

FOREST SERVICE*Table NRE-5. FS Budget Authority (millions of dollars)*

Program	2016 Actual	2017 Estimate	2018 Budget
Discretionary Accounts:			
Forest and Rangeland Research	\$291	\$290	\$259
State and Private Forestry.....	237	237	118
National Forest System:			
Hazardous Fuels Reduction ^a	375	374	354
Forest Products	360	359	359
Law Enforcement Operations	127	126	129
Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.....	262	261	253
Other NFS Activities	760	760	652
Total, NFS	1,884	1,880	1,747
Wildland Fire Activities:			
Preparedness	1,083	1,081	1,340
Suppression.....	811	809	1,057
Other Fire Operations ^a	118	117	99
Total, Wildland Fire Activities.....	2,011	2,008	2,495
Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....	364	363	100
Land Acquisition accounts	65	64	8
Other Accounts.....	5	5	4
Total, On-going Discretionary Programs	4,857	4,848	4,731
FLAME Fund	823	821	0
Fire Transfer Repayment.....	700	0	0
Total, Discretionary Programs	6,380	5,669	4,731
Mandatory Programs:			
Permanent Appropriations.....	518	348	325
Trust Funds.....	134	151	142
Total, Mandatory Programs	652	499	467
Total, Forest Service	7,032	6,168	5,198

^a The Budget proposes to fund Hazardous Fuels Reduction within the National Forest System account. Amounts provided in 2016 and 2017 in the Wildland Fire Activities account are shown in National Forest System for comparability.

For 2018, the total request for FS discretionary activities is \$4.7 billion. The Budget reduces funding for lower priority activities in the National Forest System, such as major new Federal land acquisition to focus on effectively managing existing assets and lands. The agency will continue to address catastrophic fire risk and ensure the resources necessary to protect life and property by fully funding wildland fire suppression activities at 100 percent of the 10-year average for suppression operations. The Budget also continues to support agency priorities of forest health and restoration addressing the greatest emerging threats to forest health and sustainability. The Budget also continues to support the economy - the Forest Service program of work is projected to contribute between 340,000 and 370,000 jobs to the economy, and around \$30 billion to GDP.

