*, That [for the funds
- 7 provided in the preceding proviso, section 4003(d)(3)(A) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16
- 8 U.S.C. 7303(d)(3)(A)) shall be applied by substituting "20" for "10" and section 4003(d)(3)(B) of the Omnibus
- 9 Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(d)(3)(B)) shall be applied by substituting "4" for "2":
- 10 *Provided further*, That] of the funds provided, [~~\$40,000,000~~ ]\$41,600,000 shall be for forest products, of which
- 11 \$1,600,000 shall be available for the hire and purchase of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting
- 12 charging or fueling infrastructure: *Provided further*, That [of the funds provided, \$207,000,000 shall be]any
- 13 unobligated balances for hazardous fuels management [activities, of which not to exceed \$20,000,000 may be used
- 14 to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry"
- 15 appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System
- 16 lands: *Provided further*, That \$20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement
- 17 contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities, and for training or
- 18 monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land, or on non-Federal land if
- 19 the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That funds made
- 20 available to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106–393, title VI, shall be available for
- 21 use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the "State and
- 22 Private Forestry" appropriation] may be transferred to the "Wildland Fire Management" account: *Provided further*,
- 23 That of the funds provided for recreation, heritage, and wilderness, \$1,600,000 shall be available for the hire and
- 24 purchase of zero emission passenger motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure: *Provided*
- 25 *further*. That notwithstanding section 33 of the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012), the Secretary of
- 26 Agriculture, in calculating a fee for grazing on a National Grassland, may provide a credit of up to 50 percent of the
- 27 calculated fee to a Grazing Association or direct permittee for a conservation practice approved by the Secretary in
- 28 advance of the fiscal year in which the cost of the conservation practice is incurred, and that the amount credited
- 29 shall remain available to the Grazing Association or the direct permittee, as appropriate, in the fiscal year in which
- 30 the credit is made and each fiscal year thereafter for use on the project for conservation practices approved by the
- 31 Secretary: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to this account shall be available for the base salary and
- 32 expenses of employees that carry out the functions funded by the "Capital Improvement and Maintenance" account,
- 33 the "Range Betterment Fund" account, and the "Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses"
- 34 account.
- 35 [NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM]
- 36 [For an additional amount for "National Forest System", \$210,000,000, to remain available until expended, for
- 37 necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and
- 38 other natural disasters, including for high priority post wildfire restoration for watershed protection, public access
- 39 and critical habitat, hazardous fuels mitigation for community protection, and burned area recovery. ]

**Change Description**

The first change (line 3 of paragraph 1) deletes language for hazardous fuels management.

*The second change* (line 7 of paragraph 1) adds language for forest products.

*The third change* (line 7 through 11 of paragraph 1) deletes language referencing the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

*The fourth change* (line 11 paragraph 1) adds language for any balances for hazardous fuels management.

*The fifth change* (lines 14 and 15 of paragraph 1) adds language may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management account in reference to hazardous fuel management balances.

*The sixth change* (lines 15 through 21 of paragraph 1) deletes language associated with State and Private Forestry authorities associated with hazardous fuels funds.

*The seventh change* (lines 35 through 40, paragraph 2) deletes language associated with the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring.....	\$14,824	36	\$17,000	-	\$17,000	-	\$22,000	-	+\$5,000	-	(1)
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness .....	31,593	62	38,000	-	55,000	-	94,367	-	+39,367	-	(2)
Hazardous Fuels <sup>a</sup> .....	179,142	95	187,388	-	207,000	-	-	-	-207,000	-	(3)
Grazing Management.....	3,788	14	5,800	-	6,300	-	7,800	-	+1,500	-	(4)
Forest Products.....	35,052	112	38,000	-	40,000	-	41,600	-	+1,600	-	(5)
Vegetation and Watershed Management..	28,630	45	30,000	-	32,000	-	50,500	-	+18,500	-	(6)
Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management ...	20,696	38	22,000	-	24,000	-	29,000	-	+5,000	-	(7)
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund .....	13,596	8	28,000	-	32,000	-	80,000	-	+48,000	-	(8)
Minerals and Geology Management .....	10,376	18	14,000	-	14,500	-	45,000	-	+30,500	-	(9)
Landownership Management (Land Use Authorization and Access) .....	3,798	19	7,500	-	8,000	-	21,500	-	+13,500	-	(10)
Law Enforcement Operations.....	19,505	22	19,505	-	19,505	-	24,005	-	+4,500	-	(11)
Burned Area Rehabilitation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,000	-	+56,000	-	(12)
Salaries and Expenses .....	1,409,352	12,697	1,459,352	13,298	1,519,083	13,362	1,754,508	14,654	+235,425	+1,292	(13)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.	1,770,352	13,166	1,866,545	13,298	1,974,388	13,362	2,226,280	14,654	+251,892	+1,292	
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>b</sup> :											
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness (BIL).....	-	-	37,473	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grazing Management (BIL).....	-	-	5,263	-	5,974	-	5,974	-	-	-	-
Hazardous Fuels (BIL).....	-	-	107,943	-	153,053	-	153,053	-	-	-	-
Forest Products (BIL).....	-	-	110,445	-	86,885	-	86,885	-	-	-	-
Vegetation and Watershed Management (BIL).....	-	-	76,529	-	65,787	-	65,787	-	-	-	-
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund (BIL) .....	-	-	14,108	-	11,525	-	11,525	-	-	-	-
Minerals and Geology Management (BIL) .....	-	-	5,764	-	8,481	-	8,481	-	-	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Byproducts (BIL) .....	-	-	10,741	-	48,101	-	48,101	-	-	-	-
Orphaned Wells (BIL).....	-	-	5,683	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	122,210	273	68,000	303	68,000	726	-	+423	
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.	-	-	496,159	273	447,806	303	447,806	726	-	+423	
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169):											
Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplemental Appropriations:											
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>e</sup> .....	-	4	-	8	-	4	-	3	-	-1	
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) <sup>d</sup> .....	-	7	-	9	-	60	-	40	-	-20	
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>e</sup> .....	-	54	-	3	-	3	-	2	-	-1	
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>f</sup> .....	-	-	710,000	10	-	7	-	5	-	-2	
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>g</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	210,000	10	-	15	-210,000	+5	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.	-	65	710,000	30	210,000	84	-	65	-210,000	-19	
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	1,770,352	13,231	3,422,704	13,601	2,632,194	13,749	2,674,086	15,445	+41,892	+1,273	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	16,517	-	251,314	-	82,953	-	80,953	-	-2,000	-	
<b>Total, Appropriations<sup>h</sup> .....</b>	<b>1,786,869</b>	<b>13,231</b>	<b>3,674,018</b>	<b>13,601</b>	<b>2,715,147</b>	<b>13,749</b>	<b>2,755,039</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>+39,892</b>	<b>+1,273</b>	
Transfers In:											
Communication Site Administration.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	+2,000	-	
Department of the Interior.....	-	-	5,683	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Capital Improvement and Maintenance ...	-	-	-	-	7,400	-	7,400	-	-	-	
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....	-	-	-	-	3,200	-	3,200	-	-	-	
Total, Transfers In.....	-	-	5,683	-	10,600	-	12,600	-	+2,000	-	
Transfers Out:											
Department of the Interior.....	-849	-	-7,499	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Forest Service Operations .....	-15,668	-	-137,527	-	-30,791	-	-30,791	-	-	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Department of Commerce .....	-	-	-1,501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forest and Rangeland Research .....	-	-	-54,980	-	-29,450	-	-29,450	-	-	-	-
Wildland Fire Management.....	-	-	-30,663	-	-30,663	-	-30,663	-	-	-	-
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....	-	-	-21,153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Office of Inspector General.....	-	-	-3,674	-	-2,649	-	-2,649	-	-	-	-
<b>Total, Transfers Out.....</b>	<b>-16,517</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-256,997</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-93,553</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-93,553</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Recoveries, Other .....	52,133	-	27,972	-	33,276	-	32,530	-	-746	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	155,008	-	134,870	-	1,288,908	-	1,289,673	-	+765	-	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>1,977,493</b>	<b>13,231</b>	<b>3,585,546</b>	<b>13,601</b>	<b>3,954,378</b>	<b>13,749</b>	<b>3,996,289</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>+43,911</b>	<b>+1,273</b>	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-134,870	-	-1,288,908	-	-1,289,673	-	-888,538	-	+401,135	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>1,842,623</b>	<b>13,231</b>	<b>2,278,933</b>	<b>13,601</b>	<b>2,664,705</b>	<b>13,749</b>	<b>3,107,751</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>+443,046</b>	<b>+1,696</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2024.

<sup>b</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) provided \$734,800,000 in fiscal year 2022 and provides advance appropriations of \$529,800,000 each year from fiscal years 2023 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 115-123 provided \$20,652,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 116-20 provided \$84,960,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

<sup>e</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$34,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

<sup>f</sup> P.L. 117-43 provided \$710,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

<sup>g</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$210 million for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

<sup>h</sup> The discrepancy between the project statement and Max schedule X is reimbursable funds.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot.....	\$608	-	-\$22	-	\$737	-	\$340	-	-\$397	-
Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring.....	20,416	36	18,982	-	19,355	-	23,660	-	+4,305	-
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness .....	40,866	62	48,318	-	56,590	-	93,758	-	+37,168	-
Hazardous Fuels <sup>a</sup> .....	185,673	95	184,453	-	212,311	-	24,773	-	-187,538	-
Grazing Management.....	5,503	14	5,639	-	8,108	-	8,344	-	+236	-
Forest Products.....	39,405	112	39,887	-	43,296	-	44,960	-	+1,664	-
Vegetation and Watershed Management.....	29,768	45	36,673	-	34,334	-	50,700	-	+16,366	-
Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management .....	21,227	38	25,385	-	25,346	-	30,115	-	+4,769	-
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.....	18,381	8	22,636	-	33,319	-	71,834	-	+38,515	-
Minerals and Geology Management .....	12,659	18	14,255	-	14,595	-	39,195	-	+24,600	-
Landownership Management (Land Use Authorization and Access) .....	6,636	19	6,906	-	8,394	-	20,506	-	+12,112	-
Law Enforcement Operations.....	20,012	22	22,290	-	22,024	-	25,995	-	+3,971	-
National Forestry System – Other.....	10,985	-	100	-	168	-	231	-	+63	-
Burned Area Rehabilitation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,320	-	+54,320	-
Communication Site Administration.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	+1,000	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	1,400,610	12,697	1,448,045	13,298	1,521,933	13,362	1,755,942	14,654	+234,009	+1,292
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	1,812,749	13,166	1,873,547	13,298	2,000,510	13,362	2,245,673	14,654	+245,163	+1,292
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>b</sup> :										
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness (BIL).....	-	-	6,825	-	5,582	-	18,800	-	+13,218	-
Grazing Management (BIL).....	-	-	859	-	1,694	-	10,994	-	+9,300	-
Hazardous Fuels (BIL).....	-	-	60,977	-	108,923	-	172,312	-	+63,389	-
Forest Products (BIL).....	-	-	53,342	-	69,067	-	119,879	-	+50,812	-
Vegetation and Watershed Management (BIL).....	-	-	23,760	-	35,779	-	106,451	-	+70,672	-
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund (BIL).....	-	-	3,102	-	4,222	-	19,762	-	+15,540	-
Minerals and Geology Management (BIL) .....	-	-	4,571	-	7,672	-	7,862	-	+190	-
Byproducts (BIL) .....	-	-	-	-	26,815	-	34,680	-	+7,865	-
Orphaned Wells (BIL).....	-	-	-	-	3,637	-	1,535	-	-2,102	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	39,805	273	46,265	303	116,565	726	+70,300	+423
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law .....	-	-	193,241	273	309,656	303	608,840	726	+299,184	+423
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169):										
Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	-	-	126,850	-	91,580	-	-35,270	-
Subtotal, Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	-	-	126,850	-	91,580	-	-35,270	-
Supplemental Obligations:										
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>c</sup> .....	4,135	4	2,557	8	1,240	4	880	3	-360	-1
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) <sup>d</sup> .....	8,471	7	2,749	9	19,304	60	13,706	40	-5,598	-20
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>e</sup> ....	17,268	54	225	3	263	3	186	2	-77	-1
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>f</sup> .....	-	-	206,614	10	145,982	7	103,647	5	-42,335	-2
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>g</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	60,900	10	43,239	15	-17,661	+5
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations .....	29,874	65	212,145	30	227,689	84	161,658	65	-66,031	-19
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>1,842,623</b>	<b>13,231</b>	<b>2,278,933</b>	<b>13,601</b>	<b>2,664,705</b>	<b>13,749</b>	<b>3,107,751</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>+443,046</b>	<b>+1,696</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot.....	130	-	22	-	23	-	11	-	-12	-
Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring.....	4,944	-	3,537	-	4,822	-	5,895	-	+1,073	-
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness .....	3,042	-	2,863	-	4,952	-	8,204	-	+3,252	-
Hazardous Fuels <sup>a</sup> .....	7,569	-	15,103	-	19,356	-	2,258	-	-17,098	-
Grazing Management.....	-17	-	1,860	-	764	-	786	-	+22	-
Forest Products.....	5,872	-	2,438	-	3,552	-	3,688	-	+136	-
Vegetation and Watershed Management.....	6,215	-	3,683	-	4,018	-	5,933	-	+1,915	-
Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management .....	3,941	-	1,191	-	1,511	-	1,795	-	+284	-
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.....	2,472	-	7,593	-	7,541	-	16,258	-	+8,717	-
Minerals and Geology Management .....	5,714	-	2,822	-	3,925	-	10,540	-	+6,615	-
Landownership Management (Land Use Authorization and Access) .....	1,820	-	579	-	1,099	-	2,685	-	+1,586	-
Law Enforcement Operations.....	5,426	-	1,971	-	2,463	-	2,907	-	+444	-
National Forestry System – Other.....	2,556	-	9,010	-	9,469	-	13,036	-	+3,567	-
Burned Area Rehabilitation.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,680	-	+1,680	-
Communication Site Administration.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	+1,000	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	8,742	-	12,104	-	12,721	-	14,677	-	+1,956	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness (BIL) .....	-	-	30,648	-	25,066	-	6,266	-	-18,800	-
Grazing Management (BIL) .....	-	-	4,404	-	8,684	-	3,664	-	-5,020	-
Hazardous Fuels (BIL) .....	-	-	46,967	-	115,823	-	126,323	-	+10,500	-
Forest Products (BIL) .....	-	-	57,103	-	73,937	-	39,959	-	-33,978	-
Vegetation and Watershed Management (BIL) .....	-	-	52,769	-	79,462	-	35,483	-	-43,979	-
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund (BIL) .....	-	-	7,833	-	14,980	-	6,587	-	-8,393	-
Minerals and Geology Management (BIL) .....	-	-	1,193	-	2,002	-	2,621	-	+619	-
Byproducts (BIL) .....	-	-	10,741	-	15,083	-	11,560	-	-3,523	-
Orphaned Wells (BIL) .....	-	-	5,683	-	2,046	-	511	-	-1,535	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	82,405	-	95,779	-	38,855	-	-56,924	-
Inflation Reduction Act .....	-	-	350,000	-	223,150	-	131,570	-	-91,580	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>c</sup> .....	6,742	-	4,276	-	3,036	-	2,156	-	-880	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) <sup>d</sup> .....	68,872	-	66,567	-	47,263	-	33,557	-	-13,706	-
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>e</sup> .....	830	-	157	-	643	-	457	-	-186	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>f</sup> .....	-	-	503,386	-	357,403	-	251,756	-	-105,647	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>g</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	149,100	-	105,860	-	-43,240	-
<b>Total, Balances Available, EOY .....</b>	<b>134,870</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,288,908</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,289,673</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>888,538</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-401,135</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>1,977,493</b>	<b>13,231</b>	<b>3,567,841</b>	<b>13,601</b>	<b>3,954,378</b>	<b>13,749</b>	<b>3,996,289</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>+41,911</b>	<b>+1,696</b>
Less:										
Total Transfers In .....	-	-	-5,683	-	-10,600	-	-12,600	-	-2,000	-
Total Transfers Out .....	16,517	-	256,997	-	93,553	-	93,553	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-52,133	-	-27,972	-	-33,276	-	-32,530	-	+746	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-155,008	-	-134,870	-	-1,288,908	-	-1,289,673	-	-765	-
<b>Total Appropriation .....</b>	<b>1,786,869</b>	<b>13,231</b>	<b>3,656,313</b>	<b>13,601</b>	<b>2,715,147</b>	<b>13,749</b>	<b>2,755,039</b>	<b>15,445</b>	<b>+39,892</b>	<b>+1,696</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2024.

<sup>b</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) provided \$734,800,000 in fiscal year 2022 and provides advance appropriations of \$529,800,000 each year from fiscal years 2023 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 115-123 provided \$20,652,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 116-20 provided \$84,960,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

<sup>e</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$34,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

<sup>f</sup> P.L. 117-43 provided \$710,000,000 for necessary expenses related to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters that occurred between calendar years 2019 through 2021.

<sup>g</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$210 million for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.



**JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement.

**Salaries and Expenses:**

The National Forest System (NFS) manages over 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. By conserving forests and grasslands, the agency provides sustainable timber products and conserves air quality, water, plants, wildlife, and fisheries. The agency facilitates mining, timber, restoration projects, and a vast array of recreational opportunities to millions of Americans, including hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. These activities create jobs and generate economic development in rural communities. The agency also partners with local communities and other agencies to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildland fires to homes, watersheds, habitat and community infrastructure.

(8) An increase of \$235,425,000 and an increase of 1,292 FTEs (\$1,519,085 in 2023 enacted).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$75,613,000 for 2024 Pay. This increase will support the annualization of the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2024 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase. If this funding is not provided, it would impact the level of assistance the agency provides to partners and other agencies.
- B) An increase of \$159,812,000 and an increase of 1,292 FTEs. This increase will also support Forest Service’s ability to complete prerequisite projects and activities in support of programs, projects, and activities included in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58) that fund contract administration for timber and small forest product sales, road maintenance, recreation services, and additional on-ground-presence to maintain public safety for our national forests, grasslands, and trail and recreation infrastructure. These include land line surveys, reality management, cadastral and engineering services. This increase may also assist Forest Service’s ability to adequately staff positions that support Great American Outdoors Act (Public Law 116-152) programs, which include engineering, recreation planning, patrol, service technicians, grants and agreement specialists. In 2024, the agency anticipates supporting additional FTEs to facilitate timely, effective environmental review, and permitting for large infrastructure projects.

**Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration:**

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program provides funding for long-term<sup>41</sup> projects that encourage collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. CFLR projects support ecological, economic, and social sustainability; foster partnerships between local, national, and private groups; reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire; provide outputs that demonstrate how various ecological restoration techniques achieve ecological and watershed health objectives; and encourage utilization of forest restoration byproducts that benefit local rural communities and improve forest health.

Since its establishment in 2009, CFLR has funded 30 projects in 15 states. These projects include treatments that have reduced the risk of catastrophic wildfires on more than 4.5 million acres; established 224,000 acres of forest vegetation through planting, seeding, and natural regeneration; reduced or eradicated invasive plants across 210,000 acres; and restored more than 1,760 miles of stream habitat. Additionally, since 2009, CFLR has supported an average of 5,440 jobs annually and created \$2 billion in local labor income; partnered with more than 420 organizations in local collaborative work, alongside landowners and interested individuals; and has drawn \$470 million<sup>42</sup> in partner funding and in-kind contributions.

Implementing CFLR has advanced the America the Beautiful Initiative, by emphasizing strategic wildfire risk reduction. One of the key purposes of CFLR program – one where the Program has seen successes through increasing the scale of treatment across the landscape – is reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire. While the

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<sup>41</sup> Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects selected by the Secretary are funded for 10 years.

<sup>42</sup> Every dollar of Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration investment draws \$1.80 in partner funding and in-kind contributions.

project landscapes represent 11 percent of the treatable National Forest System acres, between 2013-2019, they contributed 19 percent of the agency's overall hazardous fuels reduction accomplishments.

In 2024, funding will be used to advance proposed outcomes across 15 active CFLR program projects, including implementing hazardous fuels treatments, reforestation and revegetation, aquatic restoration, habitat improvements, and trail improvements.

(9) An increase of \$48,000,000 (\$32,000,000 in 2023 enacted).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$48,000,000 would allow continued support for active CFLRP projects and allow for onboarding of new CFLRP projects. This funding will allow the Forest Service to fund seven CFLRP projects that are approved and not-yet-funded. Additional proposals selected through the current call for proposals could also be funded.

**Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring:**

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring develops, revises, and maintains land management plans for 175 national forest system units, including 154 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and one prairie. National Forest System lands provide resources for public use including timber, recreation, fish, forage, wildlife, minerals, water, and specialty products. Healthy forest ecosystems help address the wildfire crisis; sequester carbon; provide clean air and water; reduce the effects of drought and floods; maintain fertile soils; provide wildlife habitat; and maintain biodiversity. The Forest Service land management program guides the stewardship of National Forest System lands and supports a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and adjustments based on the latest scientific information. Currently, the Forest Service maintains 128 land management plans across the 175 national forest system units. Of those, 11 have been revised under the 2012 Planning Rule and 99 plans are older than 15 years. The Forest Service has studied challenges to efficiently and effectively revising land management plans and is now standing up a new organization – the Planning Service Organization – to address the backlog of out-of-date plans. The new Planning Service Organization will provide dedicated staff and resources to expedite plan revision timeframes and increase the number of concurrent plan revision efforts.

Funding in 2024 will support the Planning Service Organization to help reduce the backlog of out-of-date land management plans. Seven plan revisions will start in 2024 and activities to prepare to start plan revision will be funded for 26 additional revision efforts in 2025-2027. This funding will be used to support contracts, grants and agreements, supplies and equipment in support of agency staff.

During 2022, there were 19 land management plans under revision, and three – Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests – completed plan revision. In 2023, the Forest Service will start five revisions on the Salmon, Lolo, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Umatilla National Forests and will continue to expand plan revision across the agency through the new Planning Service Organization.

Table FS-28. Forest Service land management plans under revision and their status at the end of 2022

Region	State	Planning Unit	Status at the end of 2022
Northern	ID	Nez Perce- Clearwater National Forest	In revision
Northern	MT	Lolo National Forest	Preparing to begin revision in 2023
Rocky Mountain	CO	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest	In revision
Rocky Mountain	SD, WY	Black Hills National Forest	In revision
Southwest	AZ	Tonto National Forest	In revision
Southwest	NM	Carson National Forest	Completed revision in July 2022
Southwest	NM	Cibola National Forest	Completed revision in July 2022
Southwest	NM	Gila National Forest	In revision
Southwest	NM	Lincoln National Forest	In revision
Southwest	NM	Santa Fe National Forest	Completed revision in July 2022
Intermountain	UT, WY	Ashley National Forest	In revision

Region	State	Planning Unit	Status at the end of 2022
Intermountain	ID	Salmon National Forest <sup>43</sup>	Preparing to begin revision in 2023
Intermountain	UT	Manti-La Sal National Forest	In revision
Pacific Southwest	CA	Sequoia National Forest	In revision
Pacific Southwest	CA	Sierra National Forest	In revision
Pacific Northwest	OR	Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	Preparing to begin revision in 2023
Pacific Northwest	OR	Malheur National Forest	Preparing to begin revision in 2023
Pacific Northwest	OR, WA	Umatilla National Forest	Preparing to begin revision in 2023
Southern	NC	Nantahala Pisgah National Forest <sup>44</sup>	In revision

The 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR Part 219), describes the current process for development and revision of land management plans along with required content. Improvements are underway on common format and required content for Biennial Monitoring and Evaluation Reports<sup>45</sup> required under the 2012 Planning Rule including the use of Story Maps. Story Maps were launched in 2023 to allow the tracking of monitoring reports across all units which will allow stakeholders and partners access for their own uses. Forest Service staff are also working to develop high-quality menus of monitoring questions and monitoring protocols that are available to all units. Introduction of these menus should lead to greater consistency among units and increase the ability to synthesize information across multiple units or regions.

Funding for planning and monitoring would support all program areas across the National Forest System to help further the Administration's goal of pursuing nature-based climate solutions. Protecting and restoring National Forest ecosystems will provide enhanced carbon sequestration and storage and encourage ecosystem and human community resilience. Investments are needed to provide support and guidance to the field organization to make monitoring information more useful to responsible officials and the public.

- (1) An increase of \$5,000,000 (\$17,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$5,000,000 would support the agency's new business model for planning (Planning Service Organization) that will work to reduce the plan revision backlog. The additional funding would support fully operationalizing the Planning Service Organization and starting 38 new plan revision efforts by 2027. Managing lands requires a continuous cycle of assessing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting programs and projects based on the latest scientific information. Throughout the National Forest system, over 99 land management plans are over 15 years old and in need of amendment or revision. This program would use \$3,000,000 in program funds to support collaborative efforts with Tribes and underserved communities across the Nation, in the assessing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting of programs and projects in ways that are responsive to communities, and in line with the forthcoming the USDA Forest Service Tribal Relations Action Plan on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships and the Equity Action Plan. This could include continued agency-wide work in policy, training, engagement, practice, consultation, collaboration and accountability.

### **Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness:**

The recreation program manages recreation sites, including campgrounds and day-use areas; and develops and maintains recreational special use authorizations for occupancy, use, rights, and privileges. The heritage program manages cultural resources for public use, enjoyment, and education; and protects cultural resources from vandalism, theft, fire, and other threats. The Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers programs support stewardship of the congressionally designated areas that the Forest Service is responsible within the National Wilderness Preservation System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

<sup>43</sup> Salmon National Forest is the proclaimed unit, the administrative unit is the Salmon Challis National Forest

<sup>44</sup> Nantahala Pisgah is the proclaimed unit, the administrative unit is the National Forests in North Carolina

<sup>45</sup> Report that documents whether the land management plan or monitoring program needs to be changed based on new information. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-36/chapter-II/part-219>

Total visitors to the National Forests and Grasslands were an estimated 156,000,000 in 2021<sup>46</sup>. Recreating visitors spent over \$10 billion in areas around National Forest System lands, contributing about \$12.5 billion to the U.S. economy, and sustaining around 154,000 full-and part-time jobs. Current visitors are pleased with the recreation experience provided by the National Forest System, with 96 percent feeling satisfied with their overall recreation experience in 2021. Visitation to National Forests over these years in a pandemic has added immeasurable value to the wellbeing of Americans through their connections to nature.

*Table FS-29. Estimated number of visits to National Forest System lands for each Forest Service Region in 2021. (\*2022 Data will be updated Spring of 2023.)*

Region	National Forest System Visits
Northern Region (01) .....	9,884,000
Rocky Mountain Region (02).....	31,759,000
Southwestern Region (03).....	15,244,000
Intermountain Region (04).....	20,512,000
Pacific Southwest Region (05).....	24,288,000
Pacific Northwest Region (06).....	17,203,000
Southern Region (08).....	22,746,000
Eastern Region (09) .....	11,660,000
Alaska Region (10) .....	2,812,000
<b>Average Total Visits to National Forest System Lands .....</b>	<b>156,108,000</b>

In 2024, the Forest Service will continue to implement the Administration’s America the Beautiful<sup>47</sup> initiative, Forest Service Strategic Goals of sustaining the Nations forests and grasslands and delivering benefits to the public. The agency priorities will continue to align with USDA Strategic Plan<sup>48</sup>, which includes fostering productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System.

(2) An increase of \$39,367,000 (\$55,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$37,767,000 would allow engagement in longer-term planning for administering and issuing special use permits to the nearly 5,000 outfitters and guide businesses, many of which are located within and employ people from gateway and other underserved rural communities. In addition, this level of funding would support Wilderness Stewardship Performance tracking, Wilderness Character Monitoring, and critical planning processes associated with Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The increase of operational funding would assist with public demand and use of National Forest recreation facilities, which is projected to increase in the following years. Increasing funding would sustain public satisfaction with their experience on National Forest System lands. Additionally, National Forest units would support partnership agreements, such as their ability to hire Resource Assistants who are often recruited from underserved communities and help bolster the next generation of Federal employees. This program would still use \$3,000,000 in program funding toward the newly released national recreation strategy which has an emphasis on creating welcoming, sustainable, and equitable recreation opportunities for all Americans with a focus towards underserved and Tribal communities.

- B) An increase of \$1,600,000 will support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057 by accelerating procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles for light duty vehicle replacement.

**Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management:**

This program sustains our nation's forests and grasslands by managing habitats for the conservation of fish and wildlife. The restoration and conservation of fish and wildlife habitats provides numerous benefits to both nature and

<sup>46</sup>FY 2022 Data will be updated Spring of 2023.

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/conserving-restoring-america-the-beautiful.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/strategicplan>

society, ensuring that ecological services and amenities such as clean water and recreational opportunities are available to current and future generations. This program continues to build strong and diverse national and international partnerships that focus on collaboration and knowledge exchange to further conserve and restore habitats in the context of a changing climate. Existing and emerging threats, such as uncharacteristic wildfire, habitat loss, climate change, and invasive species continue to threaten the ability of the National Forests and Grasslands to support sustainable wildlife and fish populations. The National Forests and Grasslands contain a wide array of terrestrial habitats, including 80 percent of elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat habitats in the United States. They are also the majority of the remaining habitats for rare and wide-ranging carnivorous animals and there are more than 28 million acres of wild turkey habitats spanning across the United States. There are over 220,000 miles of fishable streams and rivers and more than 10 million acres of fishable lakes and reservoirs on National Forests and Grasslands, supporting 50 percent of the Nation’s premier trout and salmon habitat in the continental United States.

In 2022, the program focus was on managing habitats to ensure aquatic and terrestrial species’ persistence, sustainability, and habitat connectivity. The agency and its partners upgraded or removed 126 road-stream crossings, reconnecting nearly 200 miles of upstream aquatic habitat. Of the nearly \$42 million invested to achieve this conservation milestone, \$18 million was leveraged by our partners. Restoring unimpeded fish and aquatic organism passage is one of the agency’s key strategies for adapting to a changing climate, and supporting freshwater ecosystems, while also improving the transportation infrastructure.

In collaboration with partners, the program leveraged \$127 million of agency funds with \$32 million partner dollars to restore and improve over 2.3 million acres of wildlife habitat benefiting game and non-game species alike. The program worked together with the Forest Management and Hazardous Fuels Reduction programs to achieve habitat benefits while also reducing fuels and producing commercial timber products on 129,000 acres.

Adaptation and resilience are important to species persistence and sustainability in the face of climate change, detrimental wildfires and other natural disasters, and increasing human development. The Wildlife and Fisheries program are working to conserve habitat connectivity and movement corridors for fish, other aquatic species, and terrestrial wildlife. This allows those species to move and find clean water, healthy feeding, spawning and breeding habitats, and refuge from floods, drought, and wildfires. Providing ecological resilience in the multiple-use context not only provides flood-resilient stream crossings and habitats that are resilient to disturbance but also protects public access and transportation networks, reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and supports the agency’s efforts in wildland fuels reduction/restoration, commercial timber production, and post-fire recovery work.

In 2024, the program will continue to invest in partners such as Trout Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Mule Deer Foundation to reach the agency’s goal of improving or replacing 2,000 more fish-passage-friendly and climate-resilient culverts, dams, and irrigation diversions by 2025 and reducing the risk of wildfire inside and outside priority landscapes. These significant endeavors will be made possible by the continued commitment of partners, as well as supplemental funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Major partners include Federal Highways Administration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, many Native American Tribal Nations, numerous state fish and wildlife agencies, and state transportation departments.

(7) An increase of \$5,000,000 (\$24,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) This increase of \$5,000,000 would significantly increase the program’s capacity to improve landscapes and watersheds at a meaningful scale. Additionally, the program would still use \$10,000,000 in program funds to support collaborative efforts with Tribes and underserved communities across the Nation to enhance habitat connectivity and promote conservation solutions to the challenges associated with fish and wildlife habitat management in a changing climate in ways that are responsive to the needs of the communities. The program will continue to use \$2,000,000 for threatened and endangered species activities to contribute to significant recovery actions.

**Grazing Management:**

The Grazing Management program supports the following activities:

- Administering livestock grazing use on approximately 74 million acres of the National Forest System lands. Grazing use is administered through a grazing permit system and includes processing, issuing, and overseeing compliance with grazing permits. The Forest Service administers permits for approximately

6,000 permittees associated with nearly 7,200 allotments across 28 states.

- Completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis on grazing allotments with the priority and timing for completing each required environmental analysis determined in accordance with the provision at 43 U.S.C. 1752(i) (i.e., the environmental significance of the grazing allotment and the available funding for the environmental analysis), along with the subsequent implementation of management practices derived from NEPA decisions.
- Strategic investments and efforts for the maintenance and improvement of rangeland ecosystems. Of the 193 million acres of National Forest System lands, approximately 96 million acres are rangelands and includes areas outside of permitted grazing allotments. Rangeland management efforts include a variety of actions from instillation of structural rangeland improvements (e.g., water developments) to enhance livestock distribution to completion of nonstructural rangeland improvements (e.g., seedings, woody encroachment reduction) that benefit such things as carbon sequestration, fuels reduction and wildlife habitat improvement. This work is completed in collaboration with permittees and many other partners.

Authorized grazing use on National Forest System lands has been approximately 6.6 million head months (the amount of time in months that an animal spends on NFS lands) including use by cattle, sheep, and goats. Opportunities for livestock grazing support ranching business that rely on grazing permits which in turn aid in strengthening rural economies. Ranching also bolsters America’s food security, providing a critical link in the supply chain of protein that feeds America and the world.

The Forest Service continues to make progress on addressing the backlog of allotments still requiring NEPA analysis and documentation. Though slowed in recent years, the backlog has been reduced from approximately 73 percent of allotments requiring NEPA in the mid-1990s down to approximately 12 percent of active allotments currently. Continued work is needed but the agency has made efforts to complete the needed work in a priority fashion in accordance with the provision at 43 U.S.C. 1752(i) and within the bounds of staff capacity.

The Forest Service has improved an average of 700,000 acres of rangeland vegetation each year over the past five years. This contributes to the resilience of rangeland ecosystems, the improvement of wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration opportunities and in many cases reduces wildfire risk by manipulating vegetation through activities such as woody encroachment reduction.

In 2024, the Forest Service will continue to implement the Administration’s America the Beautiful<sup>49</sup> initiative, Forest Service Strategic Goals of sustaining the Nations forests and grasslands and delivering benefits to the public. The agency priorities will continue to align with USDA Strategic Plan<sup>50</sup>, which includes fostering productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System. Under the proposed Budget amount, the priority activity will be to authorize livestock grazing for approximately 6,000 grazing permittees which is directly applicable to USDA Strategic Goal 2 - Ensure America’s Agricultural System is Equitable, Resilient, and Prosperous, and to USDA Strategic Goal 4 - Make Safe, Nutritious Food Available to All Americans. Permitted grazing opportunities provided on NFS lands also supports economic opportunities within rural communities and directly supports USDA Strategic Goal 5 - Expand Opportunities for Economic Development and Improve Quality of Life in Rural and Tribal Communities. The agency will continue to leverage best available science, new technology, policy flexibilities and planning to ensure grazing is authorized in a climate smart manner to support USDA Strategic Goal 1 - Combat Climate Change to Support America’s Working Lands, Natural Resources, and Communities.

(4) An increase of \$1,500,000 (\$6,300,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$1,500,000 would provide support to rural communities through administration of existing grazing permits. If projected budget increases are realized, work will be primarily focused on the administration of existing permits. Administration of existing permits will focus on basic stewardship to ensure grazing will be sustained at the appropriate levels. The Forest Service will attempt to complete allotment NEPA projects that are currently ongoing and may implement rangeland improvement activities

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/conserving-restoring-america-the-beautiful.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/strategicplan>

if appropriated funds are able to be leveraged to acquire partnership funds. The program would use \$3,000,000 in program funds to support collaborative efforts with Tribes and underserved communities, including rural communities, across the Nation, in the planning and implementation of programs that promote adaptation to climate change, restoration of degraded environments, and rural economic prosperity in ways that are responsive to the needs of these communities.

**Forest Products:**

The Forest Products program ensures the productive and sustainable use of national forest lands by supporting healthy and resilient forests and communities. This program generates timber jobs in rural America through the sale of billions of board feet of timber annually. The Forest Products program fosters partnerships through its stewardship program, and through its coordination with state, county, tribal, and community partners to meet reductions in wildfire risk and improved forest health conditions.

In 2022, the agency sold approximately 2.93 billion board feet, an increase from the 2.84 billion board feet sold in 2021. Sales included more than 500 contracts greater than \$10,000, nearly 66,000 small timber contracts and permits, and over 21,000 special forest product permits for products other than timber. Various special forest management programs contributed to this 2022 accomplishment such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program which exceeded 273 million board feet (MMBF). Additional programs that sold timber volume include Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) (274 MMBF) and stewardship contracting and agreements (691 MMBF).

These achievements were, in part, made possible by the using GNA, modernization for National Environmental Policy Act planning and forest products delivery, insect and disease designations, stewardship contracting, the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The agency will continue to prioritize the use of these authorities and take the necessary steps to increase its capacity to reach output goals in conjunction with its hazardous fuels reduction and strategic vegetation management work.

The agency continues to grow relationships with State partners through the GNA program, which allows States to restore watersheds and manage forests on National Forest System lands through agreements or contracts. A total of 378 GNA agreements covering a variety of restoration activities are in place across 38 States, with 40 new agreements implemented in 2022. Timber harvesting under GNA continues to grow; 274 million board feet were sold in 2022 under this authority. The 2018 Farm Bill expanded GNA authority to allow counties and Tribes to participate in the program. There are currently 15 GNA agreements with counties and 15 with Tribes, working primarily in resource areas surrounding wildlife and fisheries habitat.

The agency continues to expand implementation of 2018 Farm Bill provisions related to self-governance agreements (often referred to as 638 agreements or contracts) under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. This authority allows the agency to carry out demonstration projects by which Federally recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations may contract to perform administrative, management, and other functions of the Tribal Forest Protection Act, allowing Tribes across the Nation to collaborate in the “planning and implementation of programs for the benefit of Indians in ways that are responsive to the true needs of Indian communities.”

The Stewardship program continues to accomplish additional resource and land management objectives with the authorization to apply the value of timber or other forest products from stewardship contracts as an offset against the costs. If the offset value exceeds the cost of the resource improvement treatments, those receipts are retained and deposited in the Stewardship Contracting fund and are available until expended for other authorized stewardship projects.

The Forest Service will tackle the climate change challenges with a robust and proactive approach that aligns with our core values of conservation, interdependence, and safety. Agency actions will support the USDA’s Strategic Goals addressing climate change through climate smart forestry. The Forest Service Climate Adaptation Plan<sup>51</sup> identifies key climate risks to the agency’s mission and goals, as well as foundational adaptation strategies and actions to address those risks. This plan works in concert with the Climate Action Tracker (CAT), an agency-wide tool to collect information on climate adaptation, carbon stewardship, and sustainable operations.

We will plan activities at a scale and in locations commensurate with the values at stake and the risks in play, making integrated decisions on mutually defined projects across all land ownerships. National, Regional and Forest level strategies and project emphasis will focus on supporting underserved communities. Through Shared

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<sup>51</sup> [https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/4\\_NRE\\_FS\\_ClimateAdaptationPlan\\_2022.pdf](https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/4_NRE_FS_ClimateAdaptationPlan_2022.pdf)

Stewardship agreements, the agency will continue to support the Tribal Co-Stewardship and JSO 3403<sup>52</sup> that supports the United States' unique trust obligation to Tribes.

The Forest Service has made significant investments to identify opportunities to advance markets, in particular markets that are critical to meeting outcomes associated with carbon stewardship, forest restoration and hazardous fuels reduction. In 2024 the Agency will capitalize on major investments made through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that focuses on expanding markets, including greater investments in innovation grants and Regional and National approaches for supporting markets in areas that are lacking infrastructure.

(5) An increase of \$1,600,000 (\$40,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$1,600,000 will support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057 by accelerating procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles for light duty vehicle replacement. This program would continue to use \$10,000,000 in program funding to support collaborative efforts with Tribes and underserved communities – including rural communities – across the Nation, in the planning and implementation of vegetation management programs that are responsive to the needs of these communities.

**Vegetation and Watershed Management:**

This program manages and sustains watersheds and vegetation conditions on National Forest System lands. The restoration and conservation of watersheds provide numerous benefits to both nature and society, ensuring that ecological services and amenities such as clean water and recreational opportunities are available to current and future generations. The program continues to build strong and diverse national and international partnerships that focus on collaboration and knowledge exchange to further conserve, protect, and restore habitats at risk due to climate change. This program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands by improving the condition and health of forest and rangeland vegetation, controlling the spread of invasive species, sustaining soil productivity, reducing the risk of severe flooding and erosion in areas affected by severe fire, and maintaining water quality. This program also funds the Wild Horse and Burro program.

In 2021, the Forest Service monitored Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and effectiveness at more than 400 sites. This information was used in 2022 for three primary outcomes: 1) protect aquatic and riparian resources through adaptive management; 2) document the use and effectiveness of BMP for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses to support or strengthen the environmental analyses for priority timber sale and fuels management projects, particularly landscape scale projects; and 3) monitor BMPs and share data to document compliance with the State Nonpoint Source Management Plan, as directed by the Clean Water Act.

Watershed health is an important factor in assessing forest resiliency in the face of climate and increasing human development. Working to improve watershed condition will help provide for ecological resilience in the multiple-use context by sustaining sources of clean drinking water while reducing the risk and adverse impact of catastrophic wildfire through fuels reduction, landscape restoration, commercial timber production, and post-fire recovery work.

In 2024, the agency priorities will continue to align with USDA Strategic Plan<sup>53</sup>, which includes fostering productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System, including ongoing implementation of the Administration's "America the Beautiful" initiative. The program will also continue co-investment with critical partners, such as Trout Unlimited, to reach the agency's goal of improving the condition of priority watersheds. These significant endeavors will be made possible by the continued commitment of these partners, as well as supplemental funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

(6) An increase of \$18,500,000 (\$32,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) This increase of \$18,500,000 would significantly increase the program's capacity to improve landscapes and watersheds at a scale that is meaningful. The following efforts would continue using climate informed

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/joint-so-3403-stewardship-tribal-nations.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/strategicplan>



science to prioritize restoration and resilience efforts; maintenance of restored terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; invasive species treatments; water source protection; native vegetation production and planting; soil condition improvement; tending future forests; preparing watersheds to withstand flood events and increasing carbon storage capacity. Also, funding will support the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195) which requires the Forest Service – in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management – to manage populations of wild horses and burros respectively.

### **Minerals and Geology Management:**

This program manages administration of minerals, abandoned mine lands, and geologic resources. Mineral’s administration covers locatable minerals, leasable minerals, saleable minerals and ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands for energy production and mineral development. The program secures and protects unique resources, such as fossils, caves, groundwater (e.g. aquifers), wildlife habitat, and places of scientific, cultural, and recreational interest by monitoring and mitigating geologic hazards like landslides; and cleans, restores, and monitors environmentally compromised lands contaminated by mines or other hazards. The program contributes an estimated \$5.6 billion annually to the Nation’s economy and supports approximately 38,700 jobs.

In 2022, the agency administered more than 5,500 Federal mineral leases across 4.2 million acres of National Forest System lands for oil, natural gas, coal, phosphates, and other mineral commodities. These mineral, oil, and gas operations include approximately 4,000 wells, and a variety of coal and other mineral mines. In 2022, the agency also managed approximately 15,000 privately-owned oil and gas wells and around 75,000 mining claims, on National Forest System lands. Also in 2022, the agency completed 1,857 mineral material (e.g., sand, gravel) sale contracts and permits. The program continues efforts regarding a proposed revision of the agency’s Oil and Gas Resource regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart E), which are intended to bring our regulations up to date with laws previously passed that impact oil and gas leasing for approximately 44 National Forests and Grasslands with ongoing Federal oil and gas interests or operations. A revision of the Locatable Minerals regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart A) is on-going.

With an emphasis on responding to the nations needs regarding critical minerals, as well as addressing legacy mine features and orphaned wells that pose threats to human health and the environment, the Minerals and Geology Management program continues to take steps towards improving conditions in accordance with provisions in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, policy priorities articulated in the Administration’s “America the Beautiful”<sup>54</sup> initiative, and Forest Service Strategic Goals of sustaining the Nations forests and grasslands and delivering benefits to the public. The agency priorities will continue to align with USDA Strategic Plan<sup>55</sup>, which includes fostering productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System.

In 2024, the program will continue to promulgate regulation revision for both the 36 CFR 228 subpart E and Subpart A regulations, as well as fund mitigative measures associated with legacy abandoned mine sites. Additionally, the program will continue to invest in the processing and administration of locatable mineral plans, oil and gas administration, and saleable mineral proposals.

(9) An increase of \$30,500,000 (\$14,500,000 in 2023 enacted).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$30,500,000 to support minerals activities; conducting critical mineral/locatable and salable operations; identifying, closing, and restoring abandoned mine lands; inventorying orphaned wells; and performing minerals operations. The Forest Service would continue to support the restoration and plugging of orphaned wells and strategically direct funds towards contractors to cap wells on National Forest System lands. An increase in program funds would also further support remediation of abandoned mines and orphaned wells in or adjacent to environmental justice (EJ) communities and Tribal Nations.

This increase would also provide additional support to meet mineral-related management goals. The management goals include overseeing current, future, and potential operations on 15,000 oil and gas wells, 75,000 mining claims, and over 1,800 mineral material contracts and/or permits. These goals are driven by

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/conserving-restoring-america-the-beautiful.pdf>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/strategicplan>

agency requirements to minimize impact to natural resources as a result of mineral-related operations being conducted.

The proposed funding would expand the agency's ability to manage geologic resources on National Forest System (NFS) lands, including more than 2,500 formally designated caves, more than 40,000 inventoried groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs), nearly 50 identified areas with designated significant geologic features, and over 800 inventoried paleontological resource sites. Furthermore, this funding level will continue to support revision of the agency's Locatable Mineral Regulations (36 CFR 228 A) and other minerals-related regulatory revisions. The revisions are critical to meet modern day challenges associated with extraction that were not accounted for decades ago when the current regulations were written.

#### **Land Use Authorization and Access:**

This program ensures the productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands through various land and natural resource management activities in support of the social and economic wellbeing of rural and urban communities. The program secures and protects National Forest System lands and land interests through land surveys in advance of timber sales, acquiring rights-of-way, and administering road agreements necessary for public and agency access to complete activities, including timber production, transportation, recreation, and utility inspection. The program administers 74,000 lands related Special Use Authorizations, representing 18,000 miles of powerlines, 1,500 communication sites, 6,600 miles of pipeline, 2,000 reservoirs, 14,000 recreation residences, 250 hydropower projects, and 1,300 commercial filming and still photography projects. At roughly \$150 million in annual revenue, the Special Use Program not only represents more than half the annual receipts within the entire agency, but they account for at least \$100 billion of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

In 2022, the program increased investment in its national centralized billing team that has increased the agency's efficiency by reducing staff workload by 25 percent allowing them to work on other priority infrastructure and recreational projects. The team also reduced the time required to issue billing invoices by 25 percent as well. The industry standard for collections on account receivables older than 120 days should be less than 12 percent or approximately 90 percent efficient for high performing companies; however, the billing team's efforts to increase on-line billing and other improvements have significantly increased the agency effectiveness in collecting fees by over 98 percent and improving overall internal and external customer service. Overall, the billing team collected \$35.8 million in proceeds in 2022, an increase in gross permit receipts of over 13 percent, with thousands of Special Use Data System (SUDS) permit data errors corrected, and substantial support for regional digitization of both rights-of-way and easements.

A key function of the program is permitting and managing authorizations for powerline facilities that cross National Forest System lands and connect to the national power grid, which ensures delivery of electricity to businesses and homes throughout the nation. Through the creation of new policy for review and approval of operating plans, the Forest Service can now provide timely and consistent responses to requests for routine vegetation management and maintenance work that reduces risks of power disruption and catastrophic wildfires. Under the policy, authorized officers have initiated communication with powerline operators to renew their permits, update operating plans and begin vegetation removal in priority areas.

The program has also initiated regulatory changes that will allow permitting of carbon capture and storage projects, which will allow National Forest System lands to be used for reducing and offsetting the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

In 2024, the program will continue investing in creating a diverse and responsive staff that represents and serves the American public through expansion of rural broadband, reduction of wildfire threats near powerlines, and consideration for carbon capture and storage projects.

(10) An increase of \$13,500,000 (\$8,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$4,000,000 would provide support to utilize land appraisal and technical assistance contracting in expediting land acquisitions and exchange and facilitate third party acquisition agreements, supporting the expansion of public access to National Forest System lands. This increase would also impact various projects to bolster the resilience of National Forest System lands to climate change. This work

includes repairing roads affected by flood events and examining and stabilizing dams that are at risk of failure due to unpredictable rain events. The agency would reprioritize work that addresses potential exposure of fiber optic lines within road system right-of-way due to erosion from more frequent rain events and addressing decreased life expectancy of permitted infrastructure due to the changes in climate.

