



June 2025

# FY 2026 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

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**COVER PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM.**

Heavy construction vehicles thin the forest as a fire suppression technique during the Dixie Fire in Lassen National Forest, California. USDA Forest Service photo by Cecilio Ricardo.

Members of Engine 626 from the Globe Ranger District use chainsaws to conduct hand thinning in the Roadside and Carol Units near U.S. Highway 60. The Highway Tanks Tribal Forest Protection Act project falls under the overarching cross-boundary San Carlos Apache Tribal Forest Protection project aimed at treating National Forest System lands and adjacent tribal ancestral lands here in Arizona. USDA Forest Service photo by Madeline Bautista.

Patrol Captain Clair Larsen, part of USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations, patrols the Mount Hood National Forest on snowmobile. USDA Forest Service photo by Preston Keres.

A chipper breaks down and distributes wood chips during thinning work around cabins on the Cleveland National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo by Andrew Avitt.

USDA Forest Service employees assist in the unloading of storm relief supplies in Marshall, North Carolina, Oct. 8, 2024. Forest Service employees across Western North Carolina and East Tennessee assisted local communities impacted by Hurricane Helene in a variety of ways in addition to their work assessing damage to Forest Service System lands. USDA Forest Service photo.

Inter-tribal crew members in Lomakatsi's Tribal Youth Ecological Forestry Training Program conduct ecological thinning within the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project, April 23, 2024, near Ashland, Oregon.

District Range Management Specialist Jacob Archuleta (blue helmet) and James Munoz at the Dalton Recreation Sites on the Santa Fe National Forest in Pecos, NM. USDA Forest Service photo by Andy McMillan.

Grazing allotment permittees move their cattle to a different pasture on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands as part of a planned schedule to maintain and improve landscapes. Permittees are expected to actively manage their herds when grazing them on National Forest System land. USDA Forest Service photo.

Multnomah Falls, Columbia River Gorge, Oregon. Multnomah Falls is one of the tallest year-round waterfalls in the United States and is the most visited natural recreation site in the Pacific Northwest. More than two million visitors stop by each year to view the unique 620-foot falls. USDA Forest Service photo by Cecilio Ricardo.

Sarah Malick-Wahls, a wildlife biologist, enters data from prior field surveys on the Superior National Forest, Kawishiwi Ranger District, before visiting a local resident to survey his land, track paw prints in the snow, and collect samples left by a lynx. USDA Forest Service photo.

Special Agent Nadeau conducts fire evacuations in the Rawah Wilderness, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. USDA Forest Service photo.

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## **PREFACE**

Throughout this publication, the “2018 Farm Bill” is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through FY 2025, as extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D). Amounts shown in FY 2024 and FY 2025 for most 2018 Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

## **AGENCY-WIDE**

### **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

#### **Mission**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service's mission is to maintain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of current and future generations.

#### **Budget Overview**

The FY 2026 Forest Service Budget request for discretionary appropriations is \$2.31 billion. The Budget request eliminates funding for the Forest and Rangeland Research and State, Private, and Tribal Forestry accounts. In addition, the FY 2026 request transfers the Forest Service Wildland Fire Management appropriations to the Department of the Interior (DOI) in support of the creation of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

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

The FY 2026 Budget request focuses on crucial investments that will help the Forest Service conserve and manage national forests and grasslands. It will also support local economies through jobs, timber production, recreation access, energy development, and livestock grazing.

Livestock grazing on federal lands is crucial for ranchers across the United States, especially in the West. This practice has been part of land management for generations, providing food for the American public, preserving working landscapes, conserving natural resources, and supporting the producers that depend on them. The FY 2026 Budget ensures that livestock grazing continues to meet many of the Forest Service's multiple-use objectives.

The production of timber, lumber, paper, bioenergy, and other wood products (timber production) is vital for the country's well-being. Executive Order 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production*, emphasizes the importance of timber production and active forest management can reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and protect American lives and communities. The FY 2026 Budget request supports Executive Order 14225 by sustaining the forest products program at FY 2025 levels.

To ensure domestic production of critical minerals and to contribute to a stable supply of energy for current and future generations, the Forest Service works together with the DOI's Bureau of Land Management to manage leasable minerals on NFS lands. The FY 2026 Budget continues to support the Forest Service Minerals and Geology Management program.

The FY 2026 Budget reforms the Federal approach to Wildland Fire Management by unifying Federal wildland fire responsibilities, including those within the Forest Service, into a single new U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve efficiency in Federal wildland fire response. The USWFS will unify logistical and support functions such as dispatching, training, IT, reporting, financial management, and contracting, as well as provide response for initial attack, extended attack, and large fire support. It also will facilitate hazardous fuels mitigation operations (both mechanical and prescribed fire) for Federal land management agencies. This landmark reform will improve the effectiveness of Federal wildfire response, streamline coordination with non-Federal partners, and better position America to combat the wildfire crisis.

The FY 2026 Budget proposes a new initiative to transfer certain Federal lands to willing States and Tribes. This initiative will right-size the Federal estate and reduce Federal costs for land management and asset maintenance. It will return these lands to the governments closest to the people who use them – local governments that understand and respect the needs and desires of their communities far better than the Federal Government. At the same time, the land transfer initiative will maintain Federal management of select, nationally significant lands that reflect America’s greatness.

The land transfer initiative will include locations within USDA’s jurisdiction that previously served as the Civilian Conservation Centers within the Department of Labor’s Jobs Corps program, which is eliminated in the FY 2026 Budget. This effort complements the significant reductions to the Forest Service’s land acquisitions programs, which perpetuated Federal overreach at the expense of local communities’ autonomy and wasted taxpayer resources. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress on this important issue.

The FY 2026 Budget proposed to reauthorize the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) to continue the important work of addressing the deferred maintenance backlog at the Forest Service. President Trump signed the GAOA LRF into law during his first Administration and the Administration looks forward to again working with Congress on this important issue.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Priority Deferred Maintenance Program will prioritize deferred maintenance projects that support and facilitate high-priority objectives associated with timber production, emergency response, and recreation activities. The funding would be spent predominantly on roads, bridges, and facilities, including those that are critical to housing employees and ensuring visitor safety.

#### Purpose Statement

The United States Forest Service is an agency within the Department of Agriculture established in 1905, pursuant to the Transfer Act of 1905 (33 Stat. 628) and the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1906 (33 Stat. 872). The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, (43 U.S.C. 1701), directs the Forest Service to manage NFS lands on the basis of multiple use, in a manner that “recognizes the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands” and that will “protect the quality of historical resources, and archeological values.” The Forest Service administers 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands that cover more than 193 million acres of public land.

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 is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities to the American people by maintaining public trust and safety with an emphasis on the interconnection between people and forests and grasslands. The Forest Service fulfills its commitment by improving the current and future needs of people and nature by:

- *Supporting local rural economies through timber production and livestock grazing.*
- *Providing access to essential resources and recreational experiences for the public.*
- *Contributing to the domestic production of critical minerals for a stable supply of energy.*
- *Fulfilling the fiduciary responsibility to the American public through the wise and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.*

## **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 (CFO) Office. Forest Service Operations also funds the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites where these administrative, general management and other Forest Service support functions take place; the costs of all utility and telecommunication expenses, business services, and IT, including cybersecurity requirements; and other administrative support function expenses necessary for the operation of the Forest Service.

### **National Forest System**

NFS 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). NFS administers more than 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. NFS 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 opportunities, energy for the Nation, timber and non-convertible forest products, maintenance of open space, and wildlife habitat and habitat connectivity. NFS also supports robust heritage, minerals, geology, and law enforcement programs that support ecological programs.

### **Capital Improvement and Maintenance**

Capital Improvement and Maintenance (CIM) 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.* CIM constructs, maintains, and improves administrative facilities, and sites, roads, and trails on NFS 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 increased public recreation opportunities on NFS lands.

### **Other Appropriations**

Other Appropriations includes Range Betterment Fund; 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 NFS lands maintain healthy, resilient rangeland ecosystems.

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 NFS 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 fees for communications site use authorizations to cover program administrative costs.

### Office of Inspector General and Government Accountability Office Reports

The tables below provide a list of Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that were completed during FY 2024 and not previously reported.

Table FS-1. FY 2024 Completed OIG Reports

ID	Date*	Title	Results
10801-0001-23	1/26/2024	IIJA – Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Informational Report	No recommendations for Forest Service
08801-0001-23	2/24/2024	IIJA – Federal Wildland Firefighter Salaries and Expenses – Informational Report	No recommendations for Forest Service
08801-0003-41	3/26/2024	IIJA – Restoration Projects on Federal/Non-Federal Land: Project Selection	No recommendations for Forest Service
50801-0009-12	4/1/2024	Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 3 Security Evaluation	Closed - Implemented
50601-0004-23	3/14/2024	USDA's Controls Over Departmental Shared Cost Programs and Working Capital Fund	No recommendations for Forest Service
50801-0012-12	6/3/2024	USDA's Management of Default Credentials	No recommendations for Forest Service
08801-0001-21	9/9/2024	IIJA Hazardous Fuels Management	Closed - Implemented
50501-0027-12	9/25/2024	USDA's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act for Fiscal Year 2024	No recommendations for Forest Service
11301-0002-23	9/26/2024	Agreed-Upon Procedures – Employee Benefits, Withholdings, Contributions, and Supplemental Semiannual Headcount Reporting Submitted to OPM FY 2024	No recommendations for Forest Service

\* All dates are the audit report issuance date.

Table FS-2. FY 2024 Completed GAO Reports

<b>ID</b>	<b>Date<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Results</b>
GAO-23-104489	10/19/2022	Working Dogs: Federal Agencies Need to Better Address Health and Welfare	Closed - Implemented
GAO-23-104723	03/13/2023	Wildfire Smoke: Opportunities to Strengthen Efforts to Manage Growing Risks	Closed - Implemented
GAO-23-105292	04/13/2023	Disaster Contracting: Action Needed to Improve Agencies' Use of Contracts for Wildfire Response and Recovery	Closed – Implemented
GAO-24-106237	11/16/2023	Federal Spending Transparency: Opportunities Exist to Improve COVID-19 and Other Grant Subaward Data on USAspending.gov	No recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-24-106213	12/14/2023	Artificial Intelligence in Natural Hazard Modeling: Severe Storms, Hurricanes, Floods, and Wildfires	No recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-24-106495	01/08/2024	Deferred Maintenance: Agencies Generally Followed Leading Practices in Selections but Faced Challenges	No recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-24-106634	03/19/2024	Spectrum IT Modernization: Incorporating Leading Practices Could Improve Planning Effort	No recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-24-106326	04/28/2024	Nuclear Power Plants: NRC Should Take Actions to Fully Consider the Potential Effects of Climate Change	No recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-24-106665	08/22/2024	Immersive Technologies: Most Civilian Agencies Are Using or Plan to Use Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, and More	No recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-24-106783	9/19/2024	Next Generation 911: Some Federal Agencies Have Begun Planning, but Few Have Upgraded Their Call Centers	No recommendations for Forest Service
GAO-24-106137	09/20/2024	Cloud Computing: Agencies Need to Address Key OMB Procurement Requirements	No recommendations for Forest Service

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<sup>†</sup> All dates are the audit report issuance date.



<b>ID</b>	<b>Date<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Results</b>
GAO-24-106334	09/25/2024	Tracking the Funds: Sample of FY 2022 Projects Shows Funds Were Awarded for Intended Purposes but Recipients Experienced Some Challenges	No recommendations for Forest Service

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENTS**Table FS-3. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In Dollars) <sup>a/</sup>

<b>Forest Service Operations</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$1,150,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	759,000,000
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$300,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	0
<b>State, Private, and Tribal Forestry</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$283,500,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	0
<b>National Forest System</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$1,863,557,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation <sup>b/</sup> .....	1,296,505,000
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$151,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	78,000,000
<b>Land Acquisition (Discretionary)</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$814,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	550,000
<b>Other Appropriations</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$2,863,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	1,945,000
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$2,426,111,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation <sup>c/</sup> .....	0
<b>Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund</b>	
2025 Estimated.....	\$2,390,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation <sup>d/</sup> .....	0

a/ 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

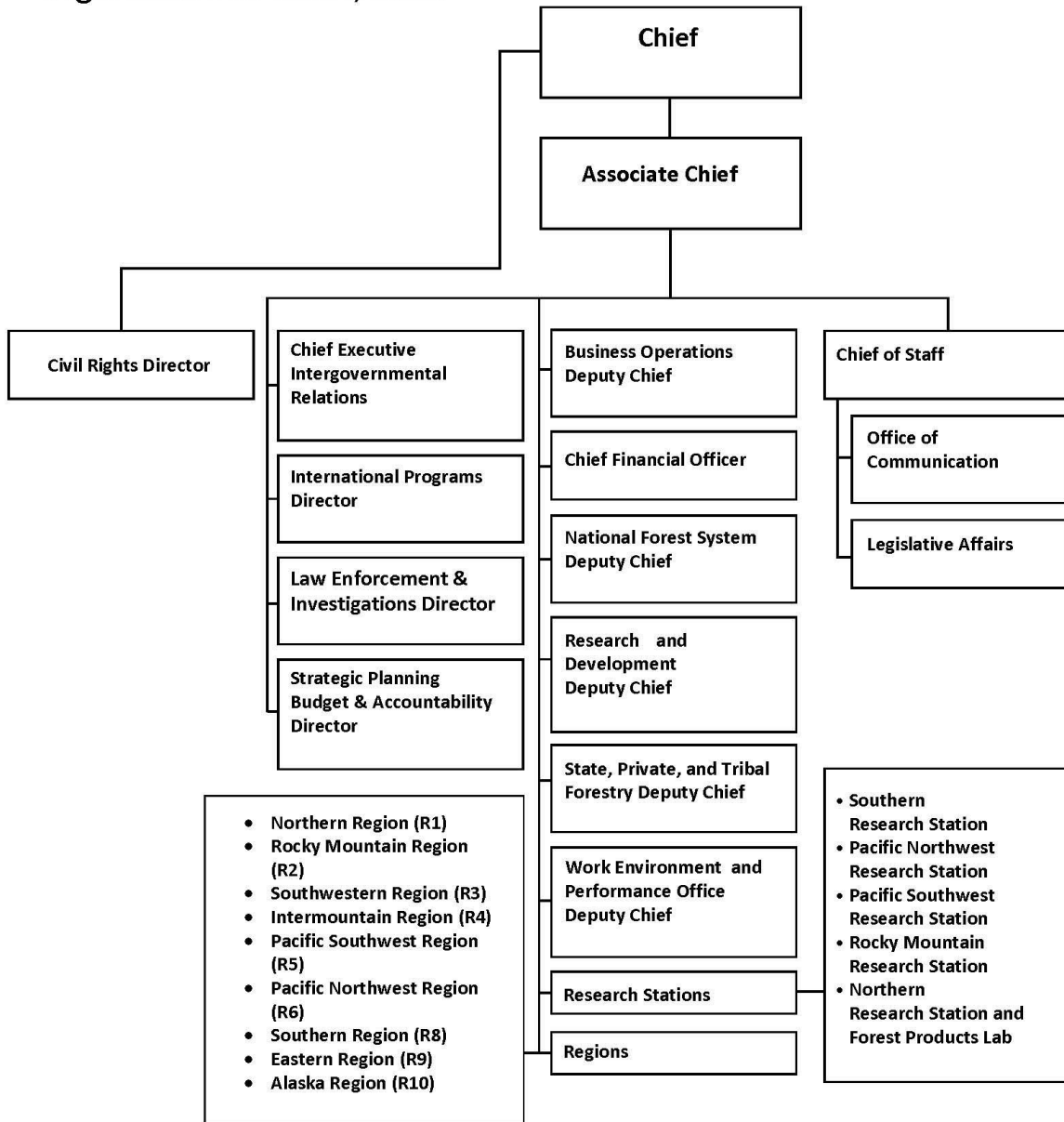
b/ \$175,450,000 of Hazardous Fuels funding from the NFS appropriation will be transferred to DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

c/ The 2026 Wildland Fire Management appropriation of \$2,390,500,000 will be requested by DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

d/ DOI will request this authority from the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**ORGANIZATION CHART AS OF FY 2025**

**USDA Forest Service**  
Organizational Chart, 2025



**AVAILABLE FUNDS**Table FS-4. Available Funds (thousands of dollars) <sup>a/</sup>

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Request
Forest Service Operations:				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$1,152,744	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	\$759,000
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	-	68,100	-
Forest and Rangeland Research:				
Discretionary Appropriations .....	307,273	300,000	300,000	-
Supplemental Appropriations .....	4,000	2,000	28,000	2,000
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry:				
Discretionary Appropriations .....	337,758	303,306	283,500	-
Supplemental Appropriations .....	453,360	305,360	513,360	305,360
National Forest System:				
Discretionary Appropriations <sup>b/</sup> .....	1,974,388	1,863,557	1,863,557	1,296,505
Supplemental Appropriations .....	739,800	529,800	3,052,800	529,800
Capital Improvement and Maintenance:				
Discretionary Appropriations .....	158,048	156,130	151,000	78,000
Supplemental Appropriations.....	222,000	72,000	3,597,000	72,000
Land Acquisition:				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	814	814	814	550
Other Appropriations:				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	3,645	3,771	2,863	1,945
Wildland Fire Management <sup>c/</sup> :				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	2,491,956	2,312,654	2,426,111	-
Supplemental Appropriations.....	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
Offsetting Collections.....	17,492	41,895	-	-
Wildfire Suppression Operations <sup>d/</sup> :				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	2,210,000	2,300,000	2,390,000	-
Total Discretionary Appropriations .....	8,636,626	8,390,232	8,567,845	2,136,000
Total Supplemental Appropriations .....	1,455,160	945,160	7,295,260	945,160
Deferral for Roads and Trails for States.....	-20,171	-19,950	-16,000	-
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>10,091,786</b>	<b>9,335,392</b>	<b>15,863,105</b>	<b>3,081,160</b>
Recoveries .....	250,635	316,840	274,105	238,128
Total Offsetting Collections.....	17,492	41,895	-	-
Total Transfers In.....	1,279,827	2,546,610	1,543,013	-
Total Transfers Out.....	-1,295,597	-2,566,734	-1,556,729	-537,205
Total Balance Transfers.....	14,872	4,869	-20,910	-984
Total Sequestrations.....	-262	-518	290	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	9,275,339	8,578,162	5,684,337	10,115,498
Lapsing Balances.....	-1,338	-1,665	-	-
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>19,638,556</b>	<b>18,262,929</b>	<b>21,791,036</b>	<b>12,900,423</b>
Balance Available, EOY .....	-8,578,164	-5,684,468	-10,114,514	-8,597,260
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>11,059,054</b>	<b>12,576,796</b>	<b>11,676,522</b>	<b>4,303,163</b>

a/ 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

b/ \$175,450,000 of Hazardous Fuels funding from the 2026 NFS appropriation will be requested by DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

c/ The 2026 Wildland Fire Management appropriation of \$2,390,500,000 will be requested by DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

d/ DOI will request this authority from the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET**

The Forest Service uses a revolving Working Capital Fund (WCF) to finance its fleet operations. Each owned and General Services Administration's (GSA) leased vehicle incurs a monthly Fixed Ownership Rate and a per-mile use rate. These expenses are covered by discretionary program funds that are deposited into specific WCF accounts that make up the revolving fund. Funds are used to finance fleet operations including repairs, fuel, maintenance, infrastructure support, program management costs, vehicle depreciation, and vehicle replacements.

Currently, there are approximately 15,600 fleet vehicles that support year-round missions. An additional 2,400 vehicles are retained beyond their minimum replacement standard to support the seasonal workforce. Although these vehicles receive lower utilization, it provides a cost-effective alternative to commercial leases or rental options. At any given time, about 1,000 vehicles are being prepared for service or prepared for disposal. All vehicles are reported annually through the GSA Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST).

The Forest Service aims to manage its fleet program in the most cost-effective way possible, including automating data to better respond to oversight and audit requirements. The Forest Service works to meet or exceed the required annual utilization rate benchmarks for vehicles, which can be challenging given the seasonality of work and limited access to remote sites or work areas within NFS lands. To address this, the Forest Service continues to implement fleet telematics to monitor and manage fleet utilization more effectively.

**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.

**Price and Cost Increases**

For FY 2026, the Forest Service expects that annual operating costs will continue to increase at four percent per year. The Forest Service does not anticipate any major changes to the fleet size. However, the Forest Service will work with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and DOI to determine the FY 2026 the fleet that will be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

Table FS-5. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4x2	Light Trucks 4x4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
<b>2018 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2,620</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>6,265</b>	<b>6,867</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>18,894</b>	<b>\$94,303,490</b>
<b>2023 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>5,957</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>18,516</b>	<b>105,171,090</b>
2024 Acquisitions ..	31	22	192	11	513	992	2	90	1,853	
2024 Disposals .....	58	21	232	42	501	604	21	175	1,654	
<b>2024 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>5,969</b>	<b>7,563</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>18,715</b>	<b>109,735,595</b>
2025 Planned Acquisitions .....	26	9	203	45	746	850	8	51	1,938	
2025 Planned Disposals .....	58	19	385	59	903	1,052	11	187	2,674	
<b>2025 End of Year Operating Inventory .....</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2,294</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>5,812</b>	<b>7,361</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>17,979</b>	<b>109,720,803</b>
2026 Planned Acquisitions .....	12	18	225	43	606	739	11	80	1,734	
2026 Planned Disposals .....	12	13	245	41	577	685	11	152	1,736	
<b>2026 End of Year Operating Inventory <sup>a/</sup> .....</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>5,841</b>	<b>7,415</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>17,977</b>	<b>114,096,941</b>

a/ the Forest Service will work with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and DOI to determine the FY 2026 fleet that will be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

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.



**FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS****LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

Table FS-6. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated <sup>3</sup> .....	\$1,150,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	<u>759,000,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows:

**FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS****(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, \$759,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029: *Provided*, That a portion of the funds made available under this heading shall be for the 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 to carry out administrative and general management support functions: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading shall be available for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites where these administrative, general management and other Forest Service support functions take place; the costs of all utility and telecommunication expenses of the Forest Service, as well as business services; and, for information technology, including cyber security requirements: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary expenses to carry out administrative and general management support functions of the Forest Service not otherwise provided for and necessary for its operation.

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<sup>3</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-7. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request <sup>5</sup></b>
Forest Service Operations Funds:				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$1,152,744	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	\$759,000
Supplemental Appropriations .....	-	-	68,100	-
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>1,152,744</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>1,218,100</b>	<b>759,000</b>

Table FS-8. Appropriations Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request <sup>6</sup></b>
Forest Service Operations:				
Facilities Maintenance and Leases .....	\$169,900	\$169,000	\$169,000	\$111,540
Information Technology and Centralized Processing .....	450,000	449,000	449,000	296,340
Organizational Services .....	143,438	143,000	143,000	94,380
Salaries and Expenses .....	389,406	389,000	389,000	256,740
Disaster Supplemental .....	-	-	68,100	-
<b>Total, Forest Service Operations: .....</b>	<b>1,152,744</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>1,218,100</b>	<b>759,000</b>

Note: The discrepancy between the project statement and MAX schedule X is reimbursable funds.

