

NASF Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2018

USDA Forest Service Programs



ABOUT NASF

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is composed of the directors of state and territorial forestry agencies and the District of Columbia.

NASF represents state and territorial forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to optimize social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees and forests.

Learn more at www.stateforesters.org

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Support the suite of USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry (S&PF) and related programs to bolster America's economy and environment.

S&PF programs leverage state and private investments to protect the nearly 500 million acres of non-federal forestland in the United States, which comprise most of the nation's forestland. State Foresters provide a cost-effective boots-on-the-ground network to deliver federal programs and use Forest Action Plans to target resources where they are needed most.

- **Forest Stewardship Program – FY18 Recommendation: \$29 million**
Equips landowners with the information and knowledge to sustainably manage their forests for current and future generations. Through technical assistance services for private forest landowners, the program supports sustainable forest management and provides forest products, wildlife habitat, clean water and air, renewable energy and recreation.
- **State Fire Assistance/Volunteer Fire Assistance – FY18 Recommendation: \$87 million (SFA)/\$15 million (VFA)**
Provides crucial financial and technical assistance to states and local fire departments for wildland fire prevention, detection, and suppression. In addition to helping ensure that the nation's first responders are prepared, the program provides funding to complete hazardous fuels treatments designed to protect local communities from wildland fire and reduce the risk of future fires.
- **Urban and Community Forestry – FY18 Recommendation: \$31 million**
Enables critical assistance to communities in establishing and managing local urban and community forestry resources. The program helps keep trees and forests in our communities healthy, which benefits more than 220 million people—or 83 percent of the population—who live in urban areas in the United States.
- **Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) – FY18 Recommendation: \$23 million**
Key projects that enable states, in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and other partners, to address critical forest priorities across the landscape. LSR projects focus only on the most critical priorities identified in each state's Forest Action Plan and on achieving national goals as laid out in the State and Private Forestry national themes.
- **Forest Health Management Program on Cooperative Lands – FY18 Recommendation: \$48 million**
Leverages state efforts to restore forest landscapes and improve their long-term health and resilience. Fights the spread of tree-killing insects such as emerald ash borer, southern pine beetle, Asian longhorned beetle and sudden oak death. Offers technical support and funding assistance to states for prevention, detection, and control of nationally harmful invasive plants and storm damage recovery. Projects are based on the highest national priority needs including forest restoration and reducing wildfire risk.
- **Forest Inventory & Analysis Program (FIA) – FY18 Recommendation: \$83 million**
FIA is the nation's forest census and is the most comprehensive national forest inventory system in the world. FIA data are used to assess forest health and the spread of non-native insects and diseases, make economic planning decisions, monitor wildlife habitat, gauge wildfire risk and assess rates of land use change. Without FIA data, forest managers, landowners and policy makers would be unable to effectively monitor forest trends and make informed management decisions, with potentially dire consequences for our nation's forests and everyone they benefit.
- **Forest Legacy Program – FY18 Recommendation: \$62 million**
Provides critical federal assistance to states, private landowners, and conservation groups to protect working forests through permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions. Working forests play an important role to sustain the economic, ecological, and social well-being of America's rural and urban areas through the jobs they support and the benefits they provide, such as wildfire threat reduction, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation space.