- B) An increase of \$500,000 to support the activities required to transfer eleven parcels as directed by Public Law 116-255, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act. These transactions would incur administrative costs such as surveys to create new boundaries, particularly to exclude cabins and resorts, which pursuant to 43 United States Code Section 2, must be performed by the Bureau of Land Management, which must be reimbursed by the Forest Service.
- C) An increase of \$1,000,000 to continue modernization of boundary management survey equipment. This would increase the efficiency of program survey efforts and support expected increases in boundary marking and measurement demands from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58), the Great American Outdoors Act, as well as a general need to update obsolete equipment and increase agency survey capabilities using the latest survey-grade global positioning systems and drone technology.
- D) An increase of \$3,000,000 to support the activities required to facilitate the exchange of certain State lands located within the Flathead Indian Reservation for Federal public lands located in Montana. The Montana Water Rights Protection Act (Division DD of Public Law 116-260), specifically states in subsection 13(J)(2)(D), that “The Secretary concerned shall ensure that land exchanged pursuant to this paragraph is selected in a manner that minimizes the financial impact on local governments, if any.” This funding would be used to cover the costs of environmental review, appraisal, and timber cruise activities necessary to complete this exchange while also complying with other Federal laws.
- E) An increase of \$5,000,000 to establish an Agency-agency-wide, multiple awards, blanket purchase agreement for services commonly required for completing land adjustment projects across the nation. This would support work in the field and at the policy level, offering Lands and Realty, and Minerals and Geology Management, its field counterparts, and partner agencies a single, streamlined marketplace for the technical services needed to augment our activities and accelerate our productivity.

#### **Law Enforcement Operations:**

The Law Enforcement Operations (LEI) program plays a critical role as a USDA Primary Mission Essential Function (PMEF) by providing safety and security on public lands. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers conduct a range of enforcement activities and criminal and civil investigations involving incidents of theft, assault, alcohol and drug use; unauthorized motor vehicle use; illegal occupancy; trespassing; wildland fire arson; drug smuggling and manufacturing; fraud; and assaults and threats to employees.

An increase in funding will strengthen LEI’s ability to aid in reducing wildland fire risk while fostering resilient forests and watersheds by participating in fire severity patrols, conducting wildfire cause and origin investigations, and presenting criminal and civil cases to the United States Attorney’s Offices for prosecutorial consideration. In addition, LEI responds to the illegal manufacturing of controlled substances on National Forest lands. The illegal operations include the manufacture of methamphetamine and the cultivation of marijuana. The ecological degradation and threats associated with illegal marijuana cultivation are significant. They include contamination of waterways and habitat at cultivation sites, the take of fish and wildlife listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the endangerment of agency staff, indigenous users of the resources, and the public from cultivators and their actions at these sites.

In 2024 LEI will continue to respond to the historic increase in recreation and use as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of interactions and opportunities to engage, educate, and serve the public has significantly increased. The unprecedented increase in use and visitation while conducting operations in a COVID-19 environment present many opportunities that require new or modified processes and tactics to ensure the National Forest continues to be a safe and accessible place to recreate. LEI will continue to prioritize direct engagement and collaboration with the State, County, local authorities, the public, and multiple user groups. These efforts have yielded increased cooperation both internally and externally with partners and with the public.

In 2022, LEI increased the organization by 60 FTEs, adding to its on-the-ground presence. Training, mission critical equipment and technology upgrades, and rising fleet costs are program funding requirements that accompany increasing on the ground presence. In 2024 LEI will continue to support USDA Strategic Goal #2 Objective 2.1 Protecting Agricultural Health by continuing to prevent the serious damage to natural resources caused by illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands. Hazardous materials and activities at illegal grow sites cause significant and long-lasting damage to ecosystems, water sources, and wildlife. Funding to support removal of illegal grow sites and anti-smuggling efforts is consistent with the National Drug Control Strategy. The funding will also enable the law enforcement organization to maintain public safety at the annual Rainbow Family of Living Light Gatherings. Attendance at these national and regional gatherings is expected to increase by about 10,000 visitors, compared to past years. The rising incidence of felony-level property and personal crime on national forests jurisdiction has been a significant challenge during these events, and more LEI resources and staffing will be needed to manage safety and conduct law enforcement activities. LEI will also continue the investment into the Resource Assistant Program (RAP). The RAP program has played an immense role in achieving the focus call to action objective of increasing boots on the ground as well as advancing racial justice, equity, and opportunity.

The 2024 Funding will directly benefit State, county, local authorities, the public, and multiple user groups by providing an increased and more capable law enforcement presence on National Forests. The funding will be used to maintain current cooperative agreements, acquire much needed technology and equipment to support patrol activities and investigations and continue to maintain safety and prevent damage to natural resources. Funding will equip new hires with mission critical equipment such as body-worn cameras, in-vehicle cameras, personal protective equipment, the continued development of our National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), compliant Law Enforcement Investigation Reporting System (LEIRS), technology upgrades and maintenance, LIDAR devices for fire investigations, and specialized equipment (UTVs, ATVs, Trailers) that meet unique needs of the geographic areas the agency serves. For reference, each new Law Enforcement Officer requires additional agency costs, including an average of \$10,000 for equipment such as body armor, uniform, weapons and other safety equipment, and outfitted vehicles costing more than \$50,000. In 2024 LEI will continue to invest in the wellbeing and mental health training and support services. These services include tuition, continuous updating of mental wellbeing programs, and medical professional onsite travel funded through an agreement equating to approximately 150,000 annually.

At present, 75 percent of the program's allocated funding is expended on Fleet and Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements (CLE) alone. These CLE agreements are critical to public safety and State, local, and county law enforcement partners, but the large share of CLEs in the budget is unsustainable without adequate funding. The increase in funding will also allow the program to shift resources toward the acquisition and maintenance of technology and equipment for new and existing staff so they can properly serve the public and protect our Nation's natural resources.

(11) An increase of \$4,500,000 (\$19,505,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$4,500,000 in Law Enforcement Operations from 2023 enacted will better resource our current workforce and add new capacity for a more capable law enforcement presence on national forests. The funding would assist with acquisition and maintenance of technology and equipment for new and existing staff. Anticipated additional investments include body-worn cameras, in-vehicle cameras, personal protective equipment, the continued development of our National Instant Criminal Background Check System and National Incident-Based Reporting System compliant Law Enforcement Investigation Reporting System, Light Detection and Ranging devices for fire investigations, and specialized equipment (UTVs, ATVs, Trailers) that meet unique needs of the geographic areas the agency serves. The additional funding would also allow LEI to train newly hired staff. Such training enables the law enforcement organization to maintain public safety at the annual Rainbow Family of Living Light Gatherings. Attendance at these national and regional gatherings is expected to increase by about 10,000 visitors, compared to past years.
- B) Vehicle replacements have been delayed due to supply chain shortages, maintenance, and repair industry prices have also increased and are expected to continue. \$800,000 of the requested funds would be used to cover increased fleet costs. Many of the counties participating in CLE have expressed concern that the pandemic and additional factors have resulted in a need for increased funding. A portion of the requested

funds would be used towards county and LEI participation in ongoing operations that serve the public and protect our Nation's natural resources. Funding will also be used to address rising fleet costs due to increased visitation to public lands that has resulted in an increase in mileage/use along with wear and tear for law enforcement vehicles.

**Burned Area Rehabilitation:**

The Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) program serves as a bridge to connect emergency response actions to long-term recovery goals. BAR includes post-fire efforts taken within five years of wildfire containment to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover naturally to a management approved condition or to repair/replace minor infrastructure and facilities damaged by the fire.

The Forest Service must work at the scale needed to restore landscapes from climate change driven disasters, such as fires and post-fire flooding. The Forest Service received congressionally appropriated funding for post-fire rehabilitation from 2001-2011. Since 2011, rehabilitation of burned areas has competed for regular program funds with all other priorities at the unit level. Consequently, less the 10 percent of post-fire rehabilitation needs have been met annually, and the backlog of needed work continues to grow.

In 2024, the Forest Service will continue to address the impacts of climate change driven disasters through implementation of the BAR program. The Forest Service must work at the scale needed to restore landscapes from climate change driven disasters with fires impacting more lands and the cascading disasters caused by storm events leading to more post-fire flooding and debris flows. The BAR program serves as a critical step in repairing and improving these lands impacted by wildfires to a desired management condition.

(12) An increase of \$56,000,000 (relative to \$0 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$56,000,000 would significantly sustain and expand the program's potential to improve landscapes and watersheds at a scale that is meaningful. The 2021 fire season alone is estimated to have resulted in over \$1 billion in post-fire restoration needs for invasive plants treatments, range and recreation infrastructure repair, watershed restoration, wildlife and fisheries habitat recovery, and revegetation. The current appropriations level through BIL at \$65 million annually is only funding a small subset of the needed rehabilitation work. Additional funding along with a permanent BAR program will allow the agency to address post-fire needs more consistently and effectively.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS***Table FS-30. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Estimated</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$20,331	\$95,885	\$96,928	\$107,713
	Personnel compensation, field .....	960,369	936,714	946,907	1,052,262
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	980,700	1,032,599	1,043,835	1,159,975
12.0	Personal benefits .....	406,478	432,239	436,942	485,558
13.0	Benefits for former personnel .....	81	-61	-	-
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits .....	1,387,259	1,464,777	1,480,777	1,645,533
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	12,803	26,570	36,715	45,345
22.0	Transportation of things .....	8,481	5,721	13,243	16,356
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	4	14	17	21
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	417	55	440	544
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	1,320	409	1,612	1,991
24.0	Printing and reproduction .....	281	756	967	1,194
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	13	186	186	229
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	124,134	202,928	304,983	376,671
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	93,822	96,353	177,337	219,021
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	535	513	977	1,207
25.5	Research and development contracts .....	701	517	1,136	1,403
25.6	Medical care.....	98	62	149	184
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	3,243	2,831	5,664	6,995
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	36,043	52,544	82,607	102,024
31.0	Equipment.....	7,211	13,157	18,993	23,457
32.0	Land and structures .....	741	5,875	6,169	7,620
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	163,554	403,975	529,216	653,612
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities .....	1,784	1,676	3,226	3,985
43.0	Interest and dividends .....	29	65	88	108
44.0	Refunds .....	-	-118	-	-
91.0	Unvouchered.....	-	-1	-	-
92.0	Undistributed .....	150	68	203	251
	Total, other objects.....	455,364	814,156	1,183,928	1,462,218
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	1,842,623	2,278,933	2,664,705	3,107,751
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$183,533	\$185,520	\$194,054	\$204,145
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	69,440	71,209	74,485	78,358
	Average Grade, GS Position .....	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.4

**STATUS OF PROGRAMS****Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration*****Current Activities***

Collaborative Forest Landscape Scale Restoration (CFLR) uses collaborative, science-based approaches to enhance forest and watershed health, reduce risk from uncharacteristic wildfire, and provide economic benefits to rural communities. CFLR projects are designed to increase community support for forest restoration projects, leveraging capacity, and expanding the scale of restoration. CFLR's community-based investments in restoration support local rural communities through the production of forest products, such as timber and biomass, and the creation and maintenance of jobs. In 2021 there were 14 funded projects that supported 3,727 jobs and \$185 million in labor income. The CFLR Advisory Committee evaluates, supports, and provides recommendations on nominated CFLR projects to the Secretary. In 2023, CFLR funded 17 current and new projects in ten states. Additionally, there are seven CFLR projects approved by the Secretary if additional funding becomes available.

*Table FS-31. Current Collaborative Forest Landscape Scale Restoration Projects.<sup>1</sup>*

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>State(s)</b>	<b>2023 Amount</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Shortleaf-Bluestem Community Project	Arkansas; Oklahoma	\$1,025,000	Large-scale restoration of 569,000 acres of shortleaf pine-bluestem grass communities. Restoration activities will focus on thinning and prescribed burns to reduce stand density and improve habitat for threatened and endangered species such as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.
Dinkey Collaborative	California	1,738,688	Project area is 154,000-acres that sit in the epicenter of unprecedented fuel loading due to the severity of Southern Sierra tree mortality.
North Yuba River Watershed	California	3,000,000	The project area is 356,000 acres. The North Yuba River watershed provides clean water for homes, communities, businesses and ecosystems. There is an urgent need to address high wildfire hazard potential and areas more susceptible to insects, disease and drought. Treatments will promote forest conditions that are more resilient, while restoring watershed health and native biodiversity.
Western Klamath Mountains Fire and Fire Resiliency Project	California	3,000,000	The project area is 1.2-million-acres. Treatments will include preparing the landscape for frequent, smaller, lower-intensity wildfires to protect communities and critical transportation routes. This work will increase watershed health and ecosystem resilience and includes areas traditionally managed by the Karuk Tribe.
Southwest Colorado Restoration Initiative	Colorado	3,000,000	The project area is 1.9-million-acres that include private, municipal, state, and Federal lands. The project aims to promote resilience, enabling the area to adapt to future disturbance while retaining ecosystem function, productivity and ecosystem services. The strategy is to enhance the resilience of critical watersheds, wildlife and aquatic habitats, community infrastructure, economic drivers and forest conditions.
Rio Chama	Colorado; New Mexico	3,000,000	The project area is 3.8-million-acres and includes lands managed by Tribes, states, the Bureau of Land Management, and private landowners. This collective vision to reduce wildfire risk has galvanized communities in this landscape. The project will increase resilience to catastrophic wildfire and other natural disturbance events, sustaining healthy forests and watersheds for future generations.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Project Name	State(s)	2023 Amount	Project Description
Missouri Pine Oak Woodlands	Missouri	333,677	The project area is 445,000 acres and includes Missouri’s largest contiguous forest and designated scenic riverways with important conservation implications for the long-term survival of birds and aquatic life.
Zuni Mountains	New Mexico	1,000,000	The project area is 253,000 acres. Activities will focus on increasing resilience to climate change, uncharacteristic crown fires, and support healthy communities and wildlife habitat. This project provides a long-term supply of wood for businesses and creates a suite of restoration-oriented businesses.
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project	Oregon	1,811,954	The project area is 258,000 acres and includes high-value landscapes with a broad array of collaborative support. Efforts focus on reducing high-severity wildfire in the wildland-urban interface, protecting watersheds, preserving recreation areas, and providing jobs and wood products.
Lakeview Stewardship	Oregon	2,146,230	The project area is 859,000 acres that is important to rural communities for recreation and forestry sector jobs. The goal is to create a healthy, resilient, and functional forest landscape maintained with fire to mitigate the threat of high-severity wildfires to dry forests, habitat, water quality and communities.
Northern Blues Forest Restoration	Oregon	3,000,000	The project area is 10.4 million acres and will reduce wildfire risk and prepare the landscape to safely manage fire. The area has a strong history of successful cross-boundary, all-lands restoration collaboration.
Rogue Basin Landscape Restoration Project	Oregon	3,000,000	The project area is 4.6 million acres. The proposed work will accelerate urgently needed restoration treatments to meet long-term, collaboratively developed strategic goals of wildfire risk reduction, landscape resiliency, improved wildlife habitat, watershed protection, adaptation, and social and economic resilience.
Southern Blues Restoration Coalition	Oregon	3,000,000	The project area is 1 million acres that suffer from departed fire regimes, species composition, and forest stand densities that threaten to destroy key habitat, old growth, important aquatic resources, and private property due to uncharacteristically severe wildfires and effects of a changing climate. The overarching goal is restoration at a scale that will help native wildlife thrive, create forests that are resilient to climate change, and support the health, safety, and prosperity of local communities.
Northeast Washington Forest Vision 2020	Washington	3,000,000	The project area is 916,000 acres. Treatments will focus on aligning with Washington’s 20-year Forest Health Action Plan. The project will restore forested landscapes and watersheds to prepare for future wildfires and the effects of climate change. The overarching goals are to restore forests and habitats, reduce hazardous fuels, use woody biomass and small-diameter trees, and reduce the costs of treatments and wildfire management.



Project Name	State(s)	2023 Amount	Project Description
North Central Washington	Washington	3,000,000	The project area is 1.1 million acres. Treatments will focus on aligning with Washington’s 20-year Forest Health Action Plan. The approach strategically places treatment to reduce wildfire risk for some of the most vulnerable cities and communities in the Pacific Northwest so that multiple tools and tactics can be used to manage the fires safely and appropriately. Work will include fuels treatments, stream and fisheries improvements, and wildlife habitat restoration.
Pisgah Restoration Initiative	North Carolina	1,100,000	The landscape strategy will achieve four collaboratively developed priority outcomes: reducing wildfire risk, restoring fire-adapted forests, restoring rare ecosystems, and promoting healthy forests and watersheds.
Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration and Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Mississippi	1,093,053	The project goals are to maintain existing longleaf ecosystems, re-establish longleaf pine forests, return fire regimes and restore native understory plant communities, reduce hazardous fuels that could lead to catastrophic wildfire, and respond to climate change by re-establishing ecosystems resilient to climate extremes and suited for carbon storage. The desired outcome is a healthy and diverse collection of native plant and animal communities which support ecological, economic, and social sustainability.
<b>Total Amount</b>		<b>37,248,602</b>	

<sup>1</sup>For many projects, the 2023 funding identified in Table FS-31 is a combination of annual appropriated and BIL (§40803).

Table FS-32. Current Collaborative Forest Landscape Scale Restoration Projects.

Project Name	State(s)	Status	Project Description
Western Central Idaho Initiative	Idaho	Approved and not funded	The landscape is a statewide priority. It provides opportunities for watershed and vegetation restoration projects and allows the forests to prioritize work, bolster social support, and efficiently use resources. Agreements are in place to support coordinated work to reduce wildfire risk to communities and wildfire habitat, improve watershed function, and benefit the local economy.
Idaho Panhandle National Forests Joint Collaboratives	Idaho	Approved and not funded	The goal is to restore forest ecosystems to be resilient to natural processes and to protect natural resources and values. The desired outcome is a landscape that provides a diversity of habitats while protecting communities and drinking water and providing jobs and wood fiber for local mills.
Weiser Little Salmon Headwaters	Idaho	Approved and not funded	This landscape is an area that provides highly valued resource benefits including fish, wildlife, timber, grazing and recreation. It is a state priority landscape. Restoration treatments focus on reducing wildfire risk, fuels management, and watershed improvements. These activities provide jobs within the local economy. The project would restore, enhance, and maintain resources to deliver all the ecosystem benefits that people get from forests and grasslands.

Project Name	State(s)	Status	Project Description
Interior Highlands and Coastal Plain of Arkansas	Arkansas	Approved and not funded	The project area supports diverse botanic, wildlife, and fisheries populations and is on the largest remnant of these ecosystem types, supporting oak forests and woodland savannas. With the help of new and existing partners, the project would expand the scope and scale of restoration. Management toward a desired future condition will lead to a landscape more resilient to emergent threats.
Ravalli Roots	Montana	Approved and not funded	With the amount of high priority WUI, the need for increased landscape scale treatment is clear. Management will restore critical habitat for big game and watershed resources, including high value streams for fisheries.
Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration	Colorado	Approved and not funded	The project will sustain ongoing restoration that provides ecological, social, and economic benefit. Through strategic treatments, the project will reduce risks to the ecosystem and communities and lower wildfire suppression costs. The work is critical for protecting municipal watersheds that supply drinking water to millions of residents.
Northeast Washington Selkirks	Washington	Approved and not funded	This area has numerous partnerships and is undergoing active restoration supported and assisted by one of the first and most effective forest collaboratives. Capacity is increased through partnerships, mixed agency interdisciplinary teams, enterprise teams, and third party contracting.

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

**CFLRP Projects Implementation:** Integrated restoration activities are planned, implemented, and monitored through a collaborative process to enhance watershed health, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and support jobs in local communities. In 2022, 15 CFLRP projects advanced a suite of activities, including over 490,000 acres of hazardous fuels treatments, 95,000 acres of habitat enhanced, 850 miles of trail maintained, and 4,800 acres of forest vegetation established. Additionally, through the 15 CFLRP active projects in 2022, 157 MMBF of timber volume sold and 48,000 greens tons of biomass made available for bioenergy.

### **Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring**

#### ***Current Activities***

Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring provides funding for revising and maintaining land management plans, and for creating a responsive planning process that informs integrated resource management and allows units to monitor and adapt to changing conditions. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1604) requires each National Forest System (NFS) unit to have a land management plan and the Forest Service’s 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219) provides the process and structure to create required monitoring programs to inform adaptive management on NFS lands.

The land management planning process, which includes assessments and monitoring programs, provides foundational direction about the agency’s stewardship responsibilities to manage healthy national forests and grasslands that are resilient to changing climates and external factors. Land management planning, assessment, monitoring, and adaptive management provide a collaborative vision that ensures each NFS unit provides sustainable ecosystem services to the public and Tribal Nations, including benefits from old growth, timber, grazing, outdoor recreation, and many other values and services.

Currently, there are 128 NFS unit land management plans, of which 99 are more than 15 years old and 57 are more than 20 years old. Under the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFS 219), the Forest Service has completed eleven land management plan revisions. Each plan revision took an average of seven years to complete at an average cost \$1 million per year.

The agency has studied why it struggles with land management plan revision and identified several challenges, including insufficient staffing, inconsistent processes, and a steep learning curve on each revision effort. In response to these challenges, the agency began establishing the Planning Service Organization (PSO) in 2022. The new business model for land management plan revision will consolidate revision resources, staffing, and expertise to manage the planning process for revision units and complete the bulk of plan development and analysis work. An Adaptive Management Team will serve the PSO groups to improve efficiencies and consistency in developing planning assessments, monitoring programs, and incorporating adaptive management principles in land management plans. The revision unit will retain decision-making authority, lead public engagement, and provide direction, local expertise, and technical review during management plan revision. In 2023, resources will be dedicated to staffing and procuring contracts and agreements in the new organization to support starting 38 new revisions over the next five years. This organizational change will allow the Forest Service to initiate and complete more revisions more quickly and address the backlog of outdated plans through the next 10-15 years.

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

**Release of Land Management Plans:** In 2022, four land management revisions were completed including: the Carson National Forest, Santa Fe National Forest, and Cibola National Forest in the Southwest Region (Region 03), and the Custer-Gallatin National Forest in the Northern Region (Region 01). In 2023, the Forest Service will continue work in progress on eleven land management plan revisions and initiate four new land management plan revisions, plus broad-scale amendments to 19 land management plans in the Northwest Forest Plan area.<sup>56</sup>

**Completion of Monitoring Program Review and Evaluation Process Pilot:** In January 2022 the monitoring program review and evaluation process that has been established in the proposed (currently open for comment to the public) NFS Monitoring Policy (Forest Service Manual Chapter 2040) was used to examine the structure of an existing land management plan monitoring program (Allegheny National Forest, Region 09). The review and evaluation process helps to ensure that monitoring is completed strategically and efficiently. The process supports decisions about what information is needed, the frequency it is needed, and at what land-management scale and scope it informs.

### ***Program Evaluations***

In 2022, one national Biennial Monitoring Evaluation Report (BMER) template and seven national BMER examples, based on the new template, were developed in collaboration with the Washington Office. Use of the new template, and regular engagement with regions and units to update BMERs, promotes development of clear and concise, monitoring reports that provide information needed by decision makers to adaptively manage, and to the public to enhance transparency of agency monitoring results.

After completion of the pilot review and evaluation process, the Allegheny National Forest's updated monitoring program now includes 13 monitoring questions with 25 associated indicators, reduced from 67 and 71, respectively. These updates refocus the monitoring program on the effectiveness of management activities at achieving desired outcomes, remove questions that monitor program functions, move monitoring questions out of the monitoring program that can be produced on demand, and streamline the format of the program and resulting report by consolidating multiple monitoring questions under a single, overarching question with multiple indicators.

## **Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness**

### ***Current Activities***

The Recreation program administers recreation sites, including campgrounds, day-use and dispersed areas, trails, and special use authorizations, such as ski areas, year-round resorts, and numerous outfitter and guide permits. This program provides recreational access to over 193 million acres on national forest system lands containing more than 31,000 campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, and day-use areas; 220,000 miles of fishable streams; almost 160,000 miles of trail opportunities, 33,000 special use permits, and 122 ski areas. The Heritage program supports the agency's mission across most deputy areas by developing ways to streamline compliance with historic preservation laws while protecting more than 450,000 heritage sites. The Wilderness program administers designated wilderness areas (451 wilderness areas covering more than 37 million acres) and Wild and Scenic Rivers (130 Wild and Scenic

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<sup>56</sup> The Northwest Forest Plan area includes all Region 06 units and the following Region 05 units: Klamath, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta-Trinity, and Six Rivers National Forests.

Rivers covering 5,065 miles).<sup>57</sup> Visitor use and spending supports local businesses that provide guides, outfitting, transportation, food, lodging, and other services.

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

**Rehabilitating Recreation’s Infrastructure:** Over the past two years, outdoor recreation on National Forest System lands and sites have become more popular, with visitation to national forests and grasslands peaking at 168 million visits nationally in 2020. This increase has created challenges and opportunities in meeting new demands while ensuring the safety of visitors and the health of the environment. In September 2022, the Forest Service announced \$37 million in investments to improve vital recreation infrastructure located on national forests and grasslands, which includes \$19 million for recreation sites and \$18 million for cabins and historic buildings. The Forest Service is currently finalizing a list of approved projects, which will be available later this calendar year. Once approved, the projects are expected to be implemented within five years. These funds will improve visitor satisfaction on National Forest recreation sites.

**National Visitor Use Monitoring:** The Forest Service’s National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) data and results provide the only source of systemwide information on the status and trends for the Forest Service accomplishments in serving diverse publics through recreation. Through this program, the Forest Service can better understand visitor demographics, spending patterns, satisfaction levels, and activity participation related to recreation. Such data are used in forest planning, tourism development, recreation management, and reporting to Congress. NVUM data is also a key input into estimates of the economic contribution of National Forest visitor spending. This data will help the Forest Service determine the most popular destinations so that funding can be appropriated more effectively.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Partnership with River Network.** For the fourth consecutive year, the Forest Service partnered with River Network on a national funding program that supports field-based wild and scenic rivers stewardship work. This program provides local organizations with funding support for work done in partnership with National Forests to steward congressionally designated wild and scenic rivers across the country. Strong local partnerships are critical to protecting and enhancing the river values in these watersheds, including sustained efforts to facilitate opportunities for equitable access to the enjoyment of these incredible natural resources. This program emphasizes projects that take a shared stewardship approach on rivers under Forest Service management jurisdiction. This shared stewardship of wild and scenic rivers includes not only ecological objectives to support the health of the rivers, but also social objectives such as facilitating opportunities for people to engage and enjoy these areas, with an emphasis on community members who have historically lacked access. Among the seven partnership projects funded through this program in 2022 include:

- Curry Watersheds Partnership in Oregon – working with the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest to engage community members of all ages, abilities, and cultures to protect the Elk and Chetco Wild and Scenic Rivers through river clean ups and educational activities.
- Flathead Rivers Alliance in Montana – partnering with the Flathead National Forest to implement components of a Responsible Recreation Plan to help steward the river and support visitor use on the three Forks of the Flathead Wild and Scenic River.

### **Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management**

#### ***Current Activities***

This program manages habitats for fish and wildlife and contributes to maintaining the ecological conditions needed to support the diversity, viability, and productivity of plant and animal communities on the Nation’s forests and grasslands. The restoration and conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant habitats provides numerous benefits to both nature and society, ensuring that ecological services, amenities such as clean water, or recreational opportunities, such as wildlife viewing, or hunting remain available to current and future generations. Existing and emerging threats, such as habitat loss, climate change, and invasive species continue to threaten the ability of the National Forest System forests and grasslands to support healthy and diverse wildlife and fish populations.

In the continental United States, National Forest System lands contain a wide array of habitats, including 80 percent of elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat habitat, the majority of habitat remaining for rare and wide-ranging

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<sup>57</sup> The 130 Wild and Scenic Rivers include 1025 miles of rivers and streams managed exclusively by the Forest Service and 285 managed jointly by the Forest Service and other Federal agencies.

carnivores such as grizzly bear and Canada lynx, greater than 28 million acres of wild turkey habitat, and 50 percent of the Nation's premier trout and salmon habitat.

### ***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

**Aquatic Organism Passage:** In 2022, the program focus included improving Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) on National Forest System lands and managing habitats to ensure aquatic and terrestrial species' persistence, sustainability, and habitat connectivity. The agency and its partners upgraded or removed 96 road-stream crossings to reconnect over 80 miles of upstream aquatic habitat. Of the nearly \$13 million invested to achieve this conservation milestone, about \$3.2 million was leveraged by multiple Federal, State, Tribal, and non-governmental organizations. Restoring unimpeded fish and aquatic organism passage is one of the agency's key strategies for adapting to a changing climate. Allowing fish and other aquatic species to move and find colder water, healthy spawning habitats, and refuge from floods and drought provides ecological resilience while building more flood-resilient stream crossings to protect public access and transportation networks that communities need.

**Investing in Partners:** Within the next five years one of the Forest Service's main goals is to create 1,500 more fish-passage friendly culverts, dams, and irrigation diversions. This significant endeavor will be made possible by the continued commitment of partners, as well as supplemental funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In these efforts in 2022, Forest Service has focused on enhancing and expanding partnerships with the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, many Native American Tribes, Trout Unlimited, numerous state fish and wildlife agencies, and state transportation departments.

## **Grazing Management**

### ***Current Activities***

The Grazing Management program manages approximately 95 million acres (about half of all National Forest System lands) of rangeland resources on National Forest System lands to maintain a sustainable supply of forage for livestock, sustain water resources, and provide suitable wildlife habitat and ecosystem services. Program goals are met with support of partners, which include Society for Range Management, Public Lands Council, Sustainable Rangeland Roundtable, and numerous local livestock producer organizations.

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

**Manage Grazing Allotments:** Managing Grazing allotments is an intricate process that involves environmental impact analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, creation of sustainable management plans, and proper administration and monitoring of grazing permits and activities. This includes issuance of grazing permits, processing permit waivers, preparation, and processing of bills for fee collection, and development of annual operating instructions. Compliance monitoring determines if the terms and conditions of the grazing authorization are being properly implemented by the grazing permittee, with a focus on necessary actions to move toward or maintain healthy rangelands.

Effectiveness monitoring determines whether the evaluated acres meet, are moving toward, or do not meet, resource objectives identified in the land management plan or other appropriate decision document and allows managers to determine whether additional monitoring or adjustments in management are required. The Forest Service tracks the number of acres that are administered to standard during a given fiscal year. Acres administered to standard is the metric used to track and report the actions related to the administration and monitoring of compliance with aspects related to term grazing permits. Acres administered to standard has improved from 29.5 million in 2018 to 30.7 million in 2022.

**Final Rule on Excess and Unauthorized Grazing:** The Forest Service issued the Final Rule in 2022, which became effective on August 8, 2022. The rule gives the Forest Service authorized officer (typically the District Ranger) the authority to waive excess or unauthorized grazing fees if three conditions are met (the livestock owner removed the livestock by the date required by the authorized officer, the forage consumed was insignificant, and National Forest System lands were not damaged significantly).

## **Forest Products**

### ***Current Activities***

The Forest Products program promotes productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands by supporting healthy and resilient forests and communities. This program benefits local rural communities through the sale of billions of board feet of timber annually, in particular those communities that have a significant timber industry presence. The Forest Products program fosters local and national level partnerships with organizations such

as the National Wild Turkey Federation, Trout Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Forest Foundation, American Forests, American Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and other leading national partners through its stewardship program, and through its coordination with county, state, tribal, and community partners to meet reductions in wildfire risk and improved forest health conditions.

**Plan, and Prepare, Execute Timber Sales:** This activity involves development of the proposed sale and harvest action across thousands of acres within large scale projects, identification of alternatives for consideration, and the National Environmental Policy Act environmental impact analysis in determining how best to meet long term forest health and desired condition objectives. In addition, this work includes determining the volume and value of the trees to be removed; timber sale layout and design, temporary and permanent road construction, and timber sale contract and permit preparation that typically takes from two to three years to complete.

Timber sales help meet a broad variety of forest resource management objectives including hazardous fuel reduction, watershed improvement, adapting to effects of climate change, supporting local underserved communities, creating long term habitat condition, meeting bio-diversity objectives, and the production of timber. Removal of timber in combination with other commercial and non-commercial treatments such as prescribed fire are essential to meeting goals associated with restoration and fuels reduction. Planning and preparing for special forest product sales is also part of these efforts which includes firewood, botanicals, mushrooms, and other forest products. A portion of this program assists low-income and minority communities in obtaining inexpensive or free firewood for home heating and cooking.

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

**Timber Volume Sold:** In 2022, the agency offered and sold approximately 2.93 billion board feet through treatment of 560,435 acres. This was an increase from the 2.87 billion board feet sold in 2021, for a total value of nearly \$187 million. Sales included more than 500 contracts greater than \$10,000, nearly 66,000 small timber contracts and permits, and over 21,000 special forest product permits. At the end of 2022, a total of 8.4 billion board feet were under contract with industry. In the Western states, a significant focus was placed on wildfire recovery from the 2020 and 2021 seasons and resulted in increased removal of trees along roadsides to address hazards threatening public safety and to repair roads. Partnerships with state agencies such as the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) resulted in completion of large sections of roads that could be opened to the public in 2022.

Various special forest management programs contributed to this volume, including which included salvage sale funds, and other permanent and trust funds. Of particular note, timber volume using Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program funding was over 157 million board feet (MMBF); and Good Neighbor Authority, 302 MMBF; and stewardship contracting and agreements, 691 MMBF.

**Working with States through Good Neighbor Authority (GNA):** The agency continues to grow relationships with State partners using the Good Neighbor Authority, which allows States to restore watersheds and manage forests on National Forest System lands through agreements or contracts. Through these authorities the Forest Service has expanded capacity to make the National Forest System lands more resilient to climate change and address the wildfire crisis the nation faces by reducing the amount of hazardous fuels. A total of 378 GNA agreements covering a variety of restoration activities are in place across 38 States, with 40 new agreements implemented in 2022. Timber harvesting under GNA continues to grow; 302 MMBF were sold in 2022 under this authority, an increase from 286 MMBF in 2021. The 2018 Farm Bill expanded GNA authority to allow counties and Tribes to participate in the program. There are currently 15 GNA agreements with counties and 15 with Tribes, working primarily in resource areas surrounding wildlife and fisheries habitat.

**Working with the Tribes through Tribal Forest Protection Act:** The agency continued growing the implementation of 2018 Farm Bill provisions related to self-governance agreements (often referred to as 638 agreements or contracts) under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638). Partnering with tribes through the use of these authorities has been expanding. The Forest Service was also able to enhance the capacity of tribal partners through increased use of the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) authority. This authority allows Tribes across the nation to collaborate in the “planning and implementation of programs for the benefit of Indians in ways that are responsive to the true needs of Indian communities” through demonstration projects in which Federally recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations contract to perform administrative, management, and other functions of programs of the Tribal Forest Protection Act.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) signed in November 2021 included \$160 million intended to advance our work with the states and tribes through authorities such as the tribal forest protection act (TFPA) and GNA. In 2022

the Agency allocated \$32 million to National Priority Landscapes and to Regions to prioritize work with the states and tribes.

Collaboration and restoration through Stewardship: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141) amended the stewardship authority to extend agreements and contracts from 10 to 20 years in locations meeting certain conditions. The Act also allows the cost of cancellation ceilings to be allocated in economically viable annual increments, relieving the forest unit of a large obligation in a single (first) year. The agency has operationalized the 20-year stewardship contracting authority by extending the current executed agreements beyond 10 years and by entering into new 20-year stewardship agreements. Currently, the Forest Service has 15 agreements over 10 years in length.

The below table displays accomplishments between 2018 and 2022. In many cases, multiple land management objectives are met through a single treatment activity. For example, a hazardous fuels reduction treatment can also improve wildlife habitat. These accomplishments not only result in ecosystem benefits, but also in forest products for manufacturing and energy production and the creation of jobs contributing to sustainable communities.

Some stewardship contract work and project development in was delayed during the last three fiscal years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and some regions continue to evaluate the use of this authority.

Table FS-33. Actual Stewardship Contracting Accomplishments (2018 to 2022)

Measure Description	Measure Code	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Green tons of biomass made available for energy production	BIO-NRG	229,958	276,236	161,380	87,271	149,744
Acres of forest vegetation established	FOR-VEG-EST	3,591	3,624	5,285	2,715	6,988
Acres of forest vegetation improved	FOR-VEG-IMP	24,938	33,269	28,443	12,692	18,655
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires (non- WUI)	FP-FUELS-NON-WUI	31,696	49,574	58,307	52,573	52,686
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	FP-FUELS-WUI	163,332	83,784	82,176	122,734	100,818
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	HBT-ENH-STRM	139	118	52	130	46
Acres of wildlife habitat restored or improved	HBT-ENH-TERR	19,530	14,736	67,345	83,625	10,360
Acres of noxious weeds and invasive plant treatments	INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC	3,879	5,977	3,947	4,951	2,607
Miles of roads decommissioned	RD-DECOM-MI	7	-	-	-	-
Stewardship contracts and agreements contributing to watersheds in fully functioning condition	STWD-CNTRCT-AGR-WTRSHD	4	-	-	-	-
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF))	TMBR-VOL-SLD-MMBF	754	859	888	670	696 <sup>58</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Source: geo-enabled Performance Accountability System (gPAS) Reports. Data sort: Initiative code of Stewardship." Timber Volume source: PTSAR reports

The below table shows the acres awarded, number of contracts or agreements awarded, and volume awarded from 2018 to 2022. The number of contracts or agreements awarded includes those where forest products are exchanged for service activities as well as those where excess stewardship contracting funds are used for activities without the exchange of forest products.

*Table FS-34. Acres Awarded, Number of Contract or Agreements Awarded, and Volume Awarded*

<b>Measure</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Acres Awarded.....	161,947	129,710	70,930	165,448	186,417
Number of Contracts and Agreements .....	266	150	156	141	138
Volume Awarded (thousand board feet (MBF)) .....	793,374	859,060	888,000	670,399	696,583

Collaboration with local communities, from development through implementation and monitoring, is a key component of successful stewardship contracting and provides a sense of community ownership in the project, a better understanding by communities of natural resource issues, and increased public support. Collaboration also allows the Forest Service to tailor stewardship offerings that address local issues, needs, and capabilities. In 2021, the agency issued its new policy manual on stewardship contracting and agreements. This new manual lays the foundation for the successful implementation of the stewardship authorities. The corresponding handbook was completed and issued January 4, 2022. This new handbook led to improvements in the national End Results Stewardship Contracting (ERSC) course. The ERSC course trained 125 students with 3000 contact hours.

**Vegetation and Watershed Management**

*Current Activities*

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

*Selected Examples of Recent Progress*

Wild Spotter Program: In 2022 the Wild Spotter Program, a citizen science, multi-partner invasive species detection initiative, was expanded to all 154 National Forests and Grasslands and added dozens of new partnerships and volunteer capacity opportunities. The program expanded by 2,087 additional Smartphone App downloads for both Apple and Android technology and increased the number of new Wild Spotter users (Citizen Scientists) by 5,112. Wild Spotter marketing and promotion through social media tools increased the number of new Facebook “likes” by 3,549 and received 625,015 Facebook post reaches during 2022. Further expansion is planned in 2023 and 2024 to build Wild Spotter program capacity to find and map invasive species (any invasive plants, pathogens, vertebrates, or invertebrates) across the National Forest System and the adjacent landscapes and landownerships. Data collected is transferred periodically into the NRM FACTS survey/inventory dataset for invasive species on National Forests.

*Program Evaluations*

Best Management Practices (BMP) Evaluations: In 2021 the Forest Service monitored BMP implementation and effectiveness at more than 400 sites. This information was used in 2022 for three primary outcomes: 1) improve protection of aquatic and riparian resources through adaptive management; 2) document the use and effectiveness of BMP for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses, supporting or strengthening environmental analyses for priority timber sale and fuels management projects, particularly landscape scale projects; and 3) to share data documenting compliance with the State Nonpoint Source Management Plan, as directed by the Clean Water Act.

Landscapes Improved, Maintained, or Recovering: In 2022, 29 percent of managed landscapes were either improved, maintained, or recovered. The Terrestrial Condition Assessment (TCA) model was used to determine the ecological effects of management activities. This measure relies on management activities being completed this number is expected to increase with implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act.

**Minerals and Geology Management**

*Current Activities*

National Forest System lands ensure the adequate and sustainable supply of domestic mineral and energy resources that contribute to the health, productivity, and overall wellbeing of all Americans. The benefits to society originate from mineral extraction for the production of metals, alloys, and plastics, and the energy used to make, transport,



and power the modern American life. The program secures and protects unique resources, such as fossils, caves, groundwater, wildlife habitat, and places of scientific, cultural, and recreational interest. The program protects people and the environment by monitoring and mitigating geologic hazards, like landslides, through the reclamation of surface resources for multiple recreational uses. Promoting economic growth, long-term healthy environments, sustainability for other forest uses, and stability for rural communities and underrepresented populations while enforcing the best practices for protection of the environment are pillars of this program.

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

Minerals and Geology Management's Geologic Hazards area within the Geologic Resources program has provided funding and staff specialist support in 2022 to Region 1 regarding mitigation of the Hyalite Canyon landslide area in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. Mitigation has included construction of a series of horizontal drains and stations to monitor drain effectiveness along the toe of the landslide; water buildup along the base of the landslide in the absence of drains has the potential to lubricate that base resulting in potential new destructive landslide events. The existing landslide area has the potential to impact access to the Hyalite Canyon recreational area on NFS lands, private residences below the landslide prone area, and the city of Bozeman's municipal water supply. Preemptive landslide mitigation efforts like this significantly leverage agency funds: approximately \$4 million dollars have been spent to date on mitigation, whereas cascading effects of a large-sale landslide event in this area could require an estimated \$250-300 million to address repairs. The Geologic Hazards staff subject matter expert also facilitated hiring of a GeoCorps intern to leverage agency capacity and assist the Hyalite Canyon assessment and mitigation work.

Minerals and Geology Management's Geologic Resources program area, in partnership with the Geological Society of America (GSA), manages the Forest Service GeoCorps America intern program which supported 32 projects and associated intern positions on Forest field units in 2022. These intern positions significantly leverage the capacity of field units to accomplish geologic projects. Coordination of the GeoCorps program requires substantive effort, facilitating drafting of Strategic Program Areas by field units, allocation of Minerals and Geology Management matching funds, coordination with the Washington Office and regional volunteer and service programs, facilitating and delivering informational presentations including mentor and participant webinars, establishing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals for the GeoCorps Program based on the President's Executive Order 13985; and participating in Federal Internships Community of Practice (FICOP) calls.

### **Land Use Authorization and Access**

#### ***Current Activities***

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

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

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

With the success of the pilot program, the Special Uses Workforce Development program is expanding its reach to other organizations seeking to introduce underrepresented groups to natural resources and provide training for successful careers in the agency. The Forest Service continued to expand this process to other specialty areas in 2022. This will increase opportunities to gain professional employment and/or internships with the Forest Service.

## **Law Enforcement Operations**

### ***Current Activities***

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

Law Enforcement staff provide an increased public safety presence, resource protection activities, and education to serve numerous communities. Law Enforcement staff ensured seamless communication and coordination with region and national staff to ensure Law Enforcement Investigation (LEI) mission capabilities and support to internal and external cooperators.

The Forest Service maintains critical partnerships with other law enforcement agencies. In 2022, \$5,049,717 was spent to maintain approximately 460 Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements with State, county, and local partners. Under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13, Public Safety and Security Annex, the Forest Service collaborated with the Department of Justice and other partners to help with law enforcement emergencies during the fiscal year.

LEI has proposed a series of programmatic activities that align with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation. Equating to a 1-year additional investment of \$17.9 million, 3-year additional investment of \$42.6 million or 5-year additional investment of \$75.1 million. Sustainability and perseverance of LEI to meet the objectives of the BIL would be accomplished through organizational growth. LEI's organization has 544 sworn personnel currently working; seven of which are funded from outside of LEI funding sources. The proposal highlights an increased ability LEI will have to ensure public compliance with fire closure orders, fostering knowledge of the importance of fire safety and responsibilities. Participation in fire severity patrols, conducting wildfire cause and origin investigations and presentation of criminal and civil cases to the United States Attorney's Offices for prosecutorial consideration. LEI also responds to the illegal manufacturing of controlled substances on National Forest lands. The illegal operations include the manufacture of methamphetamine and marijuana. These are the two most common types of illegal operations encountered by LEI employees. The manufacture of methamphetamine creates a substantial amount of byproduct that is identified as a hazardous material and requires consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove and remediate the environment. The impacts to the land and watershed are obvious concerns in these operations. Highlighted above are just a few of LEI activities that align with BIL.

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

Information System Upgrade: LEI procured and implemented a new national Criminal Justice Information System to replace the legacy law enforcement reporting system. The new system provided significant improvements in data access, management, transparency, and sharing. LEI worked throughout 2022 to provide training and necessary upgrades and changes to the law enforcement information system. The new system is compliant with all congressional and DOJ reporting requirements. LEI was the first Federal Law Enforcement Agency to adopt a national cloud-based solution video data storage system, now required for Federal law enforcement by executive order.

Multi-agency Marijuana Eradication: The Forest Service has continued to conduct multi-agency eradication operations and investigations to target marijuana cultivated on National Forest System lands and adjacent public lands and to prioritize clean up and reclamation activities in support of the National Drug Control Strategy. Drug trafficking organizations produce large amounts of trash, hazardous materials, and toxic chemicals that create a significant risk to wildlife, water, and habitat near grow areas. LEI continues to lead the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) initiative in cooperation with the California Department of Justice. During 2022, LEI and cooperators located 56 sites, resulting in 159,875 marijuana plants being eradicated: 27,443 lbs. of processed marijuana being seized; 248 aviation short hauls; 16 arrests; and 9 weapons seized. Reclamation occurred on over 56 public land sites, resulting in the removal of 25,850 lbs. of infrastructure/refuse, 31,656 pounds of fertilizer, 47,346 oz. of pesticides, 3,345 oz. of restricted poisons, 108,950 feet of water line, 51 propane tanks, and 15 man-made dams.

Hiring a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce: LEI continued the prioritization of building a diverse organization that is representative of the communities we serve and the continuance of protecting the National Forests in a fair and just manner for all visitors. In 2022, LEI successfully recruited and filled almost 100 vacant law enforcement positions (existing vacancies and new hires) across the program. LEI sponsored nineteen diverse Resource Assistant Program students for 2022, and coordinated the first ever all Forest Service, 24-person Land Management Police Training class at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

## **Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act**

### ***Current Activities***

The Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (MAPLand) program focus is to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation.

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

Develop Interagency MAPLand Core Team: In 2022, the development of an Interagency MAPLand Act Core Team (Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and U.S. Army for Civil Works) committed to focusing on cross agency data standards and data sharing. To meet requirements of MAPLand Act, the Core team must develop national geospatial data standards that ensure compatibility and interoperability among applicable Federal databases.

Administering MAPLand and Investing in Partnerships: In 2022 the Forest Service led efforts to effectively and efficiently communicate and collaborate through sensing and awareness sessions with stakeholders, programs, and teams that will be executing the requirements of this law, including sessions focused specifically on diversity and inclusion. Through these efforts, the Forest Service identified a need to develop and collect data for the recreational shooting and hunting restrictions portion of the Act. We were able to utilize year-end funding to contract for the development of these standards and data collection efforts.

The Forest Service is also engaging with the Protected Area Database (PAD-US) service and the Interagency Trails team to learn their processes and recommendations that will benefit public outdoor recreational use on Federal lands.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> PAD-US is a national inventory of terrestrial and marine protected areas that includes data from many Federal agencies in coordination with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Federal Lands Working group.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$158,048,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+76,952,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>235,000,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

1 *Capital Improvement and Maintenance*

2 For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [~~\$158,048,000~~] \$235,000,000, to remain  
 3 available through September 30, 2026 2027, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of  
 4 buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; and for construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads  
 5 that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system[~~];~~ and for  
 6 maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 532–538 and 23 U.S.C. 101  
 7 and 205: *Provided*, That [~~\$6,000,000~~] \$15,000,000 shall be for activities authorized by 16 U.S.C. 538(a): *Provided*  
 8 *further*, That [~~\$5,048,000~~] shall be for projects specified for Construction Projects in the table titled "Interior and  
 9 Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items"  
 10 included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of  
 11 this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2023 under the Act of March  
 12 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for  
 13 transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated] of the funds provided for facilities  
 14 maintenance and construction, \$60,000,000 shall be for installation of charging stations and related infrastructure to  
 15 make national forests more accessible to visitors operating zero emission vehicles.