<sup>4</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

<sup>5</sup> The Forest Service will work with OMB and DOI to determine FY 2026 resources that will be transferred to the DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service to support base fire-related operations.

**FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND LEASES**

Table FS-9. Facilities Maintenance and Leases Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Facilities Maintenance and Leases</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>6</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$169,900	\$169,000	\$169,000	\$111,540
Recoveries .....	1,066	6,219	3,700	3,100
Balance Available, SOY .....	13,534	7,260	16,620	18,932
Total Available .....	184,500	182,479	189,320	133,572
Balance Available, EOY .....	-7,260	-16,620	-18,932	-6,679
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>177,241</b>	<b>165,859</b>	<b>170,388</b>	<b>126,893</b>

**Facilities Maintenance and Leases – Justification of Changes**

The budget supports the program’s required fixed lease costs and the associated Tenant Improvement (TI) costs for GSA leases. The Forest Service is expected to reduce the number of leases in 2026 as the agency right sizes its footprint. At this funding level, the Forest Service will prioritize maintenance funding for urgent safety-related issues at Forest Service-owned facilities. The Forest Service will work with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and DOI to determine the FY 2026 funding amount that will be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service to support leases and safety-related maintenance costs at fire-related facilities.

**Facilities Maintenance and Leases – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Facilities Maintenance and Leases program ensures that the Forest Service can effectively support its workforce and operations by efficiently managing infrastructure. This program funds the maintenance, repair, and decommissioning of over 16,000 Forest Service-owned administrative facilities, and 3,300 water systems that directly support the workforce and public safety. Additionally, it covers the costs of over 550 long-term Forest Service and GSA leases, partner lease agreements, TI expenses, USDA “Greenbook” security, and security provided by the Federal Protection Services.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress****National Facility & Lease Strategy**

In FY 2024, the Forest Service achieved \$5.3 million in annual lease cost avoidance and reduced lease space by 132,000 square feet. Key actions included optimizing space at regional offices in Atlanta, GA, and Milwaukee, WI, purchasing previously leased properties in Seward and Ketchikan, AK, and terminating leases in Albuquerque, NM, and Washington, DC. Strategic decisions from FY 2024 are projected to yield an additional \$5.8 million in cost avoidance and reduce lease space by 53,000 square feet as FY 2025 closes out. Projects include right-sizing space at three multi-program locations: Fort Collins, CO, Albuquerque, NM, and Portland, OR.

<sup>6</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Challenges persist as inflation and rising market rates significantly increase lease renewal costs, often doubling or tripling. The Forest Service continues to actively identify and implement cost-saving opportunities to achieve future cost avoidance.

#### National Asset Management Program

In FY 2024, the Forest Service invested \$5.9 million in priority Forest Service-owned maintenance and decommissioning projects through the National Asset Management Program (NAMP). This includes 11 decommissioning projects, nine new start projects, and continued funding for ongoing maintenance projects.

The Forest Service completed the reconstruction of the Lucky Peak Nursery cone processing and storage facility, essential for supporting forest restoration. Additionally, the Forest Service completed restoration efforts on Ochoco National Forest historic buildings, exterior improvements to the Mystic Ranger District Administrative site, and upgrades to the Athens Forestry Sciences Laboratory South Building.

#### Housing

The Forest Service has improved employee housing conditions using the Facilities Maintenance and Leases allocation. However, rising fixed costs make it challenging to continue these improvements at the same rate. The primary sources of funding for employee housing include the Quarters Maintenance receipts and the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund. The Quarters Maintenance budget is limited to revenue receipts generated from employee rentals, while the GAOA Legacy Restoration Fund will need to be reauthorized to continue these investments.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The Facilities Maintenance and Leases funding for FY 2026 prioritizes investments in facilities that support the current and future workforce. With support from the USDA, the Forest Service will seek opportunities to co-locate with other agencies, consolidate space, and implement projects to downsize the Forest Service facilities portfolio. As leases expire, new market rates often double or triple annual rents, and facilities larger than 20,000 square feet require substantial upfront TI costs. Therefore, it is critical that management decisions are made to more efficiently use space with the goal of downsizing both the leased and owned facility footprint. This includes terminating leases and disposing of agency-owned facilities associated with eliminated functions. For Forest Service-owned administrative facilities, the Forest Service plans to invest in critical safety maintenance projects for emergency repairs.

#### Program Evaluations

The Forest Service uses the following tools to assess program effectiveness, address performance shortfalls, and implement national facilities effectively.

For owned facilities, the Forest Service conducts building condition assessments every five years to identify and record maintenance needs. These assessments are recorded in the Forest Service's corporate database. Additionally, water system inspections and testing are conducted regularly to identify system needs and ensure compliance with drinking water standards.

For leased facilities, the Forest Service relies on the Annual Leased Facilities Budget Data Call to guide future planning, identify opportunities for cost savings, and address budget shortfalls in leased spaces. This process prioritizes funding for TI and ancillary project costs

that lead to future savings. Before soliciting leased space, the Forest Service evaluates opportunities to co-locate and consolidate to reduce costs.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CENTRALIZED PROCESSING**

Table FS-10. Information Technology and Centralized Processing Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Information Technology and Centralized Processing</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>7</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$450,000	\$449,000	\$449,000	\$296,340
Recoveries .....	11,380	11,381	5,500	5,000
Transfers in .....	4,200	65,514	-	-
Transfers out.....	-2,347	-4,896	-	-
Balance Transfers .....	13,325	-	-	-
Reprogramming .....	2,000	5,910	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	4,765	30,036	20,668	52,268
Total Available .....	483,323	556,945	475,168	353,608
Lapsing Balances .....	-	-11	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-30,036	-20,668	-52,268	-7,072
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>453,287</b>	<b>536,266</b>	<b>422,900</b>	<b>346,536</b>

**Information Technology and Centralized Processing - Justification of Changes**

The budget continues to provide base IT services, including telecommunications, hardware and software acquisitions, and IT support. It is expected that base services will decrease commensurately with reductions in FTEs. The Forest Service will work with OMB and DOI to determine the FY 2026 funding amount that will be transferred to the DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service to support base fire-related IT support systems.

**Information Technology and Centralized Processing – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Information Technology and Centralized Processing program is vital to supporting the Forest Service's efforts to safeguard the nation's forests, improve land management, and ensure public safety. This program funds all IT-related costs, including cybersecurity and telecommunications. These systems support the Forest Service's program of work by enabling automation, collaboration, and data management for activities such as wildfire suppression, forest management, law enforcement and investigations, and data-driven decision-making.

The Forest Service oversees 17 investments that provide essential enterprise IT support or services for the entire agency while offering specialized services for mission support and program delivery. Over 700 requirements have been identified to maintain baseline Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and priority modernization, development, and enhancement (DME) initiatives.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

The Forest Service has prioritized the modernization of legacy infrastructure, extending capabilities to remote locations, and supporting improved collaboration and communication capabilities for field activities. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) managed the

<sup>7</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.



implementation of enterprise services to over 58 sites while overseeing the unique construction and management of non-enterprise services at over 293 sites that previously lacked sufficient connectivity. Communication capabilities were extended to managing a radio fleet supporting operations across forests and interagency activities for over 33,800 FTEs.

Software Asset Management (SAM) and Hardware Asset Management (HAM) programs are being implemented to centralize and track agency-wide requests and procurements. These programs leverage data to more closely track and report services, creating efficiencies and cost-saving opportunities.

Cybersecurity efforts have resulted in a controls assessment success rate higher than in the past six years and the support of vulnerability management resources that achieved 95 percent success rate in smart patching capabilities. Additionally, the Forest Services maintained a 100 percent completion rate for Authority to Operate (ATOs).

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The CIO will prioritize employee support IT services and leverage opportunities for innovation to support implementation of lower-cost technologies while managing growing demand. The CIO will continue application rationalization and migration to cloud-hosting environments.

#### Program Evaluations

The Forest Service implemented a program to evaluate the value of its IT portfolio starting with three initiatives: establishing an integrated project team to track cost savings and cost avoidance across IT portfolios, assigning a cross-functional team to review cost models for over \$350M in USDA WCF agreements, and conducting a comprehensive review of IT contract labor to maximize utilization and consolidate contracts.

**ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICES**

Table FS-11. Organizational Services Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Organizational Services</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$143,438	\$143,000	\$143,000	\$94,380
Recoveries .....	3,006	6,785	3,565	4,452
Balance Transfers .....	725	-	-	-
Reprogramming .....	-	-5,910	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	7,787	11,936	13,184	12,780
Total Available .....	154,956	155,811	159,749	111,612
Lapsing Balances .....	-	-14	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-11,936	-13,184	-12,780	-5,581
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>143,020</b>	<b>142,613</b>	<b>146,969</b>	<b>106,031</b>

**Organizational Services – Justification of Changes**

Within the Budget request, priority will be given to essential Department-wide services that must be paid for through the WCF and Shared Cost Programs. In addition, efforts will be made to adjust and locate base services (e.g., janitorial services and groundskeeping) to meet the needs of the changing workforce.

**Organizational Services – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

Organizational Services funds centralized mission support functions, including general administrative support, public communications, human resources, contracting, and acquisitions. This funding covers operational needs such as janitorial services, utilities, fleet procurement, snow removal, and other essential services for employees and public visitors. Additionally, this program supports the work of several offices within the USDA through the WCF and collaborates with other federal agencies, including the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

The Forest Service Organizational Services funds essential agency functions, including the Office of Regulatory and Management Services (ORMS). The Forest Service has experienced a seven percent increase in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. As the number of federal employees working on these requests declined, the agency has increased its contracted support in responding to 1,862 FOIA requests, reviewing 125,709 pages and records, and closing 518 cases. Successfully responding to and closing FOIA cases is crucial for controlling costs, as litigation settlement costs have more than tripled in recent years.

**Program Objectives for FY 2026**

The Forest Service Operations Program will continue to fund critical agency-wide costs and vital field services, while finding efficiencies and cost-savings wherever possible.

<sup>8</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Table FS-12. Salaries and Expenses Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$389,406	\$389,000	\$389,000	\$256,740
Recoveries .....	413	885	624	655
Reprogramming .....	-2,000	-	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	3,709	11,532	7,914	74,923
Total Available .....	391,528	401,417	397,538	332,318
Lapsing Balances .....	-	-24	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-11,532	-7,914	-74,923	-4,985
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>379,996</b>	<b>393,479</b>	<b>322,615</b>	<b>327,333</b>

**Salaries and Expenses – Justification of Changes**

To streamline workforce efforts, facilities, and other government efficiencies, the Forest Service has reduced its administrative and general management support staff. This streamlined workforce will be achieved through a decrease in Human Resources Specialists, Contracting Officers, and other administrative professionals. The Forest Service will prioritize sustaining capacity to perform base-level business services to meet statutory requirements and to support critical Forest Service priorities. The Forest Service will work with OMB and DOI to determine the FY 2026 funding amount that will be transferred to the DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service to support fire-related administrative functions.

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<sup>9</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

Table FS-13. Disaster Supplemental Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Disaster Supplemental</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	-	-	\$68,100	-
Recoveries .....	\$3,197	\$5,076	600	\$3,130
Transfers in .....	-	-	151,625	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	56,309	23,450	1,487	195,195
Total Available .....	59,506	28,526	221,812	198,325
Lapsing Balances .....	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-23,450	-1,487	-195,195	-158,660
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>36,056</b>	<b>27,039</b>	<b>26,617</b>	<b>39,665</b>

**Disaster Supplemental**

Disaster Supplemental funding supports Forest Service actions, activities, and responses to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters having a direct impact to Forest Service managed lands and assets and the communities contiguous to or embedded within those managed lands.

Table FS-14. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Recoveries .....	\$3,379	\$4,821	-	-
Transfers in .....	71,562	104,615	\$54,180	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	125,248	29,452	27,175	\$5,000
Total Available .....	200,190	138,888	81,355	5,000
Lapsing Balances .....	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-29,452	-27,175	-5,000	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>170,738</b>	<b>111,713</b>	<b>76,355</b>	<b>5,000</b>

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

In addition to other provisions with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-78), funds may be transferred and utilized for the administrative purposes necessary to carry out the activities authorized within the Act. Forest Service Operations coordinates and houses many of these necessary administrative functions and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds in support of these functions are transferred from other Forest Service Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act accounts.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-15. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>10</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C .....	\$29,589	\$31,975	\$31,549	\$18,572
	Personnel compensation, field .....	252,862	273,256	269,614	158,713
11.0	Total personnel compensation .....	282,451	305,231	301,163	177,286
12.0	Personal benefits .....	107,893	114,423	112,898	66,460
13.0	Benefits for former personnel .....	34,354	22,380	22,082	72,255
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits	424,698	442,034	436,143	316,000
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons .....	8,470	6,617	5,885	5,125
22.0	Transportation of things .....	698	381	421	367
23.1	Rental payments to GSA .....	41,944	45,682	34,182	29,768
23.2	Rental payments to others .....	66,312	62,799	50,365	43,861
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges .....	113,434	99,226	82,958	72,243
24.0	Printing and reproduction .....	482	1,130	629	548
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	565	578	446	388
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	150,574	98,681	97,233	84,675
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources .....	455,856	493,861	370,479	322,631
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities ..	3,071	2,224	2,065	1,799
25.5	Research and development contracts .....	2,298	2,317	1,800	1,568
25.6	Medical care .....	27	38	25	22
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment .....	2,815	13,732	6,455	5,621
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	23,545	23,486	18,346	15,977
31.0	Equipment .....	48,885	67,263	45,309	39,457
32.0	Land and structures .....	8,837	8,629	6,813	5,933
33.0	Investments and loans .....	-	-	-	-
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	7,707	8,184	6,199	5,398
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities .....	115	220	131	114
43.0	Interest and dividends .....	4	5	3	3
44.0	Refunds .....	-9	-121	-51	-44
91.0	Unvouchered .....	-	-1	-	-
92.0	Undistributed .....	9	7	6	5
	Total, other objects .....	935,639	934,935	729,701	635,458
99.9	Total, new obligations .....	1,360,337	1,376,969	1,165,844	951,458
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3) .....	\$5,556	\$5,802	\$6,092	\$6,397

<sup>10</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>10</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Information Technology Investments:				
	Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC):				
	External Labor (Contractors) .....	-	\$2,768	\$2,768	\$2,768
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting) .....	\$4,200			
	Software .....	-	2,000	2,034	2,034
	Total, Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) .....	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,802</b>	<b>4,802</b>
	Mission Support Services:				
	External Labor (Contractors) .....	10,351	9,249	6,702	6,702
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting) .....	21,696	5,163	7,237	7,237
	Hardware .....	1,095	2,388	1,754	1,754
	Software .....	6,089	12,929	6,529	6,529
	Total, Mission Support Services .....	<b>39,231</b>	<b>29,729</b>	<b>22,222</b>	<b>22,222</b>
	Natural Resource Manager (NRM):				
11	Internal Labor .....	4,851	5,393	6,618	6,618
	External Labor (Contractors) .....	23,265	19,014	9,454	9,454
	Software .....	1,007	1,492	1,115	1,115
	Other IT .....	-			
	Total, Natural Resource Manager (NRM) .....	<b>29,123</b>	<b>25,899</b>	<b>17,187</b>	<b>17,187</b>
	Human Resource Management (HRM)				
	External Labor (Contractors) .....	-	2,656		
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting) .....	-	10,120	10,101	10,101
	Software .....	-	4,427	239	239
	Total, Human Resource Management (HRM) .....	<b>-</b>	<b>17,203</b>	<b>10,340</b>	<b>10,340</b>
	Recreation.gov:				
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting) .....	18,200	18,837	18,837	18,837
	Total, Recreation.gov .....	<b>18,200</b>	<b>18,837</b>	<b>18,837</b>	<b>18,837</b>
	USDA Public Safety Land Mobile Radio System:				
11	Internal Labor .....	22,352	24,637	26,840	26,840
	External Labor (Contractors) .....	1,671	2,005	2,111	2,111
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting) .....	-	3,289	2,875	2,875
	Hardware .....	36,051	39,105	41,365	41,365
	Software .....	22	24	24	24
	Other IT .....	5,940	3,251	3,519	3,519
	Total, USDA Public Safety Land Mobile Radio System .....	<b>66,036</b>	<b>72,311</b>	<b>76,734</b>	<b>76,734</b>
	Wildland Fire and Aviation Management:				
	External Labor (Contractors) .....	41,746	41,980	30,879	30,879
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting) .....	8,847	1,268	303	303
	Hardware .....	6,143	6,288	4,467	4,467
	Software .....	1,753	2,947	2,777	2,777
	Total, Wildland Fire and Aviation Management .....	<b>58,489</b>	<b>52,483</b>	<b>38,426</b>	<b>38,426</b>
	Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals .....	31,311	36,480	32,958	32,958
	Mission Area Standard Investment Totals .....	179,209	168,884	143,397	143,397
25.3	Mission Area WCF/Type 04 Transfers ....	287,672	327,611	330,893	330,893
	Total Non-Major Investment .....	498,192	532,975	507,248	507,248



Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025	2026
				Estimated 10	Estimated
	Total IT Investments .....	713,471	754,205	695,796	695,796
	Identify .....	\$250	\$14,890	\$15,120	\$15,730
	Protect .....	-	2,640	2,440	2,550
	Detect .....	200	-	-	-
	Recover .....	120	-	-	-
	<b>Total Cybersecurity .....</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>17,530</b>	<b>17,560</b>	<b>18,280</b>
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position .....	\$195,000	\$200,361	\$204,368	\$208,456
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	89,982	96,503	99,372	102,183
	Average Grade, GS Position .....	11.8	11.9	12.3	12.4



**FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH****LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

Table FS-16. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated <sup>11</sup> .....	\$300,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation .....	-

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<sup>11</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-17. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>12</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Forest and Rangeland Research Funds:				
Discretionary Appropriations .....	\$307,273	\$300,000	\$300,000	-
Supplemental Appropriations .....	4,000	2,000	28,000	\$2,000
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>311,273</b>	<b>302,000</b>	<b>328,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>

Table FS-18. Appropriations Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Forest and Rangeland Research:				
Forest and Rangeland Research .....	\$55,000	\$53,500	\$32,100	-
Joint Fire Science <sup>a/</sup> .....	4,500	3,000	3,000	-
Forest Inventory and Analysis <sup>b/</sup> .....	32,197	31,500	31,500	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	215,576	212,000	233,400	-
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act <sup>a/</sup> .....	2,000	2,000	2,000	\$2,000
Disaster Supplemental .....	2,000	-	26,000	-
<b>Total, Forest and Rangeland Research .....</b>	<b>311,273</b>	<b>302,000</b>	<b>328,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Joint Fire Science will be transferred to DOI in 2026 in support of the creation of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

<sup>b/</sup> Forest Inventory and Analysis is requested within the NFS account in 2026.

Note: The discrepancy between the project statement and MAX schedule X is reimbursable funds.

<sup>12</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH**

Table FS-19. Forest and Rangeland Research Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$55,000	\$53,500	\$32,100	-
Recoveries .....	977	999	500	\$500
Balance Available, SOY .....	7,283	1,608	2,471	1,403
Total Available .....	62,147	53,620	35,071	1,903
Balance Available, EOY .....	-1,608	-2,471	-1,403	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>60,503</b>	<b>51,139</b>	<b>33,668</b>	<b>1,903</b>

**Forest and Rangeland Research – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget terminates the Forest and Rangeland Research program to ensure fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars and appropriate alignment of resources with the Forest Service’s responsibility to appropriately steward National Forest System lands. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>13</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Table FS-20. Salaries and Expenses Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$215,576	\$212,000	\$233,400	-
Recoveries .....	401	453	425	\$400
Balance Available, SOY .....	10,982	7,642	1,622	39,847
Total Available .....	223,959	217,194	235,447	40,247
Balance Available, EOY .....	-7,642	-1,622	-39,847	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>216,317</b>	<b>215,562</b>	<b>195,600</b>	<b>40,247</b>

**Salaries and Expenses – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget terminates the Forest and Rangeland Research program to ensure fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars and appropriate alignment of resources with the Forest Service’s responsibility to appropriately steward National Forest System lands. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>14</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

Table FS-21. Disaster Supplemental Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Disaster Supplemental</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$2,000	-	\$26,000	-
Recoveries .....	2	\$27	273	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	17,623	9,834	4,989	\$27,511
Total Available .....	19,625	9,861	31,262	27,511
Balance Available, EOY .....	-9,834	-4,989	-27,511	-23,384
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>9,791</b>	<b>4,872</b>	<b>3,751</b>	<b>4,127</b>

**Disaster Supplemental**

Disaster Supplemental funding supports Forest Service actions, activities, and responses to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters having a direct impact to Forest Service managed lands and assets and the communities contiguous to or embedded within those managed lands.

Table FS-22. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Recoveries .....	-	2,006	50	-
Transfers in .....	38,450	7,800	16,525	
Transfers out <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	-	-	-2,000
Balance Transfers .....	-	-54,933	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	61,217	77,496	19,824	16,263
Total Available .....	101,667	34,370	38,399	16,263
Balance Available, EOY .....	-77,496	-19,824	-16,263	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>24,171</b>	<b>14,546</b>	<b>22,136</b>	<b>16,263</b>

a/ Includes funds to be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

In addition to other provisions with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-78), funds may be transferred and utilized for the administrative purposes necessary to carry out the activities authorized within the Act.

## Classification by Objects

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

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>15</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.....	\$6,045	\$6,410	\$4,371	-
	Personnel compensation, field .....	145,081	153,850	131,144	-
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	151,126	160,261	135,515	-
12.0	Personal benefits .....	59,217	63,055	61,200	-
13.0	Benefits for former personnel .....	24	-	1,740	\$40,057
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	210,367	223,316	198,455	40,057
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons ...	8,261	7,399	10,680	-
22.0	Transportation of things.....	179	190	3,804	-
23.2	Rental payments to others .....	8	15	9	-
	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	227	175	157	-
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	167	304	184	45
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	11	12	9	2
	Other services from non-Federal sources.....	11,743	11,390	14,508	7,124
25.2	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	23,568	18,188	16,278	5,041
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	23	42	25	6
25.5	Research and development contracts...	47,928	30,058	30,402	6,470
25.6	Medical care .....	-	1	1	-
	Operation and maintenance of equipment.....	343	300	251	62
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	4,570	4,630	3,587	881
31.0	Equipment.....	4,087	2,476	2,559	629
32.0	Land and structures .....	192	36	89	22
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions ....	36,250	21,933	8,957	2,201
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities .....	-	2	1	-
43.0	Interest and dividends .....	1	2	1	-
44.0	Refunds.....	-1	-3	-2	-
92.0	Undistributed .....	1	1	1	-
	Total, other objects .....	137,558	97,151	91,500	22,483
99.9	Total, new obligations .....	347,925	320,467	289,955	62,540

<sup>15</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.



**STATE, PRIVATE, AND TRIBAL FORESTRY**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

Table FS-24. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)<sup>16</sup>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated.....	\$283,500,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation .....	-

<sup>16</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.



