



CWSF
COUNCIL OF WESTERN
STATE FORESTERS

PACIFIC ISLAND APPROPRIATIONS

FY2017 APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization comprised of 17 Western U.S. state foresters and six U.S.-Affiliated Pacific island foresters.

The USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) State & Private Forestry (S&PF) programs are critically important to Western state and territorial foresters. S&PF programs leverage state and private investments to protect the nearly 500 million acres of non-federal forest lands in the United States, which comprise most of the nation's forest land.

Pacific Island foresters support the following Forest Service S&PF programs in fiscal year (FY) 2017 and future years.

FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT (FHM) COOPERATIVE LANDS

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) recommends \$48 million in FY2017

The FHM - Cooperative Lands program provides funding assistance to address forest health issues on non-federal forest lands. Funds are used to complete surveys and provide technical support that aids states and U.S.-Affiliated islands in the prevention, detection, restoration and eradication of damaging native and invasive forest insects, diseases and plants.

In the Northern Mariana Islands, FHM - Cooperative Lands dollars help suppress and control the spread of the scarlet gourd, the most invasive and serious threat to the health of Northern Mariana Islands.¹

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (FSP)

NASF recommends \$29 million in FY2017

The FSP funds provide technical, educational, and related services to private forest landowners to help them better protect, maintain, restore, and preserve their forest lands. A primary component of the Program is the comprehensive, multi-resource, long-term Stewardship Plans.

In Guam, the FSP provided technical assistance and 3,734 saplings to five cooperators to minimize the occurrences of wildfire in the grassland area, protect soil and water resources, as well as to create habitat for native fauna.²





URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY (U&CF)

NASF recommends \$31 million in FY2017

The U&CF Program provides critical assistance for healthy forest resources in urban areas and rural communities. Among other items, urban and community forests support clean air and water, energy conservation, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and much more.

In American Samoa, the number one long-term strategy to enhance the public benefits from trees and forests is to work with villages, families, government agencies, schools and the college to increase native trees in urban in coastal zones.³

STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE (SFA)

NASF recommends \$87 million in FY2017

The SFA Program provides crucial help to states, territories and local communities with wildland firefighting response, capacity building, prevention, education, and wildfire mitigation. Among other items, the program supports interagency partnerships, funding to complete hazardous fuels projects on private lands, the training of firefighters, and assists local communities in preparing and planning for wildfire.

In Guam, wildfire is a primary disturbance that affects forest and watershed health. SFA dollars were used, in part, to respond to 28 wildfires in 2016 and for various wildfire education trainings.⁴

LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION (LSR)

NASF recommends \$23 million in FY2017

The LSR Program focuses funding assistance on non-federal lands projects in high priority areas identified within states and territories Statewide Assessment and Strategies for Forest Resources (Forest Action Plans). Projects support achieving the S&PF national themes to conserve, protect, and enhance our state and private forests.

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM (FLP)

NASF recommends \$62 million in FY2017

The principal focus of FLP is to protect environmentally sensitive private forest lands, identified in Forest Action Plans, that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Lands are protected through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases with partners in order to keep working forests working and to sustain the numerous benefits forests provide.

In Kosrae of the Federated States of Micronesia, the FLP has completed its first conservation easement, protecting one parcel of the largest remaining freshwater “ka” forest in the world. The FY17 President’s Budget includes funds for the second major tract of this project.⁵

To learn more about how the territorial and commonwealth foresters of the Pacific Islands implement Forest Service S&PF programs on the ground visit <http://www.stateforesters.org/regional-state>.

¹ Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy. 2010 - 2015+. <http://www.stateforesters.org/forest-action-plans/northern-mariana-islands>. Last accessed October 2016.

² Guam State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet. 2016. http://www.stateforesters.org/sites/default/files/publication-documents/GUFY2016Standard_0.pdf. Last accessed October 2016.

³ American Samoa National Priorities Section: New Section or Addendum to Forest Action Plan. 2015. <http://www.stateforesters.org/sites/default/files/publication-documents/American%20Samoa%20National%20Priorities%20Section.pdf>. Last accessed October 2016.

⁴ Guam State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet. 2016. http://www.stateforesters.org/sites/default/files/publication-documents/GUFY2016Standard_0.pdf. Last accessed October 2016.

⁵ USDA FS FY17 Budget Overview. <http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fy-2017-fs-budget-overview.pdf>. Last accessed October 2016.