16 [CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE]

17 [For an additional amount for "Capital Improvement and Maintenance", \$150,000,000, to remain available until  
 18 expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires,  
 19 hurricanes, and other natural disasters.]

**Change Description**

*The first change* (lines 8 through 13 of paragraph 1) deletes language for Congressionally Directed Spending, and for Congressional deferral to the Treasury of authorized mandatory spending of National Forest System revenues.

*The second change* (lines 13 through 15 of paragraph 1) adds language for installation of charging stations and related infrastructure to make national forests more accessible to visitors operating zero emission vehicles.

*The third change* (lines 17 through 20, paragraph 2) removes language for the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Facilities.....	\$54,037	17	\$54,037	-	\$54,000	-	\$125,000	-	+\$71,000	-	(1)
Roads.....	68,632	50	70,645	-	73,000	-	71,000	-	-2,000	-	(2)
Trails.....	17,438	28	18,500	-	20,000	-	24,000	-	+4,000	-	(3)
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	-	-	5,000	-	6,000	-	15,000	-	+9,000	-	(4)
Construction Projects.....	-	-	10,867	-	5,048	-	-	-	-5,048	-	(5)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.....	140,107	95	159,049	-	158,048	-	235,000	-	+76,952	-	
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :											
Roads (BIL).....	-	-	16,700	-	16,075	-	16,075	-	-	-	
Dams (BIL).....	-	-	1,670	-	1,748	-	1,748	-	-	-	
Legacy Roads and Trails (BIL).....	-	-	41,750	-	37,688	-	37,688	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	-	-	60,120	-	55,511	-	55,511	-	-	-	
Supplemental Appropriations:											
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>b</sup> ..	-	8	-	5	-	7	-	6	-	-1	
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) <sup>c</sup> ....	-	2	-	5	-	7	-	6	-	-1	
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>d</sup> .....	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>e</sup> ....	-	-	470,000	1	-	6	-	5	-	-1	
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>f</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	150,000	26	-	24	-150,000	-2	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	-	15	470,000	11	150,000	46	-	41	-150,000	-5	
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	140,107	110	689,169	11	363,559	46	290,511	41	-73,048	-5	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	264	-	11,880	-	16,489	-	16,489	-	-	-	
<b>Total, Appropriations<sup>g</sup>.....</b>	<b>140,371</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>701,049</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>380,048</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>307,000</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-73,048</b>	<b>-5</b>	
Transfers Out:											
Forest Service Operations.....	-264	-	-11,520	-	-8,729	-	-8,729	-	-	-	
National Forest System.....	-	-	-	-	-7,400	-	-7,400	-	-	-	
Office of Inspector General.....	-	-	-360	-	-360	-	-360	-	-	-	
Total, Transfers Out.....	-264	-	-11,880	-	-16,489	-	-16,489	-	-	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Recoveries, Other.....	17,050	-	15,528	-	14,634	-	17,228	-	+2,594	-	
Balance Available, SOY .....	103,044	-	72,546	-	561,254	-	532,407	-	-28,847	-	
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>260,201</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>777,243</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>939,447</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>840,146</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-99,301</b>	<b>-5</b>	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-72,546	-	-561,254	-	-532,407	-	-436,261	-	+96,146	-	
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>187,655</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>213,360</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>407,040</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>403,885</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-3,155</b>	<b>-5</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides \$72,000,000 each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 115-123 provided \$91,600,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the calendar year 2017 fire season.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 116-20 provided \$36,040,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$26,800,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

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

<sup>f</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$150 million for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

<sup>g</sup> The discrepancy between the project statement and Max schedule X is reimbursable funds.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Facilities.....	\$64,042	17	\$50,353	-	\$59,099	-	\$106,295	-	+\$47,196	-
Roads.....	68,031	50	69,731	-	74,772	-	73,572	-	-1,200	-
Trails .....	19,905	28	19,385	-	21,380	-	25,145	-	+3,765	-
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure										
Improvements.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	70	-	3,654	-	5,077	-	10,915	-	+5,838	-
Construction Projects .....	-	-	4,101	-	4,458	-	2,776	-	-1,682	-
Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Other ..	2,143	-	18	-	12	-	17	-	+5	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	154,191	95	147,242	-	164,798	-	218,720	-	+53,922	-
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) <sup>a</sup> :										
Roads (BIL).....	-	-	15,262	-	13,660	-	15,544	-	+1,884	-
Dams (BIL) .....	-	-	959	-	1,918	-	1,785	-	-133	-
Legacy Roads and Trails (BIL).....	-	-	15,079	-	50,200	-	40,441	-	-9,759	-
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	-	-	31,300	-	65,778	-	57,770	-	-8,008	-
Supplemental Obligations:										
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>b</sup> .....	11,829	8	5,446	5	2,720	7	2,053	6	-667	-1
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) <sup>c</sup> ....	3,508	2	4,211	5	6,668	7	4,801	6	-1,867	-1
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>d</sup> .....	18,127	5	112	-	490	-	599	-	+109	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>e</sup> .....	-	-	25,049	1	124,586	6	89,702	5	-34,884	-1
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>f</sup> ..	-	-	-	-	42,000	26	30,240	24	-11,760	-2
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations .....	33,464	15	34,818	11	176,464	46	127,395	41	-49,069	-5
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>187,655</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>182,060</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>341,262</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>346,115</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>+4,853</b>	<b>-5</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Facilities.....	17,207	-	32,612	-	37,643	-	67,704	-	+30,061	-
Roads.....	7,046	-	10,053	-	10,820	-	10,647	-	-173	-
Trails .....	1,589	-	1,061	-	1,098	-	1,292	-	+194	-
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure										
Improvements.....	93	-	-	-	47	-	48	-	+1	-
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	1,178	-	1,429	-	3,657	-	7,862	-	+4,205	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Construction Projects .....	-	-	6,766	-	7,356	-	4,580	-	-2,776	-
Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Other .	2,512	-	2,411	-	2,094	-	2,875	-	+781	-
Roads (BIL).....	-	-	1,438	-	2,539	-	3,070	-	+531	-
Dams (BIL) .....	-	-	712	-	541	-	504	-	-37	-
Legacy Roads and Trails (BIL).....	-	-	26,671	-	12,844	-	10,091	-	-2,753	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 115-123) <sup>b</sup> .....	14,571	-	9,336	-	6,995	-	5,279	-	-1,716	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-20) <sup>c</sup> ....	28,023	-	23,814	-	17,147	-	12,347	-	-4,800	-
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>d</sup> .....	327	-	-	-	1,261	-	1,539	-	+278	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-43) <sup>e</sup> ....	-	-	444,951	-	320,365	-	230,663	-	-89,702	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>f</sup> ..	-	-	-	-	108,000	-	77,760	-	-30,240	-
Total, Balances Available, EOY .....	72,546	-	561,254	-	532,407	-	436,261	-	-96,146	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>260,201</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>743,314</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>873,669</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>782,376</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-91,293</b>	<b>-5</b>
Total Transfers Out .....	264	-	11,880	-	16,489	-	16,489	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-17,050	-	-15,528	-	-14,634	-	-17,228	-	-2,594	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-103,044	-	-72,546	-	-561,254	-	-532,407	-	+28,847	-
<b>Total Appropriation.....</b>	<b>140,371</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>667,120</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>314,270</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>249,230</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-65,040</b>	<b>-5</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides \$72,000,000 each year from fiscal years 2022 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>b</sup> P.L. 115-123 provided \$91,600,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the calendar year 2017 fire season.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 116-20 provided \$36,040,000 for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$26,800,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

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

<sup>f</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$150 million for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2020, 2021, and 2022 wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.



**JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement.

**Facilities**

Facilities under this section refers to dam and recreation facility maintenance as well as all facility capital improvement projects. Funding for maintenance of facilities that support our workforce are included under Forest Service Operations Facilities. Dam and recreation maintenance includes projects submitted and selected through the National Asset Management Program (NAMP) as well as funding that is sent to the units based on a formula for general dam and recreation facility maintenance. Decommissioning of dams and recreation sites is also included in this section.

Based on the number of projects and the project dollar amounts submitted through the NAMP process the agency was only able to address two percent of the project needs in 2023.

Capital improvement projects that are tied to administrative facilities help address climate change initiatives for the agency in new construction and large facility modifications for expansion or change of use projects. In addition, dam maintenance and capital improvement funding can also target climate mitigation needs and conserving America's lands and waters.

Forest Service owned dams are compliant on approximately 20 percent of its Federal regulatory requirements. The estimated need for annual regulatory compliance and maintenance activities on Forest Service owned dams is \$9,000,000 per year and deferred maintenance estimates are over \$110,000,000.

Dam assets are tied directly to climate change initiatives for the agency, as new construction and modifications of dams must comply with current climate (hydrologic) conditions. Many of the older Forest Service dams are now undersized in terms of capacity for current climatic conditions. These deficiencies leave the agency open to increased liability in terms of loss of life and economic consequences. Targeted dam funding can mitigate extreme climate events, decrease likelihood of flooding for underserved populations and tribal lands, and conserve limited water resources during drought conditions.

- (1) An increase of \$71,000,000 (\$54,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$11,000,000 will address the most pressing health & safety maintenance needs for our recreation sites, dams, and administrative facilities funded under this program including capital improvement needs for housing units used by seasonal personnel, volunteers, and partners. This will greatly impact our capacity needed to do the restoration work of our 10-year fuels strategy as well as recreation. At the requested level we will be able to address a portion of the needs that relate to caring for our employees and make a positive impact on recruitment & retention of a diverse and inclusive workforce. It will also increase our capacity to do the work outlined in the 2022-2026 USDA Strategic Plan. In addition, it will allow us to invest in repairs and upgrade to systems that will lead to better energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.
- B) An increase of \$60,000,000 for electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) will support Direct Current (DC) Fast Charging infrastructure in publicly accessible locations to provide a benefit to the public, agency employees, and agency vehicles as soon as they are commissioned. This will also facilitate transitioning agency light duty vehicles to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) to support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057. Publicly accessible charging infrastructure will be another avenue towards meeting the agency's environmental justice goals. This investment will protect the environment, while improving public infrastructure and increase access for new visitors to National Forest System lands by ensuring all drivers of plug-in electric vehicles are able to access publicly available charging stations. One of the keys to success in supporting and growing zero emission vehicles is reducing the public's concern about how far their vehicle can travel before it needs recharging. Expanding the network of charging infrastructure beyond the highway to many of the Forest Service's visitor centers and ranger stations can help alleviate this concern and provide an economic boost to many small forest communities through increased visitation, while also reducing the immediate effects of carbon emissions from both public and agency vehicles.

**Roads**

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

In 2024, the Forest Service will continue its work in maintaining the quality of Forest Service roads, which provide access to National Forest System lands while protecting water quality and natural resources. The agency will also continue the removal of fish passage barriers where Forest Service roads, bridges, and trails may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies that support threatened, endangered, and sensitive species or community resources.

In 2024, the Forest Service will continue to implement the Administration’s “America the Beautiful” initiative, and Forest Service Strategic Goals<sup>1</sup> sustaining our Nation’s forests and grasslands and delivering benefits to the public. The USDA Strategic Plan includes objectives to foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System. The agency will also continue to implement road and bridge projects that will improve resilience to increased flooding due to climate change.

(2) A decrease of \$2,000,000 (\$73,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) A decrease of \$2,000,000 would reduce capital improvements and maintenance of roads, bridges, and parking lots. It could also negatively affect priority access work for fuels reduction, watershed health, and other Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) related projects while maintaining prioritizing safe ingress and egress for forest communities and the recreating public.

**Trails**

The Forest Service trail program manages the largest system of trails in the nation—over 160,000 miles of trails that provide access for visitors to experience and enjoy their public lands, promote conservation of natural resources, and provide access for administrative purposes such as wildland fire suppression. The trail program also supports stewardship of more than 10,000 miles of congressionally designated national scenic and historic trails as well as national recreation trails, including administering five national scenic trails and one national historic trail. Agency staff work in shared stewardship with Federal, Tribal, State, county, and non-governmental organizations to provide these high-quality recreation opportunities and support local economies through recreation tourism. The trail program also includes the management of more than 7,500 trail bridges, which includes regular inspections, repairs, and replacement as needed.

In 2022 more than 54,000 trail miles were maintained and over 1,000 trail miles were improved.

*Table FS-38. Forest Service Miles of maintained and improved trails by region in 2022*

<b>Region</b>	<b>Miles Maintained</b>	<b>Miles Improved (new construction or relocation)</b>
Northern	10,765	326
Rocky Mountain	6,949	220
Southwest	2,307	112
Intermountain	8,302	187
Pacific Southwest	1,839	36
Pacific Northwest	8,517	90
Southern	5,333	28
Eastern	9,902	125
Alaska	467	12

Region	Miles Maintained	Miles Improved (new construction or relocation)
*Unknown	16	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,398</b>	<b>1,141</b>

\*Indicates a region is not noted in the trail record and thus needs to be fixed in the database.

Of the trail miles maintained, approximately 50 percent were maintained by partners and volunteers, 47 percent were maintained by Forest Service staff, and three percent were maintained by Outfitters, Guides, and Contractors.

Based on completion of trail and trail bridge condition surveys, total deferred maintenance costs for trails infrastructure are estimated at \$489 million; deferred maintenance costs for trail bridges are estimated at \$51.7 million.

The Forest Service trail program is working to implement several USDA and agency priorities:

- Through the Ten-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge (Trail Challenge)<sup>2</sup>, the agency is taking actions to make trails more sustainable and resilient to climate change. In addition to taking advantage of funding opportunities like Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) and the Legacy Roads and Trails Program, the agency is beginning to assess physical trail sustainability to identify “hot spots” where efforts should be focused to more strategically relocate or reconstruct trails to be more sustainable.
- The trail program is also working to promote more diversity, equity, and inclusion in trail program delivery. The program is funding partners to increase their outreach and engagement of traditionally underserved communities in trail program activities, such as through National Trails Day events and support of tribal youth crews. The Trail Challenge also includes a metric to track the extent to which local units are incorporating actions to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in program delivery. This metric, developed in collaboration with the Office of Civil Rights, is meant to track progress as well as help educate units on specific actions they can take to meet this goal.
- The trail program is also taking actions to support USDA Strategic Goal #6: Attract, Inspire and Retain an Engaged and Motivated Workforce that is proud to represent USDA. The agency is developing tools and streamlining processes to better support staff at the field level. Examples include development of an online trail managers toolbox with best practice documents, modernizing the trails database to improve data collection, reporting, and evaluating trail workforce capacity. The trail workforce capacity analysis will enable the agency to clearly articulate key gaps in trail workforce needs and strategically seek out opportunities to increase capacity where needed most to enable the agency to best serve the public and accomplish its mission.

(3) An increase of \$4,000,000 (\$20,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$4,000,000 would help provide long-term solutions to sustainable trails. The increase in funding will improve workforce capacity and contribute to effective and efficient program delivery with a focus on better customer service that provides sustainable trails.

The additional capacity would facilitate some increases in trail miles maintained, trail miles meeting standard, reduce deferred maintenance and allow the program to implement the National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System (NSSTS)<sup>3</sup> and the Ten-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge at an improved pace.

**Legacy Road Remediation**

The Legacy Roads and Trails program’s role is to carry out projects on National Forest system roads, trails and bridges that improve resilience to extreme weather events, flooding, or other natural disasters; protect or improve water quality; restore habitat of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and preserve access for the public, contractors, permittees, and firefighters. Partnership opportunities with Trout Unlimited and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance are under development that will contribute to efficient and effective delivery of projects on the ground.

In 2023, over 130 projects were submitted for Legacy Roads and Trails program funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding for the Legacy Roads and Trails program funded nearly 100 of the submitted projects. These projects focused on road and trail improvements to prevent storm damage and improve resilience, culvert and bridge replacement to restore fish habitat, and decommissioning of unauthorized and closed roads to protect water quality.

Interdisciplinary teams evaluated potential projects for effectiveness in addressing climate change such as improving road and trail resilience by rightsizing bridges and culverts in areas with greater flood potential and advancing equity and opportunity by prioritizing projects in areas with a greater degree of social vulnerability.

In 2024 funding will be utilized for project implementation through agreements and contracts. Projects will continue to emphasize road, trail, and bridge improvements to increase resilience, restoration of fish and aquatic species habitat, and protection and improvement of water quality. The Forest Service will continue to implement the Administration's America the Beautiful<sup>4</sup> initiative, and Forest Service Strategic Goals<sup>5</sup> by sustaining our Nation's forests and grasslands and delivering benefits to the public. USDA Strategic Plan includes objectives to foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System.

(4) An increase of \$9,000,000 (\$6,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) An increase of \$9,000,000 would support on-going Legacy Roads and Trails activities. The funding would be used to fund agreements and projects that improve resilience, ensure continued access, restore habitat, and mitigate detrimental impacts to sensitive ecosystems and watersheds. Program funds would be used to replace undersized culverts with structures that restore aquatic organism passage, improve road and trail resilience by hardening surfaces, reroute roads and trails out of flood prone areas, and add or improve drainage features. Funds would be used to protect watershed resources by decommissioning unauthorized routes. Additionally, funds would be used for additional work that promotes climate adaptation, and restore areas with unneeded roads and trails to a more natural state.

**Construction Projects**

(5) A decrease of \$5,048,000 (relative to \$5,048,000 enacted in 2023).

Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending for Construction Projects was an item funded in 2023 enacted but was not included in the 2024 President's Budget.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS OVER \$1 MILLION  
SELECTED IN 2024**

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

Per Congressional directive in the 2018 Interior Appropriations report, the Forest Service is providing a list of planned national capital improvement and maintenance projects over \$1 million. This list represents a long-term multi-year plan that addresses needed investments in facilities, recreation, transportation, and decommissioning based on the 2024 Budget request and using the NAMP prioritization process. This list includes projects that would be funded with Forest Service appropriations under the following budget line items: Facilities (CMFC), Forest Service Leases and Maintenance (FSLM), and Roads (CMRD); it does not include projects that would be funded by the National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund established by GAOA.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-39. 2024 - 2028 Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects Over \$1 Million Selected in 2024

Project Type	Project Name	Forest	Region or Unit	State	Congressional District	2024 <sup>a</sup>	2025 <sup>a</sup>	2026 <sup>a</sup>	2027 <sup>a</sup>	2028 <sup>a</sup>	Total 2024-2028
Recreation Site	0907 Black River Waterfall Complex Platforms and Stair Replacement for Visitor Safety and Access DM	Ottawa National Forest	Eastern	MI	3	\$535,600	\$505,623	-	-	-	\$1,041,223
Recreation Site	FC14 - Minersville Boat Launch Facility	Shasta Trinity National Forest	Pacific Southwest	CA	1	159,135	265,225	\$583,495	-	-	1,007,855
Recreation Site	Twenty-mile Trailhead Construction for Improved Access to Portage Valley and the Iditarod National Historic Trail	Chugach National Forest	Alaska	AK	1	-	-	1,981,252	-	-	1,981,252
<b>Total Recreation Site</b>						<b>694,735</b>	<b>770,848</b>	<b>2,564,747</b>			
Facility	Modoc South Fork Utility Shop	Modoc National Forest	Pacific Southwest	CA	1	\$172,927	\$954,810	-	-	-	\$1,127,737
Facility	Ash Creek Guard Station	Modoc National Forest	Pacific Southwest	CA	1	217,485	2,010,406	1,174,947	-	-	3,402,838
Facility	Sierra National Forest Supervisor's Office	Sierra National Forest	Pacific Southwest	CA	1	360,500	6,695,000	-	-	-	7,055,500
Facility	Forest-wide Engine Bay Replacement	Forest-wide	Southwestern	NM	1	1,442,000	-	-	-	-	1,442,000
Facility	Jackson Fire Engine Bay Replacement	Bridger-Teton National Forest	Intermountain	WY	1 and 3	-	-	2,813,772	-	-	2,813,772
Facility	Supervisor's Office Leased Office Purchase	Kootenai National Forest	Northern	MT	3	2,350,000	-	-	-	-	2,350,000
Facility	Missoula Aerial Fire Depot 60-Bed Dormitory Modernization	Lolo National Forest	Northern	MT	3	31,827	116,699	1,166,990	-	-	1,315,516
Facility	Palouse Ranger Station Improvements	Nez Perce National Forest	Northern	ID	3	14,853	111,395	922,983	-	-	1,049,231

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Project Type	Project Name	Forest	Region or Unit	State	Congressional District	2024 <sup>a</sup>	2025 <sup>a</sup>	2026 <sup>a</sup>	2027 <sup>a</sup>	2028 <sup>a</sup>	Total 2024-2028
Facility	Petersburg Office Consolidation and Work Center Replacement	Tongass National Forest	Alaska	AK	1	2,728,340	-	-	-	-	2,728,340
Facility	PSICC SPL Buffalo Creek Fire Operations Building	Pike-San Isabel National Forest	Rocky Mountain	CO	1	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Facility	North Fork Office Rehabilitation	Salmon-Challis National Forest	Intermountain	ID	3	-	155,119	1,054,809	-	-	1,209,928
<b>Total Facilities</b>						<b>11,473,051</b>	<b>11,098,238</b>	<b>7,133,501</b>	-	-	
Transportation	Bridge Replacements Group 2-Cisco Br Ontonagon River 6930-1.722 and M Br Ontonagon River 5250-4.46 for Safety Issues DM	Ottawa National Forest	Eastern	MI	3	16,444	42,436	1,281,389	-	-	1,340,269
Transportation	Bundled Road Surfacing and Pavement Maintenance	Forest-wide	Intermountain	UT/WY/ID	1 and 3	1,528,000	-	-	-	-	1,528,000
Transportation	Minarets Road (4S81) Surface Treatment	Sierra National Forest	Pacific Southwest	CA	1	954,810	954,810	954,810	-	-	2,864,430
<b>Total Transportation</b>						<b>2,499,254</b>	<b>997,246</b>	<b>2,236,199</b>	-	-	
Dam	DM08 - Upper Letts Lake Dam Rehabilitation	Mendocino National Forest	Pacific Southwest	CA	1	2,300,000	-	-	-	-	2,300,000
<b>Total Dam</b>						<b>2,300,000</b>	-	-	-	-	
Decommissioning	Ericson Dam	Idaho Panhandle National Forests	Northern	ID	3	1,240,000	-	-	-	-	1,240,000
Decommissioning	South Park Lake George	Pike-San Isabel National Forest	Rocky Mountain	CO	1	1,513,939	-	-	-	-	1,513,939
Decommissioning	Harrison Experimental Forest	Southern Research Station	Southern Research Station	MS	2	1,606,000	\$ -	-	-	-	1,606,000

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Project Type	Project Name	Forest	Region or Unit	State	Congressional District	2024 <sup>a</sup>	2025 <sup>a</sup>	2026 <sup>a</sup>	2027 <sup>a</sup>	2028 <sup>a</sup>	Total 2024-2028
Decommissioning	0915 Bunker Removal Group 63	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie	Eastern	IL	6	-	1,441,384	-	-	-	1,441,384
Decommissioning	0915-Bunker Demolition Group 66a2	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie	Eastern	IL	6	-	1,076,822	-	-	-	1,076,822
Decommissioning	Parsons Reservoir Dam Removal And Associated Stream Restoration	Monongahela National Forest	Eastern	WV	2	-	2,060,000	-	-	-	2,060,000
Decommissioning	Allison Dam Removal	Nez Perce National Forest	Northern	ID	3	-	2,060,000	-	-	-	2,060,000
<b>Total Decommissioning</b>						<b>4,359,939</b>	<b>8,698,206</b>	-	-	-	
<b>Grand Total</b>						<b>21,326,979</b>	<b>21,564,538</b>	<b>11,934,447</b>	-	-	-

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



**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-40. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$29	-	-	-
	Personnel compensation, field.....	1,941	\$783	\$2,973	\$698
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	1,970	783	2,973	698
12.0	Personal benefits.....	1,167	442	453	294
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	3,137	1,225	3,426	992
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	225	142	373	373
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1,241	1,142	2,425	2,720
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	-5	12	7	7
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	97	-4	95	94
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	576	385	978	976
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	140	184	330	329
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	34	6,212	6,356	6,023
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	69,333	78,801	150,732	150,724
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	60,276	48,557	110,742	110,817
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	911	680	1,619	1,616
25.5	Research and development contracts.....	4	-	4	4
25.6	Medical care.....	46	10	57	57
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	1,107	1,028	2,172	2,168
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	10,989	12,957	24,566	23,816
31.0	Equipment.....	1,496	3,822	5,211	5,266
32.0	Land and structures.....	20,766	13,084	34,444	34,374
33.0	Investments and loans.....	-	752	765	764
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	17,118	44,345	62,541	62,714
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities.....	159	26	188	42
43.0	Interest and dividends.....	2	2	4	4
44.0	Refunds.....	-	-4	-	-
92.0	Undistributed.....	3	2	5	5
	Total, other objects.....	184,518	212,135	403,614	402,893
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	187,655	213,360	407,040	403,885
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$50,214	\$71,548	\$74,839	\$78,731
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	6.8	10.1	10.1	10.1

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## **STATUS OF PROGRAMS**

### **Facilities**

#### ***Current Activities***

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

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

**National Asset Management Program:** The Forest Service uses a robust infrastructure investment project selection process that involves both national prioritization and regional discretion to ensure local level needs are addressed. The National Asset Management Program (NAMP) has adapted to ensure the needs of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) deferred maintenance projects are captured and appropriately ranked and scored by various metrics to ensure each year's project list provides the highest mission benefits for the investment being made in the agency.

### **Roads**

#### ***Current Activities***

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

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

**Addressing the Road and Bridge Rehabilitation Backlog:** In 2022, the Forest Service addressed the approximately \$4.4 billion backlog of road and bridge rehabilitation, and replacement needs by directing \$10 million towards projects that improve access for agency activities and recreation opportunities. Another \$59 million of appropriated funds were allocated across Forest Service regions to address annual and deferred maintenance (DM) that contributed to the total backlog of needed road and bridge work. The agency continued to implement comprehensive bridge construction and inspection programs to improve bridge quality. These actions help to ensure public safety, adequate access, and resource protection.

**Modernizing Engineering Directives:** The Forest Service continues to modernize engineering directives and update policies that support critical mission goals that reduce time on tasks, creating efficiencies and streamlining processes. In 2022, the Forest Service added language to Directive Forest Service Manual (FSM) 7730 that addressed the use of the long-term or perpetual Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) road use permit form solely for granting a right of access to NRCS conservation easements so that the existing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) do not require continual reissuance.

### **Trails**

#### ***Current Activities***

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

Of the nearly 163,000 miles of trails managed by the Forest Service, 98,500 miles are non-motorized, and 64,500 miles are motorized. The Forest Service is the administrating agency for six congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHTs) totaling 10,000 miles and is the managing agency for 16 additional NSHTs (details about NSHTs are in the National Scenic and Historic Trails Special Exhibit). The agency also manages more than 370 National Recreation Trails on National Forest System lands.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

**Trail Maintenance:** In 2022, Forest Service staff, partners and volunteers maintained approximately 54,400 miles of National Forest System trails. Maintenance activities include clearing vegetation and downed trees from the trail corridor, cleaning out trail drainage features, such as culverts and water bars, replacing trail signs, and conducting minor tread repairs. During this same time, nearly 1,140 miles of trail were improved. This includes the miles of newly constructed trails, as well as trails that were relocated to a more sustainable location.

**Legacy Roads and Trails**

***Current Activities***

The Legacy Roads and Trails program, provides for urgently needed road decommissioning where inaction can lead to water quality issues in streams and water bodies which support threatened and endangered species (TES) or community water systems. Road decommissioning activities include restoring lands occupied by roads to a more natural state. Roads to be decommissioned include both system roads and unauthorized roads that exist on NFS lands that are adversely affecting TES or community water systems. Decommissioning of roads is normally not an allowable use of appropriations under 23 U.S.C. 205 (Forest development roads and trails); however, Congress has included language in annual appropriations bills authorizing use of Capital Improvement and Maintenance funds for road decommissioning.

Projects include removal or replacement of stream crossing structures that are barriers to aquatic organism passage; road and trail repair and improvements and associated activities in environmentally sensitive areas; and repair and improvements on roads and trails subject to recent storm damage. These roads and trails have been identified as priority projects due to their immediate impact on water resources and ecosystem function.

Operating a safe and efficiently sized road and trail system, designed and maintained to be minimally impactful on the environment, enables us to sustain our Nation’s forests and grasslands and deliver benefits to the public. Work accomplished through this program plays an integral part in restoration work carried out by complimentary programs such as Forest Management, Hazardous Fuels, and Vegetation and Watershed Management.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

**Aquatic Organism Passage Planning:** In 2022, approximately \$1.5 million was invested in aquatic organism passage planning, design and construction projects to improve fish passage and National Forest System road resilience. The Forest Service also provided \$1.5 million for the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) agreement for National Forest System trail improvement projects. In 2021, the NWSA partners successfully leveraged Forest Service funding six times over via the cost-share agreement. Additionally, CMLG funding was invested in various transportation infrastructure projects including six road and trail projects that included trail realignment and improvement, bridge rehabilitation, and road decommissioning.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

*Table FS-41. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$814,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>814,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

*Land Acquisition*

Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts

For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California; and the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests, Arkansas; as authorized by law, \$664,000, to be derived from forest receipts.

Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges

For acquisition of lands, such sums, to be derived from funds deposited by State, county, or municipal governments, public school districts, or other public school authorities, and for authorized expenditures from funds deposited by non-Federal parties pursuant to Land Sale and Exchange Acts, pursuant to the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), to remain available through September 30, [2026] 2027, (16 U.S.C. 516–617a, 555a; Public Law 96–586; Public Law 76–589, Public Law 76–591; and Public Law 78–310).

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-42. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Land Acquisition.....	-\$5,619	12	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisition of Land for National Forests, Special Acts.....	664	-	\$664	-	\$664	-	\$664	-	-	-	-
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges .....	1,480	-	150	-	150	-	150	-	-	-	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.....	-3,475	12	814	2	814	-	814	-	-	-	-
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Conveyance of Administrative Sites .....	1,161	1	2,417	2	1,500	2	1,500	2	-	-	-
Site-Specific Lands Act.....	1,716	-	802	-	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	-	-
Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act).....	123,885	24	123,939	42	123,995	23	123,995	23	-	-	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations .....	126,762	25	127,158	44	126,995	25	126,995	25	-	-	-
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	123,287	37	127,972	46	127,809	25	127,809	25	-	-	-
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	5,619	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestrations .....	172	-	-7,372	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total, Appropriations .....</b>	<b>129,078</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>120,600</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>127,809</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>127,809</b>	<b>25</b>	-	-	-
Rescissions .....	-5,619	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestrations .....	-172	-	7,372	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	3,174	-	943	-	2,997	-	2,855	-	-\$142	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	144,636	-	203,813	-	288,639	-	229,142	-	-59,497	-	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>271,097</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>332,728</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>419,445</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>359,806</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-59,497</b>	-	-
Lapsing Balances .....	-633	-	-162	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-203,813	-	-288,639	-	-229,142	-	-149,503	-	+79,639	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>66,651</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41,754</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>190,303</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>210,303</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>+20,000</b>	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-43. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Land Acquisition.....	\$25,596	12	\$15,203	2	\$70,341	-	\$70,341	-	-	-
Acquisition of Land for National Forests, Special Acts .....	594	-	664	-	874	-	874	-	-	-
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges .....	795	-	100	-	622	-	622	-	-	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	26,985	12	15,967	2	71,837	-	71,837	-	-	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
Conveyance of Administrative Sites .....	1,278	1	3,463	2	3,293	2	3,293	2	-	-
Site-Specific Lands Act.....	1,205	-	117	-	918	-	918	-	-	-
Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act).....	37,183	24	22,207	42	114,255	23	134,255	23	+\$20,000	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations.....	39,666	25	25,787	44	118,466	25	138,466	25	+20,000	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>66,651</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41,754</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>190,303</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>210,303</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>+20,000</b>	<b>-</b>
Lapsing Balances .....	633	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Land Acquisition.....	85,218	-	70,892	-	8,839	-	-	-	-8,839	-
Acquisition of Land for National Forests, Special Acts .....	442	-	-	-	206	-	206	-	-	-
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges .....	1,735	-	936	-	1,243	-	1,243	-	-	-
Conveyance of Administrative Sites .....	20,171	-	20,128	-	18,751	-	18,751	-	-	-
Site-Specific Lands Act.....	9,545	-	10,229	-	9,201	-	9,201	-	-	-
Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act).....	86,702	-	186,454	-	190,902	-	120,102	-	-70,800	-
Total, Balances Available, EOY .....	203,813	-	288,639	-	229,142	-	149,503	-	-79,639	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>271,097</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>330,393</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>419,445</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>359,806</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-59,639</b>	<b>-</b>
Less:										
Rescission.....	5,619	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sequestration.....	172	-	-7,372	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-3,174	-	-943	-	-2,997	-	-2,855	-	+142	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Balance Available, SOY .....	-144,636	-	-203,813	-	-288,639	-	-229,142	-	+59,497	-
<b>Total Appropriation.....</b>	<b>129,078</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>118,265</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>127,809</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>127,809</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-44. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	-	\$3,796	\$3,063	\$3,196
	Personnel compensation, field.....	\$3,705	119	65	119
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	3,705	3,915	3,128	3,315
12.0	Personal benefits.....	1,481	1,590	864	983
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	-	-	-	-
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	5,186	5,505	3,992	4,298
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	9	6	29	32
22.0	Transportation of things.....	-	105	200	221
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	1	-	2	2
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	2	-	4	4
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	114	30	275	304
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	1,611	3,140	3,852	4,084
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	118	334	362	446
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	110	2	214	236
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	70	4	141	156
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	6	91	185	204
31.0	Equipment.....	15	432	452	407
32.0	Land and structures.....	58,983	31,317	180,280	199,650
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	422	788	307	251
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities.....	4	-	8	8
	Total, other objects.....	61,465	36,249	186,311	206,005
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	66,651	41,754	190,303	210,303
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$87,100	\$84,035	\$87,901	\$92,471
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	11.5	11.1	11.1	11.1

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**STATUS OF PROGRAMS****Land Acquisition*****Current Activities***

The Forest Service uses Federal land acquisition funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578) to acquire land within or adjacent to the boundaries of national forests and within Wilderness Areas and to acquire inholdings. Land acquisitions improve recreation and public access and create efficiencies for priority stewardship activities such as hazardous fuels treatments and watershed protection; and help create resilient ecosystems. LWCF appropriations also support land exchanges by funding cash equalization payments and needed staff. LWCF is funded by offshore oil and gas lease receipts, sale of surplus real estate, and motorboat fuel taxes.

The LWCF Act of 1965 was amended August 4, 2020, by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152) which provides up to \$900 million in mandatory funding annually for all Federal land acquisition and State assistance programs across the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. Following LWCF requirements, the Forest Service submits a list of priority-ranked projects annually based on LWCF, agency, and Administration priorities. These include creating new and enhanced recreation access, funding projects with substantial local community support, and conserving critical watersheds. All LWCF Land Acquisition projects contribute to the America the Beautiful initiative to preserve 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030.

In 2022, the Forest Service acquired 40,453 acres which provided recreation access, watershed protection, and other benefits.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

Acquisition of Land in Idaho: The Salmon-Challis National Forest acquired the 110-acre Panther Creek property. This acquisition improves habitat for salmon and steelhead. It also provides access to heavily used trails for hunting and fishing on the Frank Church-River within the River of No Return Wilderness south of the main Salmon River.

**Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts*****Current Activities***

These funds are authorized under seven "Special Acts" that affect eight National Forests in Arkansas, California, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. Special Acts funds are appropriated annually from National Forest receipts generated by the occupancy of public land or from the sale of natural resources other than minerals. These funds may be spent on land acquisition either in the same State or same National Forest, depending on the specific language in the legislation that generated the receipts. These funds must be appropriated annually.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Sequoia National Forest in California: Program funds are being used to acquire the 160-acre Red Hill parcel within the Sequoia National Monument. The acquisition will preserve giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) habitat, natural springs, and areas along the South Fork of the Tule River.

**Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges*****Current Activities***

This program uses funds from the exchange or sale of National Forest System lands between States, county or municipal governments, public school districts, or other non-Federal entities to acquire similar non-Federal properties. Lands acquired using program funds must be in the same State as the lands involved in the exchange.

**Conveyance of Administrative Sites*****Current Activities***

This program uses funds from the conveyance of administrative sites for maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of specified projects that have received concurrence from both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. The program provides for the realignment of the agency's facility portfolio by providing an incentive for local managers to liquidate obsolete or underutilized assets and reinvest in assets that best support the agency's mission. This authority provides the opportunity to efficiently address current and future needs, reduce annual lease costs, and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog. Additionally, the program provides substantial economic and social benefits, including providing local communities with an additional tax base and opportunities for redevelopment to align with community plans and economic stimulus strategies.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Deposits into Sisk Act Fund: In 2022 the Forest Service received \$641,000 in revenue received from the sale of land and structures, which are deposited into the Sisk Act Fund and are available without further appropriation, for the acquisition, improvement, maintenance, reconstruction, or construction of a facility for the National Forest System; and costs associated with the conveyance of administrative sites under this title. These funds will be used to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog.

**Site Specific Lands Act**

***Current Activities***

This program uses funds from the sale of National Forest System lands pursuant to special Acts passed by Congress to be used for specific improvements to lands and facilities within the same national forest or State.

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

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Creation of the Lake Okhissa Lodge: In 2022 the Forest Service completed the conveyance of 150-acres of land previously part of the National Forests in Mississippi's Homochitto National Forest at Okhissa Lake in Franklin County, Mississippi. The acquired land will be used for a rural economic development project that will include a lodge-style hotel, conference center, and other amenities to attract visitors to the area, bringing increased economic benefits to a largely rural and underserved area.

**OTHER APPROPRIATIONS**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

*Table FS-45. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$2,863,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+2,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>4,863,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

*RANGE BETTERMENT FUND*

For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year, as fees for grazing domestic livestock on lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States, pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94–579, to remain available through September 30, [2026] 2027, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

*GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH*

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), \$45,000, to remain available through September 30, [2026]2027, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

*MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES*

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service to manage Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.), \$1,099,000, to remain available through September 30, [2026]2027.

*COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)*

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

**Change Description**

*The first change* (lines 1 through 3 of paragraph 4) adds language for funding for communications site administration.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-46. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Range Betterment Fund.....	\$2,741	3	\$1,719	-	\$1,719	-	\$1,719	-	-	-	-
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research .....	-	-	45	-	45	-	45	-	-	-	-
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses .....	1,099	1	1,099	-	1,099	-	1,099	-	-	-	-
Communication Site Administration.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	+\$2,000	-	(1)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations....	3,840	4	2,863	-	2,863	-	4,863	-	+2,000	-	-
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	3,840	4	2,863	-	2,863	-	4,863	-	+2,000	-	-
<b>Total, Appropriations .....</b>	<b>3,840</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfers Out:											
National Forest System .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2,000	-	-2,000	-	-
Total, Transfers Out.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2,000	-	-2,000	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	83	-	28	-	61	-	44	-	-17	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,525	-	2,733	-	1,956	-	1,295	-	-661	-	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>6,448</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,202</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-678</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-2,733	-	-1,956	-	-1,295	-	-632	-	+663	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3,668</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-47. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Range Betterment Fund.....	\$2,494	3	\$2,558	-	\$2,209	-	\$2,443	-	+\$234	-
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research .....	3	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses .....	1,218	1	1,109	-	1,374	-	1,125	-	-249	-
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	3,715	4	3,668	-	3,585	-	3,570	-	-15	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3,668</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Range Betterment Fund.....	2,534	-	1,764	-	1,187	-	580	-	-607	-
Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research .....	113	-	112	-	62	-	30	-	-32	-
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses .....	86	-	80	-	46	-	22	-	-24	-
Total, Balances Available, EOY .....	2,733	-	1,956	-	1,295	-	632	-	-663	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>6,448</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,880</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,202</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-678</b>	<b>-</b>
Less:										
Recoveries, Other .....	-83	-	-28	-	-61	-	-44	-	+17	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-2,525	-	-2,733	-	-1,956	-	-1,295	-	+661	-
<b>Total Appropriation.....</b>	<b>3,840</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+2,000</b>	<b>-</b>

**JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**

The numbers and letters of the following listing relates to values in the Change (Chg) Key column of the Project Statement.

**Communication Site Administration**

The Forest Service authorizes the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands for communications facilities and authorizes the use and occupancy of Federally owned facilities under Forest Service jurisdiction.

Communications uses on National Forest System lands are an integral part of the Nation's communications infrastructure. Specifically, they provide critical links for national security, emergency services, personal communications – including broadband to urban and rural communities – and hydroelectric, gas pipeline, and electric transmission facilities.

This program currently administers approximately 3,800 special use authorizations for wireless communications uses (the authorized infrastructure supports over 10,000 wireless uses) at 1,367 communications sites; and more than 500 special use authorizations for wired (fiber optic cable) communications uses. The Forest Service continues to experience an increase in demand for use and occupancy on National Forest System lands for these critical communications services, especially for broadband deployment.

In 2024, the funding would allow the Forest Service to provide oversight and identify and implement improvements to the program. Additionally, funding will provide training to employees, enhance administration of existing authorizations and automated applications, and fund the national billing team.

(1) An increase of \$2,000,000 (\$0 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

An increase of \$2,000,000 would improve the management of the communications use program. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) requires the Forest Service to charge an annual programmatic administrative fee for communications use authorizations to cover the costs of administering its communications use program. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 also authorizes the Forest Service to retain and spend the revenues it collects for this fee. In 2023, the Forest Service expects to publish a final rule implementing the annual programmatic administrative fee. The final rule will include an exemption from the programmatic administrative fee for Federal, state, and local governmental entities, other than municipal utilities and cooperatives; noncommercial entities; and amateur radio operators. This exemption will result in an estimated \$2,000,000 shortfall in revenue, unless the \$2,000,000 annual appropriation in the 2024 President's Budget is enacted.

This \$2,000,000 funding increase would support enhanced deployment of wireless and fiber optic cable communications services, including broadband services to unserved and underserved rural communities. This funding would also expand capabilities that would benefit urban and rural communities, enable greater coordination in emergency response situations, and increase overall safety for visitors, agency staff, and first responders. This work is one example of how Forest Service supports OMB memo M-22-10, Improving Access to Public Benefits Programs Through the Paperwork Reduction Act, to reduce the burden on the public to access public benefit programs by removing potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in enrollment in and access to benefits and services in Federal programs.

The Forest Service expects to begin implementing the programmatic administrative fees in 2024. The \$2,000,000 annual appropriation is in addition to the revenue the Forest Service would collect when it implements the programmatic administrative fee.



**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-48. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Personnel compensation, field .....	\$89	-\$7	-	-
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	89	-7	-	-
12.0	Personal benefits .....	3	-2	-	-
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits .....	92	-9	-	-
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	7	2	\$4	\$4
22.0	Transportation of things .....	4	5	4	4
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	1	3	2	2
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	915	287	590	588
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	513	231	365	364
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	-	1	-	-
25.6	Medical care.....	-	1	-	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	28	19	23	23
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	1,925	1,997	1,929	1,920
31.0	Equipment.....	56	138	95	95
32.0	Land and structures .....	3	-	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	171	993	572	569
	Total, other objects.....	3,623	3,677	3,585	3,570
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	3,715	3,668	3,585	3,570
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	\$42,394	\$42,394	\$44,344	\$46,650
	Average Grade, GS Position .....	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4

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**STATUS OF PROGRAMS**

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

**Range Betterment Fund**

***Current Activities***

This program uses collections from grazing fees to implement range improvements on National Forest System lands within the 16 contiguous western States. One-half of funds are allocated to the unit where grazing fees were collected; the remaining one-half are distributed within the region where the collections were derived. Range improvements within allotments include, but are not limited to, seeding and reseeding, fence construction, water development, weed and other plant control, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. Implementation of range betterment projects and activities help reduce range deterioration, improve forage conditions with resulting benefits to wildlife, provide watershed protection, and increase livestock production.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

**Improving Allotments:** In 2022, the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 06) purchased and installed approximately two miles of steel barbed-wire fence for bull trout spawning, rearing habitat protection and improvements on a cattle allotment. Region 06 also purchased and applied herbicide to treat hundreds of acres of toadflax, spotted knapweed, and leafy spurge on multiple sheep grazing allotments. Treatments improved native species diversity, soil stability and production, wildlife forage and habitat, and improved livestock forage.

**Gifts, Donations, and Bequests for Forest and Rangeland Research**

This program uses gifts, donations, bequests of money, real property, or personal property for the establishment or operation of Forest Service research facilities, or to perform activities related to rangeland renewable resource research. The Forest Service continues to receive donations from individuals and businesses for research work units and other organizational sub-units to further their research and development programs.

**Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Use**

***Current Activities***

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) (16 U.S.C. 3101 or P.L. 96-487) provides rural Alaskan residents a subsistence priority to harvest fish and wildlife on Federal lands over sport and commercial uses. ANILCA authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to issue regulations relevant to the taking of fish and wildlife on public lands in the State of Alaska. Funding supports fish and wildlife management projects to sustainably manage subsistence harvesting activities on National Forest lands in Alaska.

*Table FS-49. 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Projects on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska (in dollars).*

<b>Project</b>	<b>Cooperator</b>	<b>Project Cost</b>
Hetta Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Hydaburg Cooperative Association	\$168,829
Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Hoonah Indian Association	118,182
Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Angoon Community Association	92,749
Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Sitka Tribe of Alaska	202,039
Southeast Alaska Eulachon Population Dynamics Monitoring	Chilkoot Indian Association	207,062
Icy Strait Community Household Subsistence Harvest Surveys and Documenting Subsistence Harvest Patterns	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	9,610
Estimating In-season Harvests of the Klawock River Salmon Subsistence Fishery	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	58,398
<b>Total, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Projects</b>		<b>856,869</b>

In 2022, the Forest Service established a new funding mechanism for agreements using the ANILCA authority that replaced the use of contracts. The ANILCA funding authority is used to fund FRMP projects and does not limit agreements to local individuals or groups. Researchers from universities, state and Federal agencies, or other organizations may submit FRMP proposals to study subsistence harvest patterns, traditional ecological knowledge, and stocks status and trends. The FRMP program has a rigorous review process where a team of experts from State and Federal agencies called the Technical Review Committee (TRC) to evaluate proposed projects for funding using five criteria: (1) strategic priorities; (2) technical-scientific merit; (3) investigator ability and resources; (4) partnership and capacity building; and (5) cost/benefit. This program provides funding for regulatory, information-gathering, law enforcement, education, and employment activities.

The management of National Forest lands for subsistence uses plays a vital role in sustaining the health of rural Alaskan communities by ensuring that healthy fish and wildlife populations are available to provide a reliable food supply for eligible residents. The Federal Subsistence Management Program also plays an important role in providing employment in rural Alaska areas where such opportunities are limited. The Forest Service supports the subsistence way of life in rural communities by implementing critical monitoring and management activities using funds specifically allocated toward subsistence uses on National Forest lands.

In partnership with the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service continued to contribute to and work cooperatively within the Alaska Federal Subsistence Management Program. Activities included annual rulemaking, fish and wildlife monitoring, law enforcement and education, employment, and capacity building. The Forest Service regularly consulted with Alaska Tribes and Native Corporations to comply with presidential and secretarial policy direction and to be respectful of the current and historical role of Native Alaskans and other Federally qualified rural subsistence users, while managing for customary and traditional subsistence uses.

Forest Service subsistence resource monitoring provides valuable information and helps build collaborative relationships with other Federal, State and Tribal partners. Forest Service involvement in the FRMP has also helps to build capacity in local Tribal governments involved in increasingly complicated and labor-intensive scientific research, inventory and monitoring projects, and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge studies. This work has helped Tribal organizations effectively participate in regulatory decision-making by the State and Federal governments regarding wildlife and fisheries issues.

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

**Wildlife Monitoring:** In 2022, \$37,590 was allocated for monitoring black bear, deer, moose, and mountain goat populations on the Chugach National Forest. On the Tongass National Forest, \$78,465 was allocated for deer, moose, and mountain goat surveys. These additional surveys can be used for multiple objectives, but a main use is to understand how Forest Service management of lands effects the populations of these species. In addition, \$23,050 helped fund the Sitka Conservation Society work with youth and \$45,000 went to a Vets Work internship. As in previous years, \$50,000 of subsistence funds were allocated to supplement Law Enforcement within the Alaska Region of the Forest Service, which allows the Forest Service to maintain Law Enforcement personnel in remote areas.

### **Communications Site Administration**

#### ***Current Activities***

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334), as amended, required the Forest Service to issue regulations to streamline the process for evaluation applications for communications facilities on National Forest System lands and charge a programmatic administrative fee for communications use authorizations to cover the cost of the Forest Service's communications use program. This program supports the USDA Rural Development's effort to increase broadband access to rural communities, the American Broadband Initiative to increase private-sector investment in broadband networks on Federal lands, and the deployment of the nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety (FirstNet). Rural and urban communities depend on National Forest System lands for critical communications services, including emergency services, internet service, cellular communications, television, and radio.

**WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

*Table FS-50. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

Item	Amount
Enacted, 2023.....	\$945,956,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+2,024,664,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>2,970,620,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

1 *Wildland Fire Management*

2 For necessary expenses for forest fire presuppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency  
 3 wildland fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, and for  
 4 emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, [~~\$945,956,000~~]\$2,970,620,000, to  
 5 remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds, including unobligated balances under this heading, are  
 6 available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts previously transferred for such purposes[:  
 7 *Provided further*, That any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for hazardous fuels management  
 8 may be transferred to the "National Forest System" account]: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to  
 9 reimburse State and other cooperating entities for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or  
 10 disasters to the extent such reimbursements by the Forest Service for non-fire emergencies are fully repaid by the  
 11 responsible emergency management agency: *Provided further*, That funds provided shall be available for support to  
 12 Federal emergency response: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between  
 13 the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties:  
 14 *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$322,988,000 shall be for hazardous fuels  
 15 management activities, of which \$1,600,000 shall be available for the hire and purchase of zero emission passenger  
 16 motor vehicles and supporting charging or fueling infrastructure, and of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 may be  
 17 used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry"  
 18 appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System  
 19 lands: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the previous proviso to implement the Community Forest  
 20 Restoration Act, Public Law 106–393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with  
 21 authorities made available to the Forest Service under the "State and Private Forestry" appropriation: *Provided*  
 22 *further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to  
 23 enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements; to issue grants for hazardous fuels management  
 24 activities, for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land, or  
 25 for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on non-Federal land if the  
 26 Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided  
 27 under this heading, \$1,011,000,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided as the  
 28 average costs of wildfire suppression operations to the meet the terms of a concurrent resolution on the budget.

29 [WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT]

30 [For an additional amount for "Wildland Fire Management", \$375,000,000, to remain available until expended, for  
 31 wildland fire suppression activities. ] [For an additional amount for "Wildland Fire Management", \$1,171,000,000,  
 32 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided under this paragraph in this Act,  
 33 \$1,011,000,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section  
 34 4004(b)(5)(B) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and  
 35 section 1(g)(2) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022:  
 36 *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this paragraph in this Act, \$160,000,000 shall be available for  
 37 forest fire presuppression.]

**Change Description**

*The first change* (lines 6 and 8 of paragraph 1) deletes language hazardous fuels management transfer to National Forest Systems.

*The second change* (lines 14 through 28 of paragraph 1) adds language for hazardous fuels and available authorities.

*The third change* (lines 29 through 37, paragraph 2) removes language for the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-51. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Preparedness.....	\$148,465	596	\$172,000	-	\$32,000	-	\$208,000	-	+\$176,000	-	(1)
Suppression Operations.....	3,778,528	1,156	1,011,000	542	-	-	1,011,000	456	+1,011,000	+456	(2)
Fuels Management (Hazardous Fuels Reduction) <sup>a</sup> .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	322,988	-	+322,988	-	(3)
FireGuard.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	+6,000	-	(4)
Salaries and Expenses .....	764,241	8,529	822,106	9,174	913,956	9,749	1,422,632	14,382	+508,676	+4,633	(5)
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations.....	4,691,234	10,281	2,005,106	9,716	945,956	9,749	2,970,620	14,838	+2,024,664	+5,089	
Base or Recurring Discretionary Funding Designated as Emergency <sup>d</sup> :											
Preparedness.....	-	-	-	-	160,000	-	-	-	-160,000	-	
Suppression Operations.....	-	-	-	-	1,011,000	639	-	-	-1,011,000	-639	
Subtotal, Base or Recurring Discretionary Funding Designated as Emergency .....	-	-	-	-	1,171,000	-	-	-	-1,171,000	-	
Subtotal, Discretionary Appropriations .....					2,116,956						
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117- 58) <sup>b</sup> :											
Preparedness (BIL).....	-	-	22,397	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	
Burned Area Recovery (BIL).....	-	-	14,900	-	10,000	-	19,500	-	+9,500	-	
Detection Monitoring (BIL).....	-	-	10,565	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Reverse 911 (BIL).....	-	-	4,425	-	6,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	499,263	63	10,000	409	500	8	-9,500	-401	
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law .....	-	-	551,550	63	36,000	409	36,000	8	-	-401	
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169):											
Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	1,800,000	-	-	373	-	472	-	+99	
Subtotal, Inflation Reduction Act.....	-	-	1,800,000	-	-	373	-	472	-	+99	
Supplemental Appropriations:											
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>c</sup> .....	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Supplemental Discretionary Funding Designated as Emergency <sup>d</sup>					375,000				-375,000	-	
Subtotal, Supplemental Appropriations.....	-	2	-	-	375,000	-	-	-	-375,000	-	
<b>Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....</b>	<b>4,691,234</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>4,356,656</b>	<b>9,779</b>	<b>2,527,956</b>	<b>10,531</b>	<b>3,006,620</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>+478,664</b>	<b>+4,787</b>	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	-2,763,993	-	-1,760,722	-	-1,790,663	-	-1,790,663	-	-	-	
<b>Total, Appropriations<sup>e</sup> .....</b>	<b>1,927,241</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>2,595,934</b>	<b>9,779</b>	<b>737,293</b>	<b>10,531</b>	<b>1,215,957</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>+478,664</b>	<b>+4,787</b>	
Transfers In:											
National Forest System .....	-	-	30,663	-	30,663	-	30,663	-	-	-	
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.....	2,770,000	-	1,770,000	-	1,770,000	-	1,770,000	-	-	-	
Total, Transfers In .....	2,770,000	-	1,800,663	-	1,800,663	-	1,800,663	-	-	-	
Transfers Out:											
Department of the Interior.....	-1,982	-	-325	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Forest and Rangeland Research.....	-	-	-7,000	-	-5,500	-	-5,500	-	-	-	
Forest Service Operations .....	-4,025	-	-29,855	-	-4,320	-	-4,320	-	-	-	
National Forest System .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Office of Inspector General.....	-	-	-2,761	-	-180	-	-180	-	-	-	
Total, Transfers Out .....	-6,007	-	-39,941	-	-10,000	-	-10,000	-	-	-	
Recoveries, Other .....	183,209	-	260,000	-	150,000	-	150,000	-	-	-	
Balance Available, SOY.....	241,429	-	311,155	-	2,372,448	-	1,217,628	-	-1,154,820	-	
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>5,115,872</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>4,927,811</b>	<b>9,779</b>	<b>6,841,067</b>	<b>10,531</b>	<b>6,164,911</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>-676,156</b>	<b>+4,787</b>	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-311,155	-	-2,372,448	-	-1,217,628	-	-1,118,184	-	+99,444	-	
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>4,798,881</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>4,313,897</b>	<b>9,779</b>	<b>5,623,439</b>	<b>10,531</b>	<b>5,046,727</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>-576,712</b>	<b>+4,787</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2024.

<sup>b</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) provided \$552,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and provided advance appropriations of \$36,000,000 each year from 2023 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$7,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$1.386 billion for wildland fire suppression activities and \$160 million for forest fire presuppression; for a total of \$1.546 billion.

<sup>e</sup> The discrepancy between the project statement and Max schedule X is reimbursable funds.



2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Preparedness .....	\$287,749	596	\$174,502	-	\$84,027	-	\$207,741	-	+\$123,714	-
Suppression Operations .....	3,741,246	1,156	3,110,976	542	2,449,915	-	2,779,465	456	+329,550	+456
Fuels Management (Hazardous Fuels Reduction) <sup>a</sup> .....	-83	-	590	-	704	-	17,584	-	+16,880	-
National Fire Capacity .....	18	-	89	-	98	-	131	-	+33	-
Rural Fire Capacity .....	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wildland Fire Management – Other .....	10,725	-	2,312	-	3,069	-	4,593	-	+1,524	-
FireGuard .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,700	-	+5,700	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	757,132	8,529	822,703	9,174	914,502	9,749	1,419,204	14,382	+504,702	+4,633
Subtotal, Discretionary Obligations .....	4,796,882	10,281	4,111,172	9,716	3,452,315	9,749	4,434,418	14,838	+982,103	+5,089
Preparedness (BIL) .....	-	-	17,922	-	3,682	-	4,719	-	+1,037	-
Burned Area Recovery (BIL) .....	-	-	610	-	19,698	-	17,032	-	-2,666	-
Detection Monitoring (BIL) .....	-	-	-	-	6,939	-	2,496	-	-4,443	-
Reverse 911 (BIL) .....	-	-	-	-	5,971	-	5,099	-	-872	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL) .....	-	-	184,152	63	315,067	409	6,663	8	-308,404	-401
Subtotal, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law .....	-	-	202,684	63	351,357	409	36,009	8	-315,348	-401
Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169):										
Inflation Reduction Act .....	-	-	-	-	375,000	373	475,000	472	+100,000	+99
Subtotal, Inflation Reduction Act .....	-	-	-	-	375,000	373	475,000	472	+100,000	+99
Supplemental Obligations:										
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116- 136) <sup>c</sup> .....	1,999	2	41	-	67	-	-	-	-67	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>d</sup> ...	-	-	-	-	1,444,700	-	101,300	-	-1,343,400	-
Subtotal, Supplemental Obligations .....	1,999	2	41	-	1,444,767	-	101,300	-	-1,343,467	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>4,798,881</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>4,313,897</b>	<b>9,779</b>	<b>5,623,439</b>	<b>10,531</b>	<b>5,046,727</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>-576,712</b>	<b>+4,787</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Preparedness .....	23,287	-	33,952	-	20,774	-	51,360	-	+30,586	-
Suppression Operations .....	274,232	-	163,631	-	132,480	-	140,355	-	+7,875	-
Fuels Management (Hazardous Fuels Reduction) <sup>a</sup> .....	9,586	-	8,678	-	12,861	-	291,225	-	+278,364	-
National Fire Capacity .....	2,637	-	1,562	-	4,809	-	6,440	-	+1,631	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Rural Fire Capacity.....	713	-	272	-	674	-	685	-	+11	-
Wildland Fire Management – Other .....	-615	-	7,385	-	4,868	-	6,095	-	+1,227	-
FireGuard.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	625	-	+625	-
Salaries and Expenses.....	7,109	-	8,103	-	9,006	-	13,976	-	+4,970	-
Preparedness (BIL).....	-	-	4,475	-	3,354	-	2,925	-	-429	-
Burned Area Recovery (BIL) .....	-	-	14,289	-	11,593	-	10,005	-	-1,588	-
Detection Monitoring (BIL).....	-	-	10,565	-	4,502	-	1,548	-	-2,954	-
Reverse 911 (BIL) .....	-	-	4,425	-	3,512	-	3,197	-	-315	-
Salaries and Expenses (BIL).....	-	-	315,111	-	3,187	-	67	-	-3,120	-
Inflation Reduction Act .....	-	-	1,800,000	-	904,708	-	589,681	-	-315,027	-
Coronavirus Relief Appropriations (P.L. 116-136) <sup>c</sup> .....	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disaster Relief Appropriations (P.L. 117-328) <sup>d</sup> ....	-	-	-	-	101,300	-	-	-	-101,300	-
Total, Balances Available, EOY.....	392,000	-	2,372,448	-	1,217,628	-	1,118,184	-	-99,444	-
<b>Total Available.....</b>	<b>5,115,872</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>6,686,345</b>	<b>9,779</b>	<b>6,941,067</b>	<b>10,531</b>	<b>6,164,911</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>-676,156</b>	<b>+4,787</b>
Less:										
Total Transfers In .....	-2,770,000	-	-1,800,663	-	-1,800,663	-	-1,800,663	-	-	-
Total Transfers Out.....	6,007	-	39,941	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-183,209	-	-260,000	-	-150,000	-	-150,000	-	-	-
Balance Available, SOY.....	-241,429	-	-311,155	-	-2,372,448	-	-1,217,628	-	+1,154,820	-
<b>Total Appropriation .....</b>	<b>1,927,241</b>	<b>10,283</b>	<b>4,354,468</b>	<b>9,779</b>	<b>2,527,956</b>	<b>10,531</b>	<b>3,006,620</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>+478,664</b>	<b>+4,787</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Hazardous Fuels program will be shifted from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management beginning in fiscal year 2024.

<sup>b</sup> The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations and provides \$36,000,000 each year from 2022 through 2026 not including transfers.

<sup>c</sup> P.L. 116-136 provided \$7,000,000 to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. Budget authority expired effective October 1, 2021.

<sup>d</sup> P.L. 117-328 provided \$1.386 billion for wildland fire suppression activities and \$160 million for forest fire suppression; for a total of \$1.546 billion.

**JUSTIFICATIONS OF INCREASES AND DECREASES****Salaries and Expenses**

FY 2024 salaries and expenses provide additional funding for the Forest Service to continue efforts in building a year-round workforce that is better aligned with the challenges of today's wildfire activity. Increasing investments in the Federal wildland fire management workforce are designed to deliver an updated, competitive, and equitable pay structure and an improved support system that will address recruitment and retention challenges that have affected this workforce for decades. The 2024 Budget builds upon reforms detailed in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) by providing a permanent solution for Federal wildland firefighters' compensation and taking steps to improve firefighter's quality of life and recognize the difficult and dangerous work they perform.

The cornerstone of the Administration's long-term reforms is a permanent increase in pay through authorization of a special base rate salary table that will permanently increase pay for Federal wildland firefighters and a new premium pay category for all wildland fire incident responders to provide some additional compensation for all hours, including rest and sleep time, when they are mobilized on incidents. These pay reforms will increase Federal wildland firefighters' base pay to provide a more livable wage and address long-term competitiveness and equity issues to improve recruitment outcomes and stabilize retention. Additionally, the 2024 Budget proposal establishes a wildland firefighter pay cap, including all premium and hazards pay, that can be waived by each Secretary using specific criteria.

The special base rate table will be applied to all Federal wildland firefighters. It will raise base pay for firefighters on a sliding scale at all grades. For example, entry-level firefighters at grade GS-3 will receive a pay increase of 36 percent, and our most senior firefighters, at grades GS-15, will receive an increase of 1.5 percent. The portal-to-portal premium pay will be applied to all Federal wildland fire incident responders when mobilized on an incident at a rate equal to half of the employee's base pay rate. These pay reforms will build on the reforms Congress provided with interim funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The 2024 Budget includes an increase of \$180.0 million to cover the costs of base pay increase component of the overall compensation reform proposed for Federal wildland firefighters. In addition, the Budget includes \$328 million, of which \$69 million is to support the 2024 cost of living increases and \$259 million for hiring additional Federal firefighting capacity to help ensure the Forest Service can effectively meet the demands of wildland fire year-round while improving the work-life balance of firefighters. This funding will increase firefighting capacity by an estimated 970 Federal firefighters and support personnel.

This suite of workforce reforms—including improved compensation, increased workforce capacity, as well as vital health and well-being assistance addressed under Preparedness, and improved housing (see Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Facilities on page 123 in the Capital Improvement and Maintenance section—will transform interagency Wildland Fire Management by improving firefighter recruitment and retention and laying the foundation for further improvements in the future.

Wildland Fire Management salaries and expenses not only provides funding for wildland fire response, but also prescribed fire and manual thinning treatments for hazardous fuels mitigation. The wildland fire workforce assessment will assess the workload and tasking of the current wildland fire workforce, including hazardous fuels mitigation. The small amount of salary and expenses for the administration of hazardous fuels mitigation contracts is primarily expended within National Forest System salaries and expenses.

(5) An increase of \$508,676,000 and 4,633 FTE (\$913,956,000 and 9,749 FTE enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

A) An increase of \$69,180,000 for 2024 Pay.

This increase will support the annualization of the 2023 4.6 percent Cost of Living pay increase and the 2024 5.2 percent Cost of Living pay increase.

B) An increase of \$259,496,000 for increased firefighter capacity.

This increase will help ensure that the Forest Service can increase capacity to effectively meet the demands of wildland fire year-round while improving work-life balance of firefighters and support personnel.

C) An increase of \$180,000,000 for the pay reforms for Federal wildland firefighters.

This increase will implement a permanent increase in base pay to provide a more livable wage and address long-term competitiveness and equity issues to improve recruitment outcomes and stabilize retention.

### Preparedness

The Preparedness program ensures that fire management assets, such as large airtankers, helicopters, hot shot crews, and smokejumpers, can support timely, risk-informed, and effective initial attack response operations on National Forest System lands; and other Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands for which the Forest Service has protection agreements in place. The program also supports training and education, development and advancement of firefighting technology, and organizational learning.

- (1) An increase of \$176,000,000 (\$32,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) This increase is, in part, due to the one-time shift in base funding from discretionary appropriations to emergency designated appropriations included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328), Division N. The operational change in funding is an increase of \$16,000,000 from the total 2023 enacted level.
- B) An increase of \$10,000,000 to support establishment of comprehensive vital health and well-being programs.  
The Forest Service Chief's priorities for expanding our Wildland Fire workforce are to ensure our permanent employees have the tools to tackle the mental and physical aspects of the mission. We are actively working to update the program to meet these needs. This increase would better meet our employees' needs and build on the reform Congress provided with interim funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to sustain the firefighting workforce in a demanding work environment.
- C) An increase of \$6,000,000 to support electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057.  
This increase would accelerate procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) as practicable to replace fire fleet light duty vehicles to support vehicle electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057.

### FireGuard

- (4) An increase of \$6,000,000 (\$0 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) This increase would provide funding to reimburse the Department of Defense (DoD) for providing FireGuard capability through the National Guard and initiate a contract to formally document requirements and planning necessary for the transition of FireGuard from the DoD, and to identify key areas where artificial intelligence and automation can reduce the need for staffing and risks to firefighters.

### Suppression

Suppression funding supports the work associated with extinguishing or confining wildland fires associated with National Forest System lands. Suppression appropriations are used primarily for wildfire response when a fire is not contained during initial attack, and is the primary funding source for wildland fire extended attack and large fire support operations, including funding aviation asset operations, conducting other support functions in direct support of wildfire incidents, and funding postfire emergency stabilization activities. The program maintains the agency's strong role of working with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local government partners to protect life and property against catastrophic wildfire and other natural disasters. Through the Burned Area Emergency Response program, the Suppression funding also protects forests and watersheds from the post-fire impacts of catastrophic fire, helping to maintain clean water, wildlife and fish habitat, recreational opportunities, and forest products.

- (2) An increase of \$1,011,000,000 and 456 FTE (\$0 and 0 FTE enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

- A) This increase is on account of the shift in base funding that occurred in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Division N—Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023. However, this results in no operational change as this is equal to the funding level of the total 2023 enacted amount.

**Fuels Management (Hazardous Fuels Reduction)**

The Fuels Management program treats acres to reduce the risk for uncharacteristic wildfire by prioritizing treatments in the vicinity of critical infrastructure, community drinking water sources, critical habitat, and traditional homelands. A trade-off analysis is conducted using scenario investment planning to distribute resources more efficiently to the highest priority areas. Working with community partners across boundaries allows the agency to leverage resources and work efficiently to reduce wildfire risk, while creating resilient landscapes and encouraging fire-adapted communities.

In 2022, the Forest Service completed approximately 3.21 million acres of fuels treatments on National Forest System lands and adjacent areas to mitigate wildfire risk. Approximately 2 million of the treated acres were in high-risk wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. The treated areas outside the WUI were also identified as high priority and included municipal watersheds, traditional homelands, critical habitat, and areas valued for subsistence and cultural opportunities, forest products, and ecosystem restoration.

Approximately 900,000 treated acres were categorized as having a high to very high hazard potential for a large wildfire that would be difficult to contain. About 1.76 million acres or 57 percent of the total acres were treated with prescribed fire or wildfire that met management objectives. This is slightly less than last year's accomplishments, in part due to the Agency's tactical pause on prescribed fire to assess protocols around prescribed fire implementation and establish clear and more effective guidelines for prescribed fire use. Although this impacted the use of prescribed fire for reducing wildfire risk, the Agency deemed it an important and necessary trade-off to ensure public safety in the future and strengthen standards of the overall program.

The fuels program supports additional Administration priorities, such as Justice 40 Initiative<sup>60</sup>, by reducing the threat of wildfire to underserved communities that may be more significantly impacted during these natural disasters. In addition, the fuels program addresses the climate change priority, as managing fuels reduces the carbon output observed during large-scale, high-intensity wildfires. Treating the nation's forests so they are more resilient to drought and fire ensures their survival and longevity even in the face of climate change. Forest and grasslands are the best sources of carbon fixation and their loss due to drought and wildfire not only severely and immediately reduces their ability to fix carbon, but their smoke emissions release large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. Reducing vegetation densities, improving heterogeneity, and implementing periodic prescribe fire through active management assists in the fire-adaptation of our Nation's forests, sustaining them through time. By treating National Forest System lands, fire can burn at low to moderate intensities and the wildland fire workforce can effectively suppress unplanned ignitions and limit the impacts of fire and smoke to communities. This also reduces carbon emissions and provides for healthy forests with increased growth capacity to fix carbon. The Nation's forests provide for the livelihoods of many individuals, industries, and communities. Maintaining healthy productive forests maintains current economic enterprises while encouraging additional opportunities.

In 2024, the Agency will continue to work closely with Regional offices to achieve the right level of support to maintain our current levels of low-risk conditions while also maximizing opportunities to reduce wildfire risk in untreated areas. The work before us is monumental, requiring a significant investment in Forest Service personnel to complete the task, while allowing for an appropriate life-work balance. To achieve the 20 million additional acres treated to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, as detailed in the "Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A 10-Year Wildfire Implementation Plan"<sup>61</sup>, an increase in discretionary funding for contracts, grants, and agreements to assist in increasing pace and scale of the work is required. This will require an increase in prescribed fire not only to treat new acres, but also to maintain the acres that have reached the desired low-risk condition. To maintain over 20 million acres at the desired condition through time would require more than 4 million acres to be burned annually through prescribed fire.

The Hazardous Fuels program will move from the National Forest System account to the Wildland Fire Management account in 2024.

(3) An increase of \$115,988,000 (\$207,000,000 enacted in 2023).

The funding change is requested for the following items:

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<sup>60</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Wildfire-Crisis-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

A) An increase of \$1,600,000 to support electrification goals mandated by Executive Order 14057.

This increase would accelerate procurement of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) as practicable to replace fire fleet light duty vehicles.

B) An increase of \$114,388,000 to increase the acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments.

This increase would allow the Agency to mitigate wildfire risk on 4.2 million acres in high priority and high-risk areas. The increase will also enable the Agency to begin restoring ecological function, protect Tribal lands, critical habitat, and watersheds, and provide for social and economic services traditionally provided by healthy ecosystems. Removing hazardous fuels helps reduce the effects of uncharacteristic wildfire and improves landscape conditions so that in many cases fire can resume its normal role on the landscape without risk to communities, traditional Tribal lands, watersheds, and critical wildlife habitat. Approximately 63 million of the 193 million acres (32 percent) of National Forest System lands remain at high or very high risk for wildfires that would be difficult to contain.

This increase in funding would provide the Forest Service the means to continue making strides to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire to communities by treating 20 million acres over the next 8 years while ensuring the continued maintenance on the landscapes that are at desired condition and/or low risk for uncharacteristic wildfires. The increase would also assist the Agency in investing in treating landscapes at high wildfire risk and continue to create climate-adaptive, fire-adaptive ecosystems that either curtail the escalation of a wildfire or defuse the effects of an uncharacteristic wildfire thereby adding in suppression efforts and protecting values at risk.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-53. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C. ....	\$11,540	\$38,556	\$43,521	\$53,062
	Personnel compensation, field.....	1,132,233	1,036,626	1,183,457	1,420,000
11.0	Total personnel compensation .....	1,143,773	1,075,182	1,226,978	1,473,062
12.0	Personal benefits.....	359,470	413,742	472,559	566,801
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	18	23	25	33
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	1,503,261	1,488,947	1,699,562	2,039,896
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons .....	120,443	121,832	155,153	119,023
22.0	Transportation of things.....	11,466	11,110	15,217	11,091
23.1	Rental payments to GSA .....	327	18	221	169
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	7,233	4,064	7,142	5,550
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	10,899	7,044	10,503	8,815
24.0	Printing and reproduction .....	290	231	334	256
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources .....	2,254,222	1,948,800	2,700,543	2,064,804
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources .....	215,314	59,904	175,011	135,205
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities .....	2,783	1,859	2,976	2,280
25.5	Research and development contracts.....	-	110	71	54
25.6	Medical care .....	207	147	227	174
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment .....	3,323	2,689	3,854	2,953
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	213,727	157,980	238,025	182,607
31.0	Equipment .....	9,595	9,232	12,070	9,249
32.0	Land and structures.....	1,763	954	1,742	1,335
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	443,215	496,862	599,211	461,828
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities.....	626	1,625	1,443	1,106
43.0	Interest and dividends.....	130	481	392	300
44.0	Refunds.....	-	-32,795	-	-
92.0	Undistributed.....	57	8	42	32
	Total, other objects .....	3,295,620	2,824,950	3,923,877	3,006,831
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	4,798,881	4,313,897	5,623,439	5,046,727
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position .....	\$181,262	\$178,954	\$187,186	\$196,920
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	51,829	53,391	55,847	58,751
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1

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**STATUS OF PROGRAMS**

**Wildland Fire Preparedness**

**Current Activities**

In 2022, there were nearly 6,000 fires on National Forest System lands, and Forest Service firefighters had an initial attack success rate of 97<sup>62</sup> percent. The Preparedness program ensures that fire management assets, such as large airtankers, helicopters, hot shot crews, and smokejumpers, can support timely, risk-informed, and effective initial attack response operations on National Forest System lands and other Federal, State, and private lands. This program supports internal and external training and education, development and advancement of firefighting technology, and organizational learning.

*Table FS-54. Wildland Fire Salary and Expenses, and Preparedness Costs (millions of dollars)*

Item	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Wildland Firefighter Salary and Expenses: <sup>a</sup>			
Firefighter Federal Fire Response <sup>b</sup> .....	\$111	\$123	\$176
Firefighter State Fire Response <sup>c</sup> .....	12	13	21
FEMA <sup>d</sup> .....	-	1	1
Travel and Training <sup>e</sup> .....	25	38	53
Non-Incident and Hazardous Fuel Operations <sup>e, f</sup> .....	674	739	1,171
Subtotal, Wildland Firefighter Salary and Expenses .....	822	914	1,442
Wildland Fire Preparedness Costs: <sup>g</sup>			
Firefighting Equipment, Operations, and Maintenance.....	149	172	178
Vital Health and Well-Being.....	-	-	10
Aviation Contracts .....	23	20	20
Subtotal, Wildland Fire Preparedness Costs.....	172	192 <sup>h</sup>	208
<b>Total, Wildland Fire Salary and Expenses and Preparedness Costs</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,650</b>

<sup>a</sup> Firefighters and support staff salary and personnel costs include pay costs and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions.

<sup>b</sup> Firefighters and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from work on fires occurring on National Forest System lands or other Federal lands.

<sup>c</sup> Firefighters and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from work on fires occurring on State lands.

<sup>d</sup> FEMA category under Preparedness includes employee and personnel costs for the first 8 hours (Base-8 hours) incurred when responding to FEMA-declared emergencies.

<sup>e</sup> All other firefighter and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from Preparedness program activities not directly supporting an incident. This includes all Wildland Fire leadership and associated management staff, communications staff, aviation staff, budget staff, fire planners, off-season firefighter work, and all the planning and readiness reviews to prepare for the next incident.

<sup>f</sup> All other firefighter and support staff salary and personnel costs incurred from the hazardous fuels program.

<sup>g</sup> The Preparedness program covers fixed costs and ensures that fire management assets, such as large airtankers, helicopters, hot shot crews, and smoke jumpers are available to support initial attack response operations on National Forest System lands and other Federal, State, and private lands.

<sup>h</sup> 2023 total preparedness costs reflect regular appropriations and disaster supplemental funding.

<sup>62</sup> Initial attack success rate is the percent of fires that were suppressed before reaching 300 acres in size.

Table FS-55. Wildland Fire Salary and Expenses, Suppression Costs (millions of dollars)

Suppression	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Federal Fire Response <sup>a</sup> .....	\$1624	\$303	\$303
State Fire Response <sup>b</sup> .....	308	52	52
Aviation Contracts.....	419	251	251
Fire Support Contracts and Operations <sup>c</sup> .....	654	305	305
FEMA <sup>d</sup> .....	-	2	2
Burned Area Emergency Repair (BAER) <sup>e</sup> .....	24	3	3
Administrative Support <sup>f</sup> .....	82	95	95
<b>Total Suppression <sup>g</sup>.....</b>	<b>3,111<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1,011<sup>h</sup></b>

<sup>a</sup> Forest Service fire management assets used to support Suppression program activities on National Forest System and other Federal lands.

<sup>b</sup> Forest Service fire management assets used to support Suppression program activities on State lands.

<sup>c</sup> Execution of contracts and other procurements for activities associated with the national suppression response.

<sup>d</sup> FEMA reimbursement under Suppression includes firefighter and support staff overtime costs, hazard pay, travel, and other administrative costs during FEMA-declared emergencies.

<sup>e</sup> Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Repair response across all lands.

<sup>f</sup> All other costs to support Forest Service firefighters and staff during Suppression program activities.

<sup>g</sup> The Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141) established funding levels for Suppression of \$1.011 billion. Total Suppression funding requested in 2022 (\$1.011 billion) includes pay costs, awards, and Federal Employees Retirement System contributions.

<sup>h</sup> The Forest Service Suppression program ensures that fire management assets, such as large airtankers, helicopters, hot shot crews, and smoke jumpers are available to support extended attack and large fire support operations at fires on National Forest System lands and other Federal, State, and private lands, as necessary.

Table FS-56. Resource Summary 2022 to 2024 (aviation fleet and personnel)

Resource	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Engines <sup>a</sup> .....	900	900	900
Heavy Equipment – Dozers, Tractor Plow Units, Tenders.....	210	210	210
Helicopters:			
Type 1 <sup>b</sup> .....	28	28	28
Type 2 <sup>c</sup> .....	34	34	34
Type 3 <sup>d</sup> .....	46	46	46
Airtankers:			
Next Generation Airtankers <sup>e</sup> .....	18	18	18
Firefighters (FFTR) – Total is inclusive of categories below ....	10,965	11,300	12,270
Type I Interagency Hot Shot Crews (67 crews).....	1,340	1,340	1,690
Other Firefighters.....	8,905	9,240	9,860
Smoke Jumpers.....	320	320	320
Prevention Technicians.....	400	400	400

<sup>a</sup> Refers to the suite of wheeled vehicles used to carry firefighters and water to the site of a fire.

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

<sup>c</sup> Medium-sized helicopters.

<sup>d</sup> Includes only helicopters whose primary purpose is wildland fire response. Type 3 are the lightest class of helicopters.

<sup>e</sup> Numbers reflect maximum number of aircraft allowed under the exclusive use contracts.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

Potential Operational Delineations (PODs). PODs are a pre-planning framework to assist with real time decisions to identify possible wildfire control lines through a baseline understanding of risks, management opportunities, and desired outcomes before a fire starts. Through 2022, more than 55 national forests have developed PODs and 10 more are in progress.

Continued Improvements in Aircraft Acquisition. In 2022, the Aviation Program successfully completed its second full year of implementing the Forest Service Aviation Acquisition Strategy (Strategy). The Strategy formalizes the planning, execution, and management process for all aviation procurements but is not considered a stand-alone document. Rather, it complements goals, objectives, and performance measures from USDA and the Forest Service to create strategic line-of-sight linkages. The Aviation Program is viewed holistically; it allows for significant cost and administration efficiencies. This governance framework along with the iterative nature of the Strategy’s phases and decision points means that acquisitions are tactical, coordinated, and timely, using program management best practices, tools, and techniques. Aviation remains agile in its ongoing response by supplying aviation assets that support the fire mission and multiple other missions throughout the Forest Service as capabilities produced by each acquisition are integrated and operate cohesively within the overall aviation portfolio.

## **Wildland Fire Suppression Operations**

### ***Current Activities***

The Suppression program is the primary funding source for wildland fire extended attack and large fire support operations. The program maintains the agency’s strong role of working with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local government partners to protect life and property against wildfire and other natural disasters. This program also protects forests and watersheds from the impacts of catastrophic fire, helping to maintain clean water, wildlife and fish habitat, recreational opportunities, and forest products. In 2022, approximately 8.1 million acres burned in wildland fires, and over 2.4 million of those acres were on National Forest System lands. The agency continues to use science-based tools to make risk-informed decisions to manage fire on the landscape, including using naturally occurring wildfire in the right place, at the right time, and for the right reasons, to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest conditions. Additionally, the agency continues to improve the use of analytical systems to determine the most efficient allocation of fire suppression resources, the effectiveness of suppression resources, and the efficiency of the current practices used by incident managers to achieve containment on large fires.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 (S.Prt. 117-16, “A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2022 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2023 through 2031”) extended the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act included in Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141), which amended the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to authorize the appropriation of additional budget authority to eliminate the need for “fire transfers,” which is borrowing funds from non-fire programs to cover the full cost of fire suppression operations. The agency leverages the budgetary stability provided by the additional budget authority to approach programmatic and fiscal management of both fire and land management programs more strategically.

The Forest Service continues to negotiate standardized cooperative agreements with State and local government entities to ensure incident specific cost share agreements are implementable and equitable for all associated parties. In 2022, the agency established and executed over 48 standardized State-level cooperative agreements for cooperative response to wildland fires and continues to collaborate with State and local partners in developing and fielding new fire analytic tools and resources to inform tactical decision-making on fire incidents and adopting modern spatial and data analytics technologies to provide real time information to incident commanders on complex incidents.

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

Risk Management Assistance: In 2022, the Forest Service’s Risk Management Assistance (RMA) program provided real-time decision support for the largest and most challenging fires. The program provides analytical products to support decision-makers with more risk-informed decisions to achieve safer and improved outcomes for critical fire incidents. In 2022, line officers employed RMA on most large fires across the country, including the Black fire in New Mexico, the Mosquito fire in California, and the Moose fire in Idaho. The fires comparison matrix on the RMA dashboard combines fire modeling, risk assessment, and weather information into a concise format, which facilitated fire comparisons and informed prioritization at the Multi-Area Coordination, Geographic Area Coordination Center, regional, State, and unit level.<sup>37</sup>

Burned Area Emergency Response: The Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program, funded under Suppression, provides the opportunity for assessment and mitigation of post-fire emergency situations on National Forest System lands for life, safety, property, and critical natural and cultural resources. Post-fire emergencies include floods, debris flows, increased erosion, and threat of non-native species invasion. In 2022, over 2.1 million acres received a burned area emergency assessment with \$21 million allocated for treatments to protect life and safety, property, and critical natural and cultural resources on National Forest System lands. More than 100

fires were assessed and most requested post-fire emergency action. Treatments included over 35,000 acres of invasive plant detection and response, over 2,000 miles of road drainage improvements, over 525 miles of trail work, protection of over 100 cultural sites, about 150 hazardous sites mitigated, and numerous hazard warning signs installed. Implementation completed in 2022 expended \$11 million on actions for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 fire seasons.

### **Fuels Management (Hazardous Fuels Reduction)**

#### ***Current Activities***

Much of the Nation's forests and grasslands are stressed by the impacts of climate change, including extended drought, severe wildfires, and large insect and disease outbreaks. These stressors and disturbances impact forests; grasslands; watersheds; rural communities; timber and other forest products; critical habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; game and sport species; utility corridors; and more, causing millions of dollars in damage each year.

The Hazardous Fuels program treats acres to reduce the risk for uncharacteristic wildfire by prioritizing treatments in the vicinity of critical infrastructure, community drinking water sources, critical habitat, and traditional homelands. A trade-off analysis is conducted using scenario investment planning to distribute resources more efficiently to the highest priority areas. Working with community partners across boundaries allows the agency to leverage resources and work efficiently to reduce wildfire risk while creating resilient landscapes and encouraging fire-adapted communities.

Hazardous fuels treatments include any removal or modification of vegetation, and dead or down fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition, reduce fire intensity, severity, and rate of spread, to reduce potential damage, and limit the spread of invasive species and diseases. These treatments promote the natural role of fire by reducing the likelihood of uncharacteristic wildfire and increase the agency's capabilities to protect life and property (including communities-at-risk and sensitive municipal watersheds), sensitive natural resources (including native plant communities and threatened and endangered species), and other socially important cultural resources.

The goal of the program is to treat 20 million acres of National Forest System lands and maintain the forests already in the category of low risk for severe wildfire, as detailed in the agency's "Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A 10-Year Implementation Plan (Wildfire Crisis Strategy)."<sup>63</sup> This establishes a portfolio of priority landscapes where the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire is reduced, and unplanned ignitions can be managed and suppressed as needed at the right time, the right place, and for the right reasons. Focusing on high-frequency, low-intensity, fire-adapted ecosystems to re-establish the natural role of fire on the landscape has proven to be effective in mitigating wildfire risk. Once these landscapes are treated to a degree where the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire is mitigated, they will still be treated by periodic prescribed fire and naturally occurring wildfire, when appropriate, to maintain forest health and resilience. When prescribed fire is utilized, smoke is managed using EPA defined Basic Smoke Management Practices to minimize impacts to the public.<sup>64</sup>

#### ***Specifically Addressed Areas***

In 2022, the Forest Service completed approximately 3.2 million acres of hazardous fuels treatments on National Forest System lands and adjacent areas to mitigate wildfire risk, nearly meeting the national target of 3.7 million acres. Approximately, 2 million of the treated acres were in high-risk wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas. The treated areas that were not in the WUI were identified as high priority for other important values at risk to wildfire, including protection of municipal watersheds, and traditional homelands; avoiding wildfire side-effects like poor air quality, loss of habitat, loss of subsistence and cultural opportunities, and area closures; and other objectives such as harvesting forest products and ecosystem restoration occurring outside WUI areas. Approximately 900,000 treated acres were categorized as having a high to very high hazard potential for a large wildfire that would be difficult to contain.

About 1.8 million acres or 57 percent of the total acres were treated with prescribed fire. This matches last year's accomplishments, even with the agency's tactical pause on prescribed fire to assess protocols around prescribed fire implementation and establish clear and more effective guidelines for prescribed fire use and initiation. Three regions exceeded their regional target, with a fourth meeting 99 percent; three other regions achieved at least 75 percent of their target, and one region met 68 percent of their target.

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<sup>63</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Wildfire-Crisis-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

<sup>64</sup> [eCFR :: 40 CFR 50.14 -- Treatment of air quality monitoring data influenced by exceptional events.](#)

In 2022 the agency began using the analytic methodology of “firesheds” to help prioritize work in areas with the greatest exposure to communities. In 2022, 10 landscapes encompassing 77 high priority firesheds were identified and treatments started in several areas with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as part of the agency’s work to execute the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Additionally, several of the Joint Chiefs’ projects are also working within high priority firesheds.

The success of the prescribed fire program was primarily a result of maximizing the efficient use of our resources to take advantage of prescribed fire windows and increased partnerships to support prescribed fire operations. The agency will continue to prioritize the use of authorities provided in Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115–141), and take the necessary steps to reach the goal of treating 4.0 million acres of National Forest System lands and adjacent areas in 2023. Annual prescribed fire treatments are split between areas that have not been burned and repeat treatments to maintain low fire risk. Although costs vary wildly, depending on features like location and terrain, the average cost is \$750 per acre for the first prescribed burn, and \$100 per acre for follow-up “maintenance” treatments. To execute the Wildfire Crisis Strategy, the Agency is targeting 4.2M acres treated in 2024, with a minimum of 2M new acres treated.

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

**Wildfire Risk to Communities website:** The Wildfire Risk to Communities (WRC) website launched in April 2020 and has been viewed more than 300,000 times, with over 130,000 views in 2022. Several improvements were made in 2022, including the addition of more than 600 Tribal areas to the search options and updated data about socially vulnerable people for all communities, counties, Tribal areas, and States. The website was also used to generate and host data in support of the new Community Wildfire Defense Grants authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The site is now linked from [realtor.com](https://www.realtor.com) and received significant media attention and new usage in 2022. Major improvements are planned for 2024, including updated wildfire risk data, a new user interface with more interactions and resources, and interactive maps of social vulnerability at the neighborhood scale. The site will include more tools to reduce wildfire risk, such as a new interactive map of human-caused ignitions and new resources for Equitable Risk Reduction and Smoke Ready communities.

**Smoke Management and Air Quality:** The Interagency Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program (IWFAQRP), authorized by the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation Management and Recreation Act of 2019, deployed 70 Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) to support wildfire response with smoke dispersion forecasting, public smoke impact information, and community messages. Some of the deployments supported smoke management needs for prescribed fire. The IWFAQRP ARA cadre includes 21 partner agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control, National Weather Service, Department of the Interior, States, and contracted resources. ARAs are technical specialists trained to work on smoke issues from wildland fire and are deployed nationwide during large smoke events. The program provides daily “Smoke Outlooks” with air quality impact information for the public to reduce exposure and health risks associated with smoke. In 2022, the program maintained and utilized 50 fine particulate air quality monitors, 60 low-cost air quality sensors, 220 carbon monoxide data loggers, and 13 Rad-57 sensors to detect cumulative carboxyhemoglobin in support of the public and wildfire Incident Management Teams. The program monitors and model products are also utilized to minimize safety and health risks of smoke from prescribed fire operations of the Forest Service and partner Department of Interior bureaus and agencies.

**Fuels Treatments Modified Fire Behavior:** During the 2022 fire season, numerous wildfires interacted with cross-boundary fuels reduction projects across all regions.

- In California, the Bouquet Fire started in the Angeles National Forest on May 30, 2022. Hazardous fuels treatments prior to the fire included a mastication project completed in 2020, and the entire project area was prepped for prescribed burning in 2022, and 74 acres were prescribed burned in April 2022. The Bouquet Fire moved at a moderate rate of spread and reached the masticated treatment area from 2020 in less than an hour, where it dropped to a low intensity fire. Water drops, retardant drops and a dozer continued to assist firefighters and the fire went out in shaded grass before reaching the retardant line.
- In New Mexico, the Midnight Fire started on June 9, 2022, in the Carson National Forest. Dry, windy conditions aligned for large fire growth towards the communities of Vallecitos and Cañon Plaza, and private land inholdings. However, once the fire progressed into the area burned in the 2019 Francisquito wildfire and Alamosa prescribed burn units, fire behavior transitioned from moderate-high intensity to low-moderate intensity surface fire.

- Hazardous fuels reduction treatments funded by Joint Chiefs’ projects altered fire behavior during each of the past four fire seasons (2019 to 2022), allowing for suppression tactics that helped protect at least ten communities from wildfire in California (Yreka Craggy Project, Little Jones Creek Project), Colorado (Northern Front Range Collaboration Watershed Resilience Project), Montana (Wildfire Adapted Missoula), New Mexico (Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Project), and Oregon (Elk Creek Watershed Restoration Project, Lake County All Lands Restoration Project).

## **FireGuard**

### ***Current Activities***

FireGuard is an interagency program led by the Forest Service, with partners at Department of Interior, Department of Defense (DoD), and State fire agencies. FireGuard can remotely detect and monitor wildfires across the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. The interagency FireGuard team works to provide a system for near real-time incident awareness and assessment, including mobile applications featuring automated alerts of new fire starts and changes in fire behavior. With 2024 funding, the Forest Service will reimburse the DoD for providing the FireGuard capability through the National Guard, and initiate a contract to formally document requirements and planning necessary for the transition of FireGuard from DoD and identify key areas where artificial intelligence and automation can reduce the need for staffing and risks to firefighters.

**WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

*Table FS-57. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$2,210,000,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+90,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>2,300,000,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

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

- 1 *Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund*
- 2 In addition to the amounts provided under the heading "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire
- 3 Management" for wildfire suppression operations, [~~\$2,210,000,000~~]\$2,300,000,000, to remain available until
- 4 transferred, is additional new budget authority [as specified for purposes of section 4004(b)(5) of S. Con. Res. 14
- 5 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and section 1(g) of H. Res. 1151
- 6 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022]in excess of the average costs for
- 7 wildfire suppression operations for purposes of a concurrent resolution on the budget: *Provided*, That such amounts
- 8 may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings "Department of the Interior—
- 9 Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management" and "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—
- 10 Wildland Fire Management" for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are
- 11 transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the "Wildland Fire Management" accounts in the
- 12 Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture only upon the notification of the House and Senate
- 13 Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this
- 14 and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days:
- 15 *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority
- 16 provided by law]: *Provided further*, That, in determining whether all wildfire suppression operations funds
- 17 appropriated under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" in this and prior appropriations Acts to either the
- 18 Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior will be obligated within 30 days pursuant to the
- 19 preceding proviso, any funds transferred or permitted to be transferred pursuant to any other transfer authority
- 20 provided by law shall be excluded].

**Change Description**

*The first change* (lines 3 and 4 of paragraph 1) adds language on budget authority for purposes of a concurrent resolution.

*The second change* (lines 5 through 7 of paragraph 1) deletes language regarding 2022 concurrent budget resolution.

*The third change* (lines 16 through 20 of paragraph 1) deletes duplicate language requiring obligation within 30 days.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-58. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Appropriations:											
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.....	-\$730,000	-	\$350,000	-	\$440,000	-	\$530,000	-	+\$90,000	-	(1)
<b>Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....</b>	<b>-730,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>440,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>530,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+90,000</b>	<b>-</b>	
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	2,770,000	-	1,770,000	-	1,770,000	-	1,770,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total, Appropriations .....</b>	<b>2,040,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,120,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,210,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+90,000</b>	<b>-</b>	
Transfers Out:											
Wildland Fire Management.....	-2,770,000	-	-1,770,000	-	-1,770,000	-	-1,770,000	-	-	-	-
Total, Transfers Out .....	-2,770,000	-	-1,770,000	-	-1,770,000	-	-1,770,000	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,950,000	-	1,220,000	-	1,570,000	-	2,010,000	-	+440,000	-	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>1,220,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,570,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,010,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,540,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+530,000</b>	<b>-</b>	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-1,220,000	-	-1,570,000	-	-2,010,000	-	-2,540,000	-	-530,000	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	



**JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASES AND DECREASES**

- (1) An increase of \$90,000,000. The Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund was established by the fire funding fix enacted in Division O of Public Law 115-141, the Stephen Sepp Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act. This fire funding fix also amended Section 102 of the Stephen Sepp of the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act (division O of Public Law 115–141) to provide additional new budget authority for fiscal years 2020 through 2027. The overall amount increases by \$100 million each year. The base level is defined as the average costs over ten years for wildfire suppression operations that was requested in the 2015 President’s Budget. This was determined to be \$1.011 billion for the Forest Service and was appropriated beginning 2020 together with the first allocation of the new budget authority.

**PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

*Table FS-59. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$577,000,000
Change in Appropriation.....	-
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>577,000,000</u>

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-60. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Mandatory Appropriations:											
National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (Great American Outdoors Act) .....	\$285,000	43	\$285,684	110	\$285,624	109	\$297,000	109	+\$11,376	-	(1)
Brush Disposal .....	7,012	40	4,962	31	9,000	31	9,000	31	-	-	
Timber Salvage Sales .....	34,815	191	32,810	214	37,000	234	37,000	234	-	-	
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration .....	5,153	28	5,207	9	6,000	12	6,000	12	-	-	
Forest Botanical Products.....	1,009	13	1,000	8	1,000	10	1,000	10	-	-	
Stewardship Contracting .....	27,607	31	28,586	-	33,000	31	33,000	31	-	-	
Recreation Fees, Forest Service .....	116,974	460	131,965	431	125,000	457	125,000	457	-	-	
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction ..	2,004	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service											
Quarters .....	10,266	18	11,284	15	11,000	15	11,000	15	-	-	
Roads and Trails for States.....	13,189	-	18,888	-	19,000	-	19,000	-	-	-	
Land Between the Lakes Management .....	6,468	12	4,212	12	7,000	12	7,000	12	-	-	
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees	669	1	794	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements.	1,763	21	3,656	14	5,000	14	5,000	14	-	-	
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land											
Use Fee Retention .....	627	4	995	2	995	4	995	4	-	-	
Organizational Camps Program .....	230	3	715	2	715	3	715	3	-	-	
Cost Recovery (Land Uses).....	681	3	128	3	1,290	3	1,290	3	-	-	
Licensee Program Smokey Bear .....	833	-	1,134	1	945	1	945	1	-	-	
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl.....	20	-	11	-	10	-	10	-	-	-	
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation) .	46	-	54	-	45	-	45	-	-	-	
Payments to States Funds.....	241,048	25	326,702	20	332,000	25	332,000	25	-	-	
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations .....	755,414	893	860,787	872	877,624	961	889,000	961	+11,376	-	
Offsetting Collections:											
Cost Recovery (Land Uses).....	5,641	23	113	21	-	21	-	21	-	-	
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections .....	5,641	23	113	21	-	21	-	21	-	-	
Total, Adjusted Appropriations.....	761,055	916	860,900	893	877,624	982	889,000	982	+11,376	-	

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Add back:											
Transfers In and Out.....	-285,464	-	-285,684	-	-285,624	-	-297,000	-	-11,376	-	-
Sequestrations .....	17,445	-	-17,162	-	-15,000	-	-15,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total, Appropriations .....</b>	<b>493,036</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>558,054</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>577,000</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>577,000</b>	<b>982</b>	-	-	-
Transfers In:											
Department of the Interior.....	285,464	-	285,684	-	285,624	-	297,000	-	+11,376	-	-
<b>Total, Transfers In.....</b>	<b>285,464</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>285,684</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>285,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>297,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+11,376</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Deferral for Roads and Trails for States.....	-13,189	-	-18,888	-	-19,000	-	-	-	+19,000	-	-
Sequestrations .....	-17,445	-	17,162	-	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other .....	9,475	-	9,739	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	624,392	-	826,078	-	1,000,427	-	1,165,051	-	+164,624	-	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>1,381,733</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>1,677,829</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>1,859,051</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>2,054,051</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>+195,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-826,078	-	-1,000,427	-	-1,165,051	-	-1,350,051	-	-185,000	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>538,286</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>677,402</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>694,000</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>704,000</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>+10,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-61. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Mandatory Obligations:										
National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (Great American Outdoors Act).....	\$115,267	43	\$152,766	110	\$153,000	109	\$153,000	109	-	-
Brush Disposal .....	6,994	40	5,937	31	6,000	31	6,000	31	-	-
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research .....	15	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Timber Salvage Sales.....	25,329	191	25,588	214	26,000	234	26,000	234	-	-
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration .....	3,863	28	3,411	9	3,000	12	3,000	12	-	-
Forest Botanical Products.....	1,121	13	773	8	1,000	10	1,000	10	-	-
Stewardship Contracting .....	21,087	31	23,139	-	23,000	31	23,000	31	-	-
Recreation Fees, Forest Service .....	99,166	460	107,165	431	107,000	457	107,000	457	-	-
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction .....	248	-	1,537	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters ..	8,291	18	8,570	15	9,000	15	9,000	15	-	-
Roads and Trails for States.....	0	-	0	-	-	-	10,000	-	+\$10,000	-
Land Between the Lakes Management .....	6,492	12	6,790	12	7,000	12	7,000	12	-	-
Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees.....	716	1	1,470	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Quinault Special Management Area.....	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements.....	11,939	21	18,277	14	18,000	14	18,000	14	-	-
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention.....	465	4	574	2	500	4	500	4	-	-
Organizational Camps Program .....	235	3	270	2	200	3	200	3	-	-
Cost Recovery (Land Uses).....	381	3	490	3	300	3	300	3	-	-
Licensee Program Smokey Bear .....	663	-	1,048	1	970	1	970	1	-	-
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl.....	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation).....	91	-	30	-	30	-	30	-	-	-
Payments to States Funds.....	232,420	25	315,135	20	332,000	25	332,000	25	-	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations.....	534,829	893	672,973	872	690,000	961	700,000	961	+10,000	-
Offsetting Collections:										
Cost Recovery (Land Uses).....	3,457	23	4,429	21	4,000	21	4,000	21	-	-
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections Obligations.....	3,457	23	4,429	21	4,000	21	4,000	21	-	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>538,286</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>677,402</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>694,000</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>704,000</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>+10,000</b>	<b>-</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (Great American Outdoors Act).....	169,734	-	287,935	-	291,928	-	328,073	-	+36,145	-
Brush Disposal .....	25,728	-	25,838	-	32,052	-	38,115	-	+6,063	-
Hardwood Technology Transfer and Applied Research .....	66	-	66	-	80	-	98	-	+18	-
Timber Salvage Sales.....	76,965	-	85,185	-	102,429	-	116,852	-	+14,423	-
Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration .....	6,694	-	8,694	-	9,815	-	11,374	-	+1,559	-
Forest Botanical Products.....	2,031	-	2,260	-	2,737	-	3,172	-	+435	-
Stewardship Contracting .....	53,246	-	59,788	-	72,100	-	83,548	-	+11,448	-
Recreation Fees, Forest Service .....	130,803	-	155,906	-	180,880	-	209,919	-	+29,039	-
Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction .....	34,619	-	35,097	-	44,469	-	51,530	-	+7,061	-
Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters ..	29,442	-	32,213	-	38,327	-	43,572	-	+5,245	-
Roads and Trails for States.....	1	-	2	-	2	-	9,000	-	+8,998	-
Land Between the Lakes Management .....	5,002	-	2,442	-	4,748	-	5,502	-	+754	-
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees.....	3,681	-	3,006	-	4,265	-	4,943	-	+678	-
Quinault Special Management Area.....	18	-	15	-	21	-	24	-	+3	-
Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements.....	181,130	-	186,915	-	240,604	-	280,252	-	+39,648	-
Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention.....	-2,216	-	2,440	-	143	-	166	-	+23	-
Organizational Camps Program .....	5,894	-	1,457	-	4,689	-	5,433	-	+744	-
Cost Recovery (Land Uses).....	21,492	-	17,622	-	23,949	-	28,911	-	+4,962	-
Licensee Program Smokey Bear .....	2,052	-	2,138	-	2,673	-	3,097	-	+424	-
Licensee Program Woodsy Owl.....	87	-	97	-	117	-	136	-	+19	-
Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation).....	472	-	497	-	618	-	716	-	+98	-
Payments to States Funds.....	79,137	-	90,814	-	108,405	-	125,618	-	+17,213	-
<b>Total, Balances Available, EOY .....</b>	<b>826,078</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000,427</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,165,051</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,350,051</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+185,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>1,364,364</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>1,677,829</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>1,859,051</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>2,054,051</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>+195,000</b>	<b>-</b>
Less:										
Total Transfers In.....	-285,464	-	-285,684	-	-285,624	-	-297,000	-	-11,376	-

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE		
Deferral for Roads and Trails for States.....	13,189	-	18,888	-	19,000	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-624,392	-	-826,078	-	-1,000,427	-	-1,165,051	-	-164,624	-
<b>Total Appropriation.....</b>	<b>475,667</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>558,054</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>577,000</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>577,000</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>+19,000</b>	<b>-</b>

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

*Table FS-62. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)*

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Estimated</b>	<b>2024 Estimated</b>
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.	\$258	\$2,135	\$2,348	\$2,135
	Personnel compensation, field	54,840	50,856	55,925	50,856
11.0	Total personnel compensation	55,098	52,991	58,273	52,991
12.0	Personal benefits	19,215	18,686	20,548	18,686
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits	74,313	71,677	78,821	71,677
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	1,607	2,058	2,108	2,166
22.0	Transportation of things	620	773	801	823
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	3	2	3	3
23.2	Rental payments to others	17	66	48	49
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	808	930	1,000	1,027
24.0	Printing and reproduction	600	683	738	758
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	37	43	46	47
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	143,523	173,177	182,132	187,208
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	21,553	44,639	38,067	39,127
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	529	1,730	1,299	1,335
25.6	Medical care	7	10	10	10
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	1,081	2,167	1,868	1,920
26.0	Supplies and materials	15,328	20,085	20,366	20,933
31.0	Equipment	2,047	2,076	2,371	2,437
32.0	Land and structures	3,803	13,582	9,998	10,277
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	272,311	343,675	354,247	364,125
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	86	11	56	57
43.0	Interest and dividends	1	7	5	5
44.0	Refunds	-	-4	-	-
92.0	Undistributed	12	15	16	16
	Total, other objects	463,973	605,725	615,179	632,323
99.9	Total, new obligations	538,286	677,402	694,000	704,000
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	\$51,929	\$56,144	\$58,727	\$61,780
	Average Grade, GS Position	7.1	7.6	7.6	7.6



**STATUS OF PROGRAMS****National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund*****Current Activities***

The Great American Outdoors Act established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) for 2021 through 2025, providing the Forest Service with up to \$285 million annually. Projects approved under LRF focus on reducing the deferred maintenance backlog, while at the same time improving access, enhancing forest conditions, and improving the quality of the visitor experience.

In 2022, the Forest Service continued to make progress on over 500 LRF projects approved in the previous fiscal year. Congress appropriated funding to 113 units that increased the Forest Service total project count to 884 as well as a contingency fund creating flexibility for addressing higher than expected construction costs. Once projects identified through 2022 are completed, over \$550 million in deferred maintenance will be addressed at over 2,000 recreation sites, 100 buildings, 16,500 miles of trail, and 6,500 miles of road.

Throughout 2022, the LRF Program continued to improve outdoor recreation opportunities across the country, bringing sites into compliance with accessibility standards, and contributing to the agency's equity and climate goals. 2022 closed with more than 35 percent, approximately \$183 million of LRF funding, allocated to projects that address deferred maintenance areas of high social vulnerability (CDC Social Vulnerability Index). Ninety-seven percent of contract obligations (roughly \$235,918,028) is with small businesses, including women-owned, HUBZone, service-disabled veteran owned, and tribal firms. Among all projects in progress, there are 131 agreements with youth corps.

The Forest Service 2024 National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund project lists are included in the appendix to the 2024 Budget request. The Forest Service has developed these projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

**Bee Rock Campground Restoration:** One of the projects completed in 2022 was the Bee Rock Campground on the Daniel Boone National Forest, located in an area of high social vulnerability in Southeastern Kentucky. The beloved recreation area was damaged by a flood in 2019 and subsequent fires at a bridge constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp. These events created significant maintenance needs, but with GAOA funds, the campground was fully reconstructed, and the foot bridge was restored. The work was completed in partnership with numerous volunteers, including American Conservation Experience and Southeast Conservation Crew. This project was part of an effort to repair campgrounds, kiosks, and toilets, across the region.

**Brush Disposal*****Current Activities***

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

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

In 2022, on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in the Chicken Soup project area Brush Disposal funds were used to burn and masticate fuel after a salvage sale in a popular hiking area that was badly infested with insects and disease. This project also helped to reduce the fire risk because of treating the dense understory that had existed. In 2022, nationally 53,000 acres of piles were burned in support of reducing activity fuels after harvest treatments.

## **Timber Salvage Sales**

### ***Current Activities***

This program facilitates the timely removal of timber damaged by fire, wind, insects, diseases, or other events to aid in maintaining healthy and resilient forests and ensuring community safety. Revenues collected from the sale of timber from dead and dying trees are used to prepare and administer future timber salvage sales, including obtaining Forest Service engineering support. These funds are immediately available to respond to timber salvage opportunities. In 2022, the National Program Support rates funds at the national office for related national level projects and program administration were reduced, allowing more funds to be utilized on the ground for future salvage timber sales. The removal of dead or dying timber through timber sale contracts is a valuable tool to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fire and other hazards. Timber salvage also helps maximize the recovery of timber product value that would otherwise be lost. Through the collection of Knutson-Vandenberg Act funds, timber salvage sales can also provide for restoration of an affected area.

### ***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Use of funds: In 2022, 4.7 percent, (231,000 Centum Cubic Feet (CCF)) of the total volume offered for sale was funded with salvage sale funds. Completion of Knutson-Vandenberg timber sale area projects is highly dependent upon the rate at which timber harvest units are harvested and accepted as completed. Factors include weather conditions that can slow down the rate of timber harvest and decisions made by the timber sale purchaser regarding which units are harvested in a given operating season.

## **Timber Sales Pipeline Restoration**

### ***Current Activities***

This program provides an additional source of funds for restoring the timber sale pipeline and to address the backlog of recreation projects. This program contributes to several land and resource management objectives, including improving forest health, restoring wildlife habitat, and providing forest products to meet local and national needs. Additionally, this fund helps address health and safety issues related to recreation facilities and system trails, benefiting the public by addressing maintenance issues that may cause harm or detract from their outdoor experience. These activities are aligned with the agency's integrated watershed improvement goals and ensure that forests and grasslands are conserved, restored, and resilient. Seventy-five percent of net funds are used for the preparation of future non-salvage timber sales to restore the timber sales pipeline volume. This activity provides for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. Expenditures may also include the necessary planning and design for the associated timber roads. The remaining twenty-five percent of net funds are expended on the maintenance backlog for recreation facility projects and system trails, including maintenance and improvement of recreation sites, system trails, bridges, and trailheads.

### ***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

In 2022, the program continued to expand in the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6), with collections exceeding expenditures. This enables more funds to be available in upcoming fiscal years for sale prep activities to meet long term forest health and desired condition objectives, determining the volume and value of the trees to be removed, and timber sale layout and design leading to timber sale offer in future years.

## **Forest Botanical Products**

### ***Current Activities***

This program collects fees from persons who harvest forest botanical products on National Forest System lands, and are used to cover costs associated with granting, modifying, or administering authorizations for harvesting, including environmental analyses.<sup>65</sup> Work activities include inventory, analysis, sustainability determination for harvest levels, permit issuance and administration, and monitoring to facilitate the sale and harvest of forest botanical products.

### ***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Forest Botanical Program Ranking: The Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) has the most active Forest Botanical Products program, collecting \$857,000 in 2022, compared to the Southern Region (Region 8) with the second most active program, collecting \$35,000. Activities associated with this program help maintain, enhance, and restore

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<sup>65</sup> Forest botanical products are defined as “naturally occurring special forest products, including, but not limited to, bark, berries, boughs, bryophytes, bulbs, burls, cones, ferns, fungi (including mushrooms and truffles), forbs, grasses, mosses, nuts, pine straw, roots, sedges, seeds, shrubs, transplants, tree sap, and wildflowers” (36 C.F.R. §223.277).

forest ecosystems to desired conditions, and to provide for the sale and harvest of forest botanical products in a sustainable manner that contributes to meeting the Nation’s demand for these goods and services.

### **Stewardship Contracting**

#### ***Current Activities***

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

#### ***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Biomass: In 2022, the agency sold over 2.3 million green tons of biomass (fresh cut woody material at a “green” moisture content of half water and half woody material) to various wood energy and wood products markets.

### **Recreation Fees, Forest Service (also referred to as the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Fund)**

#### ***Current Activities***

This program uses fees collected from recreation sites to complete programs, projects, and activities that improve visitors’ experiences on National Forest System lands. Programs, projects, and activities include backlog repairs, annual operation and maintenance, interpretive services, signage, habitat restoration, outfitter and guide enhancement, resource preservation, and law enforcement. Ninety-five percent of fees collected are spent at the locations where the fees were collected. The remaining five percent may be used for programs, projects, and activities selected at the discretion of the Regional Forester.

#### Recreation Fees, Forest Service Site Specific

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

#### Recreation Fees, Forest Service Agency Specific

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

#### Recreation Fees, Forest Service Grey Towers National Historic Site Fees

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

#### Shasta-Trinity National Forest Marina Fees

This program collects fees received from the marina project to fund the Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. Funds are used to meet critical health and safety standards, address portions of the maintenance backlog, provide for innovative projects (including high quality interpretive and environmental education programs), installation and maintenance of over 300 underwater obstacle markers and 100 safety-related floating directional signs, establishment and maintenance of the National Recreation Area Boating Safety Program, implementation and administration of the program’s Marina Standards, maintenance of a floating toilet program, and the construction of accessible facilities to provide greater access for persons with disabilities. The goal of these projects is to meet the National Recreation Area’s intent to showcase recreation opportunities in the agency.

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

Marine Corps Reservists Recreation Project on the Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon (Facility Improvement): As part of their annual training, about 100 Marine Corps Reservists completed several projects in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area in the Siuslaw National Forest. The Forest Service invested \$25,000 in Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act revenue for materials and supplies. The Marine Corps Reservists constructed a lane for sand campers at Driftwood II Campground to reduce air pressure in their tires and felled 75 hazardous trees at

campgrounds and sand camping areas. The Reservists also installed traffic barriers, cleared encroaching sand, a stairs improvement to allow sand access from the top of the dune, and poured concrete table pads at Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) and day use parking areas.

Beach Renovation Huron-Manistee National Forest, Michigan (Facility Improvement): Engineering and recreation staff in Huron-Manistee National Forest renovated Island Lake Beach Area. Staff removed old structures, re-graded and stabilized the beach, and built new structures. The Forest used \$19,900 in Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) revenue to replace existing timber stairs and retaining walls with large boulders and used \$33,104 in FLREA revenue to replace existing toilets with a new concrete double vault toilet building.

## **Timber Purchaser Election Road Construction**

### ***Current Activities***

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

### Purchaser Election Vegetative Treatment

This program supports activities to improve forest health through vegetative treatments in timber stands at high risk of fire due to insect, disease, and drought; road work in support of vegetative treatments to support forest health objectives; and maintenance of infrastructure for the processing of woody fiber.

### ***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Starting in 2022, the agency began to evaluate how Purchase Election funds (PEPE) funds are being utilized and continues in 2023 to formulate a legislative ask to shift PEPE funds to PEP2 and CIM to better align these funds for use in support of the 10-year fire strategy. This will be worked into the 2025 budget request, if it is not incorporated into a different legislative measure. In 2022, \$1.5 million in PEPE funds were spent in Regions 6 and 8 to support timber sales purchased by qualifying small business purchasers who elected to have the Forest Service construct the roads to facilitate implementation of the timber sales. On the Gifford Pinchot NF in Region 6, PEPE funds financed the construction of roads on the Buck Stewardship DXP IRTC and the White DXP Thin ReOffer.

## **Operation and Maintenance of Forest Service Quarters**

### ***Current Activities***

Funds collected are used for the cost of maintenance, operation, and management of employee housing facilities, including associated utility systems. Funds are directed toward addressing health and safety issues such as lead-based paint, asbestos, and radon, as well as to address accessibility for the disabled, gender equality, energy efficiency, water conservation, and annual maintenance needs. Funding levels are based on estimated receipts and collections, primarily rents from employee-tenants.

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

Starting in 2022 and continuing in 2023, the agency is working to crosswalk data from two different databases (one internal and one external) to create a visual display of existing active and inactive housing. The goal is to utilize this crosswalk in developing an agency housing strategy that will prioritize maintenance and new construction of housing for the agency.

## **Roads and Trails for States**

### ***Current Activities***

This fund collects ten percent of all National Forest Fund receipts each fiscal year, without regard to the State in which the amounts are derived, for the repair or reconstruction of roads, bridges, and trails on National Forest System lands; or to implement and administer projects to improve forest health conditions in wildland-urban interface communities where there is a high risk of fire. Projects and activities emphasize reducing risks to human safety and public health and property, and improving ecological functions, long-term forest productivity, and biological integrity.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

In 2022, about \$19 million was collected to be used for a variety of appropriate projects to maintain, repair or reconstruct roads, and trails in the upcoming years. Planned accomplishments focus on mitigating health and safety concerns and correcting road and trail deficiencies that are adversely affecting ecosystems, such as removing barriers to aquatic organism passage at stream crossings.

**Land Between the Lakes Management*****Current Activities***

This program uses funds from user fees and natural resource use – including timber and agricultural receipts – to manage projects and activities on the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area; including payments, salaries, and expenses. These projects and activities provide recreational opportunities to the public, conserve species and habitats, increase species diversity, and offer environmental education.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Land Between the Lakes receives over 1.5 million visitors annually. As a result of tornadoes in December 2021, Land Between the Lakes offered 11 salvage sales for a total of 66,000 CCF as part of the post storm recovery effort in 2022.

**Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Rental Fees*****Current Activities***

This program uses net receipts from user fees, sales of surplus equipment, and rental fees on the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie to restore ecosystems and habitats on the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie; enhance biodiversity; promote scientific, environmental, and educational research; and develop best practices for land management.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

In 2022 visitation numbers rebounded to pre-pandemic numbers through outdoor learning and interpretation opportunities for the public. The Midwin offered 1-10 programs monthly, both online and in-person targeting both adult and youth audiences including topics on IBee the Difference; Midwin Prairie 101; Bison Expedition; Plant a Patch of Prairie At Home, Wetlands; and From Cows to Corn-How Agriculture is Helping to Restore the Prairie.

**Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Restoration*****Current Activities***

The Illinois Land Conservation Act of 1995 established the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP) to be managed as part of the National Forest System. Receipts from user fees and salvage receipts (cited in the Act as Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Fund), may be used from amounts in the fund, in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation acts. The fund can be used for restoration and administration of the Midwin Tallgrass Prairie; including construction of visitor center and education center; restoration of ecosystems; construction of recreational facilities; construction of trails; construction of administrative offices; the operation and maintenance of Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie; and receipts from inclusion in any cost recovery or any pilot program for the collection, use, and distribution of user fees.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Midwin implemented a \$203,000 challenge cost share agreement with the University of Missouri to evaluate prairie restoration with active bison grazing. This included bird surveys, vegetation monitoring, monitoring the bison herd with GPS tracking collars, as well as herbiciding 180 acres.

**Quinault Special Management Area*****Current Activities***

This program retains ten percent of the gross proceeds from the sale of forest products on the Quinault Special Management Area to be used for administration of future timber sales.

***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Approximately \$2,700 in forest products were sold in 2022, however no new timber sales were being administered within the Quinault Special Management Area. The Quinault Tribe receives 45% of revenue generated. The last timber sale that occurred in the area was in 2016 and the forest continues to work with the tribe to develop future opportunities for management.

## **Restoration of Forest Lands and Improvements**

### ***Current Activities***

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

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

Post-fire recovery and restoration in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) has been a primary user of these funds in 2022, with over \$62 million spent on numerous landscapes. Funds were used to restore damages made by the following fires in California: the El Portal Fire, Canyon 2 Fire, Flat Fire, Powerhouse Fire, and the Moonlight Fire.

## **Commercial Filming and Still Photography Land Use Fee Retention**

### ***Current Activities***

This program uses permit fees from commercial filming and still photography on National Forest System lands to manage and administer commercial filming and still photography activities; and to develop and implement agency policies related to commercial filming and still photography.

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

El Yunque National Forest: Among the authorizations for commercial filming on national forests in 2022, El Yunque National Forest issued a permit to DIGIPHILE PRODUCTIONS LLC for a crew of 10 people with three authorized vehicles to film hiking on the Mt. Britton Trail with personal cameras attached to their bodies and a crew member following behind with a handheld camera. The unit charged a use fee of \$150, which the unit retained.

The Pisgah Ranger District: This district issued a permit to Sharp Entertainment LLC to film a portion of a TV episode at the popular Looking Glass Falls location at a cost \$200, which the unit retained. The filming included a crew of nine, with six vehicles, and a drone, which was permitted in accordance with FAA requirements for drone operations.

## **Organizational Camp Program**

### ***Current Activities***

The agency has approximately 300 Organizational Camps currently authorized under special use permit. Examples of current holders included: church groups, Lions Clubs, Rotary clubs, YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scout councils, 4-H, and local governments to conduct camp sessions for young people or disabled persons.

This program collects land and facility use fees, and in some instances revenue fees, from organizations that use National Forest System lands to conduct camp sessions.<sup>66</sup> These fees are available until expended for program administration; performing oversight, inspection, and monitoring of existing special use authorizations to ensure compliance with terms and conditions; interpretive programs; environmental analysis and restoration activities; and similar purposes.

Organizational camp fees are based on a percentage of the agricultural land value, adjusted downward for services provided to disabled individuals and at-risk youth. Fees collected are available until expended for program administration, monitoring special use authorizations, interpretive programs, environmental analysis and restoration activities, and similar purposes.

There is a three-part fee system which are Land Use Fees, Facility Use Fees, and Fees Based on Other revenue. Retained land use fees supplement discretionary appropriations from the NFS Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness program and from other budget line items. These revenues are an integral part of sustaining the agency's special use programs. Outputs associated with these programs are reported as permits administered to standard.

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<sup>66</sup> Organizations include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and faith-based and community-based groups that provide a valuable service to individuals with a disability, young people, and their families.

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

An example of an organizational camp operating under special use permit on National Forest System lands is the Cispus Learning Center, a 68-acre campus, located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. It provides a unique northwest outdoor learning environment for K-12 students in schools of the State of Washington. It is open 364 days a year to elementary, middle school and high school students for environmental and leadership education and for at-risk students using a challenge (ropes) course. The challenge course work was developed to effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. After a precipitous decline during 2020 and 2021 this organization is almost back to pre-pandemic use numbers.

**Cost Recovery (Land Uses)*****Current Activities***

This program uses receipts for land use on National Forest System lands to recover administrative costs associated with non-occupancy special use authorizations.<sup>67</sup> Administrative work activities include application review and processing; developing terms and conditions related to safety of the public and protection of public health and resources; completing all applicable environmental, social, and economic analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act; and performing oversight and inspection of activities associated with construction or reconstruction.

Administrative costs are determined based on the number of hours associated with each application and authorization. Applications and authorizations that require more than 50 hours of Forest Service time to process and monitor are billed for all applicable administrative costs. Those that require 50 hours or less of administrative time are billed using a tiered flat fee system.<sup>68</sup> Waivers for cost recovery fees are available to local, State, and Federal government applicants and for recreation use authorizations that take 50 hours or less to complete.

**Cost Recovery Lands Major Projects**

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

**Cost Recovery Lands Minor Projects**

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

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

In 2022, the Forest Service collected \$3,141,146 in major cost recovery agreements and \$785,690 in minor cost recovery. Among those agreements were a 3-year agreement for the installation of multiple fiber optic lines and communication towers on the Black Hills National Forest and 2-year agreement for consolidation of approximately 300 miles of power line authorizations into a master permit on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

**Smokey Bear Official Licensing Program*****Current Activities***

This program uses royalties and fees from the licensed manufacture, reproduction, and other use of the name or character “Smokey Bear.” The licensee contractor manages the marketing and administration of the commercial license program. The national fire prevention program staff manages the licensing contract. Smokey Bear royalties also support the National Smokey Bear Award program and the national fire prevention public service campaign. The Chief of the Forest Service has discretionary authority to use money from royalties in special projects that support the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention message. Smokey Bear will turn 80 in 2024.

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<sup>67</sup> Examples of authorized land uses include rights-of-way (road, utility, and oil and gas), apiaries, domestic water supply conveyance systems, communications sites, hydroelectric power generating sites, ski areas, resorts, marinas, municipal sewage treatment plants, and public parks and playgrounds.

<sup>68</sup> Tiered flat fees are reviewed annually and may change.

**Licensee Program Woodsy Owl*****Current Activities***

The Woodsy Owl program supports national initiatives, programs, and products to increase public awareness of activities and issues related to the improvement and maintenance of the environment. The Conservation Education program provides funding for developing Woodsy Owl activities, educational products, partnerships, and managing the licensing program. The program develops and distributes publications, distance learning programs, and mobile app-based conservation missions.

**Forest Service Go Green Program (Conservation)*****Current Activities***

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

**PAYMENTS TO STATES*****Current Activities***

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act) was enacted to provide for transitional assistance to states and rural counties affected by the decline in national forest receipts, largely from declining timber sale receipt. In 2022, the Forest Service distributed \$238 million to support roads, schools, Federal projects, and county projects. This information can be found on the Secure Rural Schools website<sup>69</sup>.

***Payments to Minnesota Counties***

This authority derives from the Thye-Blatnick Act of June 22, 1948, as amended (16 U.S.C. 577g), Payment for Additional Lands Acquired in Northern Minnesota. This Act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire resorts, cabins, and private lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Permanent residents were prohibited after 1974. Additionally, in-lieu-of-tax payments were authorized to Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties for Federal wilderness land from any national forest receipts not otherwise appropriated. At the close of each fiscal year, the State of Minnesota is paid three-fourths of 1 percent of the appraised value of certain Superior National Forest lands in the counties of St. Louis, Cook, and Lake for distribution to those counties. The land value is reappraised every 10 years.

***Payments to Counties, Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act***

This authority derives from title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of July 22, 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1012), Payments to counties. This Act pertains primarily to national grasslands and land use projects. Annual payments are authorized to counties that contain Forest Service lands acquired under the Bankhead-Jones Act. Twenty-five percent of the revenues received during the year, excluding receipts from the sale of land, from each national grassland or land utilization project are paid to the counties in which such lands are located. The funds are restricted to uses that benefit public schools and roads.

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

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

The SRS Act as amended (16 U.S.C. Ch. 90) directs that Title I funds be used to help fund county schools and roads. Title III may be used on county projects including activities under the Firewise Communities program, reimbursement for emergency services on national forests, preparation of a community wildfire protection plan and provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services.

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<sup>69</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/04/15/president-biden-usda-forest-service-announce-more-238-million>



***Secure Payments for States (SRS), Title II***

The SRS Act provides choices to counties for funding resource improvement projects recommended by Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) on the national forest where the county is located. Any SRS Title II project funds not obligated by September 30, 2026, will be returned to the U.S. Treasury. Title II funds are used by the Forest Service to carry out projects in eligible counties to further resource objectives consistent with the purposes of the SRS Act on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit the resources on Federal land. Title II funds are used for projects such as active forest management, road maintenance, trail maintenance, invasive weed control, and restoration of wildlife habitat, streams, and watersheds. These projects provide local jobs and often provide opportunities to promote youth and volunteer engagement in national forests and grasslands.

**TRUST FUNDS**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

*Table FS-63. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)*

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Enacted, 2023.....	\$341,129,000
Change in Appropriation.....	+6,499,000
Budget Estimate, 2024.....	<u>347,628,000</u>

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-64. Appropriations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021		2022		2023		2024		Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
	Actual	FTE	Actual	FTE	Estimated	FTE	Estimated	FTE			
Mandatory Appropriations:											
Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg.....	\$73,373	269	\$62,780	181	\$82,047	235	\$74,275	235	-\$7,772	-	(1)
Cooperative Work - Other.....	12,406	43	9,088	30	12,954	30	11,225	30	-1,729	-	(2)
Reforestation Trust Fund <sup>a</sup> .....	30,000	56	261,781	37	262,000	188	262,000	188	-	-	
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund.....	128	-	128	-	128	-	128	-	-	-	
Subtotal, Mandatory Appropriations.....	115,907	368	333,777	248	357,129	453	347,628	453	-9,501	-	
Offsetting Collections:											
Cooperative Work – Other .....	24,934	106	25,439	91	25,439	91	25,439	91	-	-	
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections .....	24,934	106	25,439	91	25,439	91	25,439	91	-	-	
Total, Adjusted Appropriations .....	140,841	474	359,216	339	382,568	544	373,067	544	-9,501	-	
Add back:											
Sequestrations .....	559	-	-877	-	-16,000	-	-	-	+16,000	-	
<b>Total, Appropriations.....</b>	<b>141,400</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>358,339</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>366,568</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>373,067</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>+6,499</b>	-	
Sequestrations .....	-559	-	877	-	16,000	-	-	-	-16,000	-	
Recoveries, Other .....	4,101	-	2,887	-	3,928	-	3,975	-	+47	-	
Balance Available, SOY .....	309,375	-	330,676	-	535,830	-	537,017	-	+1,187	-	
<b>Total Available.....</b>	<b>454,317</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>692,779</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>922,326</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>914,059</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>-8,267</b>	-	
Bal. Available, EOY .....	-330,676	-	-535,830	-	-537,017	-	-420,533	-	+116,484	-	
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>123,641</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>156,949</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>369,309</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>493,526</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>+124,217</b>	-	

<sup>a</sup> The Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act, part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58), removed the \$30 million annual cap.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-65. Obligations Details Project Statement (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2021 Actual	FTE	2022 Actual	FTE	2023 Estimated	FTE	2024 Estimated	FTE	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Mandatory Obligations:										
Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg.....	\$58,995	269	\$42,876	181	\$145,849	235	\$194,905	235	+\$49,056	-
Cooperative Work – Other .....	13,788	43	38,909	30	75,446	30	100,823	30	+25,377	-
Reforestation Trust Fund <sup>a</sup> .....	28,102	56	75,164	37	147,846	188	197,574	188	+49,728	-
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund.....	117	-	-	-	168	-	224	-	+56	-
Subtotal, Mandatory Obligations.....	101,002	368	156,949	248	369,309	453	493,526	453	+124,217	-
Offsetting Collections:										
Cooperative Work – Other .....	22,639	106	-	91	-	91	-	91	-	-
Subtotal, Offsetting Collections Obligations.....	22,639	106	-	91	-	91	-	91	-	-
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>123,641</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>156,949</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>369,309</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>493,526</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>+124,217</b>	<b>-</b>
Balances Available, EOY:										
Cooperative Work - Knutson-Vandenberg.....	208,871	-	230,111	-	272,059	-	213,047	-	-59,012	-
Cooperative Work – Other .....	105,311	-	101,709	-	128,301	-	100,471	-	-27,830	-
Reforestation Trust Fund <sup>a</sup> .....	10,461	-	197,849	-	129,100	-	101,097	-	-28,003	-
Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund.....	6,033	-	6,161	-	7,557	-	5,918	-	-1,639	-
Total, Balances Available, EOY .....	330,676	-	535,830	-	537,017	-	420,533	-	-116,484	-
<b>Total Available .....</b>	<b>454,317</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>692,779</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>906,326</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>914,059</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>+7,733</b>	<b>-</b>
Less:										
Sequestration.....	559	-	-877	-	-16,000	-	-	-	16,000	-
Recoveries, Other .....	-4,101	-	-2,887	-	-3,928	-	-3,975	-	-47	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	-309,375	-	-330,676	-	-535,830	-	-537,017	-	-1,187	-
<b>Total Appropriation.....</b>	<b>141,400</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>358,339</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>350,568</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>373,067</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>+22,499</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act, part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58), removed the \$30 million annual cap.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-66. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Personnel Compensation:					
	Washington D.C.....	\$257	\$99	\$159	\$99
	Personnel compensation, field.....	30,153	14,814	27,814	27,814
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	30,410	14,913	27,973	27,913
12.0	Personal benefits.....	10,377	6,333	10,333	10,333
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	40,787	21,246	38,306	38,246
Other Objects:					
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons.....	540	468	1,753	1,372
22.0	Transportation of things.....	216	322	935	972
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	9	9	31	43
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	6	46	90	124
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	264	481	1,295	953
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	6	27	57	79
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	8	12	35	48
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	49,125	47,518	214,188	213,692
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	4,879	3,003	13,028	13,095
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	271	41	543	746
25.5	Research and development contracts.....	5	-	9	12
25.6	Medical care.....	3	2	9	12
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	279	307	1,019	1,402
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	12,035	42,526	35,616	35,530
31.0	Equipment.....	1,217	1,106	2,892	2,653
32.0	Land and structures.....	418	1,044	1,121	1,293
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	13,573	10,589	34,776	159,637
43.0	Interest and dividends.....	-	1	2	2
92.0	Undistributed.....	-	2	3	5
	Total, other objects.....	82,854	107,504	307,402	431,670
99.9	Reimbursable obligations.....	-	28,199	23,601	23,610
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	123,641	156,949	369,309	493,526
Position Data:					
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	\$56,834	\$58,331	\$61,014	\$64,187
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0

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**STATUS OF PROGRAMS****Cooperative Work – Knutson-Vandenberg*****Current Activities***

This program uses funds derived from timber sale revenues to perform improvements within the timber sale area. Planned resource project work is documented in the sale area improvement plans as determined by the project environmental analysis. The program priority for Knutson- Vandenberg (K-V) funds is reforestation of harvested areas; however, funds may also be used to perform timber stand improvement and protection. These funds may also be used for the improvement of other resource values, including wildlife, soil, watershed, range, and recreation. National Program Support rates, which are funds that are used at the national office for related national level projects and program administration, were reduced for 2022 as a result of budget Modernization to allow more funds to be utilized on the ground in the sale area and will stay at 2022 levels.

**Knutson-Vandenberg Regional Work**

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

***Selected Examples of Recent Progress***

In 2022, forests continued to increase the use of the Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg (Regional) authority through the intentional collection of Cooperative Work, Knutson-Vandenberg funds for priority projects, from forest product sales receipts. In 2022, over 595,600 acres and 1,029 miles of Cooperative Work, Knutson- Vandenberg related activities were completed. These projects varied across the nation from performing surveys/monitoring, mending range fences, seedling protection, planting trees, creating habitat, invasive species control, and many more activities. Without this source of funding most of these projects would not have been completed using another funding source.

**Cooperative Work – Other*****Current Activities***

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

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

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

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

### Cooperative Work, Agreement Based

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

### Cooperative Work, Non-Agreement Based

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

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

In 2022, Cooperative Work, Non-Agreement Based collections were 122% of expenditures, compared to 164% during 2021.

## **Reforestation Trust Fund**

### ***Current Activities***

This fund receives budgetary resources from transfers overseen by the U.S. Treasury of tariff collections on certain imported wood products. Historically, such transfers were capped in law at \$30 million in a fiscal year. The Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act, as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58), removed the \$30 million annual cap. It is currently estimated that \$300 million or more may be available annually. This Act may allow the Forest Service to plant 1.2 billion trees and may create nearly 49,000 jobs over the next 10 years. Funds are used to reduce the backlog in reforestation and for stand improvement work.

Reforestation activities include site preparation for planting or seeding of the appropriate tree species, site preparation to facilitate natural regeneration, and certification of acres naturally regenerated without the need for site preparation. In addition, as part of the reforestation activity, various treatments are applied to improve initial seedling survival rates. Benefits of reforestation include regeneration of forest vegetation on areas impacted by wildfire, floods, and hurricanes; increased carbon sequestration capacity; establishment of resilient forest vegetation; and improved habitat diversity for many wildlife species.

Stand improvement projects include removal of competing vegetation, pre-commercial thinning,<sup>70</sup> reducing ladder fuels,<sup>71</sup> reducing the effects of terrestrial pathogens,<sup>72</sup> burning organic matter<sup>73</sup> and fertilization treatments.<sup>74</sup> Stand improvement projects improve forest health and productivity, reduce hazardous fuels, create resilient landscapes, improve wildlife habitat; and generate woody biomass to meet renewable energy needs in both domestic and foreign markets.

### ***Selected Example of Recent Progress***

Planting on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest: Over the years planting has become more expensive due to the rising cost of labor. With the use of the REPLANT Act, multiple forests were able to plant more than they would have been able to afford with just Knutson-Vandenberg funds. In 2022, the Chequamegon- Nicolet National Forest is an example of where that occurred: 575 additional acres of red pine (*Pinus resinosa*), Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), and tamarack (*Larix laricina*) were planted over three ranger districts to regenerate areas that had been destroyed by windstorms, and areas that had recently been harvested and were unable to regenerate themselves with species that would be viable into the future. Without these plantings some

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<sup>70</sup> Pre-commercial thinning projects help regulate stand density, composition, and structure before the area is viable for commercial harvest.

<sup>71</sup> Ladder fuels are fuels that provide vertical continuity between strata, which allow fire to move from surface fuels to taller vegetation with relative ease (<https://www.nwcg.gov/term/glossary/ladder-fuels>).

<sup>72</sup> Common examples of terrestrial pathogens include (but are not limited to) butternut canker (*Ophiognomonia clavigneti-juglandacearum*), laurel wilt (*Raffaella lauricola*), sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*), and white pine blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*).

<sup>73</sup> Soil-organic matter (SOM) is a complex array of components including soil fauna and flora at different stages of decomposition. Burning SOM leads to improved nutrient content in soil.

<sup>74</sup> Fertilization treatments help maintain and improve soil productivity and increase stand development.



areas would not be able to outcompete many fast-growing undesirable species and shrubs which would lead to these areas not being able to meet regeneration certification standards within the required timeframe.

### **Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund**

#### ***Current Activities***

The Land Between the Lakes Protection Act (Act) (P.L. 105-277) transferred administrative jurisdiction of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBLNRA) from the Tennessee Valley Authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to be managed as a unit of the National Forest System. Section 531 of the Act established a special interest-bearing fund known as the Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund to be available for public education, grants, and internships related to recreation, conservation, and multiple-use land management, as well as regional promotion in cooperation with development districts, chambers of commerce, and State and local governments.

In accordance with the terms described in the Act, beginning on September 30, 2000, the Tennessee Valley Authority began depositing \$1 million annually into the fund for five consecutive years for a total of \$5 million. The Forest Service has allowed the fund balance to grow, and the LBLNRA began using the accrued interest for activities outlined in the Act, which includes providing additional funding to further assist in the promotion and support of the successful school grant program for regional promotion and environmental education.

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

In 2022, the Land Between the Lakes Trust Fund collected \$3.7 million in receipts from user fees (from sources such as the various campgrounds, trails, and the Elk and Bison Prairie) to provide for the future management of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. This fiscal year areas such as the Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum, the Golden Pond Planetarium and Observatory, and Woodlands Nature Station received allocations of this money to make sure the facilities were kept at optimal performance.

## LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

### Summary of Proposed Legislation

Administrative/Appropriation/Authorizing: This proposal seeks a change in Appropriations language.

Funding/Language/Both: This proposal seeks language changes.

**Program: Transition Hazardous Fuels Management Program funding from National Forest System to Wildland Fire Management**

Current legislative authority to be amended: Current Appropriations Act

Proposal: The proposal would shift the Hazardous Fuels (HF) program funding back under the Wildland Fire Management (WFM) account because the fire workforce performs most of the hazardous fuels work. It will also correspond with other investments made through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act under the WFM account. This shift best aligns with the original intent of connecting program funding with program goals. The goals of the hazardous fuels program are to reduce wildfire risk. The expertise and personnel to accomplish this goal align in WFM.

Rationale: The USDA Forest Service HF program is responsible for completing millions of acres of fuels treatments annually that reduce wildfire risk to communities and associated lives, property, infrastructure, and historic and cultural assets; reduce exposure to wildland firefighters during suppression activities; create an environment where wildland fires can be effectively managed when they occur; and help improve forest health and resiliency. Over 63 million acres, or approximately 32 percent of the 193 million acres of National Forest System lands, are at high or very high risk for uncharacteristic wildfires that burn at a scale and intensity which increases the risks to firefighters, communities, and ecosystems<sup>75</sup>.

Fire is a healthy and necessary part of the fire-adapted ecosystems the Forest Service manages. The HF program uses prescribed fire, natural ignitions, and vegetation management as tools to reduce fuel loads, protect high valued resources, and improve ecosystem quality. The HF program routinely integrates treatment work with National Forest System (NFS) programs. Due to the need to increase the pace and scale of treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire on the landscape, the HF program independently funds projects to meet fuels objectives. The employees who implement these projects are under WFM. The HF program also funds, solely or in concert with NFS programs, projects that may produce integrated targets and whose focus is hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration. Overtime, the NFS budget has decreased while the need for hazardous fuels treatments has increased, thus the HF program has funded most of the work. Additionally, the expertise for assessing wildfire risk, modeling fire behavior, design and placement of hazardous fuels treatments lies predominantly within WFM. The HF work is centered around wildfire occurrence, risk, reduction, and response, which aligns under WFM. Close coordination with NFS programs on the vegetation management component of projects will continue. Additionally, much of the hazardous fuels reduction treatments are prescribed fire, and the expertise and workforce are in WFM. This move aligns the work and the workforce.

Funding the HF program under the WFM account aligns closely with the agency's budget structure and supports the Agency's emphasis on decreasing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire through hazardous fuels reduction as outlined in *Confronting the Wildfire Crisis Strategy* and the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy*. It also supports a comprehensive approach to fire management. The HF program is currently managed by the Agency's Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) directorate under State, Private, and Tribal Forestry. This shift is necessary to ensure close collaboration and cooperation with WFM personnel and many of the expansive programs that are integrated into the comprehensive approach. HF activities can occur on both National Forest System lands and non-Forest Service lands, including State, private, Tribal, and other Federal lands. Moving this line item back under State, Private, and Tribal Forestry would provide better coordination with cross-boundary, focused investments, such as the Community Wildfire Defense Grants and other authorities, to reduce wildfire risk. Additionally, the HF program supports research, smoke ready communities and monitoring, works closely with the prevention and education programs, equipment management program, and various Tribes, States, local fire departments, and private landowners to support a comprehensive, all-lands approach to fire management.

<sup>75</sup>Dillon, Gregory K; Gilbertson-Day, Julie W. 2020. Wildfire Hazard Potential for the United States (270-m), version 2020. 3rd Edition. Fort Collins, CO: Forest Service Research Data Archive. <https://doi.org/10.2737/RDS-2015-0047-3>

Goal: Support a comprehensive, all lands approach to fire management by moving the Hazardous Fuels program funding to the Wildland Fire Management account.

It is crucial that the Forest Service support the strategy to increase pace and scale of treatments as outlined in the Confronting the Wildfire Crisis Strategy and the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Moving the HF program funding to the WFM account supports the comprehensive approach to fire management and more closely aligns the work, workforce, and funding that is responsible for fire management and HF treatments across the Agency.

Anticipated IT Impacts: None

Legislative Language Requested:

*WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT*

*(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)*

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*Provided further,* That of the funds provided under this heading, \$207 million shall be for hazardous fuels reduction management activities...

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

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

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

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

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

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Forest Service may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated to the Forest Service by this Act to or within the [National Forest System] *Wildland Fire Management* Account, or reprogram funds to be used for the purposes of hazardous fuels management and urgent rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water: *Provided*, That such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, [2026] 2027: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred pursuant to this paragraph shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

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

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organization, "Forest Service International Foundation" to assist the Foundation in meeting administrative, project, and other expenses, and may provide for the Foundation's use of Forest Service personnel and facilities.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from

National Forest System lands, and for the performance of cadastral surveys to designate the boundaries of such lands.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service [under the National Forest System heading] shall be available [for the Secretary of Agriculture] to enter into cooperative agreements with other Federal agencies, tribes, States, local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and educational institutions to support the work of forest or grassland collaboratives on activities benefitting Federal lands and adjacent non-Federal lands, including for technical assistance, administrative functions or costs, and other capacity support needs identified by the Forest Service.

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

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

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

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

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service, not to exceed \$500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture,

for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations, and similar matters unrelated to civil litigation: *Provided*, That future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the sums requested for transfer.

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

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to pay, from a single account, the base salary and expenses of employees who carry out functions funded by other accounts for Enterprise Program, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center, remnant Natural Resource Manager, Job Corps, and National Technology and Development Program. (*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023.*)

**Change Description**

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

The second change, fifth paragraph, amends time availability so it matches Forest Service appropriated funds availability.

The third and fourth changes, fifteenth paragraph, remove constraints of type of funds and who can enter agreements.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

**RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS**

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

**OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

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

**DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

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

**MINING APPLICATIONS**

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

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

(c) REPORT.—On September 30, [2024]2025, the Secretary of the Interior shall file with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on actions taken by the Department under the plan submitted pursuant to section 314(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104– 208).

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

**CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, PRIOR YEAR LIMITATION**

SEC. 405. Sections 405 and 406 of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113– 235) shall continue in effect in fiscal year [2023]2024.

**CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR [2023]2024 LIMITATION**

SEC. 406. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year [2023]2024 under the headings “Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Contract Support Costs” and “Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, Contract Support Costs” are the only amounts available for contract

support costs arising out of self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements for fiscal year [2023]2024 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service: Provided, That such amounts provided by this Act are not available for payment of claims for contract support costs for prior years, or for repayments of payments for settlements or judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.

### **FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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

### **PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

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

### **LIMITATION ON TAKINGS**

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

### **PROHIBITION ON NO-BID CONTRACTS**

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

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

### **POSTING OF REPORTS**

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

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

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

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



## **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES**

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

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

(2) The Chairperson shall establish procedures to ensure that no funding provided through a grant, except a grant made to a State or local arts agency, or regional group, may be used to make a grant to any other organization or individual to conduct activity independent of the direct grant recipient. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit payments made in exchange for goods and services.

(3) No grant shall be used for seasonal support to a group, unless the application is specific to the contents of the season, including identified programs or projects.

## **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

SEC. 413. (a) In providing services or awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 from funds appropriated under this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that serve underserved populations.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “underserved population” means a population of individuals, including urban minorities, who have historically been outside the purview of arts and humanities programs due to factors such as a high incidence of income below the poverty line or to geographic isolation.

(2) The term “poverty line” means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(c) In providing services and awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 with funds appropriated by this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts.

(d) With funds appropriated by this Act to carry out section 5 of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965—

(1) the Chairperson shall establish a grant category for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that are of national impact or availability or are able to tour several States;

(2) the Chairperson shall not make grants exceeding 15 percent, in the aggregate, of such funds to any single State, excluding grants made under the authority of paragraph (1);

(3) the Chairperson shall report to the Congress annually and by State, on grants awarded by the Chairperson in each grant category under section 5 of such Act; and

(4) the Chairperson shall encourage the use of grants to improve and support community-based music performance and education.

## **STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS**

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

## **EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS**

SEC. 415. The terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108–108 (117 Stat. 1307), regarding grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on any lands not subject to administration under section 402 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752), shall remain in effect for fiscal year [2023]2024.