**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-25. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
State, Private, Tribal Forestry:				
Discretionary Appropriations .....	\$337,758	\$303,306	\$283,500	-
Supplemental Appropriations .....	453,360	305,360	513,360	\$305,360
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>791,118</b>	<b>608,666</b>	<b>796,860</b>	<b>305,360</b>

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<sup>17</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION**

Table FS-26. Landscape Scale Restoration Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Landscape Scale Restoration</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>18</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$17,000	\$14,000	\$7,000	-
Recoveries .....	109	48	25	\$25
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,314	2,338	3,336	104
Total Available .....	19,423	15,878	10,361	129
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>17,083</b>	<b>12,542</b>	<b>10,257</b>	<b>129</b>

**Landscape Scale Restoration – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of federal and state governments. The Budget request anchors to a return to federalism and encourages increasing state authority to fund the management of state and privately-owned forests. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>18</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**FEDERAL LANDS FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Table FS-27. Federal Lands Forest Health Management Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Federal Lands Forest Health Management</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>19</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations.....	\$17,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	-
Recoveries.....	842	793	600	\$325
Balance Available, SOY.....	3,362	4,057	2,766	1,937
Total Available .....	20,726	18,815	19,366	2,262
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>16,669</b>	<b>16,039</b>	<b>17,429</b>	<b>2,262</b>

**Federal Lands Forest Health Management – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of federal and state governments. The Federal Lands Forest Health Management program is duplicative of land management programs within the National Forest System appropriation. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>19</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**COOPERATIVE LANDS FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Table FS-28. Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>20</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations.....	\$33,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	-
Recoveries.....	257	198	290	\$100
Balance Available, SOY.....	4,273	2,386	5,467	2,265
Total Available .....	37,530	34,165	37,757	2,365
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>35,143</b>	<b>28,688</b>	<b>35,492</b>	<b>2,365</b>

**Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of federal and state governments. The Budget request anchors to a return to federalism and encourages increasing state authority to fund the management of state and privately-owned forests. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>20</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**STATE FIRE CAPACITY GRANTS (STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE)**

Table FS-29. State Fire Capacity Grants Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>State Fire Capacity Grants (State Fire Assistance)</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>21</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$76,000	-
Recoveries.....	59	155	64	-
Balance Available, SOY.....	12,251	5,608	9,046	4,649
Total Available .....	88,310	81,638	85,110	4,649
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>82,697</b>	<b>72,582</b>	<b>85,110</b>	<b>-</b>

**State Fire Capacity Grants (State Fire Assistance) – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget seeks to restore federalism by encouraging States and local partners to fund their wildfire preparedness activities. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program and transfer any legacy activities to DOI.

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<sup>21</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPACITY GRANTS**

Table FS-30. Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (Volunteer Fire Assistance)</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>22</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,990	1,509	3,195	-
Total Available .....	22,998	22,509	24,195	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>21,483</b>	<b>19,314</b>	<b>24,195</b>	<b>-</b>

**Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget recognizes that local partners should be empowered to fund their wildfire protection capabilities. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program and transfer any legacy activities to DOI.

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<sup>22</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.



**FOREST STEWARDSHIP (WORKING FOREST LANDS)**

Table FS-31. Forest Stewardship Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Forest Stewardship (Working Forest Lands)</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>23</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$12,500	\$12,000	\$6,000	-
Recoveries.....	113	202	120	\$60
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,055	1,446	3,082	92
Total Available .....	14,668	13,740	9,202	152
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>13,213</b>	<b>10,658</b>	<b>9,110</b>	<b>152</b>

**Forest Stewardship – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of federal and state governments. The Budget request anchors to a return to federalism and encourages increasing state authority to fund the management of state and privately-owned forests. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>23</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION**

Table FS-32. Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Community Forest and Open Space Conservation</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>24</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$6,000	\$5,500	\$2,750	-
Recoveries.....	326	226	100	\$50
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,515	4,257	3,273	612
Total Available .....	8,834	9,983	6,123	662
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>6,585</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>662</b>

**Community Forest and Open Space Conservation – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of federal and state governments. The Budget request anchors to a return to federalism and encourages increasing state authority to fund the management of state and privately-owned forests. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>24</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

Table FS-33. Urban and Community Forestry Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Urban and Community Forestry</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>25</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$40,000	\$36,000	\$18,000	-
Recoveries .....	25	100	123	\$25
Balance Available, SOY .....	5,833	3,794	7,073	252
Total Available .....	45,858	39,613	25,196	277
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>42,063</b>	<b>32,530</b>	<b>24,944</b>	<b>277</b>

**Urban and Community Forestry – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of federal and state governments. The request recognizes that local governments should be empowered to fund their urban forestry efforts in alignment with local priorities. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>25</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND TRADE**

Table FS-34. International Programs and Trade Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>International Programs and Trade Compliance</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>26</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$20,000	\$19,000	\$9,500	-
Recoveries .....	373	950	569	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	649	776	467	-
Total Available .....	21,022	20,530	10,536	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>20,246</b>	<b>20,052</b>	<b>10,536</b>	<b>-</b>

**International Programs and Trade – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate role of the United States in international natural resources conservation efforts. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>26</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Table FS-35. Salaries and Expenses Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>27</sup></b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$65,091	\$52,000	\$95,250	-
Recoveries .....	6,470	5,777	5,000	\$3,000
Balance Available, SOY .....	18,800	26,866	31,932	69,111
Total Available .....	87,367	83,100	132,182	72,111
Balance Available, EOY .....	-26,866	-31,932	-69,111	-21,991
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>51,158</b>	<b>63,071</b>	<b>50,120</b>

**Salaries and Expenses – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 request eliminates funding for the State, Private, and Tribal Forestry account to ensure fiscal responsibility with American taxpayer dollars and to better balance the appropriate roles of federal and state governments. The Budget request anchors to a return to federalism and encourages increasing state authority to fund the management of state and local natural resources conservation efforts. While the Budget does not request new funding for this account, it will strategically utilize existing carryover balances to responsibly and effectively close this program.

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<sup>27</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

Table FS-36. Disaster Supplemental Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Disaster Supplemental</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$148,000	-	\$208,000	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	17,235	\$80,084	14,449	\$33,368
Total Available .....	165,275	81,883	222,449	33,368
Balance Available, EOY .....	-80,084	-14,449	-33,368	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>85,191</b>	<b>67,434</b>	<b>189,081</b>	<b>33,368</b>

**Disaster Supplemental**

Disaster Supplemental funding supports Forest Service actions, activities, and responses to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters having a direct impact to Forest Service managed lands and assets and the communities contiguous to or embedded within those managed lands.

Table FS-37. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$305,360	\$305,360	\$305,360	\$305,360
Recoveries .....	-	1,593	-	-
Transfers in .....	22,081	1,923	-	-
Transfers out <sup>a/</sup> .....	-32,749	-29,711	-1,827	-294,098
Balance Transfers .....	-	1,536	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	239,459	301,088	194,868	96,332
Total Available .....	534,151	581,789	498,401	107,594
Balance Available, EOY .....	-301,088	-194,868	-96,332	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>233,064</b>	<b>386,922</b>	<b>402,069</b>	<b>107,594</b>

a/ Includes funds to be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-78) broadly supports ecosystem restoration, wildfire risk reduction, wildfire mitigation grants, and other community support activities.

Table FS-38. Inflation Reduction Act Program Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Inflation Reduction Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Recoveries .....	-	\$10	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	\$2,750,000	2,436,838	\$1,011,348	\$202,269
Total Available .....	2,750,000	2,426,848	1,011,348	202,269
Balance Available, EOY .....	-2,436,838	-1,011,348	-202,269	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>313,162</b>	<b>1,415,500</b>	<b>809,079</b>	<b>202,269</b>

**Inflation Reduction Act**

The Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169), includes funds appropriated for vegetation and watershed management, and timely processing of National Environmental Policy Act-related reviews.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-39. Classification by Objects (obligations in thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>28</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.....	\$14,519	\$17,706	\$17,672	-
	Personnel compensation, field .....	36,000	41,315	41,235	-
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	50,519	59,021	58,907	-
12.0	Personal benefits .....	19,639	23,113	23,068	-
13.0	Benefits for former personnel .....	-		500	\$45,515
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	70,158	82,134	82,475	45,515
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons .	3,690	3,934	10,497	-
22.0	Transportation of things.....	113	131	3,337	-
23.1	Rental payments to GSA .....	407	340	400	-
23.2	Rental payments to others .....	9	8	9	-
	Communications, utilities, and misc.				
23.3	charges.....	54	18	38	-
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	40	103	77	17
25.0	Other contractual services.....	9,650	-	-	-
25.1	Advisory and assistance services.....	-	41	22	5
	Other services from non-Federal				
25.2	sources.....	5,171	11,157	13,915	1,929
	Other goods and services from				
25.3	Federal sources.....	21,316	6,120	14,696	7,533
	Operation and maintenance of				
25.4	facilities.....	3	5	4	1
25.5	Research and development contracts.	428	4,630	2,709	598
25.6	Medical care .....	1	2	1	-
	Operation and maintenance of				
25.7	equipment.....	73	18	48	11
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	1,837	1,414	1,742	384
31.0	Equipment.....	431	302	393	87
32.0	Land and structures .....	-	131	70	15
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions ..	869,062	2,052,405	1,555,289	343,114
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities .....	18	6	13	3
44.0	Refunds .....	-116	-	-62	-14
	Total, other objects .....	912,187	2,080,762	1,603,197	353,683
99.9	Total, new obligations .....	982,345	2,162,896	1,685,673	399,198

<sup>28</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM****LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FS-40. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)<sup>29</sup>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated.....	\$1,863,557,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation .....	1,296,505,000

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows:

**NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, \$1,471,995,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$39,000,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$21,500,000 shall be for Forest Inventory and Analysis: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 33 of the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012), the Secretary of Agriculture, in calculating a fee for grazing on a National Grassland, may provide a credit of up to 50 percent of the calculated fee to a Grazing Association or direct permittee for a conservation practice approved by the Secretary in advance of the fiscal year in which the cost of the conservation practice is incurred, and that the amount credited shall remain available to the Grazing Association or the direct permittee, as appropriate, in the fiscal year in which the credit is made and each fiscal year thereafter for use on the project for conservation practices approved by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to this account shall be available for the base salary and expenses of employees that carry out the functions funded by the "Capital Improvement and Maintenance" account, the "Range Betterment Fund" account, and the "Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses" account.

Note.--This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4).

<sup>29</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.



**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-41. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>30</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
National Forest System Funds:				
Discretionary Appropriations .....	\$1,974,388	\$1,863,557	\$1,863,557	\$1,296,505
Supplemental Appropriations .....	739,800	529,800	3,052,800	529,800
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>2,714,188</b>	<b>2,393,357</b>	<b>4,916,357</b>	<b>2,001,755</b>

Table FS-42. Appropriations Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
National Forest System:				
Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring .....	\$17,000	\$14,500	\$14,500	\$10,000
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness .....	55,000	45,000	45,000	31,000
Hazardous Fuels <sup>a/</sup> .....	207,000	175,450	175,450	-
Grazing Management.....	6,300	6,000	6,000	5,000
Forest Products.....	40,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
Vegetation and Watershed Management .....	32,000	30,000	30,000	20,500
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management.....	24,000	22,000	22,000	15,000
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration .....	32,000	31,000	31,000	-
Minerals and Geology Management .....	14,500	14,000	14,000	14,000
Land Use Authorization and Access .....	8,000	7,750	7,750	4,000
Law Enforcement Operations .....	19,505	19,505	19,505	19,505
Forest Inventory and Analysis.....	-	-	-	21,500
Salaries and Expenses .....	1,519,083	1,459,352	1,459,352	1,117,000
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act <sup>b/</sup> .....	529,800	529,800	529,800	529,800
Disaster Supplemental.....	210,000	-	2,523,000	-
<b>Total, National Forest System: .....</b>	<b>2,714,188</b>	<b>2,393,357</b>	<b>4,916,357</b>	<b>1,826,305</b>

a/ \$175,450,000 of Hazardous Fuels funding from the 2026 NFS appropriation will be requested by DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

b/ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) are advance appropriations each year from 2022 through 2026.

Note: The discrepancy between the project statement and MAX schedule X is reimbursable funds.

<sup>30</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.<sup>31</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING, ASSESSMENT, AND MONITORING**Table FS-43. Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring Details Table  
(thousands of dollars)

<b>Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>31</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$17,000	\$14,500	\$14,500	\$10,000
Recoveries .....	1,352	422	241	672
Balance Transfers .....	-400	-	-	-
Reprogramming .....	-	32	-	-
Other .....	-	-770	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	3,536	3,159	1,971	1,671
Total Available.....	21,488	17,343	16,712	12,343
Lapsing Balances .....	-4	-10	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-3,159	-1,971	-1,671	-864
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>18,324</b>	<b>15,361</b>	<b>15,041</b>	<b>11,479</b>

**Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring – Justification of Changes**

The budget allows the Forest Service to continue progress on priority projects. This includes ongoing efforts to amend or revise land management plans to implement the 2012 Planning Rule as well as focused efforts to streamline the National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA) planning to ensure efficient and timely clearance for critical land management efforts.

**Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring program guides the stewardship of 175 NFS units. It follows a continuous cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and adjustments based on the latest scientific information. This approach facilitates active land management including timber production, protecting and restoring ecosystem integrity, and enhancing ecosystem and community resilience to wildfire. The program emphasizes engagement with Tribes, the public, and government entities by encouraging their participation in land management planning, assessment, and monitoring.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress****Completion of Land Management Plan Revisions**

In FY 2024, the program completed three land management plan revisions for the Tonto National Forest, the Grande Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest, and the Ashley National Forest. These land management plans had not been revised since their initial development.

- *Tonto National Forest (AZ)*: The Tonto National Forest Land Management Plan was first developed in 1985. The revised plan addresses the long-term need for shared stewardship projects that support Tribal communities, recreation practices, and promote rural prosperity for the benefit of generations to come. The revised plan focuses on fostering healthier forests that are more resilient to wildfires. It also

<sup>31</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

increases public safety by emphasizing forest and watershed restoration treatments in fire-prone areas.

- *Grande Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest (CO):* The Grande Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Land Management Plan was first developed in 1983. The newly revised forest land management plan guides the long-term management of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests in southwestern Colorado. The plan integrates economic opportunities, world-class recreation, thriving ecosystems, and healthy forests. The plan supports access to public lands to meet the needs of local communities and a growing number of visitors, while preserving key wildlife migration corridors, habitats, and watersheds.
- *Ashley National Forest (UT and WY):* The Ashley National Forest Land Management Plan was first developed in 1986. The Ashley National Forest covers more than 1.4 million acres across seven counties in northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming. The forest plays an important role supporting local communities by providing economic benefits including fuelwood gathering, livestock grazing, and abundant recreational opportunities. The revised plan supports the continued provision of these services. It was shaped by the best available scientific information and extensive public and tribal engagement.

Additionally, the program is currently revising ten land management plans across NFS and conducting a broad-scale amendment to 19 land management plans in the Northwest Forest Plan<sup>32</sup> area.

#### Improving Plan Implementation through Efficient Project Planning and Compliance

The program has made significant strides in expanding the tools available to the Forest Service to assist in implementing land management plans. For example, section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023[1], allows a Federal agency to adopt a Categorical Exclusion (CE) listed in another agency's NEPA procedures. In close collaboration with other federal agencies, the program adopted new CEs for analyzing the environmental impacts of Forest Service actions, thus increasing efficiency and speed of plan implementation and delivery. As a result, 44 new CEs were adopted, raising the total number of available CEs in the Forest Service from 55 to 99. The adopted CEs address energy, broadband, telecommunication, timber production, and disaster recovery activities, in addition to CEs that support geophysical investigations and exploratory drilling.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

In FY 2026, the land management planning, assessment, and monitoring program will continue to use a collaborative approach to support each National Forest and Grassland in delivering sustainable ecosystem services to the public and Tribes. Specifically, the program will:

- Complete or improve progress on high priority Land Management Plan revisions based on regional or local-level needs and priorities,
- Develop and deliver training to Forest Service staff in support of planning, monitoring, and compliance, and

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r6/reo/overview.php>

- Complete and maintain national or regional-level tools and databases to support planning and monitoring efforts across NFS.

These objectives will continue to support the program's efforts to increase efficiency in maintaining and updating land management plans across NFS to provide resources for public use including timber, recreation, fish, forage, wildlife, minerals, water, and specialty products.

**RECREATION, HERITAGE, AND WILDERNESS**

Table FS-44. Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>33</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$55,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$31,000
Recoveries .....	1,549	895	500	500
Transfers out.....	-	-4,360	-	-
Balance Transfers .....	-	-	-235	-
Reprogramming .....	-4	201	-	-
Other .....	-	-240	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,863	3,033	3,011	5,793
Total Available .....	59,408	44,528	48,276	37,293
Lapsing Balances .....	-22	-29	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-3,033	-3,011	-5,793	-1,492
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>56,353</b>	<b>41,488</b>	<b>42,483</b>	<b>35,801</b>

**Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request allows the Forest Service to continue offering high-quality recreation experiences to visitors of national forests. With this funding level, the Forest Service will focus on high-use recreation sites and work with communities and public-private partnerships to pursue efficient, collaborative approaches to offering recreation opportunities on NFS lands.

**Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Recreation Program administers recreational access for over 193 million acres of NFS lands containing more than 31,000 developed recreation sites including campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads and day-use areas, 220,000 miles of fishable streams, and 122 ski areas.

The Heritage program streamlines compliance with historic preservation laws while protecting more than 500,000 heritage resources. The Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers Program manages more than 36.6 million acres of Congressionally-designated wilderness areas and over 5,200 miles of Congressionally-designated wild and scenic rivers.

National forests and grasslands receive an average of 159 million recreation visits annually<sup>34</sup> for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other activities. Spending by recreation visitors supports over 167,300 jobs in local forest communities and contributes over \$16.2 billion to the Nation's GDP<sup>35</sup>. To sustain and grow this level of use, the Forest Service is simplifying the permitting process for outfitters and guides, maintaining and encouraging strong collaborations with partners and volunteer groups, and working to meet the recreational desires of today's public, who seek year-round activities on NFS lands.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress****Strengthening Recreation Economies in Gateway Communities**

<sup>33</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-National-Visitor-Use-Monitoring-Summary-Report.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/economic-contributions.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/economic-contributions.pdf)

Three USDA agencies, the Forest Service, Rural Development, and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture are collaborating to boost the recreation economies of rural forest gateway communities by providing technical and financial assistance to develop recreation infrastructure and outside the boundaries of the National Forests<sup>36</sup>. This collaboration has allowed USDA Rural Development field staff and Forest Service district rangers to identify new local business candidates for small business loans that support recreation activities or enhance the local recreation economy, thereby improving quality of life for locals, and the level of services for visiting recreation enthusiasts.

#### National Forest Community Recreation Fund

In partnership with the Next 100 Coalition, the Forest Service launched the National Forest Community Recreation Fund<sup>37</sup>. This fund supports local programs such as outdoor gear libraries to increase access to outdoor recreation and enjoyment of national forests while fostering relationships between community groups and the Forest Service.

This pilot promotes a shared understanding of the level and nature of existing local partnerships that are pursuing these types of programs across NFS. In the first year of the Fund, approximately 130 proposals spanning all nine Forest Service regions were received, requesting up to \$50,000 per proposal. Seven recipients, including Tribes, nonprofits, and community organizations, received a total of \$225,000 to support a variety of programming and partnership work with national forests to promote recreational access to these outdoor spaces and foster natural resource stewardship.

#### Wilderness Character Monitoring (WCM)

Protecting wilderness character is a legal requirement of the 1964 Wilderness Act. In 2024, the Forest Service reached 67 percent of the target number of completed WCM Baseline Assessments (298 wildernesses). Another 26 percent (114 wildernesses) are in progress with completion anticipated in FY 2025. The WCM Central Team developed several products and support resources to assist national forests initiating five-year WCM trend assessments, including a schedule, template, examples of the template applied, bi-weekly WCM Central Team office hours to support those working on trend assessments, a tool to estimate complexity for completing five-year assessments, several training sessions, and guidance on addressing baseline assessment data discrepancies and other issues discovered during the five-year trend assessment.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

In FY 2026, the Forest Service will focus efforts on prioritizing high-value recreation opportunities to visitors on NFS lands.

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<sup>36</sup> [https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard\\_recreational\\_economy508.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard_recreational_economy508.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/delivering-mission/deliver/national-forest-community-recreation-fund-recipients>

**GRAZING MANAGEMENT**

Table FS-45. Grazing Management Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Grazing Management</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>38</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$6,300	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$5,000
Recoveries .....	287	189	145	144
Transfers out.....	-	-123	-	-
Balance Transfers .....	-333	-	-	-
Reprogramming .....	-10	2	-	-
Other .....	-	-757	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,860	1,812	1,237	1,484
Total Available.....	8,103	7,124	7,382	6,628
Lapsing Balances .....	-4	-10	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-1,812	-1,237	-1,484	-663
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>6,287</b>	<b>5,877</b>	<b>5,898</b>	<b>5,965</b>

**Grazing Management – Justification of Changes**

The budget requires the Forest Service to incorporate additional efficiencies and technologies in the administration of rangeland resources across 92 million acres used for grazing livestock. The Forest Service will prioritize the base aspects of the program which include issuing grazing permits, addressing court-ordered actions, and monitoring the impacts of wildland fire and grazing.

**Grazing Management – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

In managing livestock grazing, the Forest Service creates range allotment management plans, administers a grazing permit system to ensure compliance with federal laws, prepares and processes bills for fee collection, develops annual operating instructions based on up-to-date conditions on the ground, and ensures compliance with the permits. In short, the Forest Service works with range permittees to maintain or move toward healthy and productive rangelands.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

The Forest Service is updating its Rangeland Management Directives and is collaborating with a wide variety of partners – including Tribes, Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Geological Society of America, Intertribal Buffalo Council, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Nez Perce Tribe, Return to Freedom, Mule Deer Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, and Forest Service grazing permittees – to better manage rangelands for current and future generations. The Forest Service is incorporating new technologies, such as virtual fencing<sup>39</sup>, that could result in fewer physical fences across the landscape, and has the potential to improve grazing administration, facilitate wildlife movement, and more efficiently use forage.

The Grazing Management program investigated ways to enhance the approach to allotment management planning and wild horse and burro capacity assessment projects. The ungulate

<sup>38</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/delivering-mission/deliver/virtual-fencing-makes-ranching-less-time-consuming>

carrying approach leverages remotely sensed data products (plant productivity, land health, topography, water sources, etc.) and incorporates ungulate specific assumptions into a modeling approach which enhances the ability to provide a refined and consistent approach to completing ungulate carrying capacity estimates at a landscape scale. This has led to better informed assessments, more efficient analysis, and enabled effective management outcomes.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The top priority remains maintaining a sustainable supply of forage for livestock by partnering with ranchers and producers, sustaining water resources, offering recreational opportunities, and providing wildlife habitat throughout the 92 million acres of rangelands that the Forest Service stewards. Program funds will focus on administering the 6,000 term permits for livestock grazing. The Forest Service plans to incorporate emerging technologies, scientific advancements, and administrative flexibilities where possible.