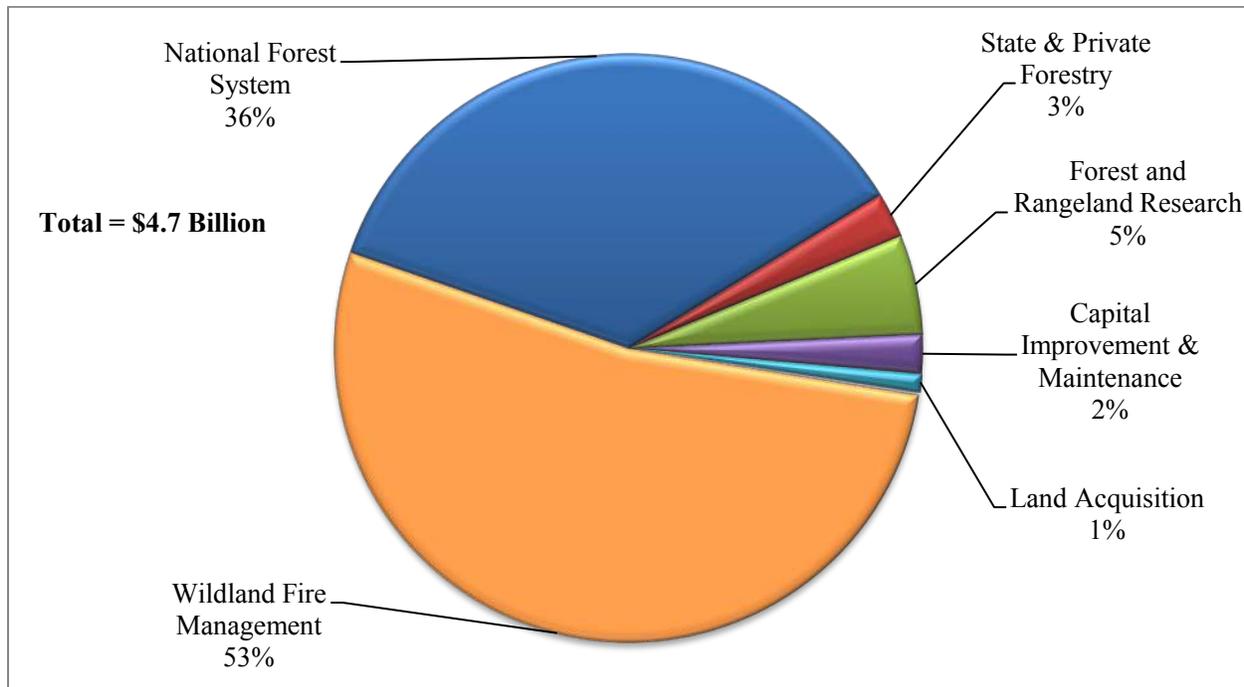


Figure NRE-1. Forest Service Discretionary Budget Authority

Forest and Rangeland Research

For 2018, \$259 million is proposed for Forest and Rangeland Research. In 2018, the FS will focus on research that supports the management of National Forest System lands and the agency's wildland fire suppression efforts. Within its broad mission to develop knowledge and technology to enhance the economic and environmental values of all of the Nation's forests, the Budget continues to support specific research needs that arise from managing 193 million acres of system lands. Principal areas of research include forest disturbance prediction and response, watershed management and restoration, urban natural resource stewardship, and inventory and analysis. The Budget provides \$77 million for Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) to strengthen the collection, coordination, and assessment of field inventory data, create a robust landscape scale inventory and analysis effort in all 50 States, the U.S. Territories, and continue efforts to introduce FIA surveys in interior Alaska. The agency is also continuing efforts to support the transfer of agency R&D products to industry in order to promote the Nation's economic growth through innovation, stimulating the creation of commercial and industrial markets for presently underutilized or non-merchantable forest resources resulting from restoration and fuel treatment operations.

State and Private Forestry (S&PF)

Through S&PF programs, FS addresses forest health concerns across more than 750 million acres of Federal, State, and private lands, creating a more connected forest landscape. For 2018, \$118 million is proposed for S&PF programs, including about \$90 million to address the greatest emerging threats to forest health on and off Forest Service land. The Budget continues to support the productivity and health of private working lands through the \$20.5 million commitment to the Forest Stewardship Program. This program helps create jobs in rural communities by sustaining local forest product markets and increasing demand for qualified private forestry consultants, loggers, and State agency field foresters. The Budget provides \$7.1 million for FS' International Programs to continue combatting illegal logging; supporting American forestry in international trade; protecting U.S. forests from invasive species; and conserving habitat for U.S. migratory species.

National Forest System (NFS)

The Forest Service manages over 193 million acres of public land in 44 States and Puerto Rico, collectively known as the NFS. These lands are managed for multiple uses and on a sustained-use basis and represent a vital natural legacy. For 2018, total funding for NFS is proposed at \$1.75 billion.

The agency will continue to facilitate mining, timber, hazardous fuels, and restoration projects on NFS lands, creating jobs and economic development in rural communities. The agency will support priority mineral applications and critical mineral operations that assist operators to meet standards of operating plans. In 2018, the agency expects to reach a total volume sold of 3.2 billion board feet while improving the resilience of more than 1.7 million acres through hazardous fuels reduction. In 2016, the Forest Products program sustained over 43,000 jobs and generated about \$3.2 billion of gross domestic product in the agency's most recent economic analysis.

The Budget also continues to support recreation at \$253 million. Recreation opportunities on National Forests and Grasslands remain one of the agency's best sources for sustaining rural and urban tourism economies. Outdoor recreation supports about 143,000 full and part-time jobs, and contributes close to \$10 billion to the rural communities surrounding national forests and grasslands.

The Budget increases support for Law Enforcement and Investigations by almost \$3 million, to \$129 million. The Forest Service will maintain staff years with the proposed funding to enable law enforcement officers from around the Nation to participate in marijuana eradication operations and marijuana grow site clean-up and reclamation. Preliminary evidence suggests grow site clean-up can serve as a deterrent to attempted reuse of the site for criminal enterprise.

The Budget requests continuation of the Integrated Resources Restoration (IRR) pilot in Regions 1, 3, and 4. Between 2012 and 2016, the agency embarked on this pilot program to increase efficiency and flexibility to perform integrated watershed protection and landscape-scale restoration. The IRR pilot regions have been more successful than non-pilot regions in completing enough restoration projects to change the overall health of the watershed, achieving 60 percent of the total agency result in 2015, and about 40 percent of improved watersheds in 2016.