#### **FUNDING PROHIBITION**

SEC. 416. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

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

#### **HUMANE TRANSFER AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

SEC. 417. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the “Secretary concerned”), may transfer excess wild horses and burros that have been removed from land administered by the Secretary concerned to other Federal, State, and local government agencies for use as work animals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **FOREST SERVICE FACILITY REALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. 418. Section 503(f) of Public Law 109–54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note) shall be applied by substituting “September 30, [2023]2024” for “September 30, 2019”.

#### **[USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL]**

[SEC. 419. (a)(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term “iron and steel” products means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”) finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Administrator shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.]

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

SEC. [420]~~419~~. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with volunteer fire departments, rural fire departments, rangeland fire protection associations, and similar organizations to provide for wildland fire training and equipment, including supplies and communication devices. Notwithstanding section 121(c) of title 40, United States Code, or section 521 of title 40, United States Code, the Secretary is further authorized to transfer title to excess Department of the Interior firefighting equipment no longer needed to carry out the functions of the Department’s wildland fire management program to such organizations.

#### **RECREATION FEES**

SEC. [421]~~420~~. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) shall be applied by substituting “October 1, [2024]~~2025~~” for “September 30, 2019”.

#### **[REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES]**

[SEC. 422. None of the funds made available in this Act, in this and prior fiscal years, may be reprogrammed without the advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures contained in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).]

#### **LOCAL CONTRACTORS**

SEC. [423]~~421~~. Section 412 of division E of Public Law 112–74 shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~” for “fiscal year 2019”.

#### **SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEE AUTHORITY AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. [424]~~422~~. Section 422 of division F of Public Law 110–161 (121 Stat 1844), as amended, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~” for “fiscal year 2019”.

#### **INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. [425]~~423~~. Section 426 of division G of Public Law 113–76 (16 U.S.C. 565a–1 note) shall be applied by substituting “September 30, [2023]~~2024~~” for “September 30, 2019”.

#### **PUERTO RICO SCHOOLING AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. [426]~~424~~. The authority provided by the 19th unnumbered paragraph under heading “Administrative Provisions, Forest Service” in title III of Public Law 109–54, as amended, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~” for “fiscal year 2019”.

#### **FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS FEE COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. [427]~~425~~. Section 339 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note), as amended by section 335(6) of Public Law 108–108 and section 432 of Public Law 113–76, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~” for “fiscal year 2019”.

#### **GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY**

SEC. 426. Section 8206(b)(2)(6) of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113–79 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(b)(2)(C)), as amended by Section 8624 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, Public Law 115–334, is further amended by striking October 1, 2023 and inserting October 1, 2024.

#### **CHACO CANYON**

SEC. [428]~~427~~. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to accept a nomination for oil and gas leasing under 43 CFR 3120.3 et seq., or to offer for oil and gas leasing, any Federal lands within the withdrawal area identified on the map of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and dated April 2, 2019[, prior to the completion of the cultural resources investigation identified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260)].

#### **TRIBAL LEASES**

SEC. [429]~~428~~. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any lease under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)), the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal.

(b) The Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services shall, jointly or separately, during fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~ consult with tribes and tribal organizations through public solicitation and other means regarding the requirements for leases under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) on how to implement a consistent and transparent process for the payment of such leases.

#### **FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RECOVERY FUND**

SEC. [430]~~429~~. The authority provided under the heading “Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund” in title I of Public Law 111–88, as amended by section 117 of division F of Public Law 113–235, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~” for “fiscal year 2020” each place it appears.

#### **ALLOCATION OF PROJECTS, NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND AND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

SEC. [431]~~430~~. (a)

(1) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall allocate amounts made available from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~ pursuant to subsection (c) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code, and as provided in subsection (e) of such section of such title, to the agencies of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture specified, in the amounts specified, for the stations and unit names specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled “Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year [2023]~~2024~~” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(2) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall allocate amounts made available for expenditure from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year [2023]~~2024~~ pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, to the agencies and accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled “Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year [2023]~~2024~~” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(b) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (c) of this section, neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under subsection (c) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code, or subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, other than in amounts and for projects and activities that are allocated by subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section: Provided, That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated funds from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund or the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which may be allocated only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(c) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may reallocate amounts from each agency's "Contingency Fund" line in the table titled "Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year [2023]2024" to any project funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund within the same agency, from any fiscal year, that experienced a funding deficiency due to unforeseen cost overruns, in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) "Contingency Fund" amounts may only be reallocated if there is a risk to project completion resulting from unforeseen cost overruns;

(2) "Contingency Fund" amounts may only be reallocated for cost of adjustments and changes within the original scope of effort for projects funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund; and

(3) The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture must provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations 30 days before taking any actions authorized by this subsection if the amount reallocated from the "Contingency Fund" line for a project is projected to be 10 percent or greater than the following, as applicable:

(A) The amount allocated to that project in the table titled "Allocation of Funds: National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Fiscal Year [2023]2024" in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act); or

(B) The initial estimate in the most recent report submitted, prior to enactment of this Act, to the Committees on Appropriations pursuant to section 431(e) of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, [2022]2023 (Public Law [117-103]117-328).

(d)

(1) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year [2024]2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate project data sheets for the projects in the "Submission of Annual List of Projects to Congress" required by section 200402(h) of title 54, United States Code: Provided, That the "Submission of Annual List of Projects to Congress" must include a "Contingency Fund" line for each agency within the allocations defined in subsection (e) of section 200402 of title 54, United States Code: Provided further, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act for the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund are no longer needed to complete a specified project, such amounts may be reallocated in such submission to that agency's "Contingency Fund" line: Provided further, That any proposals to change the scope of or terminate a previously approved project must be clearly identified in such submission.

(2)

(A) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year [2024]2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a list of supplementary allocations for Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy Projects at the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service that are in addition to the "Submission of Cost Estimates" required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, that are prioritized and detailed by account, program, and project, and that total no less than half the full amount allocated to each account for that land management Agency under the allocations submitted under section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code: Provided, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code are no longer needed because a project has been completed or can no longer be executed, such amounts must be clearly identified if proposed for reallocation in the annual budget submission.

(B) The Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy projects in the “Submission of Cost Estimates” required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, and on the list of supplementary allocations required by subparagraph (A) shall be comprised only of projects for which a willing seller has been identified and for which an appraisal or market research has been initiated.

(C) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year [2024]2025, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate project data sheets in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets in the Budget Justifications annually submitted by the Department of the Interior with the President’s Budget for the projects in the “Submission of Cost Estimates” required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, and in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets submitted to the Committees pursuant to section 427 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94) for the list of supplementary allocations required by subparagraph (A).

(e) The Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section and the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds, and, for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section, National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund amounts reallocated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

**POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY**

SEC. [432]431. To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in addressing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, consistent with their missions, jointly—

(1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy—

(A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass as an energy solution, including policies that—

(A) reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy and recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use;

(B) encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain, including in—

(i) working forests;

(ii) harvesting operations;

(iii) forest improvement operations;

(iv) forest bioenergy production;

(v) wood products manufacturing; or

(vi) paper manufacturing;

(C) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and

(D) recognize State initiatives to produce and use forest biomass.

**SMALL REMOTE INCINERATORS**

SEC. [433]432. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement or enforce the regulation issued on March 21, 2011 at 40 CFR part 60 subparts CCCC and DDDD with respect to units in the State of Alaska that are defined as “small, remote incinerator” units in those regulations and, until a subsequent regulation is issued, the Administrator shall implement the law and regulations in effect prior to such date.

#### **TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS**

SEC. [434]433. No timber sale in Alaska’s Region 10 shall be advertised if the indicated rate is deficit (defined as the value of the timber is not sufficient to cover all logging and stumpage costs and provide a normal profit and risk allowance under the Forest Service’s appraisal process) when appraised using a residual value appraisal. The western red cedar timber from those sales which is surplus to the needs of the domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 United States at prevailing domestic prices. All additional western red cedar volume not sold to Alaska or contiguous 48 United States domestic processors may be exported to foreign markets at the election of the timber sale holder. All Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at prevailing export prices at the election of the timber sale holder.

#### **TRANSFER AUTHORITY TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND**

SEC. [435]434. Funds made available or allocated in this Act to the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture that are subject to the allocations and limitations in 54 U.S.C. 200402(e) and prohibitions in 54 U.S.C. 200402(f) may be further allocated or reallocated to the Federal Highway Administration for transportation projects of the covered agencies defined in 54 U.S.C. 200401(2).

#### **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS**

SEC. [436]435. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate or implement any regulation requiring the issuance of permits under title V of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.) for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.

#### **GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RESTRICTIONS**

SEC. [437]436. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement any provision in a rule, if that provision requires mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems.

#### **FUNDING PROHIBITION**

SEC. [438]437. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to regulate the lead content of ammunition, ammunition components, or fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) or any other law.

#### **[ROAD CONSTRUCTION]**

[SEC. 439. Section 8206(a)(4)(B)(i) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)(4)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “or Bureau of Land Management managed” after “National Forest System”. ]

#### **[FIREFIGHTER PAY CAP]**

[SEC. 440. Section 1701 of division B of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (5 U.S.C. 5547 note), as amended by Public Law 117–103, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking the last sentence and inserting “Any Services during a given calendar year that generate payments payable in the subsequent calendar year shall be disregarded in applying this subsection”; and

(2) in subsections (a), (b), and (c) by inserting “or 2023” after “or 2022” each place it appears.]

#### **FOREST SERVICE INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNT**

SEC. [441]438. (a) INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.—Any monies covered into the Treasury under section 7 of the Act of June 20, 1958 (Public Law 85–464; 16 U.S.C. 579c), including all monies that were previously collected by

the United States in a forfeiture, judgment, compromise, or settlement, shall be invested by the Secretary of the Treasury in interest bearing obligations of the United States to the extent the amounts are not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any interest earned under subsection (a) shall be available in the same manner as the monies covered into the Treasury under section 7 of the Act of June 20, 1958 (Public Law 85–464; 16 U.S.C. 579c) to cover the costs to the United States specified in section 7 of that Act.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Any portion of the monies received or earned under subsection (a) in excess of the amount expended in performing the work necessitated by the action which led to their receipt may be used to cover the other work specified in section 7 of the Act of June 20, 1958 (Public Law 85–464; 16 U.S.C. 579c).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year [2023]2024 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### **[TECHNICAL CORRECTION]**

[SEC. 442. In the table entitled “Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of Public Law 117–103 and in the table under the heading “Disclosure of Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items” in such explanatory statement, the project relating to “City of Metlakatla for Solid Waste Multi Use Portable Shredder” is deemed to be amended by striking “City of Metlakatla for Solid Waste Multi Use Portable Shredder” and inserting “Metlakatla Indian Community for Solid Waste Multi Use Portable Shredder”.]

#### **[HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND]**

[SEC. 443. (a) Section 613 of title VI of division J of Public Law 117–58 is repealed.

(b) For this fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, such sums as are available in the Hazardous Substance Superfund established under section 9507 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 at the end of the preceding fiscal year from taxes received in the Treasury under subsection (b)(1) of such section shall be available, without further appropriation, to remain available until expended, to be used to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.): Provided, That the amount provided by this subsection is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year [2022]2023, and section 1(e) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022.

(c) Expenditures made pursuant to section 613 of title VI of division J of Public Law 117–58 shall be charged to the appropriation in subsection (b).]

#### **[GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA]**

[SEC. 444. Section 3 of Public Law 92–592 (16 U.S.C. 460cc–2) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) AUTHORITY TO GRANT EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PERMIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may grant, to any State or local government, an easement or right-of way permit over Federal lands within Golden Gate National Recreation Area for operation and maintenance of projects for control and prevention of flooding and shoreline erosion and associated structures for continued public access.

“(2) CHARGES AND REIMBURSEMENTS OF COSTS.—The Secretary may grant such an easement or right-of-way permit without charge for the value of the use so conveyed, except for reimbursement of costs incurred by the United States for processing the application therefore and managing such use. Amounts received as such reimbursement shall be credited to the relevant appropriation account.”]

#### **TIMBER EXPORT**

SEC. 439. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be required to issue regulations under section 495 of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 620f) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.



**ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL HEALTH ENTITIES AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. [445]440. Section 424(a) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76) shall be applied by substituting “October 1, 2023” for “December 24, 2022”.

**WILDFIRE FUNDING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT**

SEC. 441. Section 104 of division O of the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act (43 USC 1701 note), as amended by Public Law 115 -141, is further amended –

- (1) Notwithstanding 43 USC 1748a–2, in subsection (a) the annual report required by that section shall be submitted within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year for which additional new budget authority is used and shall include,
- (2) in addition to the components required in subsection (b) (4), an accounting of all spending in the first two quarters of the succeeding fiscal year that is attributable to suppression operations in the report year.

**Change Description**

The first and second changes (Sec. 403) remove the requirement for Appropriation Committee approval.

The third change (Sec. 404.c.) extend report requirement through September 30, 2025.

The fourth change (Sec. 405) extend effects of Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235).

The fifth and sixth changes (Sec. 406) adjust fiscal year to fiscal year 2024.

The seventh change (Sec. 409) changes approval to providing notice.

The eighth change (Sec. 415) extends grazing permit authority (P.L.108–108 (117 Stat. 1307)) through fiscal year 2024.

The ninth change (Sec. 418) extends authority for the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act (P.L.109–54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note)) to 2024.

The tenth change (Sec. 419) removes references to Use of American Iron and Steel general provision.

The eleventh change (Sec. 419) updates the section number.

The twelfth change (Sec. 420) updates the section number.

The thirteenth change (Sec. 420) replaces September 30, 2019 dates in Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) with October 1, 2025.

The fourteenth change (Sec. 422) removes references to Reprogramming Guidelines general provision.

The fifteenth change (Sec. 421) updates the section number.

The sixteenth change (Sec. 421) amends the fiscal year to fiscal year 2024.

The seventeenth change (Sec. 422) updates the section number.

The eighteenth change (Sec. 422) extends the Shasta-Trinity authority (P.L. 110-161(121 Stat. 1844), as amended) to 2024.

The nineteenth change (Sec. 423) updates the section number.

The twentieth change (Sec. 423) extends the Interpretive Association Authority (P.L.113-76 (16 U.S.C. 565a-1 note)) to 2024.

The twenty-first change (Sec. 424) updates the section number.

The twenty-second change (Sec. 424) extends the Puerto Rico Schools authority (P.L.109-54, as amended) to 2024.

The twenty-third change (Sec. 425) updates the section number.

The twenty-fourth change (Sec. 425) extends the Forest Botanical Products authority (P.L. 106–113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note, as amended) to 2024.

The twenty-fifth change (Sec. 426) adds Good Neighbor Authority.

The twenty-sixth change (Sec. 427) updates the section number.

The twenty-seventh change (Sec. 427) removes investigation identified in the explanatory statement of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) from Chaco Canyon.

The twenty-eighth change (Sec. 428) updates the section number.

The twenty-ninth change (Sec. 428) extends the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) to 2024.

The thirtieth change (Sec. 429) updates the section number.

The thirty-first change (Sec. 429) extends the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund (P.L. 111-88, as amended) to 2024.

The thirty-second change (Sec. 430) updates the section number.

The thirty-third through thirty-eighth changes (Sec. 430) update the fiscal year to fiscal year 2024.

The thirty-ninth and fortieth changes (Sec. 430) amend the reference to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 117 – 328).

The forty-first through forty-third changes (Sec. 430) amend the reference to the fiscal year 2025 budget submission.

The forty-fourth change (Sec. 431) updates the section number.

The forty-fifth change (Sec. 432) updates the section number.

The forty-sixth change (Sec. 433) updates the section number.

The forty-seventh change (Sec. 434) updates the section number.

The forty-eighth change (Sec. 435) updates the section number.

The forty-ninth change (Sec. 436) updates the section number.

The fiftieth change (Sec. 437) updates the section number.

The fifty-first change (Sec. 439) removes Bureau of Land Management road construction insertions.

The fifty-second change (Sec. 440) removes amendment of Section 1701 of division B of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (5 U.S.C. 5547 note, as amended).

The fifty-third change (Sec. 438) updates the section number.

The fifty-fourth change (Sec. 438) extends interest bearing accounts to 2024.

The fifty-fifth change (Sec. 442) removes a technical correction.

The fifty-sixth change (Sec. 443) removes Hazardous Substance Superfund.

The fifty-seventh change (Sec. 444) removes amendment to Public Law 92–592 (16 U.S.C. 460cc–2).

The fifty-eighth change (Sec. 439) provides legislative relief from the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1997.

The fifty-ninth change (Sec. 440) updates the section number.

The sixtieth change (Sec. 441) amends the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act.

## **AGENCY-WIDE PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

The Forest Service was established February 1, 1905, within the Department of Agriculture. The agency has a unique mission to sustain healthy, diverse, and productive forests and grasslands for present and future generations. The Forest Service is composed of the following major program areas: Business Operations, National Forest Systems, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, which includes wildfire management, Research and Development, and International Programs. Within the Forest Service, the Office of Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability spearheads its efforts in Strategic Planning, Performance and Evidence and Evaluation. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer leads Enterprise Risk Management. These offices work directly with OBPA and senior leadership and actively engage with both internal and external stakeholders.

### **ALIGNMENT TO USDA 2022 – 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

- Strategic Goal 1: Combat Climate Change to Support America’s Working Lands, Natural Resources, and Communities
  - Objective 1.1: Use Climate-Smart Management and Sound Science to Enhance the Health and Productivity of Agricultural Lands
  - Objective 1.2: Lead Efforts to Adapt to the Consequences of Climate Change in Agriculture and Forestry
  - Objective 1.3: Restore, Protect, and Conserve Watersheds to Ensure Clean, Abundant, and Continuous Provision of Water Resources
- Strategic Goal 3: Foster an Equitable and Competitive Global Marketplace for All Agricultural Producers
  - Objective 3.2: Expand Markets for Emerging Technologies, Sustainable Products, and Novel Products
- Strategic Goal 5: Expand Opportunities for Economic Development and Improve Quality of Life in Rural and Tribal Communities
  - Objective 5.4: Promote Environmental Justice by Maximizing Sustainable and Green Economic Development in Rural and Tribal Communities

The Forest Service 2023-2028 Strategic Plan will be published in the third quarter of 2023. The new Forest Service Strategic Plan will align and expand on each goal and objective listed above. The Forest Service Strategic Plan will serve as an additional mechanism to allow for contextual decision-making that leverages business analytics, process improvement, and strategic thinking to inform long-term decisions as well as measure progress towards stated goals and objectives.

### **KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

A more detailed report of the performance plan can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/aboutusda/performance>. The following table summarizes the results for the Departmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for which the Forest Service is responsible.

Table FS-67. Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Objective 1.1		2023	2024
<b>Terrestrial Condition Assessment</b>		Results	-
Percent of National Forest System (NFS) landscape ecosystems improved, maintained, or recovering due to management actions, Terrestrial Condition Assessment (TCA)	Target	38	38

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

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

**Terrestrial Condition Assessment (TCA):**

In 2024, progress on the TCA KPI can be made by allowing for more time for complete implementation of restoration projects due to recent investments. It will also allow for staff in new roles to develop the skills, knowledge, and experience to expand the capacity of the agency. As more landscape-scale active management is planned, implemented, and completed with resources and capacity from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), this KPI will be able to meet future targets. Restoration work, especially when done at scale, takes time to complete and see the investment outcomes as various activities move through planning, contracting, and implementation phases prior to being completed. Through focused work in priority areas and greater support for landscape-scale work through agency programs (e.g., selection and funding for the next group of Collaborative Forest Land Restoration Project projects), the percent of landscapes improved, maintained, and recovering should continue to improve.

Table FS-68. Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Objective 1.2		2023	2024
<b>Forest Legacy Program</b>		Results	-
Number of private forest acres protected through the Forest Legacy Program <sup>1</sup>	Target	64,000	64,000
<b>Wildfire Risk Reduction</b>		Results	-
Number of high priority areas where treatments have occurred to reduce wildfire risk to communities (number of firesheds, annually) <sup>2</sup>	Target	1	1
<b>Hazardous Fuels Reduction</b>		Results	-
Acreage Treated to Reduce or Maintain Fuel Conditions on National Forest System and Non-Federal Lands (Million Acres, Annually)	Target	4.0	4.2
<b>Final Acreage Treatment</b>		Results	-
Acreage of National Forest System Lands Where Final Treatment Effectively Mitigates Wildfire Risk (Million Acres, Annually)	Target	1.6	1.7
<b>Timber Volume</b>		Results	-
Timber Volume Sold (Billion Board Feet)	Target	3.4	3.4
<b>Scholarly Publications</b>		Results	-
Number of Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications <sup>3</sup>	Target	-	1100

<sup>1</sup> This KPI reflects 2022, 2023, 2024 and the Forest Service expects that current investments will not result in KPI increases until 2025 as it takes a couple years for project completion.

<sup>2</sup> Fireshed is a term similar to watershed. It refers to a geographic region with a similar risk of wildfire to adjacent communities. Reducing hazardous fuels within parts of the fireshed may reduce the overall risk to the adjacent community.

<sup>3</sup> The agency has previously tracked the number of peer-reviewed scholarly publications produced by Forest Service research scientists internally, but it will be elevated to a key performance indicator for the agency beginning in 2024.

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

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

***Forest Legacy Program:***

The FS intends to continue increasing resources to partner states, fully implement the agency's staffing plan, and adapt its programs to increase the pace of land acquisitions. Barriers to progress include timing of appropriations, staff tenure, and availability of staff with key technical capacity. In addition, filling and maintaining review appraiser staff positions continues to be a challenge.

Annual accomplishments are often from funds allocated in prior years, as these projects usually take several years to complete. The Forest Legacy Program received funding from IRA, which is being planned and will result in additional grant awards. Target acres will increase in future years to reflect IRA funding.

***Wildfire Risk Reduction:***

In addition to the priority firesheds associated with the 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy, the agency will also work closely with regions to identify additional high priority firesheds associated with State Forest Action Plans, Shared Stewardship agreements, and regional wildfire risk assessments. As the regions continue their work in the high priority firesheds, it is important to note this work requires several years of treatments to fully mitigate uncharacteristic wildfire risk. Therefore, as many field units are ramping up to the pace and scale needed, it will take time (likely years) to accumulate enough treated acres to fully modify 30 percent of a fireshed to low risk of wildfire. The BIL and IRA funding is being used to focus on the most critical firesheds and treat the area as quickly as possible. The funds will allow the agency to treat the highest priority and high-cost acres. These funds will allow the agency to increase the amount of planning, surveying, and contracting staff to complete requirements before the groundwork can begin.

This KPI will continue to evolve to ensure it is an outcome-based measure that identifies when the wildfire risk is significantly reduced. The science suggests up to 30 percent of the fireshed may require multiple years of treatment to reduce the wildfire risk. Once this level is achieved, the agency will continue to periodically treat the area to maintain low risk and will shift focus to other high priority firesheds.

In 2023, the agency is developing a workgroup to determine the business rules needed to advance this outcome-based measure. Additionally, the agency is evaluating all vegetation disturbances, including past wildfires, to determine if the vegetation has been modified sufficiently to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire. These areas will be added as they are identified, which may increase the number of firesheds modified by 30 percent.

***Hazardous Fuels Reduction:***

The Forest Service will continue to work closely with the regional offices to achieve the right level of support to maintain current levels of risk, maintaining investments and maximizing opportunities to reduce wildfire risk in the highest priority firesheds. Specifically, the regions will continue to build agreements and contracts in anticipation of ongoing and sustained higher funding. The agency will focus the greatest amount of funding toward Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes which will utilize BIL and IRA funding to ramp-up. These landscapes represent the most complex and often most expensive acres to treat. As a result, increases in treated acres will take time. Future increases in acres treated are expected in outyears. Additionally, as new employees are hired and trained, the regions expect to see increased efficiencies and work completed, leading to additional acres treated.

In addition, the BIL and IRA funding will be used to treat the highest priority firesheds associated with the 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy while most of the annually appropriated hazardous fuels funding will be prioritized to maintain the acres classified as low risk.

***Final Acreage Treatment:***

The Forest Service will continue to work closely with the regional offices to achieve the right level of support to maintain current levels of risk while also maintaining investments and maximizing opportunities to reduce wildfire risk. Specifically, the regions will continue to build agreements and contracts in anticipation of ongoing and sustained higher funding. The agency will focus the greatest amount of funding toward National Priority Landscapes, which will continue to utilize BIL and IRA funding to ramp-up. These landscapes represent the most complex and often most expensive acres to treat. As a result, increases in treated acres will take time. Future increases of acres mitigated will occur slowly; however, due to the complexity of these landscapes, they are expected to take 10 years. Additionally, as new employees are hired and trained, the regions expect to see increased efficiencies and work completed leading to additional acres treated.

**Timber Volume**

Forest Service field staff continue looking for ways to work with partners, as well as the use of multiple contracting types and other authorities to get more work done at a larger scale. Additional support to provide training to employees and support options for efficiencies will be a key focus leading into 2024. In 2024, headquarters staff will continue working with the field on the development of a 5-year strategic plan of action that outlines expectations and outcomes for future planning and accomplishments.

Budget allocations earlier in the year would allow for strategic investments and accomplishments. An emphasis on employee recruitment and position hiring will need to be a continued focus into 2024 to ensure a full work force is available to meet the objectives of the FS.

**Scholarly Publications**

This KPI will be formally used starting in 2024 and enumerates the number of peer-reviewed scholarly publications that are the result of material support from FS R&D, and on which selection for publication is based on formal peer review and an independent editorial decision. The definition of peer-reviewed scholarly publications is as written in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memo of August 25, 2022 on the subject of “Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research,” which reads, “Such scholarly publications always include peer-reviewed research articles or final manuscripts published in scholarly journals, and may include peer-reviewed book chapters, editorials, and peer-reviewed conference proceedings published in other scholarly outlets that result from Federally funded research.”

Table FS-69. Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Objective 1.3		2023	2024
<b>Watershed Restoration</b>	Results	-	-
Number of Watersheds Moved to Improved Condition Class or Sustained in Condition Class 1 <sup>1</sup>	Target	16	21

<sup>1</sup> Condition Class 1: The drainage network is generally stable. Physical, chemical, and biologic conditions suggest that the soil, aquatic, and riparian systems are predominantly functional in terms of supporting beneficial uses. (Forest Service Manual 2521.1)

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

Strategic Objective 1.3: Restore, Protect, and Conserve Watersheds to Ensure Clean, Abundant, and Continuous Provision of Water Resources.

**Watershed Restoration**

If available, increased project funding in FY 2024 from BIL and IRA may be used to address the backlog of essential restoration projects in priority watersheds and increase the number of watersheds maintained or moved to an improved condition in FY 2024 and future years. If available, increased project funding in 2024 from BIL and IRA may be used to address the backlog of essential restoration projects in priority watersheds and increase the number of watersheds maintained or moved to an improved condition in 2024 and future years. If anticipated funding increases in 2023 and 2024 do not materialize, progress will be reduced and slowdowns in contracting staff will inhibit projects being accomplished.

Table FS-70. Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Objective 5.4		2023	2024
<b>National Forest Customer Satisfaction</b>	Results	-	-
Percentage of Customers Satisfied with Recreation Facilities, Services, and Settings in National Forests	Target	98	98

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

Strategic Objective 5.4: Promote Environmental Justice by Maximizing Sustainable and Green Economic Development in Rural and Tribal Communities.

**National Forest Customer Satisfaction**

Continued investment in deferred maintenance needs through the Great American Outdoors Act and additional investments in areas with high visitor use will continue to support positive outcomes. Investments in customer

service through platforms, such as Recreation.gov, will make FS facilities easier to find and facilitate trip planning to match recreation and visitor needs with the appropriate resources.

High levels of visitor satisfaction will likely continue, thanks to the recent hiring of new staff to support recreational programs, investments in deferred maintenance, and continued public interest in outdoor recreation. The targets for 2023 and 2024 of 98 percent, however, are likely not achievable at the current resource levels.

**SPECIAL EXHIBITS**

**BIOMASS AND WOOD INNOVATIONS**

*Table FS-71. Forest Service Funding for Wood Products, Wood Energy, and the Wood Education and Resource Center (thousands of dollars)*

Activity	2022 Actual	2023 Estimate	2024 Estimated
Wood Innovations Program:			
Geographically Target Wood Utilization <sup>a</sup> .....	\$2,990	\$2,995	\$3,000
Wood Innovation Grants <sup>a</sup> .....	8,751	12,000	12,000
Other Market Development (Wood Products/Wood Energy) <sup>a, b</sup> .....	8,259	5,005	5,000
Subtotal, Wood Innovations Program .....	20,000	20,000	20,000
Other Programs:			
Bioeconomy Research <sup>c</sup> .....	9,185	9,185	10,000
Community Wood Energy <sup>a, d</sup> .....	12,000	15,000	15,000
Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) <sup>e</sup> .....	1,250	1,000	1,000
Subtotal, Biomass Production .....	22,435	25,185	26,000
<b>Total, Biomass and Wood Innovations.....</b>	<b>42,435</b>	<b>45,185</b>	<b>46,000</b>

<sup>a</sup> Funded program is Hazardous Fuels.

<sup>b</sup> Includes market development project grants with WoodWorks, U.S. Endowment, and other strategic partners.

<sup>c</sup> Funded program is Forest and Rangeland Research.

<sup>d</sup> Community Wood Energy grant program was funded in 2021 at \$2.0 million and in 2022 at \$12 million, using non-Wood Innovations Program funding.

<sup>e</sup> A mix of program funds (Forest Health Management, Hazardous Fuels, National Fire Capacity, Urban and Community Forestry, and Working Forest Lands) provided to the Wood Education and Resource Center to address hardwood industry issues related to the 35-state eastern hardwood region and to develop markets for underutilized hardwoods and softwoods in the region.

**FY 2024**

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

The work planned for 2024 is structured around forest bioeconomy research in R&D and the SPTF Wood Innovations Program. Wood and biomass extraction are not specifically funded at the national level; however, it is a factor in the agency’s national strategy for improving forest conditions and utilizing material removed during forest management and restoration. This emphasis supports the 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Strategy. The following describes the work to be accomplished in 2024.

Complimentary and supplemental funding for Wood Innovations grants and Community Wood grants has been made available through provisions in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reductions Act. Additionally, the Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance grant program has been initiated under BIL Section 40804b3 to support facilities that purchase and process byproducts from restoration projects on Federal, tribal and other lands that are at high risk of severe wildfire or insect or disease infestation.

***Biomass Production***

In 2024, the National Forest System will continue to make material available for wood and biomass markets (wood energy and wood products) as a by-product of restoration work. In 2022, the agency sold over 2.3 million green tons of biomass (fresh cut woody material at a “green” moisture content of half water and half woody material) to various wood energy and wood products markets. The National Forest System will continue to work with the SPTF Wood Innovations Program and R&D to grow markets and infrastructure for biomass production and utilization across the country. They have specifically added staff to serve as a biomass coordinator in partnership with Wood Innovations.



***Bioeconomy Research***

The Forest Service continues to work with academic and industrial partners on research and development of sustainable biorefinery products from forest biomass. In cellulose nanomaterials, researchers continue to investigate important properties for industrial applications, such as crystallinity, and develop nanoscale cellulosic materials for packaging, oil drilling, coatings, light-weight automobile materials, concrete, water filtration and manufacturing technologies. In lignin research, scientists continue to understand the key chemical structure; fundamental properties for application; the UV absorbing, antimicrobial, and antioxidation properties; and lignin composite materials. In biotechnology research, scientists are investigating biomanufacturing of high-value materials from biomass, such as nanofibers, sugars, pharmaceuticals, high-value chemicals, and biofoundries. Forest Service scientists are also investigating the development of carbon-based materials from forest biomass and their application in emerging technologies. In sustainable packaging, scientists are developing biobased packaging materials that are environmentally friendly and match the properties of traditional plastic materials. Forest Service life cycle research continues to assess sustainability related attributes of forest biomaterials throughout their life cycle. To accelerate commercialization of cellulose nanomaterials from forest biomass, the Forest Service continues to invest in P<sup>3</sup>Nano, a public-private partnership with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, to fund exploratory and developmental research in cellulose nanomaterials.

In support of technology transfer, the Forest Service continues to lead or participate as experts in the International Organization for Standardization (commonly known as ISO), the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), and American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), and in international projects around cellulose nanomaterials, pulp and paper, lignin, and sustainability. Scientists also provide specialized testing service in support of implementing new technologies in industry. The Forest Service continues to participate in the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), the Bioeconomy Initiative, and the Subcommittee on Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) of the White House National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). Participation in Federal government initiatives allows the Forest Service to leverage cross-departmental resources, reach out to non-traditional markets, and be part of Federal government priority issues.

***Wood Innovations Program***

The Forest Service established the Wood Innovations Program in 2015 to strategically expand development of wood products and renewable wood energy markets that support forest management and deliver economic and environmental benefits to communities. This work informs business decisions by providing technical assistance, funding, and high-quality data. Annual Wood Innovation Grants (as codified in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) (P.L. 115-334) fund diverse projects for public and private entities across the country. The maximum for each grant is generally \$250,000-\$300,000 with a required 100 percent match of the requested Federal funds. The funding level requested in 2024 for the Wood Innovations Program is \$20 million.

A second competitive funding program, the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation funding opportunity (referred to as Community Wood), was available in 2022. The intent of this program is to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build new or expand existing innovative wood products facilities; \$12 million was awarded in 2022. This program is authorized under the 2018 Farm Bill to be funded at up to \$25 million per fiscal year through 2023. The funding level requested for 2024 is \$15 million.

Through the Wood Innovations Program, 24 states have established statewide Wood Energy Teams to expand wood energy markets. Seventeen states and Puerto Rico have established statewide Wood Utilization Teams to expand traditional and innovative wood products markets. These teams have been extremely effective in identifying successful opportunities in the highest priority areas of each state. This funding has leveraged substantial private investment, created local jobs, supported forest health priorities, and improved local economies. For the statewide Energy and Utilization teams, Federal funds are often matched at well beyond the 50 percent match level required prior to 2020 and the 100 percent match level required in 2022. Projects have supported private investment in new manufacturing capacity and wood energy systems. These teams include several State partners, university extensions, and industry representatives, all focused on growing existing and bringing new wood product and energy opportunities to States.

The agency continues to expand the use of wood in the commercial, institutional, and multi-family building sector. Engineered wood products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) for these mid- to high-rise buildings are opening extensive new markets that are offsetting forest restoration and hazardous fuels removal costs. In addition to Wood Innovation Grants supporting the development of this sector, the Forest Service provides funding to WoodWorks, an organization that has been instrumental and highly effective in helping architects, engineers, and developers

understand how to take advantage of this significant opportunity. A new mass timber competition, “Building to Net-Zero Carbon” was initiated in 2022 to support expanded building types for mass timber, including medical facilities, warehouses, schools, and tall buildings. As of December 2022, 1,677 mass timber buildings have been built or are under construction in the United States<sup>76</sup>. However, market research shows that up to 17,000 buildings could be built annually using this construction material<sup>77</sup>. The opportunity to use mass timber to meet net zero carbon goals is substantial if the use of this material can be accelerated.

The agency assists and collaborates with key cellulosic biofuels stakeholders in government and the private sector. The cellulosic biofuels sector has potential to expand significantly over the next five years, which would generate long-term demand for low value forest residues, small trees, and excess industrial wood residues from forest products manufacturing. Multiple companies are focusing on using wood waste and hazardous fuel removals as feedstock for biofuels.

### ***Wood Education and Resource Center***

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, West Virginia was founded through the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (P.L. 105-277). The WERC focuses on primary and secondary wood processing, woody biomass utilization using multidisciplinary approaches, efficient utilization of urban tree removals, and partnerships to solve forest products-related issues.

The WERC programs maintain and improve wood industry productivity and competitiveness in a sustainable manner within the 35 states of the Eastern hardwood regions. Viable wood products markets enable sustainable forest management on private, state, tribal, and Federal lands. WERC also supports the National Wood Energy Technical Assistance team, a highly effective program that collaborates with local communities and public and private sector entities to help them generate renewable energy from forests. In 2022, WERC supported the analysis and feasibility study for 59 projects that considered the conversion from natural gas or propane systems to wood energy. This work was done to support thermal wood energy and combined heat and power systems in every Forest Service region. Additionally, WERC funded eight wood markets and wood energy projects that will support wood utilization in the Eastern region.

Additionally, the WERC houses the West Virginia Forest Products Cooperative through a Special Use Permit agreement that allows the Cooperative to use the WERC Rough Mill facility as a site for their training and manufacturing efforts. This supports the WERC strategy to encourage local economic development opportunities in the hardwood region.

### **Past Performance**

The Forest Service has a long history of success in encouraging the expansion of wood products and wood energy markets and continues to support this expansion. Selected accomplishments include the following:

- In 2022, the Forest Service conducted a formal Community Wood competitive funding program. The agency funded 16 shovel-ready projects for \$12.0 million that leveraged \$39 million of non-Federal investments in 9 states. These projects are characterized as follows: located at municipal government, sawmill, paper manufacturing, rendering, and furniture manufacturing facilities; use locally sourced biomass or wood residues to generate renewable energy or manufacture innovative wood products, support forest management, and have a significant impact on the local economy; and create demand for low value woody biomass for over 20 years, including areas of high wildfire risk and near National Forest System lands.
- In 2022, the Forest Service awarded approximately \$8.75 million to fund 41 Wood Innovation Grants to expand wood products and wood energy markets to support the management of National Forest System lands and other lands with significant forest restoration needs, especially those in dire need of hazardous fuels reduction. This funding supports traditional wood utilization projects, promotes using wood as a construction material in commercial buildings, and expands wood energy markets. Federal funds were matched by partners at more than \$27.2 million.
- Activities implemented through the Wood Innovations Program have resulted in significant growth of the mass timber industry. As of December 2022, there are over 1,677 mass timber buildings constructed, in design or under construction in the United States, 12 operational mass timber manufacturing plants, and additional plants announced or in planning. Key partnerships with private and public organizations have facilitated this growth, and we are seeing fiber from forest restoration projects being used in projects. Several

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<sup>76</sup> <https://www.woodworks.org/resources/mapping-mass-timber/>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.woodworks.org/why-wood/sustainability/>

significant projects were completed in 2022, notably the 25 story *Ascent* skyscraper in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the tallest timber building in the world.

- In 2022, WERC supported the analysis and feasibility study for 59 projects that considered the conversion from natural gas or propane systems to wood energy. This work was done to support thermal wood energy and combined heat and power systems in every Forest Service region. Additionally, WERC funded eight wood markets and wood energy projects that will support wood utilization in the Eastern region.
- In 2021, the agency produced over 2.3 million green tons of biomass from National Forest System lands for use in bioenergy production.
- In 2022, Forest Service scientists published over 30 research papers related to forest biomass utilization.
- In 2022, Forest Service R&D begin reviewing Phase VII P<sup>3</sup>Nano proposals in exploratory and developmental cellulose nanomaterials research, totaling \$1.75 million, with final decision due in the first quarter of 2023.
- In 2022, Forest Service experts participated in the development of the President’s sustainable aviation fuel grand challenge and deliberation of the sustainable aviation fuel roadmap.
- To date, scientists in the biomass to pharmaceutical 3-HBL (3-Hydroxybutyrolactone) and glycolic acid project have developed a synthesis framework, identified key enzymatic steps, and achieved over 90 percent theoretical yield. The team will continue work on kinetics and process modeling for scaling up.
- In 2022, Forest Service experts are leading the revision of the ISO standard cellulose nanomaterials terms, participated in ISO standards development in lignin chemistry for the pulp and paper industry, and pre-standards development study in crystallinity of cellulose nanocrystals.

## **CARBON ACCOUNTING**

### **Background**

This exhibit responds to a Congressional Directive from House Report 117-83:

The Committee recognizes our National Forests as an essential asset in reducing carbon emissions and in the fight against climate change. Healthy forests provide an important carbon sink, and the Committee recognizes the Forest Service's efforts to factor carbon accounting into its land management decisions. The Committee directs the Forest Service to submit a yearly estimate of carbon accounting on Forest Service lands broken down by region in its annual budget materials. The Committee expects the increases given to numerous programs throughout the Forest Service to combat wildfires, invasive species and diseases, rehabilitate burned areas, among others, will help contribute to an increased amount of carbon stored in our National Forests.

### **Overview**

For nearly a century, the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program has measured millions of trees, on hundreds of thousands of plots in a statistical nationwide framework, providing the information needed to assess one of America's greatest resources—its forests. The collection and development of scientifically credible FIA data, tools, and analyses over decades, integrated with remote sensing products, provide critical status and trend information to resource managers, policy makers, investors, and the public. This annual resource inventory covers both public and private forest lands – all ownerships – across the United States. FIA reports on status and trends in forest area and location; land cover and land use change; species, size, and health of trees; total tree growth, mortality, and removals by harvest; wood production and utilization rates by various products; forest land ownership; and forest carbon stocks.

Given the complexities associated with estimating carbon in forest ecosystems, FIA measures more than just live trees. Dead trees, downed dead wood, forest floor, and soils have been added to the FIA program over the past decades to fully monitor forest carbon. This work is critical to meeting reporting guidelines under international agreements and is done collaboratively with other agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Resources Inventory. The Forest Service reports annually on the forest and harvested wood products greenhouse gas emissions and removals to the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In coordination with a host of critical partners, field inventory data are collected every year in all 50 States, and periodically in territories and former island protectorates. The goal is to publicly release fully processed forest carbon estimates data within two years of collection across a robust suite of forest health metrics (e.g., tree mortality and soil health) that provides decision makers and policymakers with evidence to support forest investments. The data helps enable the evaluation of tradeoffs between maximizing forest carbon storage and increasing the resilience of U.S. forests to expected global change (e.g., increasing droughts). Recognizing how the future of U.S. forests are entwined with communities and economies, FIA also conducts annual nationwide Timber Product Output and National Woodland Owners Surveys, which produce data that support a robust and inclusive national assessment of forest carbon and associated resource decisions.

### **Carbon Accounting on Forested National Forest System Lands**

The tables below display the Forest Service's assessment of current carbon stock by forest areas and carbon stock by regions. Table FS-68 contains the current carbon stock and forest land acreage, and Table FS-69 provides net carbon change estimates for forest lands on National Forests System lands by region. The estimates are based on Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data used in the most recent Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2020<sup>78</sup> using the methodology described in the Population Estimation User's Guide and Resource Update.<sup>79, 80</sup> Forest carbon estimates are derived by estimating the carbon content of forest biomass by various pools (e.g., live trees or soils) in a year all within the statistical framework employed by the FIA program. Change in stocks is calculated by subtracting the estimates between respective years. Programmatic synergies are achieved because the

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<sup>78</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks-1990-2020>

<sup>79</sup> Pugh, SA et al. 2018. The Forest Inventory and Analysis Database: Population Estimation User Guide (Edition: November 2018). USDA Forest Service. 166 p. [Online]. Available at web address: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/database-documentation/>. [Accessed 27 October 2021]

<sup>80</sup> Domke et al. 2021. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals From Forest Land, Woodlands, and Urban Trees in the United States, 1990–2019. Resource Update FS–307. Madison, WI: USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 5 p. [plus 2 appendixes]. <https://doi.org/10.2737/FS-RU-307>. [Accessed 4 November 2021]

same FIA datasets used to estimate forest carbon are used by USDA and a host of Federal, State, and private entities for assessing a myriad of additional forest attributes such as wildlife habitat, effects of insects and disease, or old-growth prevalence across all U.S. forests.

In addition to sequestering carbon in live tree biomass via the growth of forests, carbon sequestration also continues in harvested wood, which has been less than 1 million metric tons of carbon per year for wood harvested from all National Forests.<sup>81</sup> Some treatment activities will increase carbon in the landscape, such as restoring burned areas. Other activities such as hazardous fuels treatments to reduce fire risk will reduce carbon in forested landscapes, but that carbon may be stored in wood products or used as a substitute for energy from fossil fuels. Forest carbon is dynamic over time, and healthy forests may contain small or large amounts of carbon stocks change, or flux. Vigorously growing young stands may contain less carbon stocks than stands containing many large dead trees, while sequestering carbon from the atmosphere at higher rates. In summary, the collection and distribution of FIA's forest data empowers the evaluation of the many intricacies associated with forest carbon dynamics beyond the purview of this summary.

*Table FS-72. Carbon stocks (million metric tons carbon) and forested national forest area (million acres) on National Forest System (NFS) lands by Region<sup>a</sup>*

Region	NFS lands forested area (million acres)	Carbon stock (million metric tons) in forest pool					
		Above-ground live biomass	Below-ground live biomass	Dead wood	Forest floor	Soil carbon	Total
01-Northern	22.78	468.92	98.35	219.9	144.78	1054.08	1986.03
02-Rocky Mountain	15.21	219.36	45.31	111.77	81.55	580.16	1038.14
03-Southwestern	11.54	135.60	27.50	40.40	35.70	422.00	661.20
04-Intermountain	20.61	241.94	49.46	124.91	84.86	844.02	1345.20
05-Pacific Southwest	14.24	509.99	105.22	134.9	84.61	654.63	1489.35
06-Pacific Northwest	22.55	973.48	204.20	270.61	142.36	1056.88	2647.52
08-Southern	13.14	440.12	86.28	48.14	49.80	439.52	1063.86
09-Eastern	11.76	300.05	58.46	42.85	58.58	511.98	971.92
10-Alaska <sup>b</sup>	2.96	107.76	22.66	33.04	30.12	163.76	357.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>134.84</b>	<b>3,397.20</b>	<b>697.40</b>	<b>1026.60</b>	<b>712.30</b>	<b>5,727.10</b>	<b>11,560.60</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data is derived from Forest Inventories through year 2020, with the most recent snapshot of the dynamic database of incoming available data here: <https://www.fs.usds.gov/rds/archive/catalog/RDS-2022-052>

<sup>b</sup> Some National Forest wilderness areas are not included currently due to limited access.

<sup>81</sup> Heath, LS et al. 2011. Carbon stocks on forestland of the United States, with emphasis on USDA Forest Service ownership. *Ecosphere* 2(1): art6 doi:10.1890/ES10-00126.1.

Table FS-73. Net annual carbon stock change (million metric tons carbon/year) on forested NFS lands by Region <sup>a</sup> and reporting year, 2020.

<b>NFS Region</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
01-Northern	-1.6	-1.2	-0.7	-0.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.8
02-Rocky Mountain	12.7	12.9	13.1	13.2	13.3	11.9	12.0	11.9
03-Southwestern	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.9	6.5	6.6	6.7
04-Intermountain	8.6	9.0	9.4	9.8	10.4	10.5	10.8	10.9
05-Pacific Southwest	-8.9	-8.7	-8.4	-8.1	-7.8	-6.6	-8.4	-6.2
06-Pacific Northwest	-26.3	-25.3	-25.6	-26.1	-27.2	-28.5	-28.7	-28.8
08-Southern	-29.4	-28.5	-27.6	-26.7	-26.1	-24.9	-24.7	-24.5
09-Eastern	-12.4	-12.0	-11.7	-11.8	-11.9	-11.7	-11.6	-11.5
10-Alaska	-1.4	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.8	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9
<b>Total <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>-53.6</b>	<b>-50.1</b>	<b>-47.7</b>	<b>-45.9</b>	<b>-44.9</b>	<b>-44.1</b>	<b>-43.2</b>	<b>-42.6</b>

<sup>a</sup> Because FIA's annual measurement approach is based on measured data from the nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis program where a portion of all plots are measured in any given year, the change estimates span 5-to-10-year intervals.

<sup>b</sup> Negative carbon changes indicate carbon is increasing in the forest carbon pool.

The majority (6.12 million metric tons) of combined carbon stocks on NFS lands are in Regions 01(Northern), 03 (Pacific Southwest), and 06 (Pacific Northwest). The bulk of the increase of net carbon stock change (-64.8 million metric tons per year) occurs in Regions 06 (Pacific Northwest), 08 (Southern), and 09 (Eastern). Currently, there is a substantial transfer of live biomass carbon to the dead wood pool and atmosphere on National Forest System lands due to recent catastrophic events from fire, insect and disease, and storm damage, resulting in high tree mortality, which remains in place. FIA's measurement of forest carbon across time and diversity of pools suggests complex tradeoffs between increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems to expected future change within the context of maximizing forest carbon.

## **CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR RECREATION ACCESS**

### **Background**

This exhibit responds to a Congressional Directive from Senate Report 116-123:

The Committee believes increasing access to our public lands is important and provides funding to all four land management agencies—the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service—to complete projects that enhance access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. The Committee expects recreational access projects to be selected based on their role in meeting key recreation needs, and the agencies should work with their respective regions, State offices, and/or management units to identify all potential projects. Further, the agencies are again directed to include in future budget justifications an explanation of the process and criteria used for allocating funds for recreational access in the previous year.

### **Overview**

Land Acquisition funds are used to secure access to public lands for recreational purposes. Funds are used to meet public recreation access needs, such as preserving large, intact areas for recreation, by working with landowners to secure rights-of-way, easements, or fee simple land acquisitions that provide or improve public access to existing public lands. Under the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), land acquisition funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) became mandatory. In 2022, the Forest Service acquired 7,131,500 acres of land that provided or improved public access.