**HAZARDOUS FUELS**

Table FS-46. Hazardous Fuels Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Hazardous Fuels</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>40</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$207,000	\$175,450	\$175,450	-
Recoveries .....	4,582	4,584	4,000	4,000
Transfers out.....	-	-1,185	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	15,102	14,261	15,279	13,631
Total Available .....	226,683	193,110	194,729	17,631
Lapsing Balances .....	-3	-265	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-14,261	-15,279	-13,631	-882
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>212,418</b>	<b>177,567</b>	<b>181,098</b>	<b>16,749</b>

**Hazardous Fuels – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget reforms the Federal approach to Wildland Fire Management by unifying Federal wildland fire responsibilities, including those within the Forest Service, into a single new U.S. Wildland Fire Service at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve efficiency, increase effectiveness, and streamline coordination in Federal wildland fire response.

\$175,450,000 for Hazardous Fuels will be requested as part of DOI's U.S. Wildland Fire Service budget and is not part of the Forest Service FY 2026 request.

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<sup>40</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**FOREST PRODUCTS**

Table FS-47. Forest Products Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Forest Products</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>41</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$40,000	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$39,000
Recoveries .....	1,961	492	634	640
Transfers out.....	-	-676	-	-
Balance Transfers .....	-591	-	-80	-
Reprogramming .....	-2	395	-	-
Other .....	-	-811	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,438	2,743	2,985	2,977
Total Available.....	43,806	41,142	42,539	42,617
Lapsing Balances .....	-3	-10	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-2,743	-2,985	-2,977	-2,344
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>41,060</b>	<b>38,147</b>	<b>39,562</b>	<b>40,273</b>

**Forest Products – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 budget continues the priority activities of the Forest Products program. Prioritization will be given to management activities that contribute to accomplishing the goals of Executive Order 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production*, the Forest Service, along with a steady increase of the timber volume sold target.

These management efforts will be accomplished by increasing the use of Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Authorities to increase volumes of timber offered for sale and harvested, and which will contribute to mutual ecosystem management goals. Forest Service will also increase utilization of silviculture prescriptions such as designation by prescription and designation by description. The Forest Service will utilize, where appropriate, virtual boundaries for units and sales to reduce the cost of marking timber and increase the volume of available timber offered for sale. The Forest Service will focus efforts on lands that are of high or very high risk of wildfire or are in great need of active forest management due to the risk of insect or disease outbreaks. NEPA planning in these areas will be focused and analyzed at the emergency rate to expedite this need for reduced density and increased timber production as quickly as possible. Additionally timber appraisals will have standardized rates that will be applied and used over geographic areas where similar conditions exist.

**Forest Products – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Forest Products program plans, prepares, and executes timber sales and stewardship contracts and agreements to encourage and support healthy and resilient forests and communities. Successful vegetation management ensures that National Forests are conserved, restored, productive, and made more resilient while enhancing water resources and offering goods and services critical to sustaining rural economies.

This program benefits local communities, particularly those communities that have a timber industry presence, by offering billions of board feet (bbf) of commercial timber. Forest products include materials derived from a forest for commercial use such as lumber and

<sup>41</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

paper, and also "special forest products" such as medicinal herbs, fungi, edible fruits and nuts, and other natural products. Critical to this success is the Forest Service's partnership with county, State, Tribal, and community partners. A 2023 Forest Service economic analysis estimated that Forest Service timber volume sold supported around 51,200 jobs, both full-time and part-time, and contributed \$5.83 billion to the GDP of the U.S. economy<sup>42</sup>.

### Selected Examples of Recent Progress

#### Diversified Forest Products Program

The Forest Service sold approximately 2.9 bbf of timber in FY 2024, which represents forest management treatments across 485,000 acres. This was a slight decrease from FY 2023 accomplishment of 3.14 bbf. Factors contributing to the decrease include litigation of planned vegetation management projects, market challenges resulting in higher costs and no bids on timber sale offers, no bids on timber sale offers with high roads package costs, and increased wildfire activity reducing capacity for timber sale operations. Wildfires continue to not only divert resources from planning and timber sale preparation but also prohibit access and the salability of timber in impacted locations. Despite these challenges, the Forest Service continues to deliver a diversified forest products program, supporting the vital role of stable timber supplies and forest products infrastructure for healthy landscapes and communities.

The Forest Service awarded and/or issued nearly 120,000 contracts and permits in FY 2024; at the end of FY 2024, a total of 7.2 billion board feet were under contract with industry. A total value of nearly \$144 million was awarded in FY 2024 and will be leveraged to expand additional management activities through other authorities such as stewardship contracting.

Various special forest management program funding sources contributed to the timber volume sold, which included salvage sale and other permanent and trust funds. In FY 2024, restoration efforts through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program resulted in 54 million board feet (mmbf); the Good Neighbor Authority contributed 258 mmbf; and stewardship contracting and agreements accounted for 894 mmbf.

In FY 2024, the markets lower value materials such as pulpwood, non-sawtimber, and biomass continued to impact the Forest Service's volume of forest product sales. The decline of these markets has impacted on the ability to remove this material, especially in the eastern regions. The closure of dimensional milling infrastructure across the country has also impacted the agency's ability to sell timber, specifically in western regions where distances to milling facilities that process timber products has made sale offers uneconomic due to transportation costs.

#### Collaboration through Stewardship

The Forest Service has been using the stewardship authority to work with partners, like the National Forest Foundation, on long-term projects that improve forest and grassland conditions while providing economic and social benefits. The stewardship authority allows the Forest Service to enter into agreements and contracts with partners for up to 20 years, depending on the location and the needs of the project. Through this

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<sup>42</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs\\_media/fs\\_document/economic-contributions.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/economic-contributions.pdf)

authority, the Forest Service can spread the cost of required contract cancellation provisions over multiple years, making it easier to plan and budget.

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 to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health. The table in the special exhibit section shows the acres awarded, the number of contracts or agreements awarded, and the volume awarded from FY 2020 to FY 2024. 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.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The program will invest in ongoing partnerships and continue to innovate and use all available discretionary and mandatory resources to achieve a steady increase in the volume of timber sold as measured by a government-wide metric, in coordination with other Federal land management agencies.

**VEGETATION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

Table FS-48. Vegetation and Watershed Management Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Vegetation and Watershed Management</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>43</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$32,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$20,500
Recoveries .....	1,050	250	240	750
Balance Transfers .....	-445	-	-10	-
Reprogramming .....	-2	-	-	-
Other .....	-	-185	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	3,684	4,226	1,692	1,915
Total Available.....	36,288	34,291	31,922	23,165
Lapsing Balances .....	-4	-13	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-4,226	-1,692	-1,915	-1,853
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>32,058</b>	<b>32,585</b>	<b>30,007</b>	<b>21,312</b>

**Vegetation and Watershed Management – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request focuses the Forest Service on the most critical watershed restoration and conservation actions. Land management actions with multiple benefits, such as timber production and recreation management efforts will be achieved.

**Vegetation and Watershed Management – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Vegetation and Watershed Management Program (including the Air Resource Management Program) improves and maintains landscape and watershed conditions by preventing and controlling invasive plants; maintaining or improving soil quality; establishing native plants for pollinators and diverse native plant communities; developing partnerships that benefit youth and Tribes; installing aquatic organism passages (AOP); and improving watershed condition.

In FY 2024, the Forest Service prioritized work in areas with the biggest impact, such as high fire risk areas, contributing to the recovery of threatened and endangered species recovery, and in priority watersheds identified in the Watershed Condition Framework<sup>44</sup>, and in watersheds that serve as source watersheds for municipal water supply. The program also supports priority actions for Wild Horse and Burro management.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress****Watershed Restoration Activities**

In FY 2024, the Forest Service completed more than 260,000 acres of soil and water improvements, contributing to essential projects focused on improving overall watershed conditions. Most of the completed acres were prescribed fire and treatment of invasive species, including the control of feral hogs and invasive plants. Other activities included vegetation management for fuels reduction, vegetation reestablishment, aquatic habitat improvements, road improvements or decommissioning, and installation of AOP crossings. To support stream restoration work, the Forest Service established a team for process-based restoration (PBR).<sup>45</sup> PBR focuses on using natural ecosystem processes to improve

<sup>43</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

<sup>44</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Watershed\\_Condition\\_Framework.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Watershed_Condition_Framework.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> <https://research.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/34786>

stream habitat function with minimal use of artificial structures. The team is raising awareness of PBR among field units, engaging with partners and researchers, establishing pilot projects and demonstrations, and providing virtual and field training with the goal of increasing the use of PBR techniques in appropriate landscapes.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The Vegetation and Watershed Management Program investments will focus on improving the conditions of priority and source watersheds, as well as enhancing water quality and quantity. Updates to the Terrestrial Assessment will enable continued reporting of the effects of ecological management activities. Program activities will address priority revegetation needs, control the spread of invasive species, and monitor air and water quality.

The Forest Service will continue to strengthen coordination with States, Tribes, local communities, private landowners, and partners in the public and private sector, working to advance mutually beneficial goals. The Forest Service will continue to implement the National Revegetation Effort<sup>46</sup>, including implementation of the National Seed Strategy. The Forest Service will assess watershed condition on all NFS watersheds using the new/modernized watershed condition classification model.

#### Program Evaluations

The Forest Service assessed water quality Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and effectiveness at more than 640 sites. The information is used to: 1) improve protection of water, aquatic and riparian resources through adaptive management; 2) document the use and effectiveness of BMP for 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.

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<sup>46</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd529988.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd529988.pdf)

**WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

Table FS-49. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>47</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$24,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$15,000
Recoveries .....	279	283	184	249
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,190	1,834	1,370	1,645
Total Available .....	25,238	24,101	23,504	16,894
Balance Available, EOY .....	-1,834	-1,370	-1,645	-338
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>22,710</b>	<b>21,859</b>	<b>16,556</b>

**Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management – Justifications of Changes**

The Budget will focus the Forest Service's effort on the most critical actions that benefit wildlife and fisheries including land management actions with multiple benefits, such as timber production and recreation.

**Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management Program manages habitat for fish and wildlife and contributes to maintaining the ecological conditions needed to support the viability and productivity of plant and animal communities in the Nation's forests and grasslands. The program conserves habitats that are resilient to change and better able to absorb impacts from natural stressors and disturbances.

The program capitalizes on widespread appreciation for fish and wildlife among the American public and conservation organizations by leveraging resources with numerous internal and external partners, including Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Nature Conservancy.

The program focuses on managing habitats to ensure aquatic and terrestrial species' persistence and habitat connectivity. Priority terrestrial habitat work is focused on integrating habitat maintenance and improvements with forest management, range, and other land management projects.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

Aquatic Organism Passage focuses on managing and improving aquatic habitat on NFS lands and conserving and improving fish and other aquatic species populations and interconnectedness.

Reconnecting stream reaches to ensure unimpeded fish and aquatic organism passage is critical for conserving and improving fish and aquatic species habitat, creating more recreational opportunities. A partnership with Trout Unlimited seeks to expand habitat connectivity and restore watershed health to be more resilient to wildfire, leveraging \$20 million to carry out \$62 million in habitat and watershed projects. The Forest Service and its partners improved aquatic passage and habitat at 1236 locations to reconnect and improve 22,323 acres of aquatic stream habitat.

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<sup>47</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

In FY 2026, the Wildlife and Fish Habitat Management Program will continue to manage, protect, and enhance water quality and habitats necessary to sustain plants and animals on NFS lands focusing on integrating habitat maintenance and improvements with forest management, range, and other land management projects. The program will work with other Federal, Tribal, and State agencies, and with non-governmental organizations to improve ecological connectivity and movement for fish and wildlife across different jurisdictions and to support ecological integrity and resilience to natural disasters.



**MINERALS AND GEOLOGY MANAGEMENT**

Table FS-50. Minerals and Geology Management Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Minerals and Geology Management</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>48</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$14,500	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
Recoveries .....	673	719	650	500
Transfers out.....	-	-162	-	-
Balance Transfers .....	-386	-	-	-
Reprogramming .....	-8	-	-	-
Other .....	-	-65	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,819	3,074	4,631	3,856
Total Available .....	17,598	17,565	19,281	18,356
Lapsing Balances .....	-3	-10	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-3,074	-4,631	-3,856	-3,671
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>14,521</b>	<b>12,924</b>	<b>15,425</b>	<b>14,685</b>

**Minerals and Geology Management – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request will focus the Forest Service on the highest priority environmental analyses for critical minerals projects that contribute to a stable supply of energy for current and future generations while continuing to sustain long-term ecosystem health and productivity. These efforts support the policy objectives identified in Executive Order 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*. Cleanup efforts will be concentrated on high priority contaminated sites, including Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) and other sites such as landfills, marijuana grow sites, shooting ranges, and administrative sites. The AML program seeks to minimize safety hazards associated with abandoned mines while preserving the historic and wildlife habitat resources that abandoned mines provide.

**Minerals and Geology Management – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Minerals and Geology Management program responds to the Nation’s needs regarding critical minerals and addresses legacy mine features or orphaned wells that pose threats to human health and the environment. The program also ensures the safety of the American public by mitigating and managing geologic hazards, abandoned mine lands, and hazardous substance releases. The Forest Service estimates that there are over 5,000 AML sites on NFS lands that require cleanup.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress****National Economic Contributions of Minerals and Geology Management**

The Forest Service minerals program contributed an estimated \$9.4 billion annually to the Nation’s economy and supports approximately 47,600 jobs, with a footprint of less than one percent of National Forests and Grasslands. Energy and mineral development from federal leases on NFS lands produced commodities valued at over \$6.2 billion which generated nearly \$545 million in revenue through royalties and other payments to the United States Treasury (\$444 million from oil and gas, \$77 million from coal, \$21 million from other leasable mineral commodities, \$2 million from geothermal leases, and \$1.4 million from

<sup>48</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

mineral material contracts). Approximately seven percent of all revenues are collected from energy and mineral production on federal onshore lands.

#### Orphaned Wells

The Forest Service invested in plugging, reclaiming orphaned wells, and removing legacy equipment on NFS lands. The plugging and remediation of orphan well sites address Forest Service priorities to remediate and reduce legacy pollution, protect watersheds by removing potential sources for contamination of clean water, provide safe access for all recreationalists, and provide jobs and other economic benefits.

#### Salable and Locatable Program

The Forest Service's Locatable Minerals program team collaborates with USDA to meet the Nation's critical minerals needs on NFS lands by processing critical minerals proposals and providing certified mineral examiner expertise on critical and other locatable minerals projects on NFS lands. In FY 2024, locatable mineral mines on NFS lands had revenue estimates that totaled more than \$1.4 billion. Although a royalty is not collected by the government, these mineral activities support local employment in rural areas and contribute substantially to the U.S. production of minerals such as gold, copper, uranium, zinc, silver, lead, platinum, and palladium.

#### Abandoned Mine Lands and Environmental Compliance and Protection

The Abandoned Mine Lands and Environmental Compliance and Protection program<sup>49</sup> protects the American public from hazards associated with abandoned mines and facilities, and hazardous material releases on NFS lands. The Forest Service has identified over 70,000 abandoned mine sites on National Forests and anticipates there are 5,324 mine and mill sites that require clean up under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)<sup>50</sup>. For non-CERCLA abandoned mine sites, the Forest Service anticipates there are 39,292 inventoried and verified features requiring mitigation.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The Minerals and Geology Management program will continue to contribute to the supply of domestic minerals that advance the health, productivity, and overall well-being of all Americans. This program will continue to provide benefits to society originating from mineral and energy extraction to produce metals, alloys, and plastics, as well as the energy used to make, transport, and power modern American life. Funding will support growing the certified mineral examiner program to ensure expertise for critical minerals projects.

The program will continue to monitor and mitigate geological hazards, such as landslides, and support the reclamation of surface resources for multiple recreational uses. The program will continue to safeguard and reclaim abandoned mine lands across Forest Service lands by evaluating and cleaning-up contaminated sites on Forest Service land.

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<sup>49</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/natural-resources/geology/abandoned-mine-lands>

<sup>50</sup> <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter103&edition=prelim>

**LAND USE AUTHORIZATION AND ACCESS**

Table FS-51. Land Use Authorization and Access Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Land Use Authorization and Access</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>51</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$8,000	\$7,750	\$7,750	\$4,000
Recoveries .....	396	312	200	200
Transfers out.....	-	-213	-	-
Reprogramming .....	-20	-	-	-
Other .....	-	-17	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	739	1,345	1,538	1,423
Total Available.....	9,116	9,177	9,488	5,623
Lapsing Balances .....	-6	-40	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-1,345	-1,538	-1,423	-225
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>7,765</b>	<b>7,599</b>	<b>8,065</b>	<b>5,398</b>

**Land Use Authorization and Access – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request requires efficiency and the continued adoption of improved technology to provide accurate landownership records and authorize and manage infrastructure on NFS Lands.

**Land Use Authorization and Access – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Land Use Authorization and Access program supports the economic well-being of rural and urban communities through improving and providing accurate landownership records and mapping products. The program permits critical infrastructure to remote areas, working across boundaries and working with stakeholders and partners to permit reliable infrastructure to keep communities safe.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

The program prioritized the creation of master special use permits (MSUP) for maintenance and vegetation management. This initiative consolidated 355 powerline facility authorizations to 38 authorizations, creating greater efficiencies in administering and managing powerlines on NFS lands. Inclusion of updated operating plans with the MSUPs outlines procedures for systematically communicating and approving routine maintenance and vegetation management activities necessary to ensure wildfire threat mitigation and reliable delivery of electricity. With the updated powerline authorizations, the backlog of expired powerline authorizations was reduced to 25 percent (448 of 1823 total powerline authorizations).

**Program Objectives for FY 2026**

This program will continue to ensure the productive and sustainable use of NFS lands through various land and natural resource management activities in support of the well-being of communities. The program's focus will be on securing and protecting NFS lands and land interests. The Forest Service will survey lands in advance of timber sales, acquire rights-of-way, and administer road agreements necessary for public and Forest Service access to complete activities, including timber production, recreation, and utility inspection.

<sup>51</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS**

Table FS-52. Law Enforcement Operations Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Law Enforcement Operations</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>52</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$19,505	\$19,505	\$19,505	\$19,505
Recoveries .....	895	651	600	500
Transfers out.....	-	-404	-	-
Other .....	-	-99	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,971	1,152	1,433	1,292
Total Available.....	22,371	20,806	21,538	21,297
Lapsing Balances .....	-1	-68	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-1,152	-1,433	-1,292	-213
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>21,218</b>	<b>19,305</b>	<b>20,246</b>	<b>21,084</b>

**Law Enforcement Operations – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request allows Law Enforcement Operations to continue the highest priority projects, and patrol high-use areas.

**Law Enforcement Operations – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) program upholds a longstanding tradition of exemplary public service, safeguarding the nation's natural resources and preserving them for future generations. The Forest Service's LEI program is the only authorized entity to enforce federal laws related to NFS lands and are experts in investigating complex natural resource matters that preserve and sustain these precious resources for present and future generations. LEI is dedicated to preventing, detecting, and investigating violations of federal laws and regulations to protect visitors to NFS lands, Forest Service employees, and national resources.

Law Enforcement Operations Officers (LEO) provide a uniformed patrol presence and respond to safety incidents and violations of laws and regulations. Common incidents include resource damage, looting from historic sites, theft, alcohol and drug use, unauthorized motor vehicle use, illegal occupancy or exceeding stay limits, trespassing, and destruction of natural and cultural resources. Law enforcement duties also include more complex civil and criminal investigations usually performed by Criminal Investigators, such as arson, drug possession, smuggling and manufacturing of illegal substances, assaults, and both domestic and international Lacey Act violations. LEI resources dedicate over 750,000 hours annually to public safety, resource protection, and law enforcement activities.

To accomplish this mission, dedicated law enforcement officers cover 689,000 acres of NFS lands each. Despite challenges such as additional risks due to workload, lack of backup, and employee fatigue, LEI officers remain committed to maintaining high standards of public safety and resource protection. LEI officers are frequently sought to provide training and expertise, including through collaboration with the Department of State, to law enforcement officers in foreign countries worldwide. Additionally, LEI continues to adapt and respond to increasing demands, including activities involving the growing homeless population found on

<sup>52</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

NFS lands, while also supporting ongoing Emergency Support Function-13 (ESF-13)<sup>53</sup> incidents and emergency declarations. LEI personnel have also been assigned to assist the United States Border Patrol in securing the border.

#### Selected Examples of Recent Progress

##### Partnerships

LEI continues to enhance relationships both internally and externally. LEI has long practiced a “shared stewardship” model with cooperating law enforcement agencies and members of local communities. An area of significant achievement are the critical relationships formed with County Sheriff’s in the Western States. This partnership was recognized by the Western States Sheriffs Association in 2024 for its strong mutual benefit to the Forest Service and partner sheriffs.

##### Trespass Cannabis Cultivation Sites

Trespass cannabis cultivation complexes<sup>54</sup> and the transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and co-conspirators that operate illegally on NFS lands threaten environmental and human health. These operations divert surface waters, frequently use banned pesticides that poison wildlife and contaminate soil and plants, fragment habitats, and sometimes cause wildfires. LEI continues to work diligently to identify, investigate, eradicate, and remediate these illegal cultivation sites found on NFS lands. Remediation typically involves removing materials, including banned pesticides that require additional safety and disposal measures, infrastructure, and human refuse<sup>62</sup> from the sites.

In FY 2024, LEI and cooperators located 15 sites, eradicating 25,810 marijuana plants; 194 short-haul loads<sup>55</sup>; and seizing 2,657 pounds of processed marijuana. One arrest was also made, and four weapons were confiscated. Reclamation efforts on 42 sites resulted in the removal of 20,852 pounds of infrastructure/refuse/fertilizer; 24.32 ounces of restricted poisons; 17.9 miles of water line; 57 propane tanks; and the restoration of 36.7 million gallons of water.

##### Rainbow Family of Living Light (RFL) Gathering

The Rainbow Family of Living Light, known as the Rainbow Family, is a loose-knit group of individuals located throughout the United States and other countries who have been illegally gathering on different National Forests each year since 1972. In FY 2024, the gathering took place on the Plumas National Forest, Mount Hough Ranger District, in Plumas County, California from June 12, 2024 through July 4, 2024. An estimated 1,700 individuals attended the gathering. The participants did not seek or obtain a Forest Service special use permit (non-commercial group use permit), so the event was managed as an unauthorized group use incident by LEI.

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<sup>53</sup> ESFs may be selectively activated for both Stafford Act and non-Stafford Act incidents. ESF-13 denotes Federal public safety and security assistance to local, state, tribal, territorial, and Federal organizations overwhelmed by the results of an actual or anticipated natural/manmade disaster or an act of terrorism. Recent ESF-13 activations include hurricane and flood response.

<sup>54</sup> A trespass cannabis cultivation complex is a network of cultivation plots, camps, and water sources that may span large areas of the landscape and are connected by trails and irrigation lines. Each complex includes one or more cultivation sites.

<sup>55</sup> Short-haul is defined as transporting one or more persons suspended beneath a helicopter.

Large gatherings like this can negatively impact forest natural resources, public health and safety, and the availability of public lands to the public. The Rainbow Family has consistently refused to comply with the special use permit process during national gatherings. For this event, the Forest Service mobilized a national incident management team (NIMT) experienced in handling such incidents. The team collaborated with the local community and other law enforcement agencies to protect everyone's health and safety and minimize environmental impacts through information-sharing and law enforcement.