The Budget requests that funding for the Hazardous Fuels program be moved from the Wildland Fire Management account to the NFS program. The majority of Hazardous Fuels work takes place on NFS or adjacent lands, therefore the Forest Service will integrate this program more efficiently and effectively with other activities and programs if it is managed as part of the NFS. The Budget focuses hazardous fuels treatments in priority areas near communities that reduce risk to communities and firefighters, and increase resilience of forests to catastrophic fire. Restoration in Wildland Urban Interface areas supports the direction provided by stakeholders engaged in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.

Table NRE-6. KPM – Forest Management

Key Performance Measure	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 Target
Acres treated annually to sustain or restore water function and resilience (millions of acres)	2.53	2.91	3.10	3.21	2.90	2.40
Volume of timber sold (billion board feet)	2.61	2.83	2.86	2.94	3.20	3.20

Wildland Fire Management

More than 46 million homes, or 40 percent of the Nation’s housing units, are located in fire-prone Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, and this is expected keep growing. During an average year, more than 73,000 wildfires burn about 7 million acres of federal, tribal, state, and private land, and more than 2,600 structures. On Forest Service lands annually, the agency records about 7,000 fires that burn 1.6 million acres. Through Wildland Fire Management, the FS protects life, property and natural resources in these rural communities and on 193 million acres of NFS land, and an additional 20 million acres of adjacent State and private lands through fee or reciprocal protection agreements. For 2018, total Federal funding for wildland fire management activities is proposed at \$2.5 billion. This amount includes fully funding suppression at the current 10-year average.

Starting in 2018, Forest Service firefighters will charge all base hours (the first eight hours of each day) to Preparedness, and charge to Suppression when working overtime while fighting fires. This system is called “Base 8.” This change will ensure alignment between the FS and Department of the Interior business rules for budget planning, and will provide a more disciplined and accountable budget structure. This switch necessitates a re-baselining of the 10-year average for fire suppression costs. To adequately cover Base 8 expenditures, a \$259 million increase to Preparedness is requested.

Further, the agency will continue efforts to modernize its aging aviation resources. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 provided for the transfer of surplus aircraft directly to the Forest Service, including up to 15 C-23B+ Sherpa and up to seven C-130H aircraft from other Executive Branch Agencies. For the 2018 fire season, with retrofits to be completed by both the Department of Defense and the agency, one of the seven C-130H aircraft is expected to be in service as a next generation airtanker capable of delivering over 3,000 gallons of fire retardant. The agency anticipates that it will have two C-23B+ Sherpa aircraft in service in 2017, followed by an additional four in 2018, and four more in 2019, for a total of 10 operational C-23B+ Sherpa aircraft. These planes will be delivering smokejumpers and supplies by parachute to wildland firefighters on the ground. In addition, the 2015 Interior Appropriations Act included \$65 million to acquire one next generation large airtanker. The contract award is anticipated in the near future.

Table NRE-7. KPM – Reduce Risk of Catastrophic Wildfire (millions of acres)

Key Performance Measure	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 Target
Acres of Wildland Urban Interface hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire	1.73	1.72	1.57	2.01	1.80	1.71

Capital Improvement and Maintenance (CIM)

CIM funds construction and maintenance of critical infrastructure on the NFS, including buildings, recreation sites, facilities, roads, and trails. FS currently manages 372,000 miles of roads, 157,000 miles of trails, 6,200 bridges, over 26,750 recreation sites, 500 dams, 16,000 administrative buildings, and 9,575 water/wastewater systems. For 2018, total funding for this work is proposed at about \$100 million. The Budget focuses the CIM programs on retaining staff to manage existing infrastructure, especially roads, and maintain public safety. Roads provide access to rural communities, recreation activities such as hunting and fishing, and allow for safe and efficient extraction of timber and minerals from national forests and grasslands. Roads also provide emergency access for first responders in the event of wildland fire.

Land Acquisition

The Budget proposes \$8 million for Land Acquisition accounts to maintain staff to complete the acquisition of previously Congressionally-identified projects.

Proposed Language Changes

The Budget proposes several legislative changes. The Budget requests the reauthorization of the authority to collect recreation revenue (Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act), and the authority to convey administrative sites that the agency no longer needs while retaining the proceeds (Forest Service Facilities Realignment and Enhancement Act). The Budget also proposes amending the Small Tracts Act to increase the maximum value of land to be conveyed to \$500,000 to better align with current land values. In addition, the budget proposes amending the National Defense Authorizations Act of 2014 to ensure Forest Service NEPA authorities apply to grazing permits nationwide. Finally, the Budget proposes new authority to retain user fees (up to \$4.5 million) to better manage the growing use of agency lands for communications facilities. See Appendix for details.