### **FY 2022 Criteria**

The Forest Service prioritizes land acquisitions that have the broad support of stakeholders, local officials, and others at the local level to mitigate barriers to public access and attract more visitors to recreate in a safe, accessible environment. Congress requires the Forest Service to “annually develop a priority list for projects that, through acquisition of land (or an interest in land), secure recreational public access to Federal land under the jurisdiction of the applicable Secretary for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or other outdoor recreational purposes” (54 U.S.C. 200306(c)).

The agency evaluates proposed recreational access tracts for LWCF funding based on the following criteria:

- How does the acquisition solve a specific access problem or overcome a barrier to access?
- What is the size and configuration of the tract relative to the National Forest System lands around it?
- How much of the tract borders existing National Forest System or other publicly accessible lands?
- What types of recreational access would the land provide? Hunting, fishing, hiking, or other?
- Has the public indicated that more or improved access is needed in this area?
- What is the level of local support for the acquisition?

### **Selected Example of Recent Progress**

In 2022, the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana used recreation access funding to acquire the East Fork Bitterroot property. Acquisition of these lands will secure permanent public access to a very visible and high-traffic access point located near the rapidly growing city of Hamilton, MT. The East Fork is widely recognized as one of Western Montana's premier trout fishing streams, particularly among fly fishermen. The acquisition encompasses approximately 1,400 feet of river frontage, ensuring continued public access to this community resource.

**EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT**

**Overview**

The EAJA, enacted in 1980, authorizes the payment of attorney fees and court costs to parties that prevail against the government in legal proceedings. The Forest Service has kept detailed records on EAJA payments and other attorney since fiscal year 2009.

**Background**

This exhibit addresses the directive included in House Report 112-151 that accompanied the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), where:

The Committee directs the Department of the Interior, the EPA, and the Forest Service to provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and make publicly available, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, and with each agency’s annual budget submission thereafter, the following information: detailed reports on the amount of program funds used; the names of the fee recipients; the names of the Federal judges; the disposition of the applications (including any appeals of action taken on the applications); and the hourly rates of attorneys and expert witnesses stated in the applications that was awarded, for all EAJA fee payments awarded as a result of litigation against any of the Department of Interior bureaus, the EPA, or the Forest Service, or their respective employees. The report shall also include the information listed above for litigation relating to the Endangered Species Act and the amounts, outside of EAJA awards, paid in settlement for all litigation, regardless of the statute litigated.

*Table FS-74. 2022 EAJA Fee Payments*

<b>Docket/Court</b>	<b>Case Name</b>	<b>Plaintiff</b>	<b>Judge(s)</b>	<b>Date Certified</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
4:19-cv-00097-DN-PK United States District Court District of Utah	Western Watersheds Project v. United States Forest Service	Western Watersheds Project	Nuffer, David; Kohler, Paul	1/20/2022	FS Organizational Services	\$35,000
1:21-cv-01041-DAD-BAM United States District Court Eastern District of CA Fresno Division	Sequoia Forestkeeper et al v. United States Forest Service	Sequoia Forestkeeper et al	Drozd, Dale A.; McAuliffe, Barbara A.	1/26/2022	FS National Forest Hazard Fuels Reduction	68,000
9:20-cv-00179-DWM United States District Court District of Montana Missoula Division	Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Leanne Marten et al	Native Ecosystems Council Alliance for the Wild Rockies	Molloy, Donald W.	3/29/2022	FS Wildlife, Fisheries and Habitat	108,483
2:17-cv-00372-MHW-KAJ United States District Court Southern District of Ohio Eastern Division	Center for Biological Diversity, et al v. U.S. Forest Service et al	Center For Biological Diversity	Watson, Michael H.; Jolson, Kimberly A.	4/5/2022	FS Minerals Management	99,000
6:21-cv-01505-AA United States District Court District of Oregon Eugene Division	Umpqua Watersheds v. Sherri Chambers; and the United States Forest Service	Umpqua Watersheds, Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild	Aiken, Ann	4/7/2022	FS Forest Products	16,000



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<b>Docket/Court</b>	<b>Case Name</b>	<b>Plaintiff</b>	<b>Judge(s)</b>	<b>Date Certified</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
6:21-cv-01225-AA United States District Court District of Oregon Eugene Division	Cascadia Wildlands, and Oregon Wild v. United States Forest Service	Cascadia Wildlands and Oregon Wild	Aiken, Ann	7/13/2022	FS Forest Products	115,000
2:22-cv-00045- BMM-JTJ United States District Court District of Montana Butte Division	Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance v. US Forest Service	Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance	Morris, Brian M.; Johnston, John T.	7/26/2022	FS Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness	700
1:20-cv-00213- BLW United States District Court District of Idaho	Western Watersheds Project et al v. USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management	Western Watersheds Project, Wildearth Guardians, and Predator Defense	Winmill, B. Lynn	7/26/2022	FS Organizational Services	16,667
6:21-cv-01228-MC United States District Court District of Oregon Eugene Division	Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. U.S. Forest Service et al	Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics	McShane, Michael J.	6/7/2022	FS Forest Products	38,000
6:21-cv-01227-MC United States District Court District of Oregon Eugene Division	Cascadia Wildlands et al v. David Warnack et al	Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild, and Willamette Riverkeeper	McShane, Michael J.	6/7/2022	FS National Forest Hazard Fuels Reduction	58,500
1:21-cv-00067- NDF United States District Court District of Wyoming	Western Watersheds Project, et al v. Randy Moore, et al	Western Watersheds Project	Freudenthal, Nancy D.	7/26/2022	FS Organizational Services; FS Inventory and Monitor; FS Wildlife, Fisheries and Habitat	160,000
15-cv-01342-JLK United States District Court District of Colorado	Rocky Mountain Wild, Inc. v. Dallas et al	Rocky Mountain Wild	Kane, John L.	8/1/2022	FS Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness; FS Wildlife, Fisheries and Habitat; FS Land Ownership Management; FS Inventory and Monitor; FS National Forest Hazard Fuels Reduction	412,500
9:21-cv-00022- DWM United States District Court District of Montana Missoula Division	Native Ecosystems Council, Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Keith Lannom; and the United States Forest Service	Native Ecosystems Council Alliance for the Wild Rockies	Molloy, Donald W.	8/29/2022	FS National Forest Hazard Fuels Reduction	120,000

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

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<b>Docket/Court</b>	<b>Case Name</b>	<b>Plaintiff</b>	<b>Judge(s)</b>	<b>Date Certified</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
					<b>Total</b>	<b>1,247,850</b>

## **NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS**

### **Background**

This exhibit addresses requirements contained in House Report 111-180, which directed:

The Committee recommendation retains previous base funding for maintenance, construction, and operation of the network of national scenic and historic trails but encourages additional funding for required work of the newly authorized national trails. Future budget justifications should continue to provide specific trail operation, maintenance and construction funding and accomplishment data for the national scenic and historic trails. The Forest Service should provide full time administrators and prepare the required comprehensive management plans for the newly authorized national trails.

### **Overview**

The Forest Service has designated trail administrators for six National Scenic and Historic Trails (NS&HT) – Arizona, Continental Divide, Florida, Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo), Pacific Crest, and Pacific Northwest – and manages portions of 15 additional NS&HTs on National Forest System lands, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, State and county governments, and private partners. Funding for administration and management of these trails is included within the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Trails appropriation. Land acquisition for trails is primarily funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In 2022, trail maintenance and volunteer engagement increased to pre-pandemic levels. However, several catastrophic wildfires in New Mexico, California, Idaho, and Oregon impaired management efforts of several NS&HTs. As a result, NS&HT tasks largely focused on providing safety information to trail users and coordinating with stakeholders to implement safety protocols to accomplish field work to the extent possible

### **Arizona National Scenic Trail**

The 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) showcases Arizona’s diverse landscapes, offering unparalleled backcountry experiences in settings ranging from Sonoran Desert to alpine forests. The AZT connects deserts, mountains, canyons, wilderness, history, cultures, and communities. Eighty five percent of the AZT is on Federal land that includes the Grand Canyon National Park and three other National Park Service (NPS) units, four National Forests, and two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices. Partners include the Arizona Trail Association and numerous local trail clubs, Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, and youth corps.

In 2022, the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) worked with almost 1,300 volunteers who contributed about 24,000 hours of work on the Arizona Trail. One partially funded Volunteer Engagement Intern assisted Arizona Trail Association host and plan volunteer events. Youth corps and volunteers installed 16 gates on four national forests, constructed 14 miles of new trail, constructed one new trailhead, developed, and installed new trailhead signs at 17 locations in collaboration with land managers. In addition, 1,110 individual youth were contacted at least five times through outreach and educational programs (over 8,000 youth participant days). The educational program helped to connect underrepresented populations with the trail and lands managed by the Forest Service. A total of 23 new trail stewards were recruited, trained, and assigned to specific segments for monitoring, reporting and routine maintenance. Data was collected from 42 wildlife cameras and processed over 160,000 images. Eight Trail Skills Institute courses were offered, providing in-depth hands-on training for more than 80 volunteers training them in the art and science of trail maintenance, design, and sustainability.

Access to the Arizona National Scenic Trail was improved with the construction of a new trailhead on private land. State, Private, and Tribal Forestry worked with the private landowner to provide a trail easement to allow this construction to occur. This trailhead provides the public a location to park and enjoy the trail in an area where private lands often prohibit access to National Forest System administered lands.

A new trail administrator was hired in late November of 2022, and reinvigorated work on the trail comprehensive plan and environmental assessment. The draft plan specifies the trail’s nature and purpose, visitor capacity on the trail based on the number of permits provided at Saguaro and Grand Canyon National Parks, and management purposes and objectives for the trail. New partnerships were established with the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to coordinate management and funding opportunities along the trail

### **Continental Divide National Scenic Trail**

The 3,100-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) runs along the spine of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Canada. It connects 20 national forests, three national parks, one national monument, 13 BLM field

offices, and several historic sites. About 95 percent of the trail is located on public lands; however, many trail segments are currently co-located along open roads or motorized trails. Easements are lacking across numerous parcels of private and State land and are needed to secure a continuous route for permanent public use. In 2022, work continued on optimal location reviews for four major “gap” areas along the CDT.

Partners include the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Montana Wilderness Association, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Montana Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Conservation Legacy, American Conservation Experience, Colorado Trail Foundation, Backcountry Horsemen and numerous other Federal, State, and local nongovernmental organizations.

In 2022, 90 percent of the CDT allocation went to field units and partners for 32 trail maintenance, reconstruction, and relocation projects. In addition, trail-wide partner organizations such as the Continental Divide Trail Coalition and local partner organizations led several volunteer projects that engaged people in trail maintenance and construction. The entire CDT on National Forest System land (approximately 2,200 miles) is a Secretarially designated priority area for trail maintenance under the 2016 Trails Stewardship Act<sup>1</sup>. Because of this designation, several forests were awarded Great American Outdoors Act and state trails funding to address deferred maintenance on the CDT and other connector trails.

New trail constructed and Major accomplishments in 2022 included:

- Boss Lake Reconstruction: Crews from the Southwest Conservation Corp, Colorado Mountain Club and the Colorado Trail Foundation completed the reconstruction of the 3-mile Boss Lake section near Salida, Colorado.
- Prospector Gulch Reroute on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest. This final year of new construction resulted in nine miles of new construction of difficult, remote, hand-built trail in the remote Collegiate Peaks Wilderness.
- Hancock Lake New Construction: New trail construction to relocate the trail from approximately three miles of road onto approximately four miles of new single-track trail in the remote Sawatch Mountains of the Salida Ranger District near Buena Vista, Colorado.
- Logout of major blowdown in the Weminuche Wilderness: The 55-mile stretch of the CDT from Wolf Creek Pass to Squaw Pass in the Weminuche Wilderness has been devastated by Spruce Beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*) over the last eight years. There are several sections along this 55-mile stretch of trail, which are impassable by stock but in 2022 this area was cleared for the public to travel this popular section of trail.
- Developed new project submission, accomplishment, and management dashboard for all CDT projects nationwide. This new tool is accessible to all agencies (NPS, BLM & USFS) as well as partners and the public
- Finally, volunteer stewardship was back up to pre-pandemic levels. Although volunteer efforts are still happening at the time of this report, in 2022 the CDT received over 35,400 hours of volunteer stewardship.

### ***Florida National Scenic Trail***

The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) consists of a 1,500-mile planning corridor stretching from Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades National Park to Gulf Islands National Seashore in the panhandle of Florida. Currently, 1,127 miles of certified FNST exist, with roughly 400 miles of gaps in the trail. Partners include the Florida Trail Association, Framing Our Community, National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Forest Service, Florida State Parks, and other agencies and organizations.

The goals of the Florida National Scenic Trail Five-Year Strategic Plan<sup>82</sup> are to promote connections, complete the trail, maintain sustainable management, and engage/encourage strategic partnerships of a diverse nature to manage, promote and complete the trail. In 2022, FNST-volunteers maintained 90 percent of the trail, contributing 12,638 hours. The Forest Service, together with Florida Trail Coalition partners, continue to carry out the goals of the Florida National Scenic Trail Five-Year Strategic Plan by encouraging partnerships and maintain the trails in a sustainable way.

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<sup>82</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd601682.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd601682.pdf)

In 2022 the FNST program successfully partnered with state, Federal, non-profit and youth organizations to accomplish several critical infrastructure projects along the partner managed and National Forest system lands of the Florida Trail. These multi-agency, partner, and volunteer projects addressed safety, access, and deferred maintenance throughout the state of Florida. Thousands of volunteer hours, seven challenge cost share agreements, and collaborative support through land managing agencies can be highlighted through just a few significant projects summarized here. In addition to the projects below, FNST and Florida Trail Association staff completed a trail-wide spatial inventory of all the Florida Trailheads, this ArcGIS Online (AGOL) based inventory will streamline future maintenance needs and priorities. We also expanded the Gateway Community and Junior Explorer programs by adding several new partner communities in Florida and publishing Spanish language Explorer guides.

#### Infrastructure and Deferred Maintenance:

##### Forest System:

- On the Apalachicola District the FNST program together with two non-profit partners undertook a large-scale deferred maintenance project by elevating an 80-foot bridge by three feet to better adapt to changing water levels at the bridge site. The structure was reinforced, cleaned, painted, and new decking applied.

##### State and Non-profit Partners:

- The Forest Service established an agreement with our state partner, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) to replace three bridges along the FNST on state lands. Two of the structures were completed with an all-volunteer effort through two non-profit organizations. Each of the bridges spanned 80 to 100 feet and were built to current bridge design standards. The third bridge will be completed in January 2023.
- The FNST program partnered with the Florida Forest Service to complete the planning, design, resource compliance, permitting, and engineering for a 120-foot bridge on the FNST on state forest land. This structure will commence the construction phase in 2023.
- Partnering with the Student Conservation Association and the Florida Trail Association we continued to address the aftermath of hurricane impacts on state lands managed by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. Projects included debris removal and repairs to over 150 foot of minor infrastructure on the FNST as well as seven miles of trail rehabilitation in an area devastated by hurricanes.

##### Federal Partner:

- The FNST program has made steady progress in the implementation of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment grant, funded from the Deep-Water Horizon oil spill, to construct a series of boardwalks and bridges on the FNST in St. Marks Wildlife Refuge. This multi-agency and partner effort will close a gap in the Florida Trail and provide a unique opportunity to access the Big Bend Coastline of Florida. Resource work and design planning is in progress.

#### **Nez Perce National Historic Trail**

In 1986, Congress acknowledged the significance of the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877 by establishing the 1,170-mile Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT). With the cooperation of the State Highway Department and County Commissioners in the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, over 2,991 miles of roads are designated as the NPNHT Auto Tour Route. The NPNHT includes a designated corridor encompassing 4,161 miles of roads, trails and routes. The route roughly parallels the course travelled by the five Nez Perce bands during their historic 1877 odyssey and offers opportunities for off-highway vehicles, biking, and snowmobile use. The NPNHT has 79 historic sites and seven high potential route segments which have historic tread from 1877 or were prehistoric travel routes. The NPNHT is currently revising its Comprehensive Plan for trail administration and management.

Partners include the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the Wallowa Homeland Interpretive Center, the Joseph Center for Art and Culture, the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, Friends of the Southern Nez Perce Trail, and the Montana Natural History Center, plus Federal agencies, and Tribes.

In 2022, flooding and fires hindered trail maintenance efforts compared to previous years. NPNHT accomplishments for the fiscal year include:

- Through the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (NATIVE) Act the Nez-Clear National Forest, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes gathered elder interview and returned Nez Perce place names to key sites along the trail.
- Two state parks and a city park, an historic mission, and two Bitterroot National Forest sites worked to create Agents of Discovery Digital/Virtual Reality Missions.
- Working with Forest Service Northern Region, developed a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust to establish a new trail-wide nonprofit support group, qá anin ‘iskit (trail stewards).
- Wallowa Land Trust has gained 34 acres at the south end of Wallowa Lake state park in Oregon, Chief Joseph village and a fishing site.

### ***Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail***

The 2,650-mile Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountain ranges from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. The PCT crosses 25 national forests, seven BLM field offices, six NPS units, five national monuments, and 48 designated wilderness areas. More than one-half of the PCT is contained in designated wilderness, and the trail crosses 16 Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Partners include the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), American Conservation Experience (ACE), Student Conservation Experience (SCA), Washington Trails Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Northwest Youth Corps, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Washington Conservation Corps, Backcountry Horsemen of California, Oregon, Washington, and many other organizations.

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) awarded \$2.5 million in 2022 to support PCT deferred trail maintenance in Oregon and Washington. The project will be executed through agreements with PCTA and other partners to complete trail maintenance utilizing corps crews and local volunteers. GAOA awarded \$4.2 million in 2021 to manage deferred maintenance on the PCT in California reached 18 percent completion with 13,200 partner hours worked (PCTA, SCA, ACE, and volunteers) and over 175 miles maintained thus far. Project staffing was hired to support the administration of the GAOA project.

The PCT Foundation Document was released to the public in March 2022 and acts as an interagency guiding document that aggregates the legislative history, legal and policy requirements, special mandates, administrative commitments, and the Comprehensive Management Plan. It documents the nature and purposes of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and what makes it significant, and it identifies fundamental resources and values.

This year was a success in rebuilding PCT engagement programs close to pre-COVID levels while addressing increased visitor use on public lands and on-going impacts from catastrophic fires and fire restoration efforts. The volunteer Trailhead Host programs on the Cleveland and Inyo National Forests resulted in over 3,200 public contacts and education in areas with high recreation use. In 2022, 7,800 long-distance permits were issued, reaching pre-COVID levels. To continue better understanding visitor use management, academic research was funded in locations along the Trail that are experiencing high visitor use and/or having sensitive resources along the Trail. The PCTA and other trail partners provided fire closure information, assessed damage and facilitated repairs to the Trail as it was impacted by the fires and subsequent suppression efforts.

In 2022, project planning efforts continued including: two Forest Plan revisions, five Travel Management Subpart C (over snow travel) plans, congressionally mandated Big Bear Land Exchange trail relocation, Sky River trail relocation, California High Speed Rail proposal, Glacier Peak Wilderness deferred PCT maintenance and several recreation development projects. Several land acquisitions are in process to protect the lands along the Trail; the Picayune Lake project on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest was completed protecting 1.2 miles of Trail. The PCT program continues to collaborate with wilderness managers in the Sierra Nevada on visitor use management concerns along the John Muir Trail 170-mile overlap with the PCT.

### ***Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail***

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) travels through some of the most remarkable and diverse terrain in the Northwest along its 1,200-mile journey from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean, through Montana, Idaho, and Washington. The trail’s complex land ownership includes three national parks, seven national forests, six Washington State parks, state forests in Idaho and Washington, short segments within the Colville Reservation and Swinomish Reservation, and other lands. Many trail segments are currently co-located along open roads or motorized trails. Easements are lacking across numerous parcels of state, local government, and private lands, and

are needed to secure a continuous route for public use. In 2022, the Forest Service began developing a trail-wide land acquisition and protection plan that will be part of the PNT comprehensive plan. It will describe and recommend a range of tools to secure public access across the trail and protect lands and key resources along the trail corridor.

Partners include the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA), various Back Country Horsemen chapters from across the trail, Washington Trails Association, University of Montana, Northwest Youth Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, National Experienced Workforce Solutions, and other organizations. The following highlights from 2022 showcase the value these partnerships bring to the PNT and the benefits they provide to the public.

- PNTA made a major push to restore access to the PNT across the Pasayten Wilderness in the Methow Valley Ranger District of Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest—one of the 15 Trail Maintenance Priority Areas identified under the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. PNTA's conservation corps crews spent 14.5 crew-weeks in this portion of the Pasayten Wilderness and removed 1,434 trees that had fallen over 57 miles within the PNT.
- PNTA continued to improve trail information, interpretation, and education for PNT users. New interpretive kiosk content was installed along the trail in partnership with trailside communities, the trail-wide navigational map set for the PNT was updated with page-by-page land acknowledgements to inform trail users about indigenous lands. Also, additional bear safety information was added to the maps and the association's website to continue to educate trail users on how to enjoy the PNT safely and responsibly.
- For the sixth year, a University of Montana research team collected trail use monitoring data for sites along the PNT in Montana and Idaho. In addition to providing monitoring results to land managers and interested Tribes and stakeholders, the Forest Service and the university are creating a new story map to share results with the public.

The Forest Service made progress on key milestones toward completing the trail-wide comprehensive plan for the PNT. In August 2022, the Forest Service invited consultation with more than 20 affected Tribes on development of the comprehensive plan and held an intertribal informational webinar. In September 2022, the Forest Service kicked off the scoping period for the comprehensive plan, soliciting public review and comments on the scoping document. The comprehensive plan and associated environmental analysis will be completed by December 31, 2023.

The Forest Service has completed recruitment for the PNT advisory council and anticipates consulting with the advisory council in 2023 once members have been appointed to the council. The applicants represent a broad range of perspectives – including experience representing Tribes, underserved communities, people of color, and people with disabilities – and geographic balance across the trail

**Other National Scenic and Historic Trails**

The Forest Service coordinates management with other Federal public land agencies for an additional 15 NS&HTs totaling more than 6,700 miles. These trails include Appalachian, California, Camino Real Tejas, Camino Tierra Adentro, De Anza, Ice Age, Iditarod, Lewis and Clark, Mormon Pioneer, North Country, Old Spanish, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, Pony Express, Santa Fe, and Trail of Tears.

*Table FS-75. Funding for National Scenic and Historic Trails (thousands of dollars)*

Name	2022 Trails Funding	2022 Salaries and Expenses	2022 Total	2023 Trails Funding	2023 Salaries and Expenses	2023 Total	2023 Trail Funding	2024 Salaries and Expenses	2024 Total
Arizona	\$445	\$135	<b>\$580</b>	\$377	\$135	<b>\$512</b>	\$377	\$135	<b>\$512</b>
Continental Divide	2,399	350	<b>2,749</b>	1,340	350	<b>1,690</b>	1,340	350	<b>1,690</b>
Florida	1,753	247	<b>2,000</b>	1,070	247	<b>1,317</b>	1,070	247	<b>1,317</b>
Nez Perce	635	190	<b>825</b>	430	190	<b>620</b>	430	190	<b>620</b>
Pacific Crest	2,409	350	<b>2,759</b>	1,496	350	<b>1,846</b>	1,496	350	<b>1,846</b>
Pacific Northwest	945	155	<b>1,100</b>	700	155	<b>855</b>	700	155	<b>855</b>
All others	1,487	-	<b>1,487</b>	1,079	-	<b>1,079</b>	1,079	-	<b>1,079</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,073</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>6,492</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>7,919</b>	<b>6,492</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>7,919</b>

Table FS-76. 2022 National Scenic and Historic Trails Accomplishments and Partner Contributions

Name	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer In-kind Contributions	Non-Cash Contributions	Miles of Trail Maintained	Miles of Trail Improved/Constructed	Acres Acquired	Major Structures Constructed
Arizona	18,753	535,210	135,119	126	30	-	6
Continental Divide	30,228	862,707	-	1,750	27	-	5
Florida	12,094	345,162	13,000	1,008	1	-	1
Nez Perce	29,000	890,000	250,880	68	6	34	8
Pacific Crest	70,970	2,025,484	70,729	1,245	28	320	1
Pacific Northwest	5,804	165,646	124,570	377	7	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,849</b>	<b>4,824,209</b>	<b>343,418</b>	<b>4,574</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>21</b>



**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REIMBURSEMENT**

**Background**

This special exhibit is required by P.L. 110-161, page 121, Administrative Provisions, which directed:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service not to exceed \$500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations and similar non-litigation related matters. Future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the requested funding transfers.

**Overview**

The USDA Office of General Counsel bills the Forest Service quarterly for non-litigation travel and related costs. The table below reflects billings received to date.

*Table FS-77. Office of General Counsel Reimbursement 2020 through 2023 (dollars in thousands)*

<b>FY 2021 Actual Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2022 Actual Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2023 Planned Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2024 Planned Reimbursement</b>
\$0	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500

## **PRESCRIBED FIRE**

### **Background**

This exhibit addresses the requirement from the joint explanatory statement of Division G – Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 2022:

The Service is directed to report in the annual budget submission on prescribed fire activities by region for the previous fiscal year.

### **Overview**

Hazardous fuels treatments are the intentional removal or manipulation of vegetation to change fire behavior to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and protect communities, infrastructure, watersheds, critical habitat, and traditional Tribal lands. Treatments generally include thinning, mastication, and prescribed fire. A prescribed fire is a fire intentionally lit by forest managers to achieve desirable outcomes, such as removing excessive vegetation and dead and down fuels, to improve wildlife habitat, recycle soil nutrients, and reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire to communities and watersheds. Prescribed fires are carefully planned and implemented to provide for a safe and controllable fire, while achieving the desired effects. Additional information about the Forest Service’s use of prescribed fire is available online.<sup>1</sup>

### **2022**

In 2022, the Forest Service treated nearly 1.7 million acres of National Forest System lands with prescribed fire, exceeding the 10-year average of 1.4 million acres annually. Favorable weather created early opportunities for burning in many areas in 2022, and the Agency used a coordinated, intentional, and national approach to mobilize the workforce to conduct prescribed burns. In May, the agency paused all prescribed fires to assess protocols and establish clear and effective guidelines for prescribed fire use. When the pause was lifted, the agency released the “National Prescribed Fire Program Review”<sup>2</sup> and conditionally resumed its prescribed fire program. The recommendations and actions identified in the review provide a starting point for continuous improvement in how we plan and conduct prescribed burning. Although this pause impacted the use of prescribed fire for reducing wildfire risk, the agency deemed it an important and necessary trade-off to ensure public safety in the future and strengthen standards for the program. Nonetheless, prescribed fire accounted for 57 percent of all hazardous fuels accomplishments in 2022. The regional breakout of 2022 hazardous fuels and prescribed fire accomplishments are shown in Table FS-78.

Successful prescribed burns require specific weather conditions, such as temperature, humidity, and wind. The Southern Region performs the most prescribed burns because it is generally snow-free throughout the year with intermittent drying between rain events, which offers many opportunities throughout the year to conduct prescribed burns. The warm, moist conditions in the southeast cause vegetation to grow quickly, requiring treatment every two to four years to maintain a desirable level of fuels and avoid build-up. The northeastern forests are also fire adapted and require prescribed fire treatments every two to six years, while the dry forest types in western forests require prescribed fire every 10 to 15 years. Alaskan forests around Anchorage are fire adapted, but these stand-replacing forests are not well suited to prescribed fire. The Agency has been working to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire by using additional funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act to increase the capacity through direct hire, partnerships, contracts, and cooperating agencies. All funding sources, including BIL and the Disaster Supplemental, were used to achieve 2022 accomplishments.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/prescribed-fire>

<sup>2</sup> [USDA Forest Service National Prescribed Fire Program Review \(wildfirelessons.net\)](https://www.wildfirelessons.net/)

Table FS-78. Forest Service Hazardous Fuels (HF) Acres Accomplished on NFS lands in 2022.

Region	All Fuels Treatments (acres) <sup>a</sup>	Prescribed Fire Treatments (acres) <sup>b</sup>	Percent of Prescribed Fire Treatments (%)
01 – Northern .....	222,000	28,000	13%
02 – Rocky Mountain.....	159,000	35,000	22%
03 – Southwestern.....	203,000	111,000	55%
04 – Intermountain.....	257,000	31,000	12%
05 – Pacific Southwest.....	210,000	30,000	14%
06 – Pacific Northwest.....	344,000	60,000	17%
08 – Southern .....	1,352,000	1,288,000	95%
09 – Eastern.....	183,000	87,000	48%
10 – Alaska .....	3,000	150	5%
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,933,000</b>	<b>1,670,150</b>	<b>57%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data from Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) on 10/31/22; includes wildfire acres and does not include State Fire Assistance treatments.

<sup>b</sup> Data from FACTS on 10/31/22; does not include brush disposal (burning debris from logging operations).

## **STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING**

### **Background**

This exhibit addresses requirements of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (as amended, 16 U.S.C 6591c):

The Forest Service shall report annually to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives on: 1) the status of development, execution, and administration of contracts under subsection (b); 2) the specific accomplishments that have resulted; and 3) the role of local communities in development of agreements or contract plans.

### **Overview**

Stewardship contracts and agreements manage natural resources through implementation of ecosystem restoration projects. Stewardship contracts support new and emerging markets by using forest products removed through restoration activities, including woody biomass for energy and sustaining traditional markets. Stewardship contracting helps the Forest Service achieve land and resource management goals while promoting closer public-private working relationships by using the value of timber or other forest products to offset the cost of restoration activities. Stewardship contracting selection criteria include capability, use of local workforce, creation of jobs, and price. The intent is to create green jobs, promote a diverse forest products industry, and support sustainable communities and the forest contractor infrastructure needed to perform critical restoration work.

If the offset value of timber or other forest products from stewardship sales exceeds the value of resource improvement treatments, those receipts are retained and deposited in the Stewardship Contracting Fund and are available, until expended, for other authorized stewardship projects. Stewardship contracts are awarded on a best-value basis and may be used for:

- Maintaining or decommissioning roads and trails to restore or maintain water quality;
- Improving soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resources;
- Prescribed fires to improve the composition, structure, condition, and health of timber stands or wildlife habitat;
- Removing vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forests, reduce fire hazards, or achieve other land management objectives;
- Restoring and maintaining watersheds; and
- Controlling noxious and invasive weeds and reestablishing native vegetation.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141) amended the stewardship authority to increase agreements and contracts from 10 to 20 years in locations meeting certain conditions. The Act also allows the cost of cancellation ceilings to be allocated in economically viable stages, relieving the forest unit of a large obligation in a single (first) year. The agency has operationalized the 20-year stewardship contracting authority by extending the current executed agreements beyond 10 years and by entering into new 20-year stewardship agreements. Currently, the Forest Service has 15 agreements over 10 years in length. Some work and project development in other regions were also delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while other regions continue to evaluate the use of this authority. The Washington Office completed and issued stewardship directives and is in the process of updating guidance on the implementation of these new authorities.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law P.L. 117-58 November 15, 2021, Section 40804(b)(1) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION specifically addressed contracts and agreements exceeding 10,000 acre projects on Federal lands. In 2022 contracts and agreements were in developmental phases with multiple partners across the nation. No completed work was available for this report for 2022.

The Forest Service continued to inform stakeholders about stewardship contracting through brochures, local field trips, webinars for partners and training opportunities. These efforts ensure a common understanding of stewardship contracting and facilitates its use in attaining land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs. To improve agency understanding and use of this authority, the Forest Service contracted to expand the national stewardship contracting and agreements training. In 2022, stewardship contracting training courses continued to be conducted on a virtual platform to capitalize on the virtual environment. The Forest Service also developed a new, smaller structured stewardship agreement training focused on partner understanding and technical training. This training will give partners a better understanding of the processes and procedures used within the agency for the reporting and accounting of project accomplishments.

A third-party monitoring effort is underdevelopment through agreements with Oregon State University and the University of Oregon. The universities will assess the application of the stewardship authority across the Forest Service using the university’s social and analytical scientist. The process will use a 360-degree assessment involving contractors, partners and internal forest service personnel along with data from national databases. Results of the monitoring effort will be available at the end of 2024.

**Specific Accomplishments**

The below table displays accomplishments between 2018 and 2022. In many cases, multiple land management objectives are met through a single treatment activity. For example, a hazardous fuels reduction treatment can also improve wildlife habitat. These accomplishments not only result in ecosystem benefits, but also in forest products for manufacturing and energy production and the creation of jobs contributing to sustainable communities.

*Table FS-79. Actual Stewardship Contracting Accomplishments (2018 to 2022)*

Measure	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Acres of forest vegetation established.....	3,591	3,624	4,678	2,715	6,988*
Acres of forest vegetation improved.....	24,938	33,269	21,759	12,692	18,655*
Acres of noxious weeds and invasive plant treatments.....	3,879	5,977	9,103	4,951	2,607*
Acres of wildlife habitat restored or improved.....	33,693	49,042	79,009	83,625	10,360
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced.....	110	118	38	130	46
Miles of roads decommissioned.....	14	2	12	-	-
Volume of timber sold (million board feet (MMBF)).....	754	859	888	670	696**
Green tons of biomass made available for energy production.....	229,958	276,236	161,379	87,271	149,744
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires (non- WUI).....	31,695	49,574	46,360	52,573	52,686*
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated.....	163,332	83,784	34,984	245,468	100,818*
Stewardship contracts and agreements contributing to watersheds in fully functioning condition.....	5	2	-	1	7

\*Acres reported are completed acres and represent the change of reporting from accomplishment in previous reporting to work complete.

\*\*Data sourced from geo-enabled Performance Accountability System (ePAS) Reports. Data sort: “Initiative code of Stewardship” timber Volume Source: PTSTAR reports.

The below table shows the acres awarded, number of contracts or agreements awarded, and volume awarded from 2018 to 2022. The number of contracts or agreements awarded includes those where forest products are exchanged for service activities as well as those where excess stewardship contracting funds are used for activities without the exchange of forest products.

*Table FS-80. Acres Awarded, Number of Contract or Agreements Awarded, and Volume Awarded*

Measure	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Acres Awarded.....	161,947	129,710	70,930	165,448	186,417
Number of Contracts and Agreements.....	266	150	156	141	138
Volume Awarded (thousand board feet (MBF)).....	793,374	859,060	888,000	670,399	696,583

**Local Communities**

Collaboration with local communities, from development through implementation and monitoring, is a key component of successful stewardship contracting and provides a sense of community ownership in the project, a better understanding by communities of natural resource issues, and increased public support. Collaboration also allows the Forest Service to tailor stewardship offerings that address local issues, needs, and capabilities. In 2021, the agency issued its new policy on stewardship contracting and agreements. This new manual lays the foundation for the successful implementation of the stewardship authorities. The corresponding handbook was completed and issued January 4, 2022 and an updated annual End Results Stewardship Contracting training incorporated the new policy that 125 students participated in the virtual training environment.

**UNLIQUIDATED OBLIGATIONS****Background**

This exhibit is included to provide a display of Forest Service unliquidated obligation (ULO) balances.

**Overview**

Unliquidated obligations are defined as the balance remaining from orders placed, contract and other binding agreements awarded, or services rendered after making any payments or processing de-obligations. The following table contains the status of Forest Service unliquidated obligation balances in prior fiscal years for appropriated funds (regular and emergency) as of September 30, 2022.

*Table FS-81. Forest Service Status of ULO Balances in Prior Fiscal Years as of September 30, 2022 (thousands of dollars)*

Item	FY 2019 and Prior	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Total
Forest Service Operations:					
Salaries and Expenses .....	-	\$62	\$1,435	\$51,707	\$53,204
Facilities Maintenance and Leases .....	-	-	18,062	29,077	47,139
Information Technology.....	-	6	27,190	148,148	175,344
Organizational Services.....	-	-	21,699	48,931	70,630
Total, Forest Service Operations .....	-	68	68,386	277,863	346,317
Forest and Rangeland Research:					
Salaries and Expenses .....	-	-	186	13,073	13,259
Forest and Rangeland Research .....	\$10,031	19,834	21,360	45,903	97,128
Forest Inventory and Analysis.....	934	3,141	9,212	18,123	31,410
National Fire Plan .....	58	-	-	-	58
Joint Fire Science .....	875	1,963	2,360	4,000	9,198
Forest Products.....	1	-	-	-	1
Forest and Rangeland Research – Other .....	229	253	-	-	482
Disaster Funding .....	85	882	-	6,782	7,749
Total, Forest and Rangeland Research .....	12,213	26,073	33,118	87,881	159,285
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry:					
Salaries and Expenses .....	-	-	112	3,226	3,338
Landscape Scale Restoration.....	11,972	9,464	11,536	12,389	45,361
FHM - Federal Lands.....	3,979	4,028	4,312	11,189	23,508
FHM - Cooperative Lands.....	9,434	11,167	16,702	23,974	61,277
Working Forest Lands.....	5,111	5,498	7,094	9,841	27,544
Forest Legacy Program .....	78,650	28,878	-	-	107,528
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation.....	857	623	2,265	3,102	6,847
Urban and Community Forestry.....	8,867	11,775	24,351	30,443	75,436
International Programs and Trade Compliance.....	1,339	1,781	7,652	14,371	25,143
State Fire Capacity Grants.....	36,014	39,844	57,455	63,871	197,184
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants.....	3,218	5,509	13,596	18,022	40,345
State and Private Forestry – Other .....	6,646	492	1,361	17,846	26,345
Disaster Funding .....	3,419	-	-	33,726	37,145
Total, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....	169,506	119,059	146,436	242,000	677,001
National Forest System:					
Salaries and Expenses .....	-	-	4,110	89,697	93,807
Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot.....	2,609	-	-	-	2,609

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	FY 2019 and Prior	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Total
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration.....	4,864	4,991	5,292	19,252	34,399
Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring.....	6,155	6,091	3,512	11,314	27,072
Hazardous Fuels.....	42,249	52,400	78,180	122,638	295,467
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness.....	4,440	8,923	8,005	23,736	45,104
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management.....	3,839	4,573	5,783	12,336	26,531
Grazing Management.....	1,333	749	1,273	1,779	5,134
Forest Products.....	10,739	9,504	8,109	15,221	43,573
Vegetation and Watershed Management.....	11,003	13,849	12,987	20,798	58,637
Minerals and Geology Management.....	4,686	2,378	3,369	8,083	18,516
Land Use Authorization and Access.....	1,759	1,718	1,443	4,228	9,148
Law Enforcement Operations.....	1,123	2,214	2,482	5,877	11,696
National Forest System – Other.....	2,790	2,812	-	-	5,602
Disaster Funding.....	6,955	4,682	-	189,032	200,669
Total, National Forest System.....	104,544	114,884	134,545	523,991	877,964
Capital Improvement and Maintenance:					
Facilities.....	5,495	22,838	20,530	21,976	70,839
Roads.....	4,858	7,563	11,455	35,225	59,101
Trails.....	3,631	2,582	2,894	7,997	17,104
Deferred Maintenance and Infrastructure Improvement.....	104	-	-	-	104
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	251	-	-	2,989	3,240
Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Other.....	543	513	-	-	1,056
Disaster Funding.....	9,905	11,316	-	20,716	41,937
Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....	24,787	44,812	34,879	88,903	193,381
Land Acquisition:					
Land Acquisition.....	5,472	1,056	-	-	6,528
Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts	149	-	450	664	1,263
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges ...	86	-	-	-	86
Total, Land Acquisition.....	5,707	1,056	450	664	7,877
Other Appropriations:					
Range Betterment Fund.....	147	107	259	151	664
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses.....	272	128	267	837	1,504
Total, Other Appropriations.....	419	235	526	988	2,168
Wildland Fire Management:					
Salaries and Expenses.....	-	-	6,088	55,590	61,678
Preparedness.....	30,122	7,839	8,220	37,157	83,338
Suppression.....	5,902	2,194	39,238	537,401	584,735
Hazardous Fuels.....	14,305	-	-	-	14,305
National Fire Capacity.....	5,430	-	-	-	5,430
Rural Fire Capacity.....	814	-	-	-	814
Wildland Fire Management – Other.....	1,875	1,664	7	29	3,575
Disaster Funding.....	-	1,361	-	-	1,361

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	FY 2019 and Prior	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Total
Total, Wildland Fire Management .....	58,448	13,058	53,553	630,177	755,236
<b>Total, Forest Service .....</b>	<b>375,624</b>	<b>319,245</b>	<b>471,893</b>	<b>1,852,467</b>	<b>3,019,229</b>



**USDA WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEPARTMENTAL SHARED COST PROGRAMS, AND E-GOVERNMENT**

**Background**

This exhibit is included to provide a four-year summary of USDA Working Capital Fund (WCF) and USDA Shared Cost Programs actual and estimated fees to the Forest Service for centralized services, as well as actual and estimated charges to the Forest Service that contribute to E-Government initiatives.

**USDA Working Capital Fund**

**Overview**

The USDA WCF (7 U.S.C. 2235) provides services that the Secretary, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, determines are performed more effectively as central services rather than as separate services within USDA agencies. The USDA WCF is used to finance services to USDA and non-USDA<sup>83</sup> agencies on a centralized, fee-for-service basis. The USDA WCF does not receive appropriated funds; all costs are reimbursed in full. The USDA WCF finances activity centers under five functional categories: Administration, Communications, Financial Management, Information Technology, and Correspondence Management.

Pursuant to the terms contained in general provisions in annual appropriations to USDA, agency administrators must authorize billings to their agency for these services. Therefore, the Chief of the Forest Service (or a duly appointed representative) must sign an agreement at the beginning of the fiscal year authorizing billing for services provided and supply the appropriate accounting data.

The Forest Service acts as one of the overseers in the review of cost estimates for the National Finance Center through its participation in the WCF Executive Committee, a body comprised of representatives from various USDA agencies. The Executive Committee is charged with making budget recommendations and advising the Department’s Chief Financial Officer as to the financial effectiveness of the WCF. The Forest Service works with the Department’s Chief Financial Officer to review activities included in the Greenbook/Shared Cost Programs and the basis for any costs attributed to the Forest Service.

*Table FS-82. Forest Service actual and estimated fees made to the USDA WCF between 2021 and 2024 (thousands of dollars)*

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
<b>Working Capital Fund:</b>				
<b>Administrative Services:</b>				
Materiel Management Service .....	\$928	\$874	\$712	\$748
Mail and Reproduction Services .....	820	482	506	519
Integrated Procurement Systems.....	8,235	8,637	8,543	8,747
Procurement Operations Services.....	126	73	90	101
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems.....	1,154	1,064	997	918
Subtotal, Administrative Services.....	11,263	11,130	10,848	11,032
<b>Communications:</b>				
Creative Media and Broadcast Center .....	496	434	492	590
<b>Finance and Management:</b>				
National Finance Center .....	8,116	8,708	8,302	8,636
Financial Management Systems .....	-	575	313	314
Internal Control Support Services.....	489	382	299	307
Financial Management Support Services.....	47,085	45,341	45,450	48,855
Subtotal, Finance and Management.....	55,690	55,006	54,364	58,111
<b>Information Technology:</b>				
AskUSDA Contact Center .....	-	-	1,102	1,145
Client Experience Center.....	23,159	56,884	53,147	54,606

<sup>83</sup> Services to non-USDA agencies help reduce USDA’s share of fixed costs for WCF-supported services.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Department Administration Information Technology Office ...	10	1,123	12	12
Digital Infrastructure Services Center .....	41,791	51,691	39,534	37,695
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services .....	-	-	8,718	9,093
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services .....	-	-	1,497	1,549
Enterprise Network Services .....	16,940	15,172	29,966	29,035
Subtotal, Information Technology .....	81,900	124,870	133,976	133,134
Correspondence Management Services:				
Personnel Document Security.....	-	-	1,547	1,657
Office of the Executive Secretariat .....	509	401	490	512
Subtotal, Correspondence Management Services .....	509	401	2,037	2,170
<b>Total, Working Capital Fund .....</b>	<b>149,858</b>	<b>191,841</b>	<b>201,717</b>	<b>205,037</b>

***USDA WCF Centralized Services***

Administration

USDA WCF Administration activities are managed under the Assistant Secretary for Administration and includes the following:

Materiel Management Service Center provides on-demand forms and publications acquisition, management, warehousing, and distribution; excess personal property accountability, reuse, sales, and disposal; and office and general supply acquisition, receipt and shipment of parcels, warehousing, and sales.

Mail and Reproduction Services is responsible for managing and directing centralized printing and copier systems; mailing list systems; package delivery and chauffeur services; and staff support systems related to financial management, program analysis, and administration.

Integrated Procurement Systems provides modernized and integrated Department-wide procurement automation tools and systems.

Human Resources Enterprise System Management provides modernized, cost-effective, and standardized Department-wide human resource solutions that support the strategic management of human capital.

Procurement Operations Division provides a variety of contracting support services to USDA agencies.

Communications

USDA WCF Communications includes the Creative Media and Broadcast Center, which provides creative design, radio and video production studios, and multimedia development and maintenance to USDA agencies.

Financial Management

USDA WCF Financial Management is managed by USDA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer and includes the following:

National Finance Center processes payroll for Federal employees and provides payroll-related data management and reconciliation for Office of Personnel Management government programs mostly related to employee health benefits and insurance.

Financial Shared Services administers financial management applications to USDA agencies and is responsible for providing accounting services, administrative payments processing and disbursement certification, intragovernmental payment and collection reconciliation, Treasury fund balances, and Treasury reporting

Internal Control Support Services provides services to USDA agencies related to internal control compliance efforts, such as annual financial reporting, efficiencies to administrative and financial processes, and information technology.

Financial Management Support Services administers financial management, including fiscal reporting and budget execution, to USDA WCF activity centers and staff offices.

Information Technology

USDA WCF Information Technology is managed by USDA's Office of the Chief Information Officer and includes the following:

AskUSDA Contact Center provides a contact center that answers general inquiries from the public using trained agents and self-service options.

Client Experience Center provides Department-wide fee-for-service activities related to information technology operations, security, and technical support services.

Digital Infrastructure Services Center provides hosting services, workforce development services, program management and software engineering, and telecommunications management for USDA agencies and non-USDA customers.

Department Administration Information Technology Office provides centrally managed information technology solutions to USDA administrative and staff offices that adhere to functionality, accessibility, and compliance requirements of governing bodies and end-users.

Enterprise Cybersecurity Services protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data and information technology systems.

Enterprise Data and Analytics Services provides Department-wide aggregated data in multiple dashboard and visualizations and provides a subset of users the ability to perform self-service analytics using the data.

Enterprise Network Services provides Department-wide management, support, and compliance related to telecommunications services.

Correspondence Management

USDA WCF Correspondence Management includes the Office of the Executive Secretariat, which manages the official correspondence and records of the Office of the Secretary, provides departmental records management, establishes departmental directives, and assists the Office of the Secretary with special projects.

**Departmental Shared Cost Programs**

**Overview**

Shared cost agreements may be entered into under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2263. This language authorizes the USDA to transfer funds from USDA agencies to pay for department-wide initiatives that benefit multiple USDA agencies. Forest Service shared cost transfers between 2020 and 2021, and estimated transfers between 2022 and 2023, are detailed in the below table.

*Table FS-83. Forest Service transfers to USDA shared cost programs for 2021 through 2024 (thousands of dollars)*

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services.....	\$267	\$285	\$313	\$313
Agency Partnership Outreach.....	2,071	1,962	2,540	2,540
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility.....	-	-	677	677
Human Resources Priority Goals Program.....	2	-	1,289	1,289
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network.....	1,022	1,079	1,124	1,124
Medical Services.....	126	144	202	202
National Capital Region Interpreting Services.....	75	30	118	118
Office of Customer Experience.....	2,901	2,708	1,016	1,016
Personnel and Document Security Program.....	640	667	-	-
Physical Security.....	1,287	1,322	1,438	1,438
Security Detail.....	1,384	1,400	1,638	1,638
Security Operations.....	1,944	1,927	2,227	2,227
Talent Group.....	-	-	1,141	1,141

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
TARGET Center .....	356	398	552	552
USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services .....	1,631	1,366	-	-
<b>Total, Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs</b>	<b>13,706</b>	<b>13,288</b>	<b>14,275</b>	<b>14,275</b>

**Shared Cost Programs**

Advisory Committee Liaison Services is managed by the USDAs Office of the Secretary and provides guidance and direction to USDA agencies on Advisory Committees and Boards. Costs to support this function and screening/selection of members are reimbursed from agencies to the Office of the Secretary.

Agency Partnership Outreach is managed by the USDAs Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement and supports multiple USDA partnership and outreach activities that benefit rural and underserved communities.

Honor Awards are sponsored by USDA’s Secretary and are USDA’s most prestigious honor, with a 70-year history of recognizing the Department’s greatest accomplishments.

Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard served<sup>84</sup> as a single sign-on portal for multiple USDA human resources systems; and included an interface for calculating retirement benefits for USDA employees.

Intertribal Technical Assistance Network provides technical assistance and program access – in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs – to American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal governments.

Medical Services provides preventative health measures (flu shots, health screening, nutritional principles, and fitness awareness) for USDA employees and contractors in the National Capital Region.

Office of Customer Experience is a Department-wide program targeted toward increasing efficiencies in customer-facing processes; simplifying the public’s access to USDA programs; and developing and improving practices that contribute to increased USDA employee accessibility, responsiveness, professionalism, and expertise to the public.

Personnel and Document Security<sup>85</sup> is responsible for the protection of classified national security information by providing security clearance, training, policies, and guidance for USDA personnel.

Physical Security includes physical security, identity, credentialing, and access management.

Security Detail provides funding for the Secretary of Agriculture.

Security Operations provides Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP), training, and reenactment exercises to ensure USDA agencies can continue to provide critical essential functions during emergency situations.

Technology and Accessible Resources Give Employment Today (TARGET) Center provides services related to improving the accessibility and experience of individuals with disabilities.

USDA Enterprise Data Analytics Services provides access to data-driven, fact-based, customer-focused information that supports several administrative areas, including finance, human resources, information technology, procurement, property, fleet operations, and homeland security.

**USDA E-Government (E-Gov)**

**Overview**

The E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347), signed into law December 17, 2002, established the Office of Electronic Government within the Office of Management and Budget; established a Chief Information Officers

<sup>84</sup> Starting in 2021, the Human Resources Self-Service Dashboard no longer receives Departmental Shared Cost Program funding.

<sup>85</sup> The Personnel Security and Classified National Security Information programs were consolidated into the Personnel and Document Security program in 2018.

Council<sup>86</sup>; established an E-Government Fund<sup>87</sup>; and included provisions requiring the use of “Internet-based information technology to enhance citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.”

Table FS-84. Forest Service contributions to E-Gov initiatives for 2021 through 2024 (thousands of dollars)

Item	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Estimated	2024 Estimated
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business .....	\$28	\$37	\$34	\$34
Disaster Assistance Improvement Plan .....	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Human Resources Integration.....	-	72	-	-
E-Rulemaking .....	41	51	45	37
E-Training .....	-	-	-	-
Financial Management Line of Business .....	79	85	85	85
Geospatial Line of Business .....	12	13	12	13
Benefits.gov .....	-	-	-	-
Grants.gov .....	4	11	9	9
Human Resources Line of Business .....	90	90	93	93
Integrated Acquisition Environment .....	739	193	238	212
<b>Total, E-Gov .....</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>483</b>

**USDA E-Gov Initiatives**

USDA E-Gov initiatives, managed by the USDAs Office of the Chief Information Officer, provide efficient, cost-effective electronic services and resources to USDA customers, partners, and personnel.

Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business (LoB) collaborates with partner agencies on best practices for Federal budgeting (budget formulation, budget execution, and workforce planning).

E-Rulemaking is managed by the General Services Administration under the Program Management Office and is responsible for maintaining the Regulations.gov<sup>88</sup> web site; a resource that provides regulatory materials to the public and promotes participation in the legislative process.

Financial Management LoB provides financial management standards, requirements, tools, and services in support of USDAs financial activities.

Geospatial LoB provides geospatial-related services, applications, data, hardware, and software to agencies and partners to achieve mission goals.

Grants.gov manages the Grants.gov<sup>89</sup> web site; a resource that publishes grant opportunities and application packages and provides forms and resources for applying for grants.

Hiring Assessment Tool provides resources designed to recruit and acquire talent to the Federal governments using various strategies.

Human Resource Management LoB is responsible for managing employee human resource information.

Integrated Acquisition Environment offers services related to the Federal acquisition process and manages several acquisition systems.

<sup>86</sup> The Chief Information Officers Council is responsible for “improving agency practices related to the design, acquisition, development, modernization, use, operation, sharing, and performance of Federal Government information resources” (Public Law 107-347 § 3603(d)).

<sup>87</sup> The E-Government Fund is administered by the General Services Administration and is used to fund initiatives and lines of business that utilize the Internet and other electronic methods for delivering information and resources electronically to the public.

<sup>88</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.grants.gov/>

**FY 2024 SPEND PLAN FOR BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (PUBLIC LAW 117- 58)**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) included the following administrative provision:

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

**Forest Service Operations**

Forest Service Operations receives BIL transfer funds from other Deputy Areas to support key shared services, salaries management, and administrative functions.

*Table FS-85. Forest Service Operations BIL spend plan (dollars in thousands).*

Item	2023 Carry- over	2024 Approp- riations	2024 Transfers In	2024 Transfers Out	2024 Total Available	2024 Obliga- tions	2024 Carry- over
Information Technology and Centralized Processing .....	\$34,990	-	\$37,272	-	\$72,262	\$40,182	\$32,080
Organizational Services .....	36,559	-	26,945	-	63,504	24,759	38,745
Salaries and Expenses .....	36,312	-	7,345	-	43,657	25,181	18,476
<b>Total, Forest Service Operations ....</b>	<b>107,861</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71,562</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>179,423</b>	<b>90,122</b>	<b>89,301</b>

**Forest and Rangeland Research**

The BIL provides the Forest Service an additional amount for Forest and Rangeland Research of \$10 million. Of this total, \$2 million is appropriated each fiscal year starting in 2022 through 2026. Each fiscal year’s appropriation has a four-year period of availability. Funds are to carry out activities of the Joint Fire Science program, as authorized in section 40803 of Division D of the Act.

2024 Joint Fire Science program funds will be obligated to an interagency agreement with Bureau of Land Management within 90 days of apportionment. BIL funding will be awarded to Joint Fire Science projects following the established annual Joint Fire Science timeline for the solicitation, submission, and selection of projects.

Forest and Rangeland receives BIL transfer funds from other Deputy Areas to provide science support to enhance and learn from BIL implementation, and to deliver relevant scientific tools and decision support systems. These transfers will be obligated to contracts, agreements, and scientist salary in 2024. 2024 science support activities will focus on transferring research findings and knowledge to directly inform the ongoing management of priority landscapes (e.g., second entries).

The biggest challenge to implementation in the short-term is a shortage of contracting, grants, and agreements staff. There are no long-term challenges to note.

The 2024 Spending Plan for the BIL Forest and Rangeland Research programs are summarized below.

*Table FS-86. Forest and Rangeland Research BIL spend plan (dollars in thousands).*

Item	2023 Carry- over	2024 Approp- riations	2024 Transfers In	2024 Transfers Out	2024 Total Available	2024 Obliga- tions	2024 Carry- over
Forest Inventory and Analysis .....	\$132	-	-	-	\$132	\$129	\$3
Joint Fire Science .....	-	\$2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000	-
Research and Development Programs	6,663	-	\$30,750	-	37,413	33,298	4,115
Salaries and Expenses .....	29,614	-	7,700	-	37,314	6,055	31,259
<b>Total, Forest and Rangeland Research .....</b>	<b>36,409</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>38,450</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>76,859</b>	<b>41,482</b>	<b>35,377</b>

**State, Private, and Tribal Forestry**

The BIL provides the Forest Service an additional amount for State and Private Forestry of \$1.527 billion. Of this total, \$305 million is appropriated in each year starting in 2022 through 2026. Each fiscal year’s appropriation has a four-year period of availability. Funds are to carry out wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem restoration activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in Division D Section 40803 and Section 40804 and Division J of the Act, for grants to at-risk communities for wildfire mitigation activities, State Fire Capacity Grants, Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants, and grants to states to implement State Forest Action Plans.

Initial implementation challenges from 2022 and 2023 were overcome by increasing grants and agreements staffs, enhancing the number of program managers and developing standard procedures for BIL program delivery. We continue to develop partner relationships with external partners. We work closely with the Department and Office of Management and Budget to announce both funding opportunities and project awards. Working in a shared leadership stance with partners is critical to the Forest Service’s ability to accomplish the expectations of the Act, as well as the desired need to expand the shared stewardship of our public lands.

2024 Projected Accomplishments:

- Increase in at-risk community resilience.
- Increase in ability for States to implement priorities in their State Forest Action Plans.
- Increase in capacity for communities and Tribes to prepare for and respond to wildland fire.
- Increase in capacity for States to meet revegetation goals following wildland fires.
- Increase in number of communities with up-to-date Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Increase in opportunities for small businesses and private landowners to harvest timber.
- Increase in the operational capacity in support of the Agency’s mission through human resource management, procurement and contracting, grants and agreements, budget formulation and execution, and critical investments in technology.

For BIL line-item funds that will be competed, in whole or in part, announcements will be posted to grants.gov.

The 2024 Spending Plan for the BIL State and Private Forestry programs are summarized below.

*Table FS-87. State, Private, and Tribal Forestry BIL spend plan (dollars in thousands).*

Item	2023 Carry-over	2024 Appropriations	2024 Transfers In	2024 Transfers Out	2024 Total Available	2024 Obligations	2024 Carry-over
Landscape Scale Restoration .....	\$21	\$92	-	-	\$113	\$87	\$26
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management .....	10,522	10,000	-	-\$1,287	19,235	5,104	14,131
State Fire Capacity Grants .....	16,273	17,600	-	-2,246	31,627	10,784	20,843
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants .....	4,371	4,000	-	-	8,371	2,856	5,515
Forest Stewardship .....	10,624	10,160	-	-1,446	19,338	5,607	13,731
Urban and Community Forestry .....	7,927	10,000	-	-1,287	16,640	6,736	9,904
Salaries and Expenses .....	8,501	-	\$9,115	-	17,616	9,006	8,610
Byproducts .....	23,576	-	16,400	-	39,976	9,971	30,005
Community Wildfire Defense Grants	155,157	100,000	-	-13,140	242,017	11,540	230,477
Firewood Banks .....	207	1,600	-	-206	1,601	1,389	212
Invasive Species Federal Lands Forest Health Management .....	3,128	10,000	-	-5,000	8,128	5,000	3,128
Invasive Species Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management .....	2,056	10,000	-	-2,315	9,741	8,377	1,364
Mined Lands .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
National Revegetation .....	15,284	12,000	-	-2,793	24,491	1,697	22,794
Portable Skidder Bridges .....	3,854	10,000	-	-1,287	12,567	9,676	2,891
State Forestry Action Plans .....	9,971	9,908	-	-1,287	18,592	5,556	13,036

Item	2023 Carry-over	2024 Appropriations	2024 Transfers In	2024 Transfers Out	2024 Total Available	2024 Obligations	2024 Carry-over
Wildland Fire Defense Grants.....	38,581	100,000	-	-12,770	125,811	96,875	28,936
<b>Total, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....</b>	<b>310,053</b>	<b>305,360</b>	<b>25,515</b>	<b>-45,064</b>	<b>595,864</b>	<b>190,261</b>	<b>405,603</b>

**National Forest System**

The BIL provides the Forest Service an additional amount for National Forest System of \$2.854 billion. Of this total, \$529.8 million is appropriated each year starting in 2022 through 2026. These funds remain available until expended. Funds are to carry out wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem restoration activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in Division D Section 40803 and Section 40804, and Division J of the Act, for hazardous fuels reduction burned area recovery, and restoration of native vegetation and mitigation of environmental hazards on mined land.

To support effective implementation of the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law, the agency has streamlined the process for requesting match reductions or waivers and will soon roll out system enhancements to allow for the use of more than one Assistance Listing per agreement. In addition, the agency will soon provide guidance and training for new “keystone structures.”-These structures will empower the agency to develop new approaches to implementing large partnerships utilizing our existing authorities. The Forest Service has entered into multiple national-level agreements with key partners, including National Forest Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Mule Deer Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support ecosystem restoration and wildfire risk reduction.

The Forest Service is increasing and expanding partnerships through many authorities. The Good Neighbor Authority and Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA) authorities are specially called out in Section 40804 b 2(B) for landscape and vegetation management projects with states and Tribes. In 2023, the Forest Service will use BIL funds to support 17 Tribal Forest Protection Act projects and 33 projects under Good Neighbor Authority agreements. Funds will support a diverse set of resource benefits including watershed health, fuels reduction, timber management, and co-management/planning for future projects as well as increase Tribal workforce capacity in forest management and indigenous youth engagement opportunities.

2024 Projected Accomplishments:

- Increased pace and scale for ecosystem restoration producing desired outcomes such as community protection, forest and grassland restoration, native plant revegetation, invasive species detection and treatment, watershed restoration, mine remediation, and wildlife habitat improvement on National Forest System lands. Funding will provide the capacity for planning, collaboration, project design and implementation.
- Increased reforestation actions and partnerships to address the agency’s reforestation backlog acres. These actions will meet the provisions of the REPLANT Act and advance the agency’s National Forest System Reforestation Strategy.
- Increased timber harvest resulting from additional acres of treatment for ecosystem restoration and wildfire risk reduction. These treatments will be guided by the Wildfire Crisis Strategy which is designed to work at the scale needed to address the wildfire crisis and ensure our forests are resilient in the face of climate change.
- Increased community resilience through hazardous fuels projects and related activities such as the development and improvement of control locations (fuel breaks).
- Increased contracts and agreements with partners, states, and Tribes to perform ecosystem restoration activities on National Forest System lands providing jobs to local communities.
- Increased ability to provide recreation experiences that match visitation demands and to restore, prepare, and adapt recreation sites.
- Increased ability to operate, repair, reconstruct, and construct recreation cabins and repair or reconstruct historic buildings.
- Creation of incentives for increased use of biomass.
- Implementation of 2023 projects to permanently plug and remediate orphaned wells, reporting results as outlined in the Act.
- Continued focus on the successful management and operations of the established civilian climate corps, creating and providing jobs for young people, providing the Agency the necessary skills, experiences, and resources to



conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience, increase reforestation, increase carbon sequestration, protect biodiversity, improve recreation, and address climate change.

- Increased operational capacity in support of the Agency’s mission to include human resource management, procurement and contracting, grants and agreements, budget formulation and execution and critical investments in technology.
- Supported the Forest Service’s work on the Wildfire Crisis Strategy, including funding for 21 priority landscapes.

Funds will primarily be distributed via contract awards or through agreements with States, Tribes, and partners. Contract opportunities or procurement notices are announced through the Contract Opportunities website at SAM.gov<sup>90</sup>. Agreements utilizing authorities such as Good Neighbor Authority, Tribal Forest Projection Act, Stewardship Authority, etc. do not require funding announcements.

The 2024 Spending Plan for the BIL National Forest System programs are summarized below.

Table FS-88. National Forest System BIL spend plan (dollars in thousands).

Item	2023 Carry-over	2024 Appropriations	2024 Transfers In	2024 Transfers Out	2024 Total Available	2024 Obligations	2024 Carry-over
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness	\$25,066	-	-	-	\$25,066	\$18,800	\$6,266
Grazing Management.....	8,684	\$9,000	-	-\$3,026	14,658	10,994	3,664
Hazardous Fuels.....	83,896	197,800	\$8,152	-60,099	229,749	172,312	57,437
Forest Products.....	73,937	121,000	-	-35,099	159,838	119,879	39,959
Vegetation and Watershed Management.....	79,462	87,000	-	-24,528	141,934	106,451	35,483
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.....	14,980	20,000	-	-8,631	26,349	19,762	6,587
Minerals and Geology Management ..	2,002	15,000	-	-6,519	10,483	7,862	2,621
Byproducts.....	15,083	80,000	-	-48,843	46,240	34,680	11,560
Orphaned Wells .....	2,046	-	-	-	2,046	1,535	511
Salaries and Expenses.....	95,780	-	59,640	-	155,420	116,565	38,855
<b>Total, National Forest System .....</b>	<b>400,936</b>	<b>529,800</b>	<b>67,792</b>	<b>-186,745</b>	<b>811,783</b>	<b>608,840</b>	<b>202,943</b>

**Capital Improvement and Maintenance**

The BIL provides the Forest Service an additional amount for Capital Improvement and Maintenance of \$360 million. Of this total, \$72 million is appropriated each year starting in 2022 through 2026. Each fiscal year’s appropriation has a four-year period of availability. Funds are to carry out activities of the Legacy Road and Trails Remediation Program, for the construction of temporary roads or reconstruction and maintenance of roads to facilitate projects that reduce wildfire risk, and for the removal of non-hydropower Federal dams.

The Forest Service is maximizing the impact of this historic funding—streamlining systems and processes and expanding key partnerships to extend our reach beyond the Federal workforce’s capacity. Those partnerships include investing in national agreements with Trout Unlimited and National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance to support aquatic habitat improvement, road and trail resilience, and water quality. Funds will primarily be distributed via contract awards. Contract opportunities or procurement notices are announced through the Contract Opportunities website at SAM.gov<sup>90</sup>.

**2024 Projected Accomplishments**

- Increased ability to restore fish passages, decommission closed roads, prepare roads for long-term storage, relocate roads and convert roads to trails on National Forest System lands.
- Increased ability to construct temporary roads, reconstruct and maintain roads to facilitate forest restoration, and manage projects in support of the wildfire risk reduction.

<sup>90</sup> <https://sam.gov/content/opportunities>.

- Reduce risk from dam infrastructure through decommissioning of Forest Service owned dams.
- Increased operational capacity in support of the Forest Service’s mission to include human resource management, procurement and contracting, grants and agreements, budget formulation and execution and critical investments in technology.

The 2024 BIL Spending Plan for Capital Improvement and Maintenance programs are summarized below.

Table FS-89. Capital Improvement and Maintenance BIL spend plan (dollars in thousands).

Item	2023 Carry-over	2024 Appropriations	2024 Transfers In	2024 Transfers Out	2024 Total Available	2024 Obligations	2024 Carry-over
Roads .....	\$3,853	\$20,000	-	-\$3,925	\$19,928	\$15,544	\$4,384
Dams .....	541	2,000	-	-252	2,289	1,785	504
Legacy Roads and Trails.....	14,159	50,000	-	-12,312	51,847	40,441	11,406
<b>Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance .....</b>	<b>18,553</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-16,489</b>	<b>74,064</b>	<b>57,770</b>	<b>16,294</b>

**Wildland Fire Management**

The BIL provides the Forest Service an additional amount for Wildland Fire Management of \$696 million. Of this total, \$552,200,000 was appropriated in 2022 and \$36,000,000 is appropriated starting in 2023 through 2026. These funds remain available until expended. Funds are to carry out wildfire risk reduction activities for the Department of Agriculture as authorized in Division D Section 40803 of the Act. The Department of the Interior received complementary appropriations for wildland fire management, and the Department of the Interior and Forest Service are collaborating and coordinating an implementation plan.

One short-term challenge is implementing minor updates to human resources and pay systems to eliminate the need for manual updates. Additionally, there are also three long-term challenges to implementation: (1) reconciling the increased base pay policy with a potential new pay scale associated with the new distinct Wildland Firefighter occupational series; (2) updating human resources and pays systems to accommodate new base pay policy; and (3) creating a workforce management plan that ensures a sustainable and effective workforce of wildland firefighters. The Forest Service will also continue to expand existing capabilities to address and mitigate the significant mental health challenges and line-of-duty environmental hazards faced by our wildland firefighter workforce.

2024 Projected Accomplishments:

- Continuation of initiative started in 2021 to ensure equitable pay for firefighters.
- Coordination with the Department of the Interior and Office of Personnel Management to implement the new distinct occupational series and pay scale for firefighters that recognizes their specialized training and hazardous work they perform.
- Improvement in wildland firefighter workforce morale and retention through compensation and workforce management reform, including investment in mental and physical health programs.
- Increase in ability to recruit and retain wildland firefighters in certain geographic areas determined jointly with the Office of Personnel Management.

The 2024 Spend Plan for the BIL Wildland Fire Management programs are summarized below.

Table FS-90. Wildland Fire Management BIL spend plan (dollars in thousands).

Item	2023 Carry-over	2024 Appropriations	2024 Transfers In	2024 Transfers Out	2024 Total Available	2024 Obligations	2024 Carry-over
Preparedness .....	\$3,354	\$10,000	-	-\$5,710	\$7,644	\$4,719	\$2,925
Salaries and Expenses .....	3,187	-	\$3,543	-	6,730	6,663	67
Burned Area Recovery.....	11,593	20,000	-	-4,000	27,593	17,032	10,561
Detection Monitoring.....	4,044	-	-	-	4,044	2,496	1,548
Reverse 911.....	3,512	6,000	-	-1,250	8,262	5,099	3,163
<b>Total, Wildland Fire Management .</b>	<b>25,690</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>3,543</b>	<b>-10,960</b>	<b>54,273</b>	<b>36,009</b>	<b>18,264</b>

**FY 2024 TRANSFERS WITHIN APPROPRIATIONS**

**Background**

The Explanatory Statement for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023, included the following directive:

The Service is directed to include a list of approved administrative transfers for the previous fiscal year, including those made between accounts affected by budget restructuring and for hazardous fuels mitigation, in the annual budget submission.

**Transfers Between Accounts Affected by Budget Restructuring**

In fiscal year 2022, the Forest Service transferred \$26.874 million to Forest Service Operations from other Forest Service discretionary accounts for projects and activities related to budget restructuring. The table below displays each administrative transfer by account.

*Table FS-91. Administrative transfers by account.*

Item	2022 Actual
<b>Forest Service Operations</b>	
Transfers In:	
Forest and Rangeland Research .....	\$4,790
National Forest System .....	9,500
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....	2,750
Wildland Fire Management.....	9,834
Subtotal, Transfers In .....	26,874
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-4,790
<b>State, Private, and Tribal Forestry</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-2,750
<b>National Forest System</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-9,500
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-9,834

**Transfers Between Accounts Affected by Hazardous Fuels Mitigation**

In fiscal year 2022, there were no transfers between accounts affected by Hazardous Fuels mitigation.

**APPENDICES**

**NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND**

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), enacted in 2020, allows the Forest Service to repair and upgrade vital infrastructure and facilities in the national forests and grasslands through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund.

In 2024, the Forest Service proposes \$285 million for the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. These levels are subject to a 5.7 percent sequestration rate, and this is reflected in the tables below. The 2023 sequestration pop-up (payback), once returned, will act as the 2024 contingency fund. The Forest Service has developed the projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance. The full project information, including the project descriptions, will be transmitted to Congress concurrently with the 2024 Budget request. This project list may differ from that provided in an enacted appropriations bill.

*Table FS-92. 2024 National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund – Proposed Projects*

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Asset Types</b>	<b>FY 2024 Funding</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
1	01	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Deferred Maintenance	MT	Trail, Facility, Recreation Site	\$709,100	Work includes trail maintenance, road resurfacing, campground and signage repair, and toilet replacements.
2	01	Idaho Panhandle National Forests Deferred Maintenance	Idaho Panhandle National Forests Deferred Maintenance	ID	Trail, Trail Bridge	4,010,000	Work includes trail reconstruction and trail bridge replacements.
3	01	Flathead National Forest	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest	ID, MT	Road, Trail, Facility	1,545,000	Work includes cabin rental renovation, trail maintenance, and road repairs.
4	01	Custer Gallatin National Forest	Idaho Panhandle National Forests	MT, SD	Road, Recreation Site, Road Bridge	4,623,200	Work includes road and bridge repair, rental cabin renovation, trail maintenance, and toilet maintenance.
5	01	Kootenai National Forest	Kootenai National Forest Deferred Maintenance	MT	Recreation Site, Trail, Road, Water and Wastewater System	4,185,000	Work includes replacing a water and wastewater system, campground renovations, trail maintenance and rental cabin maintenance.
6	01	Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest	Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Deferred Maintenance	MT	Trail, Recreation Site, Road, Facility, Road Bridge	4,900,000	Work includes trail maintenance, campground renovations, sign replacements, road reconditioning, and rental cabin maintenance.
7	01	Lolo National Forest	Lolo Timber and Fuels Access Roads	MT	Road	265,000	This multi-year project provides access for the Soldier Butler and Sawmill Petty projects, which are critical to Lolo National Forest timber and fuels targets. The project improves the transportation system, wildland-urban interface fire protection, water quality and aquatics, and safety. The project will construct, reconstruct, and relocate road for fire/fuels and timber access, and replace undersized culverts to meet aquatic organism passage standard.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
8	01	Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests	Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Deferred Maintenance	ID, MT	Road, Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge	2,770,500	Work includes trail maintenance, recreation facility replacements, and toilet repairs.
9	01	Dakota Prairie Grasslands	North Country National Scenic Trail Deferred Maintenance	ND	Trail	130,000	This project will resurface the trail with specified aggregate to reduce erosion, protect drainage areas, and meet user expectations.
10	01	Aerial Fire Depot	Missoula Smokejumper Visitor Center Renovation	MT	Facility - Fire	1,128,000	This project will fully renovate both floors and increase usable space. Project work will improve signage, information and interpretive displays, modernize bathrooms, improve lighting, restore facility HVAC service, and conduct asbestos abatement. Additionally, the project will improve accessibility for visitors and staff.
11	02	Bighorn National Forest	Bighorn National Forest Deferred Maintenance	WY	Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site, Facility	1,709,000	Work includes road and road bridge repairs, trailhead maintenance, and facility maintenance.
12	02	Black Hills National Forest	Black Hills National Forest Deferred Maintenance	SD	Dam, Recreation Site, Trail	1,811,000	Work includes dam repair and trail and trailhead maintenance.
13	02	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests Deferred Maintenance	CO	Road, Recreation Site, Trail	1,090,000	Work includes trail and trailhead maintenance, campground renovations, and toilet replacements.
14	02	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland Deferred Maintenance	CO, WY	Recreation Site, Facility, Water System	2,182,000	Work includes toilet maintenance, campground renovations, and trail maintenance.
15	02	Nebraska National Forest	Bessey Recreation Complex Sidewalk Repair and Group Electrical Upgrades	NE	Recreation Site	85,000	This project will consist of replacing sidewalks that have become unsafe and in disrepair at the Bessey Recreation Complex and upgrading the electrical at the Cedar loop and group campground.
16	02	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Deferred Maintenance	CO	Facility, Recreation Site, Water and Wastewater System, Road, Trail, Trail Bridge	3,099,000	Work includes water system repair, facility maintenance, toilet repair, and other recreation enhancements.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
17	02	Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands	Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National Grasslands Deferred Maintenance	CO, KS	Road, Trail, Facility, Recreation Site, Water and Wastewater System	1,462,000	Work includes trail and trailhead maintenance, facility maintenance, toilet replacements, and water system repair.
18	02	San Juan National Forest	San Juan National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CO	Road, Recreation Site	450,000	Work includes recreation site maintenance, road repaving, and campground renovations.
19	02	Shoshone National Forest	Shoshone Developed Recreation Deferred Maintenance	WY	Recreation Site	60,000	This project will replace old picnic tables, fire rings, and grills; repair water system pumping systems; and complete toilet maintenance work to meet accessibility standards in the highly popular recreation sites throughout the forest.
20	02	White River National Forest	White River National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CO	Recreation Site, Trail, Water System	8,850,000	Work includes toilet repair, trail maintenance, campground and rental cabin maintenance.
21	02	Rocky Mountain Regional Office	Colorado Fourteeners Trail Deferred Maintenance	CO, NM	Trail	355,500	This project will address severe resource damage caused by extremely fragile alpine environment combined with user-created trails and heavy visitation. The work completed will create sustainable trails to improve resource conditions and visitor experience.
22	03	Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest	Forest-wide Developed Recreation Site Renovation	AZ	Facility, Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Water System	900,000	This project will address recreation site deferred maintenance work that includes, but is not limited to, pavement, site amenity replacements, replacement of signs and markers, and installation of kiosks to improve visitor safety, and interpretive and payment information.
23	03	Carson National Forest	Hopewell Lake Day Use and Campground Renovations and Improvements	NM	Recreation Site, Road, Wastewater System, Water System	1,089,800	Renovations and improvements to both the day use and campground at Hopewell Lake are sought to help increase the efficiency of maintaining and operating facilities. Improvements including toilet facility repair, replacement of the day use entrance gate, fee station, and entrance sign.
24	03	Coconino National Forest	Coconino National Forest Deferred Maintenance	AZ	Recreation Site, Road, Trail	1,455,200	Work includes campground renovations, recreation sign replacements, and road and trail maintenance.
25	03	Coronado National Forest	Coronado National Forest Deferred Maintenance	AZ	Road, Road Bridge, Trail, Recreation Site	3,325,000	Work includes road realignment and reconstruction and bridge repair, trail maintenance, and recreation enhancements.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
26	03	Gila National Forest	Gila Wilderness and Urban Interface Trail Access Improvement	NM	Trail	500,000	The Gila Wilderness is a premier destination that offers exceptional opportunities for solitude and backcountry adventure; however, trail access is often problematic due to the impacts from fire and subsequent flooding. This project aims to restore access to this unique, rugged, and exceptional area through focused efforts on arterial trails and other key access points.
27	03	Lincoln National Forest	Cedar Creek Trail Access Improvement	NM	Recreation Site	50,000	This project evolved from a partnership within the greater Ruidoso area to provide a cohesive network of trails. This project includes trailhead design and development, installation of a pedestrian and bike bridge, water crossings and construction of an accessible trail.
28	03	Prescott National Forest	Prescott Trails Maintenance	AZ	Trail	450,000	This project will reduce deferred maintenance on trails by brushing and repairing drainage structures.
29	03	Santa Fe National Forest	Santa Fe National Forest Deferred Maintenance	NM	Recreation Site, Trail	4,169,900	Work includes recreation site maintenance and trail maintenance.
30	03	Southwestern Regional Office	Southwestern Region Deferred Maintenance	AZ, NM	Recreation Site, Trail	1,131,000	Work includes trail and recreation site maintenance at various sites throughout the region.
31	04	Boise National Forest	Sage Hen Recreation Area Reconstruction	ID	Facility, Recreation Site, Road, Water System	2,055,500	This project will improve the visitor experience at the popular, high use, Sage Hen Reservoir Recreation area. The project will renovate campgrounds and boat ramps.
32	04	Bridger-Teton National Forest	Upper Green River Corridor Road Improvement, Phase One	WY	Recreation Site, Road, Water System	707,900	The Upper Green River corridor is a high use recreational corridor that also provides access to forest products. This project will resurface the road, renovate recreation site, and repair the water system.
33	04	Fishlake National Forest	Fishlake National Forest Deferred Maintenance	UT	Road, Recreation Site, Water and Wastewater System	3,989,000	Work includes recreation site maintenance and access road repairs.
34	04	Manti-La Sal National Forest	Manti-La Sal National Forest Road and Trail Signage	CO, UT	Recreation Site, Road, Trail	110,600	This forest-wide sign project includes inventorying, planning, purchasing, and installing new road and trail signs.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
35	04	Salmon-Challis National Forest	Boundary-Dagger Road Repair	ID	Road	1,800,000	The Boundary and Dagger Roads provide the only access to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Traffic is estimated at 30,000 per season, and the high use has damaged the road as well as created a need for improvements for safety. Sediment into sensitive streams will be eradicated.
36	04	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CA, NV	Road, Road Bridge, Trail, Trail Bridge	1,515,000	Work includes bridge replacements and trail maintenance.
37	04	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest	Historic Guinavah-Malibu Civilian Conservation Corps Campground and Amphitheater Reconstruction	UT	Facility, Recreation Site, Road, Wastewater System, Water System	2,684,100	This project includes repairs to the Guinavah-Malibu Civilian Conservation Corps Amphitheater's original stonework and seating. Additional work includes reconstruction of restrooms, roads, trails and interpretive signage.
38	04	Intermountain Regional Office	Idaho Airstrip	ID	Recreation Site	750,000	To improve the safety and accessibility of Idaho's backcountry, the Forest Service will address deferred maintenance on the airstrips that serve both the recreational public and Forest Service operations. Work will likely include drainage improvements, surface grading, aviation markers, approach clear zones, windsocks, tiedowns, information signboards, campsites, latrines, and associated facility repair and maintenance.
39	05	Angeles National Forest	Angeles National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CA	Recreation Site	2,245,000	This project will renovate campgrounds on the Angeles National Forest.
40	05	Cleveland National Forest	Upper San Juan Campground Renovation	CA	Facility, Recreation Site, Road	325,000	To improve visitor experience at the Upper San Juan Campground, this project addresses outstanding maintenance items on the access road and campground. Project work includes but is not limited to replacing barriers, fire rings, picnic tables, trash receptacles, gates, culverts, and vault toilets.
41	05	Eldorado National Forest	Eldorado National Forest	CA	Road, Trail, Recreation Site	700,000	Work includes trailhead maintenance and recreation facility maintenance.
42	05	Inyo National Forest	Day Use Sites Safety and Accessibility Improvements	CA	Facility, Recreation Site, Road, Trail	420,000	This project will fix major safety and accessibility deficiencies at four heavily used day use sites on the Inyo National Forest. Accessibility, safety, pedestrian flow, and site layout will all be analyzed and updated.



2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
43	05	Klamath National Forest	Forest-wide Interpretive Signs and Trail Markers	CA, OR	Recreation Site	25,000	This project addresses outstanding signage maintenance with forest-wide repairs and replacement of kiosks and information display panels at campgrounds, day use sites, and trailheads.
44	05	Lassen National Forest	Forest-wide Toilet Replacement	CA	Facility, Recreation Site, Wastewater System	510,000	Many of the vault and flush toilets were constructed decades ago and have exceeded their useful life. Project work includes repairing or replacing toilet buildings. The work will also include updated fixtures and plumbing and replacement of a wastewater system.
45	05	Modoc National Forest	Modoc National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CA	Recreation Site, Road, Trail	2,750,000	Work includes campground maintenance, road maintenance, and trail maintenance.
46	05	Six Rivers National Forest	Six Rivers National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CA	Road, Road Bridge, Water and Wastewater System, Recreation Site	1,210,000	Work includes road sign replacements and recreation facility and water system maintenance.
47	05	San Bernardino National Forest	San Bernardino National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CA	Road, Water System, Recreation Site	428,500	Work includes campground and recreation site renovations, water system repair, and road maintenance.
48	05	Sequoia National Forest	Southern Sierra Campground and Day Use Site Toilet Replacement and Accessibility Upgrades	CA	Facility, Recreation Site	54,000	This project addresses current deficiencies that exist at developed recreation sites on the Inyo, Sierra, Sequoia and Stanislaus National Forests by replacing outdated vault toilets in high use recreation areas accessible facilities. Additional work includes accessible paths from roadway to toilet facilities and other site improvements.
49	05	Sierra National Forest	Sierra Vista Scenic Byway Rehabilitation Project	CA	Road	4,400,000	Scenic Byway roads, campgrounds and vista points are in poor condition. Work includes chip seal for paved roads and campgrounds, base rock for gravel roads, and replacement of regulatory, warning, road destination and recreation site identification signs.
50	05	Pacific Southwest Regional Office	Pacific Southwest Region Deferred Maintenance	CA	Road, Recreation Site	855,000	Work includes safety repairs on roads and recreation facility maintenance across the region.
51	05	Stanislaus National Forest	Accessible Toilet Replacement	CA	Facility, Recreation site, Water System	2,250,000	This project addresses legal non-compliance challenges and provide recreation facilities which are universally accessible and meet Accessibility Guidelines. The existing wooden vault toilets are more than 40 years old.
52	05	Tahoe National Forest	Tahoe National Forest Deferred Maintenance	CA	Road, Trail, Facility, Recreation Site	18,880,000	Work includes facility repair and replacement, campground renovations, and road maintenance.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
53	06	Deschutes National Forest	Forest-wide Trail Bridge Reconstruction	OR	Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge	4,000	This project will replace trail bridges. The Deschutes National Forest is known for outstanding recreational opportunities, and its trails system is one of the primary attractions. This project will replace failed or failing trail bridges that provide critical infrastructure and trail connectivity for some of the most popular trails.
54	06	Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Gifford Pinchot National Forest Deferred Maintenance	WA	Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site	6,218,000	Work includes road and bridge repairs and facility maintenance.
55	06	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Deferred Maintenance	WA	Dam, Road, Trail, Trail Bridge, Road Bridge	1,780,000	Work includes road maintenance, trail maintenance, dam repairs, and road and trail bridge repairs.
56	06	Umpqua National Forest	South Umpqua Transportation Remediation and Watershed Improvement to Aid in Critical Access and Aquatic Organism Passage	OR	Road, Road Bridge	2,000,000	This project will replace critical infrastructure to provide access for recreation visitors and natural resource management on 300,000 acres of the Umpqua National Forest. These routes provide the only road access to cultural sites for tribes and the public. This project will eliminate deferred maintenance and improve access and safety on roads that will likely soon need to be closed if not repaired.
57	06	Wallowa-Whitman National Forest	Scenic Byway Road Pavement Maintenance and Chip Seal	OR	Road	1,600,000	This project entails patch and chip sealing major paved roads on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. These roads impact Baker City, Granite and La Grande, and are known as the Elkhorn Scenic Byway.
58	06	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest	Selkirks to Surf: North Cascades Recreation Scenic Corridor	WA	Recreation Site, Trail, Trail Bridge, Wastewater System, Water System	3,625,000	This project addresses deferred maintenance on trails, bridges, campgrounds, and scenic viewpoints along a high use corridor, which will provide for diverse recreation, improve visitor access, experience, and safety, and provide local economic benefits.
59	06	Willamette National Forest	Willamette National Forest Trail Bridge Replacement	OR	Trail, Trail Bridge	30,000	The Willamette Trail Bridge Replacement project involves the replacement of several bridges along high-use, high-priority trails that have either failed or are nearing failure. The bridges provide critical linkages and resource protection along popular trails.
60	06	Colville National Forest	Colville National Forest Deferred Maintenance	WA	Recreation Site, Trail	990,000	Work includes recreation site rehabilitation and trail maintenance.
61	06	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Deferred Maintenance	OR, WA	Recreation Site	2,136,800	Work includes recreation site renovations and trailhead maintenance.

## 2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
62	06	Pacific Northwest Regional Office	Pacific Northwest Region Deferred Maintenance	OR, WA, ID	Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site, Road	4,950,000	Work includes trail maintenance, trail bridge replacements, recreation site maintenance, and culvert replacements for aquatic organism passage across the region.
63	08	National Forests in Florida	Osceola Administrative Office	FL	Facility, Water System	6,950,000	This project will rebuild the Osceola administrative facility. The current office is a dated research facility with asbestos and mold problems as well as a roof and HVAC system beyond their usable life. The work center is non-existent and instead is a mix of old buildings and trailers.
64	08	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Deferred Maintenance	VA	Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site, Wastewater System	6,300,000	Work includes trail bridge replacements, wastewater system replacement, trail maintenance, and recreation site improvements.
65	08	Ozark-St. Francis National Forests	Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Deferred Maintenance	AR	Road, Facility	3,050,000	Work includes facility maintenance and road reconstruction.
66	08	Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests	Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Deferred Maintenance	SC	Trail, Recreation Site	7,750,000	Work includes recreation site improvements and trail maintenance.
83	08	Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area	Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area Deferred Maintenance	KY	Facility, Recreation Site, Road	210,000	Work includes recreation site and parking improvements.
67	09	Chippewa National Forest	Chippewa National Forest Deferred Maintenance	MN	Recreation Site	839,500	Work includes campground renovations and other recreation site enhancements.
68	09	Huron-Manistee National Forests	Pere Marquette Wild and Scenic River Green Cottage Access Improvements	MI	Facility, Recreation Site, Road	425,000	Funds will be used to address deferred maintenance at the Pere Marquette Wild and Scenic River Green Cottage Access. This project includes the repair or replacement of the existing boat slide, boardwalk, and stairs, as well as other minor site improvements including signage upgrades, vault toilet, new fee tube and information board, picnic tables, benches, fencing, gates, and animal resistant trash cans.
69	09	Mark Twain National Forest	Crane Lake Dam Rehabilitation and Forest Road 2113 Improvement	MO	Dam, Road	2,266,000	The Crane Lake Dam rehabilitation project will repair the more than 60-year-old high hazard dam. The project will repair the structural integrity, meet seismic requirements, and be fully compliant of all Federal dam regulations. Road access to the dam and will be improved to accommodate construction activities and future administrative needs.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
70	09	Ottawa National Forest	Nesbit Road Rehabilitation	MI	Road	501,000	This project will rehabilitate areas along Nesbit Road by replacing aggregate to re-establish the crown, replace culverts, and re-ditch. The lack of gravel on the current road makes it difficult to grade properly so that school buses and large passenger vans can drive it safely.
71	09	Shawnee National Forest	Lake Glendale Rehabilitation Project	IL	Dam, Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Trail Bridge, Wastewater System	957,000	This project addresses significant age-related deterioration of facilities at the Lake Glendale recreation area. Work includes replacing the electric line serving the entire site, replacing toilet buildings, shower buildings, beach house, picnic shelters, and campsite features. Also included is work to the on the dam, roads, and trail.
72	09	Hiawatha National Forest	Hiawatha National Forest Deferred Maintenance	MI	Trail, Trail Bridge, Road, Road Bridge, Recreation Site	1,815,000	Work includes recreation site maintenance, bridge replacements, and trail maintenance.
73	09	Hoosier National Forest	Hardin Ridge Campground Bathroom Improvement	IN	Facility, Recreation Site	741,400	This project will replace bathroom and shower facilities at the Hardin Ridge campground.
74	09	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Deferred Maintenance	WI	Trail, Recreation Site	510,000	Work includes fishing pier replacement and trail maintenance.
75	09	Allegheny National Forest	Allegheny National Forest Deferred Maintenance	PA	Road, Recreation Site	8,372,000	Work includes road reconstruction, dam repair, and recreation site improvements.
76	09	Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests	Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests Deferred Maintenance	VT	Trail, Road, Road Bridge, Dam, Recreation Site, Trail Bridge	840,600	Work includes trail bridge replacements, recreation facility maintenance, road and road bridge repair, and dam maintenance.
77	09	Monongahela National Forest	Holcomb Bridge Replacement	WV	Road, Road Bridge	685,000	This project will fund the design and construction of a replacement for Holcomb Bridge.
78	09	White Mountain National Forest	White Mountain National Forest Deferred Maintenance	NH	Trail	350,300	Work includes trail maintenance.
79	10	Chugach National Forest	Chugach National Forest Deferred Maintenance	AK	Trail, Trail Bridge, Recreation Site	1,948,000	Work includes recreation site improvements, campground renovations, rental cabin maintenance, trail maintenance, and trail bridge replacements.
80	10	Tongass National Forest	Tongass National Forest Deferred Maintenance	AK	Trail, Facility, Recreation Site, Trail Bridge, Road, Road Bridge	20,918,000	Work includes facility maintenance, trail maintenance, campground renovations, bridge repairs, and other recreation site enhancements.

2024 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	Project Name	State	Asset Types	FY 2024 Funding	Project Description
81	R&D	Forest Products Laboratory	Building 34 Parking Lot Replacement	WI	Facility	500,000	This project includes the full replacement of a parking lot at the Forest Products Laboratory. Research here boosts productivity of National Forest System lands by improving forest health through development of value-added products from woody biomass.
82	All	Various	National Priority Housing Deferred Maintenance Projects	Various	Facility - Housing	24,547,600	This project will address deferred maintenance at employee housing facilities throughout the nation.

<b>Total, 2024 Legacy Restoration Funding .....</b>	<b>220,965,000</b>
2024 Sequestration (5.7%) .....	16,245,000
Administrative Funds .....	21,000,000
Contingency .....	26,790,000
<b>Total, National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund..</b>	<b><u>285,000,000</u></b>

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

**2024 Land and Water Conservation Fund Proposed Acquisition Lists**

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), enacted in 2020, permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), investing in conservation and recreation opportunities in public and private lands.

In 2024, the Forest Service is requesting \$123.9 million for Federal Land Acquisition projects and program administration and \$94 million for Forest Legacy projects and program administration. These levels are subject to a 5.7 percent sequestration rate, and this is reflected in the tables below. The Forest Service has developed the projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance. The full project sheets will be transmitted to Congress concurrently with the 2024 Budget request. These project lists may differ from those provided in an enacted appropriations bill.

Treasures of the Central Appalachians – The 2024 Budget submission for LWCF directly supports the *Treasures of the Central Appalachians* to strengthen conservation in this ecologically rich and culturally significant region. The Budget proposes \$11.6 million for land acquisition projects in West Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. These projects will advance key forest conservation priorities including watershed protection, protection of habitat for at-risk-species, and preserve access for outdoor recreation in some of the most pristine national forests in the eastern United States.

*Table FS-93. 2024 National Forest System Land Acquisition Program – Proposed Projects*

Priority Order	Forest	State	Project	Request
1	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee NF I	\$12,000,000
2	Rio Grande National Forest	CO	Rio Grande National Forest	8,000,000
3	White River National Forest	CO	White River National Forest	1,250,000
4	Lolo National Forest	MT	Lolo National Forest	10,500,000
5	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee NF II	7,000,000
6	Prescott National Forest	AZ	Prescott National Forest I	10,340,000
7	Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest	GA	Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest	3,844,000
8	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest II	1,620,000
9	Coronado National Forest	AZ	Coronado National Forest I	2,500,000
10	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest	UT	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest	4,000,000
11	National Forests in Alabama	AL	National Forests in Alabama	4,150,000
12	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest I	1,926,136
13	San Juan National Forest	CO	San Juan National Forest	4,000,000
14	Shasta-Trinity National Forest	CA	Shasta-Trinity National Forest	2,000,000
15	White Mountain National Forest	ME	White Mountain National Forest	3,177,500
16	Multiple Forests	WV, NC, TN	Treasures of the Central Appalachians	11,649,000
<b>Subtotal, Project Funds</b>				<b>87,956,636</b>
5.7% Sequestration				5,316,573
Recreation Access				11,006,012
Acquisition Management				13,855,779
Critical Inholdings/Wilderness				5,500,000
Cash Equalization				250,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>123,885,000</b>

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<b>Priority Order</b>	<b>Forest</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Request</b>
17	Coronado National Forest	AZ	Coronado National Forest II	5,400,000
18	Ouachita National Forest	AR	Ouachita National Forest	8,370,000
19	Kootenai National Forest	MT	Kootenai National Forest	1,500,000
20	Custer Gallatin National Forest	MT	Custer Gallatin National Forest	1,500,000
21	Prescott National Forest	AZ	Prescott National Forest II	8,160,000
22	San Bernardino National Forest	CA	San Bernardino National Forest	10,000,000
23	Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest	WI	Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest II	630,000
24	Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest I	WI	Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest I	1,200,000
25	Black Hills National Forest	SD	Black Hills National Forest	2,000,000
26	Cleveland National Forest	CA	Cleveland National Forest	3,300,000
<b>Total, Supplemental Project List</b>				<b>42,060,000</b>
Supplemental 5.7% Sequestration				2,576,786
Supplemental Acquisition Management Funds				4,704,154
<b>Total Funding</b>				<b>173,225,940</b>

Table FS-94. Fiscal Year 2024 Forest Legacy Program – Proposed Projects

Rank	State	Project Name	Funding Level
1	MT	Upper Thompson Connectivity Project	\$7,000,000
2	MI	Michigamme Highlands Project	15,075,000
3	MS	Wolf River Forest Conservation Project	7,500,000
4	HI	Maunawili Valley Project	3,605,000
5	GA	Dugdown Mountain Corridor Stateline Georgia Project	17,500,000
6	MA	Nashua Wild & Scenic Rivers and Forests Project	8,615,000
7	IA	Little Sioux Forest Project	4,650,000
8	ME	South Branch Forest Project	1,150,000
9	VA	Buffalo Mountain Natural Area Preserve Expansion Project	9,500,000
10	CA	Brushy Mountain Phase 3, Eel River Peninsula Project <sup>1</sup>	6,287,465
Administrative Funds			8,000,000
5.7% Sequestration			5,372,535
Subtotal Project Funds			80,882,465
<b>Total, Forest Legacy Program</b>			<b>94,255,000</b>
	CA	Brushy Mountain Phase 3, Eel River Peninsula Project	3,762,535
11	AL	Dugdown Mountain Corridor Stateline Alabama	3,750,000
12	NC	Roanoke River Bottomlands Forest Project	3,000,000
13	UT	Bear River Mountains Connectivity Project	5,340,000
14	SD	Big Sioux River Forest Project	1,490,000
15	ID	Spirit of Mount Spokane Conservation Project-Phase 1	18,000,000
16	WA	Mt. Adams Forest Project	8,250,000
17	OR	Tualatin Mountain Forest Project	10,245,000
<b>Subtotal Project List</b>			<b>53,837,535</b>
<b>Total Project Funds</b>			<b>140,092,535</b>
<b>Total Administrative Funds</b>			<b>8,000,000</b>
<b>Total Forest Legacy<sup>2,3</sup></b>			<b>148,092,535</b>

<sup>1</sup> Project #10, California’s Brushy Mountain Phase 3 is a partial funding for the project. Total requested funding is \$10,050,000.

<sup>2</sup> Total applications received for 2024; 36 projects \$234 million requested.

<sup>3</sup> Proposed project list as cleared by USDA.