The 2024 incident resulted in 391 law enforcement actions, 113 incident reports, 153 written warnings, 119 violation notices, one CA State violation, and five arrests.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

LEI has historically experienced great variances in authorized full-time positions. The Forest Service will prioritize maintaining LEI staffing levels in FY 2026, following through on Forest Service leadership commitments.

#### Lacey Act International Operations Division (IOD)

To build on recent partnerships and new authority within the Timber Interdiction Membership Board Enforcement Resource (TIMBER) Working Group, established in FY 2023, LEI plans to launch an International Operations Division (IOD) in FY 2026 to enforce the Lacey Act. Timber and wood products often come from the world's most biologically varied and valuable forests, which lack adequate protection and governance. Criminals take advantage of these weaknesses in timber supply chains. The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates that 15 percent to 30 percent of globally traded wood is harvested illegally. Additionally, according to the 2021 United Nations Environment Program-Interpol Report, illegal logging and associated trade generate \$51 billion to \$152 billion annually.<sup>56</sup>

Lacey Act violators significantly harm the United States economy as well. Illegal timber can be sold for much less than legally harvested timber, undercutting legitimate suppliers and causing financial losses. The United States market loses an estimated \$500 million to \$1 billion annually due to lost export opportunities and depressed wood prices. This illegal activity also results in a global market loss of around \$10 billion, including \$5 billion lost to tax evasion. The economic impact extends beyond financial losses, as the timber industry also faces human costs, with forced labor present in 14 percent of reported countries' forestry sectors.<sup>57</sup> Illegal timber trade often converges with other crimes, leading to complex, transnational operations that are extremely lucrative. Nature crimes, including illegal logging and wildlife trafficking, often overlap with human, arms, and narcotics trafficking, further exacerbating the economic and social impact on the United States and global markets.

#### Trespass Cannabis Cultivation Site Remediation

LEI will continue to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle domestic criminal organizations and Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) involved in trespass cannabis cultivation, methamphetamine production, drug trafficking, and distribution on NFS lands. This includes targeting individuals and entities that support these organizations through transportation or finance. LEI takes a full posture stance against all illicit drug related incidents on and affecting NFS lands. The Forest Service will continue eradicating cannabis cultivated on NFS lands and reclaiming trespass cannabis complexes as discoveries

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<sup>56</sup> <https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Environmental-crime/Forestry-crime>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

are made and as funding allows. This effort is aimed to deter TCOs and their supporters from using these locations in the future. Since TCOs are responsible for most trespass cannabis cultivation on NFS lands, the Forest Service partners with other federal, state, and local agencies to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle these organizations. The Forest Service will continue to partner with the Department of Justice through local United States Attorney's Offices to coordinate and support prosecutorial efforts.

**FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**

Table FS-53. Forest Inventory and Analysis Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Forest Inventory and Analysis</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	-	-	\$21,500
Recoveries .....	-	-	-	150
Balance Available, SOY .....	-	-	-	984
Total Available .....	-	-	-	22,634
Balance Available, EOY .....	-	-	-	-453
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,181</b>

a/ Previously appropriated in the Forest and Rangeland Research account.

**Forest Inventory and Analysis – Justification of Changes**

The budget for Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) operating funding will adjust the remeasurement interval for the nationwide forest inventory. The measurement cycles for states will adjust from 5-year to 10 years, 7-year to 10 years, and 10-year cycles to 14 years.

**Forest and Inventory Analysis- Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Forest Service FIA program is the Nation's foremost comprehensive forest census covering all 50 states and territories. As directed in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (P.L 95-307), the FIA program uses nationwide statistically robust surveys and collects original data that is used to document the past and current extent of forest area, including increases and 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 demographics and management objectives of private forest owners.

The FIA program calculates authoritative estimates of the changes on forest land conversions, trees outside of forests—such as urban forests and agroecosystems—and harvested wood products in the United States. It also generates publicly available data from its surveys, including nationwide forest inventory data, urban FIA data, and natural resource use monitoring data<sup>58/59</sup>. Land managers rely on FIA data and products to enhance productivity and better understand biological variety and other ecosystem benefits. FIA collaborates extensively with state forestry agencies, universities, and other partners, leveraging one partner dollar for every five US dollars invested.

The FIA program also supports analysis of survey item nonresponse in the national Timber Product Output surveys to assess accuracy, evaluating statewide aerial imagery with the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP)<sup>60</sup> to improve nationwide forest inventory estimates and gather information on corporate forest ownership in the United States.

Through partnerships and other national and regional efforts, FIA supports management decisions to reduce fire risk. This includes analysis of pre- and post-fire information to

<sup>58</sup> <https://apps.fs.usda.gov/fia/datamart/datamart.html>

<sup>59</sup> <https://research.fs.usda.gov/products/dataandtools/datasets/national-resource-use-monitoring-data-downloads>

<sup>60</sup> <https://naip-usdaonline.hub.arcgis.com/>



understand how initial forest conditions may affect burn severity or estimate biomass loss due to fire. Additional measurements are being collected and integrated into the analysis using terrestrial laser scanning and NAIP aerial image captures.

The FIA program continues to collaborate with universities, industry, and other Forest Service entities to increase the precision of estimates for smaller geographic areas and shorter time intervals using FIA inventory data. Small Area Estimation (SAE) combines multi-scaled remotely sensed data and other ancillary information with FIA inventory data to produce estimates.

#### Selected Examples of Recent Progress

##### Expanding analysis tools

The FIA program continues to develop new tools to make data analysis more efficient. FIA analysts collaborated with NFS on several projects to produce automated monitoring reports based on FIA data using the R programming environment and the FIA-developed FIESTA Small-Area Estimation tool. Work is underway to create a web-based interface for the FIESTA package to enable users without programming experience to develop custom analyses that utilize the latest SAE techniques.

##### Delivering annually updated State Forest Fact Sheets

FIA released an updated web-based application, the FIA One-Click State Fact Sheets<sup>61</sup> which generates standard FIA estimates for any state based on the latest information in the public-facing FIA database. Additionally, the application provides an avenue to automate the production of Farm-Bill-mandated annual state reports delivered as Resource Updates. The One-Click application streamlines the publication of annual State updates and provides considerable time and cost savings for the Forest Service in producing these reports.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

In FY 2026, the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program will support the completion of national surveys, posting data, and completing state reports. The program will modernize Timber Products Output data management, operations, and reporting, including all state-enhanced dashboard tools. The i-Tree suite<sup>62</sup> will be updated to enhance understanding of the benefits trees and forests provide in urban areas.

FIA will advance remote sensing and Small Area Estimation (SAE) techniques, providing user-friendly applications to produce localized estimates for biomass.

The program will also implement high-precision global positioning system data for FIA plots, enhancing forest structure modeling and understanding the impacts of disturbances such as hurricanes and wildfires.

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<sup>61</sup> <https://research.fs.usda.gov/products/dataandtools/tools/forest-inventory-and-analysis-one-click-state-factsheets>

<sup>62</sup> <https://research.fs.usda.gov/products/dataandtools/tools/i-tree>

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Table FS-54. Salaries and Expenses Details Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>63</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$1,519,083	\$1,459,352	\$1,459,352	\$1,117,000
Recoveries .....	6,948	6,281	5,000	5,000
Balance Transfers .....	-4,500	-	-	-
Other .....	31	-460	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	16,691	26,697	12,119	154,771
Total Available.....	1,538,253	1,491,869	1,476,471	1,276,771
Lapsing Balances .....	-12	-11	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-26,697	-12,119	-154,771	-12,768
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>1,511,544</b>	<b>1,479,739</b>	<b>1,321,700</b>	<b>1,264,003</b>

**Salaries and Expenses – Justification of Changes**

In pursuit of streamlining workforce efforts, realigning facilities, and other government efficiencies, NFS has reduced staff. This funding level will allow for focused support of field-based operations, which are essential for meeting high-priority objectives. The Forest Service will prioritize staffing for activities related to timber sales, law enforcement, recreation, environmental analyses, critical minerals permitting, grazing allotment management, and forest analysis and inventory. This prioritization will ensure public safety on NFS lands, timber production and range management activities critical for rural economic development and restoration of NFS lands and increased domestic production of critical minerals to support national defense and electrification needs.

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<sup>63</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

Table FS-55. Disaster Supplemental Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Disaster Supplemental</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$210,000	-	\$2,523,000	-
Recoveries .....	481	\$3,743	13,627	\$3,800
Transfers out.....	-	-	-59,110	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	574,229	323,786	167,199	2,433,139
Total Available.....	784,710	327,529	2,644,716	2,436,939
Balance Available, EOY .....	-323,786	-167,199	-2,433,139	-1,900,812
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>460,924</b>	<b>160,330</b>	<b>211,577</b>	<b>536,127</b>

**Disaster Supplemental**

Disaster Supplemental funding supports Forest Service actions, activities, and responses to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters having a direct impact to Forest Service managed lands and assets and the communities contiguous to or embedded within those managed lands.

Table FS-56. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$529,800	\$529,800	\$529,800	\$529,800
Recoveries .....	3,103	5,979	3,000	3,000
Transfers in .....	7,400	7,473	15,973	-
Transfers out <sup>a/</sup> .....	-124,634	-144,387	-157,092	-214,546
Balance Transfers .....	21,403	67,567	-5,535	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	299,745	248,567	299,049	66,680
Total Available.....	736,817	714,998	685,195	384,934
Balance Available, EOY .....	-248,567	-299,049	-66,680	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>488,250</b>	<b>415,949</b>	<b>618,515</b>	<b>384,934</b>

a/ Includes funds to be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-78) broadly supports ecosystem restoration, wildfire risk reduction, wildfire mitigation grants, and other community support activities.

Table FS-57. Inflation Reduction Act Program Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Inflation Reduction Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Recoveries .....	-	\$93	\$388	\$390
Balance Available, SOY .....	\$350,000	189,351	93,136	18,705
Total Available .....	350,000	189,445	93,524	19,095
Balance Available, EOY .....	-189,351	-93,136	-18,705	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>160,649</b>	<b>96,308</b>	<b>74,819</b>	<b>19,095</b>

**Inflation Reduction Act**

The Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169), includes funds appropriated for vegetation and watershed management, and timely processing of National Environmental Policy Act-related reviews.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-58. Classification by Objects (obligations in thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>64</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.....	\$100,395	\$100,453	\$98,867	\$71,543
	Personnel compensation, field .....	1,015,351	1,015,938	999,900	723,557
11.0	Total personnel compensation .....	1,115,746	1,116,391	1,098,768	795,100
12.0	Personal benefits .....	474,743	480,594	473,007	342,282
13.0	Benefits for former personnel .....	-	-	13,740	436,362
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	1,590,489	1,596,985	1,585,515	1,573,744
	Other Objects:				
	Travel and transportation of persons .....	62,253	47,145	57,767	46,175
22.0	Transportation of things.....	3,355	2,665	13,181	10,536
23.1	Rental payments to GSA.....	-1	-	-	-
23.2	Rental payments to others .....	105	105	91	72
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges .....	1,981	972	1,274	1,018
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	737	918	714	571
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .	834	337	505	404
	Other services from non-Federal sources .....	373,952	259,398	273,156	218,342
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources .....	144,072	124,591	115,871	92,619
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.....	1,082	36	482	385
25.5	Research and development contracts .....	926	23,690	10,616	8,486
25.6	Medical care.....	88	105	83	67
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment .....	3,945	3,329	3,137	2,508
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	58,440	46,527	45,271	36,187
31.0	Equipment.....	11,495	11,187	9,782	7,819
32.0	Land and structures .....	5,191	3,767	3,863	3,088
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	827,572	429,873	521,150	416,572
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	1,167	2,061	1,392	1,113
43.0	Interest and dividends.....	17	15	14	11
44.0	Refunds.....	-23	-39	-27	-21
91.0	Unvouchered.....	-1	-2	-1	-1
92.0	Undistributed.....	308	93	173	138
	Total, other objects .....	1,497,495	956,771	1,058,493	846,088
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	3,087,984	2,553,756	2,644,008	2,419,832
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	\$195,000	\$200,361	\$204,368	\$208,456
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	78,255	78,978	81,341	83,705
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.7

<sup>64</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE****LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

Table FS-59. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated.....	\$151,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation .....	<u>78,000,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

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

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, \$78,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; for construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system; and for 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 and 205.

Note.--This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4).

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-60. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>65</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$158,048	\$156,130	\$151,000	\$78,000
Supplemental Appropriations.....	222,000	72,000	3,597,000	72,000
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>380,048</b>	<b>228,130</b>	<b>3,748,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>

Table FS-61. Appropriations Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Facilities .....	\$54,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$20,000
Roads.....	73,000	73,000	73,000	50,000
Trails.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	8,000
Legacy Roads and Trails .....	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act .....	72,000	72,000	72,000	72,000
Construction Projects.....	5,048	5,130	-	-
Disaster Supplemental.....	150,000	-	3,525,000	-
<b>Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance: .....</b>	<b>380,048</b>	<b>228,130</b>	<b>3,748,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>

<sup>65</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION**

Table FS-62. Facilities Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Facilities Maintenance and Construction</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>66</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$54,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$20,000
Recoveries .....	858	704	614	700
Transfers out.....	-	-1,597	-	-
Other .....	-	-10	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	33,782	24,786	17,122	12,553
Total Available .....	88,641	75,883	69,736	33,253
Lapsing Balances .....	-270	-10	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-24,786	-17,122	-12,553	-5,986
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>63,585</b>	<b>58,751</b>	<b>57,183</b>	<b>27,267</b>

**Facilities Maintenance and Construction – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request requires the prioritization and streamlining of operations for recreation facility and site maintenance, maintenance and management of Forest Service-owned dams, and facility Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The Forest Service will continue to use the National Asset Management Program to select out-year projects that meet the Forest Service's highest priority facility needs. These projects reinforce recreational opportunities, dam safety, and replacement or improvement of critical Forest Service-owned facilities such as employee housing.

The FY 2026 Budget proposes to reauthorize the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund. In addition to the discretionary budget request, the Forest Service's National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund Projects proposed for FY 2026 will continue to improve public access and visitor experience on NFS lands. The FY 2026 project list includes many projects that help to address the employee housing shortage which is hampering the Forest Service's ability to hire and retain employees in rural and high cost of living areas.

**Facilities Maintenance and Construction – Status of Programs**

The discretionary Facilities program funds the costs associated with recreation facility and site maintenance, maintenance/repair and management of Forest Service-owned dams, and all facility Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).

**Current Activities**

The Facilities Maintenance and Construction program supports the Forest Service's more than 39,000 owned administrative buildings, 30,000 recreation sites, 6,000 recreation buildings, over 17,000 toilet facilities, and more than 1,500 dams. The program also supports eight nurseries and seed extractories, which provide locally adapted plants and seed for reforestation projects and assured sources of desirable species and stock types for restoring native ecosystems. Capital improvement funding for facilities allows for necessary maintenance and new construction, replacements, and expansion.

The Forest Service recreation facilities support 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. Recreation

<sup>66</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

facility maintenance funds are primarily used to address ongoing infrastructure maintenance needs within recreation sites and chip away at the \$1.2 billion deferred maintenance backlog to provide a safe environment for the visiting public.

Over 3,000 dams are sited on National Forest Service lands, including those that are Forest Service owned (approximately 1,500), special use permitted, and owned by other entities. These dams provide the largest source of municipal water supply in the country, providing drinking water to more than 60 million people in 3,400 communities across 33 states. Forest Service dams serve multiple uses across the Forest Service for communities. Approximately 50 percent of all Forest Service owned dams are for recreation and/or wildlife management, 15 percent are used for fire protection, five percent for irrigation, and ten percent for flood control and/or water supply. The remaining dams support fisheries, mining tailings, debris control, and hydroelectric uses.

#### Selected Examples of Recent Progress

##### Capital Improvements

In FY 2024, the Forest Service completed five high value nationally selected administrative site improvement projects at a cost of approximately \$10.5 million and three high value nationally selected recreation facilities site improvement projects at a cost of approximately \$2.2 million.

The Ochoco Historic Building and Site Restoration project repaired the Civilian Conservation Corps-era buildings at Lamonta Compound, which included replacement of damaged siding on the historical buildings, exterior painting, asphalt replacement around the buildings, and installation of an underground sprinkler system. This project also included replacement of the dilapidated roof on the historic Cold Springs Guard Station which is used as a recreation rental opportunity allowing forest visitors to enjoy an overnight in a rustic stay in a natural forest setting. This project cost \$1.2 million and reduced deferred maintenance by \$950,000.

The Forest Service also completed renovation of the Lucky Peak Nursery Cone Processing and Storage facility, which included improvements to seed extraction, cone preparation, and cone drying facilities. Every year, the nursery grows about two to six million trees on 60 acres of land and the trees are used to replant areas that have been damaged by fire, insect attacks, high winds, and decay. The nurseries are also used to replant areas that have been harvested in timber sales.

##### Dam Compliance

The dam program has increased its regulatory compliance for dam safety exercises and emergency action plans by 15 percent in the last year and is now at 75 percent (up from less than five percent five years ago). This has increased awareness and response to dam safety incidents across national forests. The program is steadily increasing its completion of risk assessments of high hazard dams, leading to prioritization of dam repairs based on risk.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The overarching facility program objectives are to continue to prioritize administrative facility, recreation site, and dam maintenance and improvement projects that provide the best return on investment for the Forest Service and accomplish mission critical work. In FY 2026, the dam program will improve Forest Service facilities with the highest health and safety needs.

In FY 2026, the dam program is scheduled to complete ten dam safety exercises, update a minimum of 15 emergency action plans, and complete annual inspections of its high hazard dam inventory. Additionally, as funding allows, the program will continue to move forward



with projects resulting in the prioritization of its inventory by risk. These dam safety efforts will help ensure dams projects deliver their intended benefits while reducing risks to the public, property and the environment.

#### Program Evaluations

Condition assessments will be carried out on recreation facilities and administrative facilities to help evaluate current conditions and plan for needed maintenance and end of life replacement with capital improvements as determined necessary to carry out the Forest Service mission.

**ROADS MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION**

Table FS-63. Roads Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Roads Maintenance and Construction</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>67</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$73,000	\$73,000	\$73,000	\$50,000
Recoveries .....	1,524	1,157	2,017	2,500
Transfers out.....	-	-2,040	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	10,056	6,740	7,344	6,589
Total Available .....	84,580	78,857	82,361	59,089
Lapsing Balances .....	-21	-28	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-6,740	-7,344	-6,589	-4,136
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>77,819</b>	<b>71,485</b>	<b>75,772</b>	<b>54,953</b>

**Roads Maintenance and Construction – Justification of Changes**

The budget will require the Forest Service to streamline and focus efforts on critical maintenance and improvements to the Forest Service’s transportation infrastructure. While the decrease could change funds available for the Forest Service to fund road maintenance critical for hauling timber and biomass removal, it is expected that retaining the revenue generated under the Roads and Trails Permanent Fund will offset this decrease in part and will be used to facilitate implementation of Executive Order 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production*.

Two proposals in the FY 2026 Budget are an important component in the justification of the discretionary changes:

1. The LWCF Priority Deferred Maintenance Program will prioritize deferred maintenance projects that support and facilitate high-priority objectives associated with timber production, emergency response, and recreation activities. The funding would be spent predominantly on roads, bridges, and facilities, including those that are critical to housing employees and ensuring visitor safety.
2. The Road and Trails for States program collects ten percent of all National Forest Fund receipts, which includes both fees and other types of revenue and can be used by the Forest Service without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived. Fees collected are used to repair or reconstruct roads, bridges, and trails on NFS lands. Previously funds were utilized to correct road and trail deficiencies that adversely affect ecosystems. Since FY 2008, appropriations acts have directed collections to be transferred to Treasury. In FY 2026, the program will retain collections and will prioritize their use for the maintenance and reconstruction of roads critical to the implementation of Executive Order 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production*.

<sup>67</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

## **Roads Maintenance and Construction – Status of Programs**

The Roads Maintenance and Construction program provides critical access to and through national forests and grasslands for emergency response, recreational use, resource management, commercial activities, and administrative purposes that benefit the American public and support the mission of the Forest Service. The primary objective of this program is to operate and maintain a transportation network that meets the priority access needs of the public and the Forest Service while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment.

### **Current Activities**

The Roads Maintenance and Construction program funds maintenance, construction, reconstruction, repair, and management of Forest Service-owned roads and bridges, and is responsible for implementing and providing guidance on updated policies, laws, rules, and regulations surrounding road and bridge construction and maintenance practices.

The Forest Service is directly responsible for approximately 360,000 miles of roads, of which 65,000 miles are for passenger vehicles, and 6,700 road bridges across NFS. This program is essential for all land management activities, including forest product removal, emergency response, visitor use, and vital community connections.

The Forest Service is in the process of updating the standard construction specifications for roads and bridges following updates to Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) "Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects" (FP-24), the adoption of the 11th Edition of the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and the implementation of the new National Bridge Inspection Standards in response to the update of 23 CFR part 650 Subpart C.

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

In FY 2024, the Forest Service improved and maintained 29,000 miles of road, inspected 2,327 bridges to ensure that the bridges conformed to the new bridge inspection standards, constructed 37 miles of high clearance road and 5.8 miles of passenger car roads, and initiated 16 road and bridge projects across eight of the nine regions. Among these projects, \$2.5 million was for surface preservation projects, \$2.4 million was allocated to road reconstruction, \$526,000 for aquatic organism passage that will improve water quality and stream flow, and \$1.7 million for bridge repairs and replacements. These activities ensure safe and effective access for first responders, the public, commercial users, and land management activities.

In addition, the Forest Service directed ten million dollars to address rehabilitation and replacement of critical roads and bridges needed to improve access to gateway communities<sup>68</sup>, recreation opportunities, forest products removal, fuel treatments, and emergency response.

The Forest Service completed a project to rehabilitate, repair and repave 2.3-miles of asphalt surfaced roads in the Daniel Boone National Forest in the Koomer Ridge Campground and on Sky Bridge Road. This project improved access to recreation, hunting and fishing opportunities in the Red River Gorge National Geological Area, a scenic natural area that attracts thousands of visitors each year.

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<sup>68</sup> <https://www.scenic.org/why-scenic-conservation/parks-open-spaces/gateway-communities/>

The Forest Service also completed the Bitterroot Deficient Bridge Replacements project on the Bitterroot National Forest which removed and replaced three bridges, providing critical access for forest management activities, ensuring public safety and improving watershed health.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

In FY 2026, the Roads Maintenance and Construction program will continue to maintain and repair road and bridge assets that are critical to providing access to NFS lands. The selected capital improvement projects are critical to support forest health initiatives, fuels management, and provide access to campgrounds and other recreational areas.

The Forest Service will complete revisions to the existing Forest Service supplemental specifications needed to implement the new FP-24 specification<sup>69</sup> issued by FHWA and in coordination with affected programs will implement the new MUTCD<sup>70</sup> including revisions to the Sign and Poster Guidelines for the Forest Service<sup>71</sup> to be in compliance with the FHWA requirements.

The Forest Service will make progress towards full implementation of the new National Bridge Inspection standards and the mandatory use of the “InspectX” bridge inspection software<sup>72</sup> solution to ensure compliance and enhance the capabilities, standardization, and efficiencies in the bridge monitoring program.

