



CWSF
COUNCIL OF WESTERN
STATE FORESTERS

PHOTO OF GUAM BY HAWAII DLNR

PACIFIC ISLANDS APPROPRIATIONS

FY2018 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 and related programs are critically important to Western state and territorial foresters. These 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 and related programs in fiscal year (FY) 2018.

FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT (FHM) - COOPERATIVE LANDS

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) recommends \$48 million in FY2018

The breadfruit tree is a nutritious, fruit bearing tree of the Pacific Islands.¹ Rota, the southernmost island of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), is experiencing an attack of the "black sock" root rot disease caused by *Phellinus noxius*. This aggressive fungus can attack and kill over 400 tropical tree species, including breadfruit trees. This fungus has been found in Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), CNMI, Guam and American Samoa. Over the past five years, researchers have been working hard to identify how the fungus is being spread and determine methods for controlling the fungus.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (FSP)

NASF recommends \$29 million in FY2018

The FSP funds provide technical, educational, and related services to private landowners to help them sustainably manage their forest lands today and for future generations. The FSP is the primary program of the Forest Service focused on private lands conservation. A key component of the Program is the comprehensive, multi-resource Stewardship Plans.

In Guam, the FSP provided funding to the Manell Watershed reforestation project. Four thousand *Acacia auriculiformis* saplings were planted in an effort to reforest two properties in the village of Merizo to prevent yearly occurrences of wildfires, frequent flooding and soil erosion prevention.²



PHOTO OF PALAU BY JOEL MILES

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY (U&CF)

NASF recommends \$31 million in FY2018

The U&CF Program provides critical assistance to support healthy forest resources in urban areas and rural communities. Trees and forests are America's green infrastructure, serving communities across the United States. Among other items, urban and community forests support clean air and water, energy conservation, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and improve human health.



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 coastal zones.³

STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE (SFA)

NASF recommends \$87 million in FY2018

The SFA Program provides crucial help to states and territories with wildland firefighting suppression, 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.

Wildfire is a primary disturbance on several islands that affects forest and watershed health. SFA dollars were used, in part, for developing community wildfire protection plans, creating shaded fuel breaks, and training local community members in basic firefighting techniques.

LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION (LSR)

NASF recommends \$23 million in FY2018

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.

The Micronesia Conversation Trust secured FY16 and FY17 LSR grants to support the state forestry programs of FSM, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), CNMI, Guam and Palau in monitoring forest conditions in Micronesia Challenge conservation areas, with technical assistance from the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program. The Micronesia Challenge (MC) is a commitment by the FSM, RMI, Palau, Guam, and CNMI to preserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific traditions, cultures and livelihoods. The MC goal is to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

The MC aims to monitor plots in Micronesia every 5 years, and install additional plots within protected areas. Using the FIA sampling design and protocols for monitoring conservation areas allows the data to be compared to other, similar forests in the region and provide a better gauge of forest health in the FSM.⁴

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM (FLP)

NASF recommends \$62 million in FY2018

The FLP protects environmentally sensitive private forest lands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases with partners. This programs helps to keep working forests working and to sustain the numerous benefits that 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. Kosrae continues to make progress toward acquisition of a second and third (funded in FY17) easement to complete protection of private lands in the Yela Valley.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 *Artocarpus altilis* (S. Park.) Fosb. Breadfruit. Breadnut. Moraceae. Mulberry family. 1994. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/30346>. Last accessed October 2017.

² Guam State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet. 2017. <http://stateforesters.org/sites/default/files/publication-documents/GUFY2017Standard.pdf>. Last accessed August 2017.

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 Federated States of Micronesia State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet. 2017. <http://stateforesters.org/sites/default/files/publication-documents/FMFY2017Standard.pdf>.

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