#### Program Evaluations

The program will continue to support the annual National Bridge Inspection Program metric compliance review process with FHWA which assesses all bridge metrics over a recurring 5-year cycle and identifies progress, compliance, and areas for improvement.

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<sup>69</sup> <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/specs/fp-24>

<sup>70</sup> <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>

<sup>71</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3810021.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3810021.pdf)

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.assetintel.co/inspectx>

**TRAILS MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION**

Table FS-64. Trails Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Trails Maintenance and Construction</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>73</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$8,000
Recoveries .....	417	182	206	268
Transfers out.....	-	-390	-	-
Other .....	-	10	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,061	804	960	847
Total Available.....	21,478	20,606	21,166	9,115
Lapsing Balances .....	-5	-10	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-804	-960	-847	-183
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>20,669</b>	<b>19,636</b>	<b>20,319</b>	<b>8,932</b>

**Trails Maintenance and Construction – Justification of Changes**

The budget will require the Forest Service to streamline and focus efforts on critical maintenance and improvements to the Forest Service’s trail system.

A proposal in the FY 2026 Budget is an important component in the justification of the discretionary changes:

The Road and Trails for States program collects ten percent of all National Forest Fund receipts, which includes both fees and other types of revenue and can be used by the Forest Service without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived. Fees collected are used to repair or reconstruct roads, bridges, and trails on NFS lands. Previously funds were utilized to correct road and trail deficiencies that adversely affect ecosystems. Since FY 2008, appropriations acts have directed collections to be transferred to Treasury. In FY 2026, the program will retain collections and will prioritize their use for the maintenance and reconstruction of roads critical to the implementation of Executive Order 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production*.

**Trails Maintenance and Construction– Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Forest Service manages the largest trails program in the nation, providing 164,000 miles of trails that deliver a range of trail-based recreation opportunities for motorized and non-motorized users.

The Forest Service is an administering 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 Forest Service manages more than 370 administratively designated National Recreation Trails<sup>74</sup> on NFS lands. NFS trails provide connectivity with other trails managed by local, State, Federal, and Tribal Nation governments. The Trails Program continues to focus on

<sup>73</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

<sup>74</sup> National Recreation Trails are existing land-based and water-based trails that provide close to home recreation opportunities on Federal, State and local lands. National Recreation Trail designation promotes some of the Nation’s highest-caliber trails with the intention of providing recreation access to rural and urban communities, economic development through tourism, and healthy recreation opportunities. National Recreation Trails are recognized by the federal government, with the consent of any Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, or private entity having jurisdiction over these lands.

improving trail data collection methodology and data accuracy and developing and delivering information, including training for Forest Service staff, partners, and volunteers engaged in trail work.

#### Selected Examples of Recent Progress

The Forest Service, in collaboration with partners and volunteers, maintained approximately 48,000 miles of trail and improved more than 1,300 miles of trail in FY 2024. Maintenance activities included clearing vegetation and downed trees from trail corridors, cleaning out trail drainage features, such as culverts and water bars, replacing trail signs, and conducting minor tread repairs.

The Forest Service worked with other agencies and partner organizations to identify core competencies for individuals working on trails. These competencies serve as a common foundation for trail trainings which will help promote consistency and increase skill levels of trail workers. The Forest Service has also developed a new mobile application to streamline the process for staff and partners to collect trail feature and condition data, which will lead to better information for the public and more informed decision making by Forest Service leaders.

#### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The Trails Maintenance and Construction program will continue to administer the largest system of trails in the country by streamlining Forest Service processes, leveraging internal and external workforces, and increasing the trails management knowledge, skills, and abilities of Forest Service field staff, partners, and volunteers.

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

Table FS-65. Disaster Supplemental Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Disaster Supplemental</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$150,000	-	\$3,525,000	-
Recoveries .....	128	\$1,989	6,340	\$7,000
Transfers out.....	-	-	-92,515	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	478,193	472,385	280,167	3,566,141
Total Available.....	628,321	474,374	3,718,992	3,573,141
Balance Available, EOY .....	-472,385	-280,167	-3,566,141	-3,323,021
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>155,937</b>	<b>194,207</b>	<b>152,851</b>	<b>250,120</b>

**Disaster Supplemental**

Disaster Supplemental funding supports Forest Service actions, activities, and responses to wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters having a direct impact to Forest Service managed lands and assets and the communities contiguous to or embedded within those managed lands.

Table FS-66. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$72,000
Recoveries .....	269	3,800	173	250
Transfers out <sup>a/</sup> .....	-16,489	-16,400	-11,260	-360
Balance Transfers .....	-	-	-2,507	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	28,820	47,930	48,835	3,282
Total Available.....	84,601	107,330	107,241	75,172
Balance Available, EOY .....	-47,930	-48,835	-3,282	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>36,671</b>	<b>58,495</b>	<b>103,959</b>	<b>75,172</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Includes funds to be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-78) broadly supports ecosystem restoration, wildfire risk reduction, wildfire mitigation grants, and other community support activities.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS OVER \$1 MILLION  
SELECTED IN 2026**

The Forest Service has a structured National Asset Management Program (NAMP) that incorporates the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan process. The NAMP prioritizes investments in CIM 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 CIM projects, whether funded through the CIM appropriation or through 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 CIM projects over \$1 million. This list represents a long-term multi-year plan that addresses needed investments in facilities, recreation, transportation, and decommissioning using the NAMP prioritization process. This list includes projects that would be funded with Forest Service appropriations under the following budget line items: Facilities Maintenance and Construction, Forest Service Leases and Maintenance, and Roads Maintenance and Construction; it does not include projects that would be funded by the National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund established by GAOA.



Table FS-67. FY 2026 - 2028 Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects Over \$1 Million

Account and Program <sup>1</sup>	Project Type	Project Name	Forest/ Unit	Region	State	Congressional District	2026	2027	2028	Total <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction - Recreation	Twenty-Mile Trailhead Construction For Improved Access To Portage Valley And The Iditarod National Historic Trail	Chugach National Forest	Alaska (10)	AK	At Large	\$2,100,000	-	-	\$2,100,000
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction	New Poteau Cold Springs District Administrative Site	Ouachita National Forest	Southern (8)	AR	4	880,000	\$9,400,000	-	10,280,000
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Muddy Creek Bridge Replacement, Road 149	Ouachita National Forest	Southern (8)	AR	4	-	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction	Black Mesa Ranger District Bunkhouse	Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest	Southwestern (3)	AZ	1	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000
CIM/ Facilities	Major Renovation / Replacement	Jacob Lake Work Center Water System Renovations	Kaibab National Forest	Southwestern (3)	AZ	1	-	600,000	\$5,250,000	5,850,000
CIM/ Facilities	Major Renovation / Replacement - Recreation	Minersville Boat Launch Facility	Shasta Trinity National Forest	Pacific Southwest (5)	CA	2	600,000	-	-	1,600,000 <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction - Water System	Bridgeport Housing Water	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	Intermountain (4)	CA	3	7,000,000	-	-	7,000,000

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Account and Program <sup>1</sup>	Project Type	Project Name	Forest/ Unit	Region	State	Congressional District	2026	2027	2028	Total <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Roads	Maintenance	Minarets Road Surface Treatment	Sierra National Forest	Pacific Southwest (5)	CA	4	995,000	950,000	-	3,879,810 <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Facilities	Major Renovation / Replacement - Recreation	Alders Day Use Area Reconstruction	San Bernardino National Forest	Pacific Southwest (5)	CA	28	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Brainard Lake Roadway And Parking Asphalt Replacement	Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest	Rocky Mountain (2)	CO	2	-	3,750,000	-	3,750,000
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction	Dolores Ten Person Bunkhouse	San Juan National Forest	Rocky Mountain (2)	CO	3	-	1,800,000	-	1,800,000
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction	Lowman Flexible Housing Units	Boise National Forest	Intermountain (4)	ID	1	2,375,000	-	-	2,375,000
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Timber Bridge Replacements	Boise National Forest	Intermountain (4)	ID	1	460,000	100,000	-	1,310,000 <sup>2</sup>
FSO/ Facilities Maintenance and Leases	Maintenance	Palouse Ranger Station Improvements	Nezperce Clearwater National Forest	Northern (1)	ID	1	970,000	-	-	1,114,853 <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Jones Creek Bridge Replacement, Road 172-C	Land Between The Lakes NRA	Southern (8)	KY/TN	KY - 1, TN -08	1,400,000	-	-	1,550,000 <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Bridge Replacements - Cisco Br Ontonagon River 6930 and Ontonagon River 5250	Ottawa National Forest	Eastern (9)	MI	1	1,300,000	-	-	1,376,444 <sup>2</sup>

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Account and Program <sup>1</sup>	Project Type	Project Name	Forest/ Unit	Region	State	Congressional District	2026	2027	2028	Total <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Batson And Long Lake Road Bridge Replacements	Chippewa National Forest	Eastern (9)	MN	8	2,670,000	-	-	2,930,000 <sup>2</sup>
FSO/ Facilities Maintenance and Leases	Maintenance	Multiple Administrative Site Parking Resurfacing	Mark Twain National Forest	Eastern (9)	MO	7, 8	121,000	950,000	-	1,071,000
FSO/ Facilities Maintenance and Leases	Maintenance	Missoula Aerial Fire Depot Dormitory Modernization	Aerial Fire Depot	Northern (1)	MT	1	1,250,000	-	-	1,411,827 <sup>2</sup>
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction	Custer Gallatin Administrative Site Transition	Custer Gallatin National Forest	Northern (1)	MT	1	2,250,000	5,450,000	-	7,700,000
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction	Hungry Horse Glacier View Ranger District Seasonal Housing	Flathead National Forest	Northern (1)	MT	1	85,000	1,750,000	-	1,835,000
CIM/ Facilities	Major Renovation / Replacements	Hungry Horse Helibase Improvements	Flathead National Forest	Northern (1)	MT	1	91,000	1,200,000	-	1,291,000
CIM/ Facilities	New Construction	Guadalupe Ranger District Office Building	Lincoln National Forest	Southwestern (3)	NM	2	1,740,000	-	-	1,940,000 <sup>2</sup>

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<b>Account and Program<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Forest/ Unit</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Congressional District</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>
CIM/ Roads	Maintenance	Road 7 Drainage Restoration Design Implementati on	Santa Fe National Forest	Southwestern (3)	NM	3	1,250,000	-	-	1,250,000
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Road 1726 Rock Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Siuslaw National Forest	Pacific Northwest (6)	OR	1	-	1,900,000	-	1,900,000
CIM/ Roads	Major Renovation / Replacement	Fifteenmile and Ramsey Creek Aquatic Organism Passages	Mt Hood National Forest	Pacific Northwest (6)	OR	2	-	500,000	-	1,100,000 <sup>2</sup>
FSO/ Facilities Maintenan ce and Leases	Maintenance	Forestwide Fire Lookout And Communicati on Tower Deferred Maintenance	Wallowa Whitman National Forest	Pacific Northwest (6)	OR	2	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000
CIM/ Facilities	Major Renovation / Replacement - Recreation	Timberline Lodge Sewage Treatment Plant System Renovation	Mt Hood National Forest	Pacific Northwest (6)	OR	3	115,000	1,075,000	-	1,190,000
FSO/ Facilities Maintenan ce and Leases	Decommissi oning	Bear Springs Work Center Disposal	Mt Hood National Forest	Pacific Northwest (6)	OR	2, 3	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<b>Account and Program<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Forest/ Unit</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Congressional District</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>
CIM/ Facilities	Decommissioning - Recreation	Mirror Lake Highway Waters System Decommissioning	Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest	Intermountain (4)	UT	1, 2, 3	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000
CIM/ Facilities	Major Renovation / Replacement	Jackson Fire Engine Bay Replacement	Bridger-Teton National Forest	Intermountain (4)	WY	At Large	3,400,000	-	-	3,400,000

<sup>1</sup> CIM = Capital Improvement and Maintenance; FSO = Forest Service Operations

<sup>2</sup> Denotes total includes prior year programmed funding

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-68. Classification by Objects (obligations in thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>75</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Personnel compensation, field .....	\$1,942	\$9,744	\$14,467	\$14,901
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	1,942	9,744	14,467	14,901
12.0	Personal benefits.....	389	3,543	5,260	5,417
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	2,331	13,287	19,727	20,318
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons ....	1,275	1,326	1,363	1,370
22.0	Transportation of things.....	307	401	371	373
23.2	Rental payments to others.....	9	2	6	6
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges .....	1,146	983	1,115	1,122
24.0	Printing and reproduction .....	148	163	163	164
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	157	116	143	144
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources .....	149,790	214,183	190,646	191,714
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources .....	65,861	66,265	69,207	69,594
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities.	296	38	175	176
25.6	Medical care .....	13	12	13	13
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment .....	1,569	1,033	1,363	1,370
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	14,494	14,149	15,003	15,087
31.0	Equipment .....	1,883	1,720	1,887	1,898
32.0	Land and structures .....	33,686	21,024	28,656	28,817
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	91,794	79,883	89,923	90,427
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities .....	117	2	62	62
43.0	Interest and dividends .....	1	2	2	2
44.0	Refunds .....	-3	-3	-3	-3
92.0	Undistributed .....	4	2	3	3
	Total, other objects .....	362,547	401,302	400,098	402,339
99.9	Total, new obligations .....	364,878	414,588	419,824	422,657
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position .....	\$195,000	\$200,361	\$204,368	\$208,456
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	85,227	87,786	90,419	93,132
	Average Grade, GS Position .....	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.7

<sup>75</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**LAND ACQUISITION****LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FS-69. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)<sup>76</sup>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated.....	\$814,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation .....	<u>550,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

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, \$450,000, 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, 2028, (16 U.S.C. 516-617a, 555a; Public Law 96-586; Public Law 76-589, Public Law 76-591; and Public Law 78-310).

Note.--This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4).

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<sup>76</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-70. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>77</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Land Acquisition Funds:				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$814	\$814	\$814	\$550
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>\$814</b>	<b>\$814</b>	<b>\$814</b>	<b>\$550</b>

Table FS-71. Appropriations Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>77</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts .....	\$664	\$664	\$664	\$450
Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges .....	150	150	150	100
<b>Total, Land Acquisition:.....</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>550</b>

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<sup>77</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.



**ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS**

Table FS-72. Acquisition of Land for National Forest Special Acts Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Land Acquisition</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>78</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$664	\$664	\$664	\$450
Balance Available, SOY .....	-	-	-	60
Total Available .....	664	664	664	510
Lapsing Balances .....	-664	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-	-	-60	-46
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>464</b>

**Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts – Justification of Changes**

The Budget will continue to allow for the 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.

**Acquisition of Lands for National Forests Special Acts – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Acquisition of Lands for National Forest Special Acts is a program that funds eight National Forests across five states, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. This program is authorized under the seven Special Acts with annual appropriated funds from National Forest receipts generated by the occupancy of public land and the sale of natural resources, excluding minerals. The funds for this program are designated for land acquisition within the same state or National Forest where the receipts were generated, as specified in the relevant legislation. Annual appropriations are required to sustain this program.

**Selected Example of Recent Progress**

\$570,000 was used to acquire the Battle Creek/Nimer project lands on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah. This acquisition adds new recreational access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, protects the surrounding watershed, and preserves winter range habitat for Mule deer.

\$94,000 was used to acquire the Kirk Tract on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests in Arkansas. This acquisition helps preserve the Mountain Fork Creek, a major watershed in the area, provides public access for recreation and fishing, and lowers costs by eliminating a half-mile of boundary line that would otherwise need to be maintained.

**Program Objectives for FY 2026**

In FY 2026, this program will continue to use annual appropriated funds and continue to fund land acquisition either in the same state or same National Forest, depending on the specific language in the legislation that generated the receipts.

<sup>78</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES**

Table FS-73. Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>79</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$100
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,757	1,907	1,386	845
Total Available.....	1,907	2,057	1,536	945
Lapsing Balances .....	-	-671	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-1,907	-1,386	-845	-520
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>425</b>

**Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request will continue to allow for the completion of land exchanges.

**Acquisition of Lands to Complete Land Exchanges – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

This program currently acquires land using funds generated from the exchange or sale of NFS lands between various entities, such as states, county or municipal governments, public school districts, or other non-Federal entities to acquire similar non-Federal properties. The acquired land must be located in the same state as the land involved in the exchange.

**Program Objectives for FY 2026**

In FY 2026, this program will continue to use funds for the exchange or sale of NFS lands between states, county or municipal governments, public school districts, or other non-Federal entities to acquire similar non-Federal properties.

<sup>79</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-74. Classification by Objects (obligations in thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>80</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C .....	\$211	\$341	\$615	\$362
	Personnel compensation, field .....	105	112	202	119
11.0	Total personnel compensation .....	316	453	817	481
12.0	Personal benefits .....	126	171	308	181
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits .....	442	624	1,125	662
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons .....	9	45	32	33
22.0	Transportation of things .....	-	6	4	4
23.2	Rental payments to others .....	-	75	44	46
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges .....	4	7	7	7
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	-	22	13	13
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources ..	217	1,811	1,201	1,231
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources .....	2,113	582	1,596	1,636
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities ....	-	3	2	2
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment ..	1	8	5	5
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	9	15	14	15
31.0	Equipment .....	1	24	15	15
32.0	Land and structures .....	9,876	13,547	13,870	14,221
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions .....	144	1,000	677	695
44.0	Refunds .....	-177	-	-105	-107
	Total, other objects .....	12,197	17,145	17,375	17,815
99.9	Total, new obligations .....	12,639	17,769	18,500	18,477
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	\$87,396	\$113,250	\$116,648	\$120,147
	Average Grade, GS Position .....	11.6	12.3	12.4	12.6

<sup>80</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**OTHER APPROPRIATIONS****LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FS-75. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)<sup>81</sup>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated .....	\$2,863,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation .....	<u>2,945,000</u>

**APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored):

**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, 2029, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

Note.--This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119-4).

**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.), \$770,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029.

Note.--This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119-4).

**COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

That amounts collected in this fiscal year pursuant to section 8705(f)(2) of such Act 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*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be transferred to the "National Forest System" account.

Note.--This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119-4).

<sup>81</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-76. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>82</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$3,645	\$3,771	\$2,863	\$1,945
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>3,645</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>1,945</b>

Table FS-77. Appropriations Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>82</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Range Betterment Fund .....	\$2,546	\$2,672	\$1,719	\$1,175
Gifts, Donations, and Bequest for Forest and Rangeland Research .....	-	-	45	-
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses .....	1,099	1,099	1,099	770
<b>Total, Other Appropriations:.....</b>	<b>3,645</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>1,945</b>

<sup>82</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**RANGE BETTERMENT FUND**

Table FS-78. Range Betterment Fund Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Range Betterment Fund</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>83</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$2,546	\$2,672	\$1,719	\$1,175
Recoveries .....	3	57	52	50
Balance Available, SOY .....	2,277	2,676	2,890	2,097
Total Available.....	4,826	5,405	4,661	3,322
Lapsing Balances .....	-77	-11	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-2,676	-2,890	-2,097	-997
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>2,325</b>

**Range Betterment Fund – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request will focus the Forest Service’s efforts to carry out essential range and vegetation management activities crucial for effective livestock management. The program is authorized to allocate one-half of the grazing receipts from NFS in 16 Western States for rangeland rehabilitation, protection, and improvements on the same lands.

**Range Betterment Fund – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Range Betterment Fund uses collections from grazing fees to implement rangeland improvements on NFS lands within the 16 contiguous western States.

Half of the funds received are allocated to the unit where grazing fees were collected; the other half are distributed within the region where the collections were derived. Rangeland improvements within allotments include, 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**

In FY 2024, the Rangeland Management Program accomplished projects on over 82,000 acres of NFS lands. This includes construction of fences for resource and habitat protection on grazing allotments, removing dilapidated fences that are no longer needed, and removing overgrown brush and planting native seed for plant and wildlife habitat. In addition, the program conducted invasive species control activities, using herbicide treatments and biocontrol such as targeted grazing with livestock, on nearly 7,200 acres.

**Program Objectives for FY 2026**

In FY 2026 the Forest Service will continue to advance priority rangeland improvement work across the National Forests in the 16 Western States.

<sup>83</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USE**Table FS-79. Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Use Detail Table  
(thousands of dollars)

<b>Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>84</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$1,099	\$1,099	\$1,099	\$770
Recoveries .....	1	49	-	-
Balance Transfers .....	-	-	-25	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	80	79	134	97
Total Available.....	1,180	1,226	1,208	867
Lapsing Balances .....	-5	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY .....	-79	-134	-97	-18
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>849</b>

**Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Use – Justification of Changes**

The Budget request will focus the Forest Service program on supporting the Subsistence Use Program monitoring of fish and wildlife populations and enforcement of regulations.

**Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Use – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

This program manages NFS lands for subsistence uses, which sustains the viability of rural Alaskan communities by ensuring a reliable food supply from healthy fish and wildlife populations. The Federal Subsistence Management Program supports employment in rural Alaska areas where opportunities are limited. By supporting the subsistence way of life in rural communities, the Forest Service continues to implement critical monitoring and management activities within this program. The subsistence program funds information-gathering, law enforcement, education, and employment activities. Partnering with DOI on the Alaska Federal Subsistence Management Program, the USDA Federal Subsistence Management Program provides annual rulemaking decisions, fish and wildlife monitoring, law enforcement, education, employment, and capacity-building initiatives. The Forest Service continuously consults with Alaska Tribes and Native Corporations to comply with presidential and secretarial policies. Also, these meetings show respect to the current and historical roles of Native Alaskans and other Federally qualified rural subsistence users, while managing for customary and traditional subsistence uses.

The program monitors subsistence resources and helps build collaborative relationships with other Federal, State, and Tribal Nation partners. Its involvement in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) has helped 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 continues to help Tribal Nation organizations effectively participate in regulatory decision-making procedures made by the State and Federal governments regarding wildlife and fisheries issues.

<sup>84</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

### Selected Example of Recent Progress

Researchers from universities, State and Federal agencies, or other organizations submit FRMP proposals to study subsistence harvest patterns, traditional ecological knowledge, and stock status and trends. In FY 2024, the Forest Service continued to fund seven ongoing FRMP projects in Southeast Alaska with Tribal Nation partners and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Table FS-80. 2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Projects on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Cooperator</b>	<b>Project Cost (in dollars)</b>
Hetta Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Hydaburg Cooperative Association	\$158,563
Neva Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Hoonah Indian Association	86,005
Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Angoon Community Association	19,750
Klag Lake Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment	Sitka Tribe of Alaska	185,415
Southeast Alaska Eulachon Population Dynamics Monitoring	Chilkoot Indian Association	208,358
Icy Strait Community Household Subsistence Harvest Surveys and Documenting Subsistence Harvest Patterns	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	156,603
Estimating In-season Harvests of the Klawock River Salmon Subsistence Fishery	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	57,675
<b>Total, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Projects</b>		<b>872,369</b>

### Program Objectives for FY 2026

In FY 2026, the Forest Service aims to maintain the variability of projects funded by FRMP. The Federal Subsistence Management Program will seek to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the subsistence-related activities supported by the program, such as law enforcement, education, and employment, and identify best practices and areas for improvement. The FRMP program will continue its rigorous review process utilizing the team of experts from State and Federal agencies called the Technical Review Committee 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.



**COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION****Communications Site Administration – Justifications of Changes**

The Budget request allows for \$2,000,000 in discretionary authority if receipts are collected and deposited for the use by the Forest Service to improve the management of the communications use program. The regulatory authority to collect and use these receipts has not been established, therefore, this discretionary funding authority has not been used.

**Communications Site Administration – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Forest Service's communications site administration program supports deployment of broadband and other critical communications services across the United States by authorizing communications equipment and infrastructure on NFS lands. Currently, the Forest Service administers over 4,000 communications use authorizations that support more than 10,000 wireless communications uses and over 8,000 miles of fiber optic cable. In FY 2024, the communications use program prioritized: 1) processing 169 new broadband proposals for approximately 4,900 miles of broadband deployment fiber optic cable on NFS lands that will expand high speed internet service to communities, and 2) providing expert technical advice on the management, development, improvement and promotion of communications uses on NFS lands.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

Utilizing \$6.9 million in multi-year funding from the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC), the Forest Service engaged a national Broadband Action Team to help address the influx of applications for broadband deployment on NFS lands to expand affordable and reliable high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved communities across the country.

The communications use program developed an on-line portal and tracking database to facilitate a centralized intake of broadband proposals and applications, gaining efficiency and consistency in reviewing broadband proposals by the national Broadband Action Team.

The Forest Service successfully obtained \$6.5 million from the FPISC, for the development of a digital interface for applicants requesting special use authorizations for communications uses, including broadband, other types of FAST-41<sup>85</sup> and transparency projects, and eventually other types of special uses.

**Program Objectives for FY 2026**

The Forest Service will continue to deliver reliable and affordable communications services across the United States by supporting field units with 1) reviewing, screening and tracking proposals to ensure customer service standards are met, and 2) processing applications in accordance with the MOBILE NOW Act (Title VI, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018)<sup>86</sup>, which requires the agency within 270-days of receipt of an application, to grant or deny that application.

The Forest Service will deploy its new digital interface for applicants requesting special use authorizations for communications uses, including broadband, other types of FAST-41 and transparency projects, and eventually other types of special uses.

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<sup>85</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/specialuses/special\\_FAST-41.shtml](https://www.fs.usda.gov/specialuses/special_FAST-41.shtml)

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1625/BILLS-115hr1625enr.pdf>

### Program Evaluations

The Communications Site Administration program conducts on-site compliance reviews and facility audits for wireless communications uses. Funding to conduct these on-site compliance reviews is critical to processing new proposals to provide communications use authorizations for wireless and broadband deployment to communities across the United States.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-81. Classification by Objects (obligations in thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>87</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Personnel compensation, field .....	\$1	\$27	-	-
11.0	Total personnel compensation.....	1	27	-	-
12.0	Personal benefits .....	-	6	-	-
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits.....	1	33	-	-
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons ....	9	11	\$12	\$10
22.0	Transportation of things.....	1	3	3	3
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges .....	13	15	16	14
24.0	Printing and reproduction.....	-	1	1	1
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	-	58	60	52
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources .....	366	219	225	195
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources .....	79	115	119	103
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	4	-	-	-
25.6	Medical care.....	-1	-	-	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment .....	28	28	28	25
26.0	Supplies and materials .....	1,507	1,857	1,914	1,653
31.0	Equipment.....	102	150	155	133
32.0	Land and structures.....	20	9	9	8
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	1,128	1,099	1,134	979
	Total, other objects .....	3,256	3,565	3,675	3,174
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	3,257	3,598	3,675	3,174

<sup>87</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT**

**LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**

Table FS-82. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)<sup>88</sup>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated.....	\$2,426,111,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation .....	-

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<sup>89</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-83. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>89</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Wildland Fire Management Funds:				
Discretionary Appropriations.....	\$2,491,956	\$2,312,654	\$2,426,111	-
Supplemental Appropriations .....	36,000	36,000	36,000	\$36,000
<b>Total Appropriations .....</b>	<b>2,527,956</b>	<b>2,348,654</b>	<b>2,462,111</b>	<b>36,000</b>

Table FS-84. Appropriations Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>89</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Wildland Fire Management:				
Preparedness .....	\$192,000	\$192,000	\$192,000	-
Suppression .....	1,386,000	1,011,000	1,011,000	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	913,956	1,109,654	1,223,111	-
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act .....	36,000	36,000	36,000	\$36,000
<b>Total Wildland Fire Management .....</b>	<b>2,527,956</b>	<b>2,348,654</b>	<b>2,462,111</b>	<b>36,000</b>

<sup>89</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PREPAREDNESS**

Table FS-85. Preparedness Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Preparedness</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>90</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$192,000	\$192,000	\$192,000	-
Recoveries .....	21,910	10,792	10,000	\$10,000
Balance Available, SOY .....	40,634	71,427	48,265	68,823
Total Available.....	250,113	229,151	250,265	78,823
Balance Available, EOY .....	-71,427	-48,265	-68,823	-78,823
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>178,685</b>	<b>180,886</b>	<b>181,442</b>	<b>-</b>

**Preparedness – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget reforms the Federal approach to Wildland Fire Management by unifying Federal wildland fire responsibilities, including those within the Forest Service, into a single new U.S. Wildland Fire Service at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve efficiency, increase effectiveness, and streamline coordination in Federal wildland fire response.

\$151,000,000 will be requested as part of DOI’s U.S. Wildland Fire Service budget and is not part of the Forest Service FY 2026 request.

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<sup>90</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**SUPPRESSION**

Table FS-86. Suppression Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Suppression</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>91</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$1,386,000	\$1,011,000	\$1,011,000	
Recoveries .....	154,774	210,026	192,300	\$165,000
Transfer In .....	1,105,000	2,300,000	1,226,000	-
Balance Transfer .....	-	330,000	970,520	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	163,631	128,345	369,545	226,162
Total Available .....	2,826,897	4,021,265	3,769,365	391,162
Balance Available, EOY .....	-128,345	-369,545	-226,162	-391,162
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>2,698,553</b>	<b>3,651,720</b>	<b>3,543,203</b>	<b>-</b>

**Suppression – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget reforms the Federal approach to Wildland Fire Management by unifying Federal wildland fire responsibilities, including those within the Forest Service, into a single new U.S. Wildland Fire Service at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve efficiency, increase effectiveness, and streamline coordination in Federal wildland fire response.

\$1,011,000,000 will be requested as part of DOI's U.S. Wildland Fire Service budget and is not part of the Forest Service FY 2026 request.

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<sup>91</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Table FS-87. Salaries and Expenses Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Salaries and Expenses</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>92</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$913,956	\$1,109,654	\$1,223,111	-
Recoveries .....	7,221	2,618	4,692	\$4,895
Balance Available, SOY .....	10,641	18,468	17,130	30,433
Total Available .....	931,818	1,130,752	1,244,933	35,328
Balance Available, EOY .....	-18,468	-17,130	-30,433	-35,328
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>913,350</b>	<b>1,113,622</b>	<b>1,214,500</b>	<b>-</b>

**Salaries and Expenses – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget reforms the Federal approach to Wildland Fire Management by unifying Federal wildland fire responsibilities, including those within the Forest Service, into a single new U.S. Wildland Fire Service at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve efficiency, increase effectiveness, and streamline coordination in Federal wildland fire response.

\$1,216,000,000 will be requested as part of DOI's U.S. Wildland Fire Service budget and is not part of the Forest Service FY 2026 request.

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<sup>92</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.



**OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

Table FS-88. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Appropriations .....	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
Recoveries .....	-	154	4,105	3,000
Transfers in .....	30,663	59,210	78,710	-
Transfers out <sup>a/</sup> .....	-10,000	-4,674	-8,925	-26,201
Balance Transfer .....	-6,000	698	-12,468	-
Other .....	-	19	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	348,866	149,845	102,749	10,028
Total Available .....	399,529	241,253	200,171	22,827
Balance Available, EOY .....	-149,844	-102,749	-10,028	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>249,685</b>	<b>138,504</b>	<b>190,143</b>	<b>22,827</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Includes funds to be transferred to DOI as part of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

In addition to other provisions with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-78), funds may be transferred and utilized for the administrative purposes necessary to carry out the activities authorized within the Act. Forest Service Operations coordinates and houses many of these necessary administrative functions and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds in support of these functions are transferred from other Forest Service Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act accounts.

Table FS-89. Inflation Reduction Act Program Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Inflation Reduction Act</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Recoveries .....	-	\$5,321	\$1,136	\$3,000
Balance Available, SOY .....	\$1,800,000	952,193	318,619	-
Total Available .....	1,800,000	957,514	319,755	3,000
Balance Available, EOY .....	-952,193	-318,619	-	-
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>847,807</b>	<b>638,895</b>	<b>319,755</b>	<b>3,000</b>

**Inflation Reduction Act**

The Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169), includes funds appropriated for vegetation and watershed management and timely processing of National Environmental Policy Act-related reviews.

**CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS**

Table FS-90. Classification by Objects (obligations in thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated <sup>93</sup>	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C .....	\$84,276	\$105,095	\$100,769	-
	Personnel compensation, field .....	969,183	1,208,609	1,158,855	-
11.0	Total personnel compensation .....	1,053,459	1,313,704	1,259,624	-
12.0	Personal benefits .....	587,175	710,948	681,681	-
13.0	Benefits for former personnel.....	1	29	4,858	-
	Total, personnel compensation and benefits .....	1,640,635	2,024,681	1,946,163	-
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons .....	151,110	173,188	149,137	-
22.0	Transportation of things .....	10,558	11,632	10,016	-
23.2	Rental payments to others .....	-346	3,314	2,854	-
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges.....	6,366	5,558	4,786	-
24.0	Printing and reproduction .....	226	340	293	-
25.0	Other contractual services.....	-	-	319,755	\$25,827
25.1	Advisory and assistance services .....	1,318	514	443	-
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	1,788,175	2,228,754	1,914,411	-
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources.....	251,684	189,359	163,062	-
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities...	202	159	137	-
25.5	Research and development contracts .....	79	2,477	2,133	-
25.6	Medical care .....	333	320	276	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	2,545	2,537	2,185	-
26.0	Supplies and materials.....	208,785	190,488	164,035	-
31.0	Equipment.....	26,467	10,835	9,330	-
32.0	Land and structures .....	16,002	1,802	1,552	-
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	807,281	880,592	758,302	-
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities .....	421	301	260	-
43.0	Interest and dividends.....	109	67	58	-
44.0	Refunds .....	-12,266	-171	-147	-
92.0	Undistributed .....	5	3	3	-
	Total, other objects .....	3,259,054	3,702,072	3,502,880	25,827
99.9	Total, new obligations .....	4,899,689	5,726,753	5,449,043	25,827
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position .....	\$195,000	\$200,361	\$204,368	-
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position .....	57,800	82,166	83,809	-
	Average Grade, GS Position	7.5	10.6	10.7	-

<sup>93</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND****LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT**Table FS-91. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)<sup>94</sup>

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2025 Estimated .....	\$2,390,000,000
2026 Request, Including Proposed Legislation.....	-

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<sup>94</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PROJECT STATEMENTS**

Table FS-92. Appropriations Project Statement (thousands of dollars)

<b>Project Statement</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>95</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Suppression Reserve Fund Appropriations				
Discretionary Appropriations <sup>a/</sup> .....	\$2,210,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,390,000	-
<b>Total Appropriations</b> .....	<b>2,210,000</b>	<b>2,300,00</b>	<b>2,390,000</b>	<b>-</b>

a/ An additional \$2,470,000,000 of authority from the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund will be requested by DOI in FY 2026.

Table FS-93. Appropriations Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Detail Table</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated<sup>95</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Suppression Appropriations:				
Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.....	\$2,210,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,390,000	-
<b>Total Suppression Appropriation</b> .....	<b>2,210,000</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>2,390,000</b>	<b>-</b>

a/ An additional \$2,470,000,000 of authority from the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund will be requested by DOI in FY 2026.

<sup>95</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND**

Table FS-94. Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated <sup>96</sup></b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations <sup>a/</sup> .....	\$2,210,000	\$2,300,000	\$2,390,000	-
Transfers out .....	-1,105,000	-2,300,000	-1,226,000	-
Balance Transfer .....	-	-330,000	-970,520	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	1,570,000	2,675,000	2,345,000	\$2,538,480
Total Available .....	2,675,000	2,345,000	2,538,480	2,538,480
Balance Available, EOY .....	-2,675,000	-2,345,000	-2,538,480	-2,538,480
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

a/ An additional \$2,470,000,000 of authority from the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund will be requested by DOI in FY 2026.

**Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund – Justification of Changes**

The FY 2026 Budget reforms the Federal approach to Wildland Fire Management by unifying Federal wildland fire responsibilities, including those within the Forest Service, into a single new U.S. Wildland Fire Service at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to improve efficiency, increase effectiveness, and streamline coordination in Federal wildland fire response.

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. An additional \$2,470,000,000 of authority from the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund will be available to DOI in 2026 in support of the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

<sup>96</sup> 2025 Resource Levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

**PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS****NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND**

Table FS-95. National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (Great American Outdoor Act) Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (Great American Outdoors Act)</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Recoveries .....	\$2,607	\$4,355	\$3,500	\$3,500
Transfers in .....	285,543	295,931	325,000	43,000
Sequestration Pop Up .....	3	-	-	16,245
Balance Available, SOY .....	287,935	364,871	499,043	642,543
Total Available.....	576,088	665,157	827,543	705,288
Balance Available, EOY .....	-364,871	-499,043	-642,543	-520,288
<b>Total Obligations.....</b>	<b>211,217</b>	<b>166,114</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>

**National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund – Status of Programs**

## Current Activities

The Great American Outdoors Act established the National Parks and Public Land LRF for FY 2021 through FY 2025, authorizing the Forest Service with up to \$285 million annually. The FY 2026 Budget proposes to reauthorize the LRF. LRF projects focus on reducing the deferred maintenance backlog. The LRF Program continues to improve outdoor recreation opportunities across the country, bringing sites into compliance with accessibility standards and contributing to the Forest Service’s commitment to caring for the land and serving people.

## Selected Examples of Recent Progress

The program completed the Flagstaff Trail Initiative Collaboration and Mt. Elden Trail Reconstruction project, which was instrumental in identifying maintenance tasks such as trail reroutes and replacement of drainage structures of approximately 40 miles of trail in the Mount Elden Dry Lake area of the Coconino National Forest. The trail maintenance was completed in partnership with both the American Conservation Experience and Arizona Conservation Corps and was able to address \$327,700 of deferred maintenance.

## Program Objectives for FY 2026

Projects proposed for FY 2026 will continue to improve public access and visitor experience on NFS lands. In addition, the FY 2026 project list includes many projects that help to address the employee housing shortage which is hampering the Forest Service’s ability to hire and retain employees in rural and high cost of living areas. While most of the funding will go to new projects, approximately a quarter of the list comprises existing projects that require additional funding either due to cost inflation or planned project phasing.

### Program Evaluations

The program management plan and acquisition strategy define key performance indicators related to deferred maintenance reduction, access and visitor experience, economic opportunity, and partnerships. The Forest Service tracks progress toward these goals through a series of publicly available dashboards to ensure accountability and transparency. This plan requires an annual evaluation and field truthing through site visits and local reviews. The reviews focus on identifying and mitigating risks for program delivery. Major themes identified through this oversight include agency resource capacity, contractor availability and pricing, environmental clearances, asset management, and communication strategies.

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND - LAND ACQUISITION**

Table FS-96. Land Acquisition Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Land Acquisition (Great American Outdoors Act)</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$124,438	\$125,972	\$125,885	\$15,000
Recoveries .....	629	77	50	90
Sequestration Pop Up .....	279	-87	119	6,320
Balance Available, SOY .....	186,454	246,756	300,711	339,776
Total Available .....	311,800	372,718	426,765	361,187
Balance Available, EOY .....	-246,756	-300,711	-341,776	-263,664
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>65,044</b>	<b>72,007</b>	<b>84,989</b>	<b>97,523</b>

**Land and Water Conservation Fund - Land Acquisition – Justification of Changes**

The budget will focus the Forest Service's Land Acquisition program on the acquisition of one priority project in 2026 and reflects the Budget proposal to support deferred maintenance with LWCF resources.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund - Land Acquisition – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Forest Service acquired 46,185 acres providing recreational access, watershed protection, and other benefits such as biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource management, and support for local economies. The Forest Service continues to actively work to address Congressional direction in the FY 2023 Joint Explanatory Statement to improve the appraisal process.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**Acquisition of Land in Colorado

The San Juan National Forest acquired the 160-acre Dunton Meadows property, which sits at 10,000 feet, between the east and west branches of the Dolores River at the foot of the San Miguel Mountain range. Acquiring Dunton Meadows secures permanent public access to popular recreational activities on surrounding NFS lands, as well as new opportunities on the Dunton Meadows property for picnicking, dispersed camping, and recreational fishing in a scenic alpine setting. Additionally, much of the Dunton Meadows property drains to Coal Creek, one of the richest Colorado River Cutthroat habitats in the Dolores River. As such, its protection is key to the preservation of the Cutthroat trout. For this reason, this acquisition was strongly supported by the Dolores County commissioners, the Dolores River Anglers (Chapter 145 of Trout Unlimited) and Colorado Trout Unlimited.

Acquisition of Land in North Carolina

The Pisgah National Forest acquired a 322-acre tract of land known as the Wilson Creek Wild & Scenic River project, which adjoins Pisgah National Forest's Wilson Creek Gorge Public Day-use and Whitewater Paddling Access Area). This area has high public outdoor recreation and whitewater river paddling use along four miles of public roadway in Caldwell County. The tract includes the most popular section of the river that is host to whitewater rafting, canoeing and kayaking with a series of challenging river rapids (Class II-V). It also has many cascading and small waterfalls along with a few "pool flow areas" making this site a premier rafting site. The land also includes the trailhead of the 6-mile-long Wilson Creek Trail that connects to a host of other popular trails. Acquisition of this tract will promote commercial opportunities in the area, consolidate federal ownership and is expected to



attract new tourists to this area. This acquisition was supported by the Caldwell County Commissioners and the Catawba Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The Forest Service will use funding from the LWCF Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578) to acquire one high-priority project in FY 2026. Land acquisitions will focus on priority inholdings, enhancing recreational opportunities, public access, and efficiencies for land management activities. Funding from the LWCF will continue to support land exchanges by funding cash equalization payments and required staff.

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND – PRIORITY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

Table FS-97. Priority Deferred Maintenance Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>LWCF Priority Deferred Maintenance</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	-	-	-	\$110,900
Sequestration .....	-	-	-	-6,321
Total Available .....	-	-	-	104,579
Balance Available, EOY.....	-	-	-	-7,056
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,523</b>

**Land and Water Conservation Fund – Priority Deferred Maintenance – Justification of Changes**

The budget increases the Forest Service’s ability address priority deferred maintenance projects across owned Forest Service infrastructure. This reflects the FY 2026 Budget proposal to utilize LWCF resources to address priority deferred maintenance resources.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund – Priority Deferred Maintenance – Status of Programs**

## Current Activities

The Forest Service currently estimates that deferred maintenance across all asset types is approximately \$10.8 billion as of the first quarter of FY 2025. Roads have the highest deferred maintenance cost of \$5.98 billion with road bridges adding another \$987 million. Buildings are the second highest deferred maintenance cost at over \$2.6 billion.

## Program Objectives for FY 2026

The LWCF Priority Deferred Maintenance Program will prioritize deferred maintenance projects that support and facilitate high-priority objectives associated with timber production, emergency response, and recreation activities. The funding would be spent predominantly on roads, bridges, and facilities, including those that are critical to housing employees and ensuring visitor safety.

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND – FOREST LEGACY**

Table FS-98. Forest Legacy Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Forest Legacy (Great American Outdoors Act)</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$77,940	\$93,120	\$94,225	\$92,255
Recoveries .....	16,357	11,265	7,500	5,000
Sequestration Pop Up .....	624	-865	-	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	31,714	32,149	66,263	166,308
Total Available .....	126,635	135,669	167,988	263,563
Balance Available, EOY .....	-32,149	-66,263	-83,994	-178,592
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>94,486</b>	<b>69,406</b>	<b>83,994</b>	<b>84,971</b>

**Land and Water Conservation Fund – Forest Legacy – Justification of Changes**

The budget maintains the Forest Service’s ability to work with State and private landowners on the conservation of working forests at a funding level commensurate with FY 2024.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund – Forest Legacy – Status of Programs****Current Activities**

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) conserves working non-federal forests in partnership with enrolled states and territories. Conserved lands stay either in private ownership with long term protections for public benefits or become new public lands managed by state or local governments. The program does not add to the federal estate. State and private landowner participation is voluntary. To select projects for funding, FLP uses a two-tiered competitive process at both state and national levels. Since program inception in 1990, the FLP has conserved 3.1 million acres of important forests at risk of conversion to non-forest uses.

FLP helps ensure that the forests most critical to the economic and social fabric of local communities are conserved as working forests. These forests provide a multitude of community benefits including public access for outdoor recreation, water quality protection, wildfire and flood risk mitigation, local jobs in wood products and recreation industries, and continuation of traditional uses on the land such as subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering.

Projects contribute an average of \$140/acre on an annual basis to regional economies<sup>97</sup> and often support hundreds of jobs in their local areas in wood and recreation industries. FLP tracts conserve more than 3,000 miles of streams and rivers, and over 40 square miles of lakes and ponds. More than 440,000 acres are adjacent to or within 1,000 feet of 13 National Scenic and Historic Trails.

The program prioritizes strategic land acquisition in priority landscapes, connecting public and private lands to conserve critical corridors and resources. Forest Legacy tracts share more than 5,000 miles of boundary line with Tribal, federal, state, local, and non-profit held conserved lands. More than 1,000 of those miles are adjacent to NFS lands.

**Selected Examples of Recent Progress**

In FY 2024, the FLP received \$92.3 million of mandatory LWCF funding to support 11 projects in 11 states.

**Minam Conservation and Connectivity Project, Oregon**

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.familyforestresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FLP-econ-full-report.pdf>

Through fee-simple acquisition, a second phase of the Minam Conservation and Connectivity Project conserved an additional 10,964 acres of working forestland and a corridor along the breathtaking Minam River in Oregon—a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River. The project leveraged a mixture of federal, state, and private funds. Together, phases one and two (15,573 acres) connect the nationally designated Minam and Wallowa Wild and Scenic River corridors. Clear running streams through the property support federally threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, which spawn in the Minam River and its tributaries. The project provides over 10,000 acres of public recreational access, and conserves scenic viewsheds on over 2.4 million acres of adjacent public lands (including the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Eagle Cap Wilderness Area). The property has been managed as a working forest since the early 1900s and will continue to generate timber and support jobs in the local area—phase two provides an estimated 47 million board feet of timber growing at an estimated 250 board feet, per acre, per year.

### Keystone Longleaf Preserve, Florida

Through a conservation easement, 1,955 acres of the Keystone Longleaf Preserve in Florida was conserved using LWCF funding. The fire-dependent longleaf pine ecosystem contains some of the most important habitat for plants and wildlife in the United States. It was once the dominant forest type across the Southeast, but conversion to other land uses and forest types and fire suppression reduced the longleaf acreage to less than five percent of its original extent. The Keystone Longleaf Preserve is a model of longleaf management. Due to its exceptional biodiversity and intact longleaf pine communities, the Keystone property represents a superior seed bank for restoration efforts. It also provides critical landscape connections between the Geneva State Forest and the Conecuh National Forest in Alabama and helps maximize aquifer recharge in the Northwest Florida Water Management District. This project marks Florida's first Forest Legacy conservation easement project.

### Program Objectives for FY 2026

The Forest Legacy Program will continue to consider the following during project selection: distribution of a broad suite of economic, environmental, and social benefits; risk of conversion to non-forest uses; and strategic connections across the landscape. Additionally, the program will continue to support state-selected goals for prioritization and delivery of the program at the local level.

### Program Evaluations

The Forest Service continues to use data sets to analyze the benefits Forest Legacy Projects provide to important human values such as drinking water security, wildfire risk, recreation access, economic vitality, and more. Mapping tools are used to illustrate the strategic role of FLP in reducing threats, preventing encroachment, and sustaining nature-based solutions. These evaluations involve collaboration with partners using data, modeling, and research to evaluate the program's effectiveness in preserving forests for multiple public benefits.

**ROADS AND TRAILS FOR STATES**

Table FS-99. Roads and Trails for States Detail Table (thousands of dollars)

<b>Roads and Trails for States</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>
Appropriations .....	\$20,171	\$19,950	\$16,000	\$16,000
Recoveries .....	1	0	-	-
Deferral .....	-20,171	-19,950	-16,000	-
Balance Available, SOY .....	2	3	3	3
Total Available.....	3	3	3	16,003
Balance Available, EOY .....	<b>-3</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-160</b>
<b>Total Obligations .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,843</b>

**Roads and Trails for States – Status of Programs**

## Current Activities

This program collects ten percent of all National Forest Fund receipts, which includes both fees and other types of revenue and can be used by the Forest Service without regard to the State in which the amounts were derived. Fees collected are used to repair or reconstruct roads, bridges, and trails on NFS lands. Previously funds were utilized to correct road and trail deficiencies that adversely affect ecosystems. Beginning in FY 1999, and continuing in subsequent appropriation acts, the authority was expanded to allow the use of funds for improving forest health conditions and repairing or reconstructing roads and bridges on NFS lands in the wildland-urban interface, where there is an abnormally high risk of fire. This program reduces risk to human safety, public health, and property, and enhances ecological functions, long-term forest productivity, and biological integrity. Since FY 2008, appropriations acts have directed collections to be transferred to Treasury.

## Program Objectives for FY 2026

In FY 2026, the program will retain collections and will prioritize their use for the maintenance and reconstruction of roads critical to the implementation of Executive Order 14225, *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production*.

**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 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. 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 Account, or reprogram funds to be used for the purposes of urgent rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water: Provided, That such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, 2029: 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 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: Provided further, That actual transfer amounts may be reduced proportionate to reductions in Forest Service full-time equivalents and as appropriate for other policy and program factors.

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 sub-recipients: 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.

Any amounts made available to the Forest Service in this fiscal year, including available collections, may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to enter into Federal financial assistance grants and cooperative agreements to support forest or grassland collaboratives in the accomplishment of activities benefitting both the public and the National Forest System, Federal lands and adjacent non-Federal lands. Eligible activities are those that will improve or enhance Federal investments, resources, or lands, including for collaborative and collaboration-based activities, including but not limited to facilitation, planning, and implementing projects, technical assistance, administrative functions, operational support, participant costs, and other capacity support needs, as identified by the Forest Service. Eligible recipients are Indian tribal entities (defined at 25 U.S.C. 5304(e)), state government, local governments, private and nonprofit entities, for-profit organizations, and educational institutions. The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may enter into such cooperative agreements notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31 when the Secretary determines that the public interest will be benefited and that there exists a mutual interest other than monetary considerations. Transactions subject to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations shall be publicly advertised and require competition when required by such Title 2. For those transactions not subject to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the agency may require public advertising and competition when deemed appropriate. The term "forest and grassland collaboratives" means groups of individuals or entities with diverse interests participating in a cooperative process to share knowledge, ideas, and resources about the protection, restoration, or enhancement of natural and other resources on Federal and

adjacent non-Federal lands, the improvement or maintenance of public access to Federal lands, or the reduction of risk to such lands caused by natural disasters.

The 19th unnumbered paragraph under the heading "Administrative Provisions, Forest Service" in title III of Public Law 109-54, as amended, shall be further amended in the first sentence by striking "in this Act" and by striking "prior to the date of enactment of this Act".

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 economic 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, and National Technology and Development Program.

Contingent upon the enactment of legislation establishing within the Department of the Interior an agency known as the United States Wildland Fire Service responsible for carrying out all aspects of the Federal wildland fire missions currently assigned to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture may transfer funds made available to their respective Departments and agencies for activities related to Federal wildland fire missions among and between the Departments and agencies affected by the establishment and implementation of the United States Wildland Fire Service.



## **TITLE IV GENERAL PROVISIONS**

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

### **OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

### **MINING APPLICATIONS**

SEC. 402. (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, 2027, 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. 403. 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 2026.

### **CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR 2026 LIMITATION**

SEC. 404. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year 2026 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 2026 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. 405. 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.

## **LIMITATION ON TAKINGS**

SEC. 406. 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 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, Public Law 101-229 (16 U.S.C. 410r-5 et seq.), 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. 407. 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, as amended (25 U.S.C. 5301 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. 5304(e)); or such contract was awarded prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

## **POSTING OF REPORTS**

SEC. 408. (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. Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—the public posting of the report compromises national security; or the report contains proprietary information. 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.

## **EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS**

SEC. 409. 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 2024.

### **FUNDING PROHIBITION**

SEC. 410. (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. 411. (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.

(b) The Secretary concerned may make a transfer under subsection (a) immediately on the request of an approved nonprofit organization, an approved individual, an approved foreign country, and 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 the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, Public Law 92-195, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1332)).

### **FOREST SERVICE FACILITY REALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. 412. Section 503(f) of Public Law 109-54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note) shall be applied by substituting "September 30, 2026" for "September 30, 2019".

### **USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL**

SEC. 413. (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. 414. 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.

#### **LOCAL CONTRACTORS**

SEC. 415. Section 412 of division E of Public Law 112–74 shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year [2024]2026" for "fiscal year 2019".

#### **SHASTA-TRINITY MARINA FEE AUTHORITY AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. 416. Section 422 of division F of Public Law 110–161 (121 Stat 1844), as amended, shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year 2026" for "fiscal year 2019".

#### **INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. 417. Section 426 of division G of Public Law 113–76 (16 U.S.C. 565a–1 note) shall be applied by substituting "September 30, 2026" for "September 30, 2019".

#### **FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS FEE COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. 418. 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 2026" for "fiscal year 2019".

#### **TRIBAL LEASES**

SEC. 419. (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, Public Law 93–638, as amended (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)), the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal.

#### **FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RECOVERY FUND**

SEC. 420. The authority provided under the heading "Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund" in title I of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 2010, Division A Public Law 111–88, as amended by section

117 of division F of Public Law 113–235, shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2026” for “fiscal year 2020” each place it appears.

#### **SMALL REMOTE INCINERATORS**

SEC. 421. 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. 422. 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. 423. 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 section 200402(e) of title 54, United States Code, and prohibitions in 200402(f) of title 54, United States Code, may be further allocated or reallocated to the Federal Highway Administration for transportation projects of the covered agencies defined in section 200401(2) of title 54, United States Code.

#### **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS**

SEC. 424. 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.

### **FUNDING PROHIBITION**

SEC. 425. 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.

### **FIREFIGHTER PAY CAP**

SEC. 426. 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 in subsections (a), (b), and (c) by striking "2021 or 2022 or 2023 or 2024" each place it appears and inserting "calendar years 2021 through 2026".

### **ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL HEALTH ENTITIES AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION**

SEC. 427. 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, 2024" for "December 24, 2022".

### **LAVA RIDGE WIND PROJECT**

SEC. 428. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for the purpose of processing or approving any notice to proceed with any construction activities relating to the Lava Ridge Wind Project right-of-way authorization unless and until the Secretary of the Interior has completed a review of the Department of the Interior's Record of Decision authorizing the use of public lands through the Lava Ridge Wind Project right-of-way and, as appropriate, conducted a new, comprehensive analysis in accordance with Section 2(b) of the Presidential Memorandum titled "Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects," dated January 20, 2025.

### **LIMITATION**

SEC. 429. If requested by the claimant of any mining claim located within the area covered by Public Land Order 7921, the Bureau of Land Management shall prioritize completion of a validity determination for such claim. The Bureau of Land Management shall strive to complete any such validity determination not later than 3 years of receipt of the request.

### **WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

SEC. 430. In addition to the authority provided by section 6(g) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act, as authorized by the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112–272) and the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291), the World War I Commission may accept money, in-kind personnel services, contractual support, or any appropriate support from any executive branch agency for activities of the Commission.

### **TRIBAL AGREEMENTS**

SEC. 431. Notwithstanding sections 106(b)(2) and 516(a) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5325(b)(2), (25 U.S.C. 5325(b)(2), 5396(a)), the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of the Interior may reduce the amount of funds provided under the terms of a self-determination contract or compact entered into under that Act if (1) the approval of an increase to the amount of funds that would otherwise be required under the terms of such contract or compact was made pursuant to section 507(b) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5387(b)) or section 900.18 or 1000.179 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations; and (2) the amount of the reduction does not exceed the amount of the increase.

## **AMENDMENT TO THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

Sec. 432 Section 200306 of title 54, United States Code, is amended –

(a) in subsection (a)(4), by adding at the end the following: "Appropriations allotted for priority deferred maintenance as set forth under paragraph (5) shall be available in addition to amounts otherwise made available for the same purpose."; and

(b) by adding at the end of subsection (a) the following new paragraph:

"(5) PRIORITY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE. Subject to subparagraphs (A) and (B), amounts shall be allocated for priority deferred maintenance projects in the National Park System, on land administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and in the National Forest System.

(A) The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall incorporate measures to improve the accessibility of assets and accommodate visitors and employees with disabilities in accordance with applicable law.

(B) Any priority deferred maintenance project funded under this paragraph shall be consistent with any applicable transportation, deferred maintenance, or capital improvement plan developed by the applicable agency."

## **REPORT ON ALLOCATION OF PROJECTS, NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND AND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

Sec. 433 Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall provide a report to Congress detailing the projects or activities for which amounts made available from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund were allocated for fiscal year 2026.

## **TRANSFER OF FUNDS, WILDLAND FIRE**

Sec. 434 Contingent upon the enactment of legislation establishing within the Department of the Interior an agency known as the United States Wildland Fire Service responsible for carrying out all aspects of the Federal wildland fire missions currently assigned to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, in order to implement an orderly transition to the U.S. Wildland Fire Service, may transfer funds among and between the Departments and agencies affected by the reorganization.

## **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 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 United States USDA 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 the Statistical Officer. These different perspectives and expertise facilitate buy-in across USDA, augment technical expertise, and create a greater range of perspectives. Partnership with the Chief Data Officer and Statistical Officer provides greater insight and advisement on data access, data quality, and statistical methods. The Forest Service Office of Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability spearheads the Forest Service's efforts in strategic planning, performance and evidence, and evaluation. Additionally, the Office of the CFO leads Enterprise Risk Management activities for the Forest Service. These offices work directly with OBPA and senior leadership as well as actively engaging with both internal and external stakeholders.

### **Alignment to USDA Strategic Plan**

Forest Service activities contribute to the success of USDA's overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues using sound public policy, the best available science, and effective management, to the benefit of all Americans. USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and will report alignment in the FY 2027 Explanatory Notes.

### **Summary of Performance**

USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, including new KPIs. A more detailed report of the performance plan can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance>.



## **SPECIAL EXHIBITS**

### **EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT (EAJA)**

#### **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 fees since FY 2009.

#### **Background**

This exhibit addresses the directive included in House Report 112-151 that accompanied the 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 the 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.*

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-100. FY 2024 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>Disposition of Application</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1:23-CV-00172-CWD US District Court for the District of Idaho	Western Watersheds Project V USFS	Western Watersheds Project	Candy W. Dale	11/1/2023	FS Organizational Services	Settlement Agreement	\$6,444
3:21-CV-00056-BLW US District Court for the District of Idaho	Friends of the Clearwater v. Cheryl Probert	Friends of the Clearwater	B. Lynn Winmill	1/19/2024	FS Inventory and Monitor	Settlement Agreement	150,000
1:13-CV-993-RJL US District Court DC	Solenex, LLC v. Haaland et al	Solenex LLC	Richard J. Leon	2/8/2024	FS Minerals Management, FS Forest Products	Settlement Agreement	375,000
CV-20-00328-PHX-DLR US District Court for the District of Arizona	Neighbors of the Mogollon Rim Inc v. USFS and USFWS	Neighbors of the Mogolon Rim Inc	Douglas L Rayes	2/27/2024	FS Grazing Management	Settlement Agreement	200,000
CV-21-84-M-DLC US District Court of Montana	Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Native Ecosystems Council vs. USFS	Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Native Ecosystems Council	Dana L. Christensen	3/22/2024	FS Forest Projects	Settlement Agreement and Release	73,502
2:21-CV-4380-ALM-KAJ (S.D. Ohio) US District Court of Ohio	Ohio Environmental Council v. United States Forest Service, et al.	Sunny Oaks Project on the WNF	Kimberley A. Jolson	4/3/2024	FS Forest Projects	Final Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact	33,862
9:23-CV-00112-DLC United District Court of Montana Missoula Division	Native Ecosystems Council: Alliance for the Wild Rockies v Emily Platt USFS USFWS	Native Ecosystems Council; Alliance for the Wild Rockies	Dana L. Christensen	4/18/2024	FS Forest Projects	Settlement Agreement	39,000

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<b>Docket/Court</b>	<b>Case Name</b>	<b>Plaintiff</b>	<b>Judge(s)</b>	<b>Date Certified</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Disposition of Application</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1:23-CV-3091-RC United District Court	Public Journal v United States Forest Service	Public Journal	Rudolph Contreras	5/7/2024	FS Organizational Services	Settlement Agreement	5,993
3:21-CV-189- CWD United States District Court of the District of Idaho	Friends of the Clearwater v. Cheryl F. Probert	Friends of the Clearwater	Candy W. Dale	5/14/2024	FS Forest Projects	Settlement Agreement and Release	165,000
2:21-CV-00161 SAB United States District Court of the District of Washington	Kettle Range Conservation Group	Kettle Range Conservation Group	Stanley A. Bastian	6/18/2024	FS Service Programs	Settlement Agreement	450,000
TOTAL							1,498,801

## **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 16 additional NS&HTs on NFS lands, in cooperation with DOI, State and county governments, and private partners. Funding for administration and management of these trails is included within the CIM Trails appropriation.

### **Arizona National Scenic Trail**

The 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZNST) showcases Arizona's diverse landscapes, offering unparalleled backcountry experiences in settings ranging from Sonoran Desert to alpine forests. The AZNST connects deserts, mountains, canyons, wilderness, history, cultures, and communities. Eighty-five percent of the AZNST 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.

A total of 1,649 volunteers contributed 19,430 hours of work in support of the AZNST. 43 volunteer events were held and volunteers installed signs on trails, trailheads, and interpretive areas, and constructed 13 miles of trail. 68 miles of trail were analyzed and re-routes were designed to move trails away from roads and unsustainable alignments. Geospatial data and maps were updated for the entire trail. The Arizona Trail Association worked with over 23 schools to provide elementary through high school students with outings and volunteer days for a total of 2,417 participant days. A collaboration with 19 gateway communities promoted the trail and coordinated community needs and distributed 20,000 new maps through a state parks grant. Veterans' crews maintained 50 miles of trail and installed various cattle guards and gates.

The AZNST continues to be threatened by wildfires and drought events that jeopardize natural water sources. Numerous wildfires forced temporary closures of 81 miles of the AZNST and 31 miles of trail were burned.

The AZNST Comprehensive Plan is expected to start the final 45-day objection period in November 2024 and be reviewed by the Chief for signature in spring 2025.

### **Continental Divide National Scenic Trail**

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) is a 3,100-mile trail that runs along the spine of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Canada. It connects 20 national forests, three national parks, two national monuments, 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. Easements are lacking on numerous private and State land parcels. Work has continued towards acquiring lands to eliminate gaps between sections of the trail and relocate existing portions of the trail. Partners include the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Wild Montana, Colorado Trail Foundation, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Montana Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, Back Country Horsemen, and numerous other Federal, State, and local nongovernmental organizations.

Ninety-six percent of the CDT allocation went to field units and partners for 24 trail maintenance, reconstruction, and relocation projects. In addition, trail-wide partner organizations such as the Continental Divide Trail Coalition and local partner organizations led numerous volunteer projects that engaged people in trail maintenance and construction. Forest Service staff and volunteers maintained 635 miles of the CDT and replaced or repaired 22 major structures, including numerous large trail bridges. The entire CDT on NFS lands (approximately 2,200 miles) is a "Secretariially designated" priority area for trail maintenance under the 2016 Trails Stewardship Act.

In 2024 the CDT program accomplished the following:

- Developed a program of work for 2025-2027 GAOA deferred maintenance projects.
- Completed Phase I of CDT centerline data cleanup in the Southwestern region forests (New Mexico) and secured a contract to complete Phase II of CDT centerline data cleanup in the Northern region forests in Montana.
- Developed the first in a series of Junior Ranger Books for the CDT. This first book is focused on the CDT in the state of Colorado and is an educational and interactive booklet that engages youth in the cultural and natural landscapes along the CDT.

FY 2024 example trails project accomplishments included:

Montana – Glacier National Park: Project work was focused on four bridge construction projects including Windmaker Suspension, Virginia Falls Overlook, Morning Eagle Plank and Belly River Suspension bridges (CDT Alt). In 2024 Glacier NP Trail staff completed the following work along the CDT:

- 36,820 ft of power brushing
- 1410 ft of grading
- 89,936 ft of rocking/raking
- 19 ft of turnpike construction
- 255 ft check/fill
- 35 square feet of drystone wall construction

Wyoming – Sublette Pass Meadows Trail Bridge Installation: A natural ford exists on the new CDNST relocation IVO Sublette Pass Meadows. With increased thru-hiker and day use (foot, bike, and equestrian) traffic due to the popularity of this section of trail, there was potential for significant resource damage to an unhardened water crossing. In partnership with Wyoming Pathways, the Wind River Ranger District completed the installation of a 25' engineered trail bridge to protect the resource and improve the trail user experience.

Colorado—Tincup Pass Heavy Maintenance: The Tincup Pass area is very popular given its close proximity to the popular tourist designation of St. Elmo and as it shares its route with

the Colorado Trail Collegiate West trail and leads to areas of spectacular beauty including high alpine Tunnel Lake. Colorado Trail Foundation Crews replaced existing bridges in various states of disrepair, cleared overgrown corridors, opened and constructed drainage features, and reconstructed tread benches where needed. These efforts will improve the trail conditions and sustainability, by reducing erosion, enhancing drainage, and stabilizing slope trails. Project partners included Colorado Trail Foundation, and the Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers.

### **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, 1,145 miles of certified FNST exist, with roughly 400 miles of gaps in the trail. Partners include the Florida Trail Association (FTA), National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, universities, and nearly all public land management state agencies, county, and local governments in Florida.

The Forest Service, together with Florida Trail Coalition partners, continues to carry out the goals of the Florida National Scenic Trail Five-Year Strategic Plan<sup>98</sup>. In FY 2024, the FNST partnership maintained 1,122 miles of trail, completed 196 feet of infrastructure replacement or new construction, and maintained over 10,000 feet of existing bridges or boardwalks. Non-profit partners contributed \$815,515 through 24,351 hours of volunteer labor directly to the FNST. The FNST Program successfully partnered with State, federal, non-profit and youth organizations to accomplish several critical infrastructure projects along the Florida Trail on both partner-managed and NFS lands. These multi-agency, partner, and volunteer projects addressed safety, access, and deferred maintenance throughout the State of Florida. FNST and Florida Trail Association staff finalized a trail-wide spatial inventory of all Florida Trailheads, this ArcGIS Online<sup>99</sup> based inventory will streamline future maintenance needs and priorities. The Forest Service expanded the Gateway Community program by adding several new partner communities in Florida and deepening relationships in existing communities. In FY24, the FTAccess program was officially launched providing hiking opportunities for individuals with mobility needs. Utilizing a chair called a Joelete, which is powered by two volunteers, hikers can go anywhere on the Florida Trail. This device will become a regular part of Florida Trail events and maintenance activities.

Thousands of volunteer hours, five challenge cost share agreements, and collaborative support through land management agencies can be highlighted through the following projects:

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<sup>98</sup> [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd601682.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd601682.pdf)

<sup>99</sup> ArcGIS Online is a cloud-based platform for mapping and analysis. It allows users to use, create, and share maps, apps, and data, including basemaps and analytics from Esri. Esri is a company that provides geographic information system (GIS) software, web GIS and geodatabase management applications.

Infrastructure and Deferred Maintenance:

- On the Apalachicola District the FNST program, together with the FTA and Franklin's Promise Coalition, continued to address a large-scale deferred maintenance project by replacing several minor trail boardwalks within the district.

State and Non-profit Partners:

- In Okaloosa County, County Commissioners pledged \$1 million towards the construction of a bridge connecting Eglin Air Force Base and the water management district which will close a 20-mile road walk. The project will move into the design and permitting stage in FY25.
- Florida Trail Association and Franklin's Promise Coalition are in the planning phase to address the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton impacts on state lands of the FNST in Florida where much of the FNST remains inaccessible and closed to the public due to downed trees.

Federal Partners:

- The FNST program has made steady progress in implementing 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 has been completed through a partnership with the National Park Service and initial engineered design plans have been drafted for the structures and NEPA work completed.
- The Forest Service and NPS collaborated on projects within Big Cypress which included resurfacing of a segment of trail most accessible to the general public and installing three tent platforms in high use campsites that are traditionally wet. Future projects for FY25 include installing backpack hangers throughout the preserve, new fire rings and additional wayfinding signage.

**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 (Nee-Me-Poo) 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 users, mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians. The NPNHT has 79 historic sites and seven high potential route segments that have historic tread from 1877 or were prehistoric travel routes. The NPNHT has completed the revision of its Comprehensive Plan for trail administration and management.

The NPNHT relies on partners along the trail to help share and interpret the story of the Flight of 1877 and the trail including dozens of State, Regional, and local tourism organizations and regional and local museums. Partners working on a variety of trail and interpretive work include qa' ánin 'ískit (respect the trail) the new trail-wide nonprofit established in FY 2023, the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Museum of Yellowstone, Nez Perce CO Historical

Society and Museum, the Joseph Center Library, and Friends of the Southern Nez Perce Trail, among others. In addition, Federal agency partners and Tribes provided additional work and interpretation on all aspects of the NPNHT.

NPNHT accomplishments for the FY include:

- Eighteen miles of trail maintained by the Nez Perce Tribe in central Idaho.
- Eight miles of trail were cleared of downed trees on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest due to beetle kill and reoccurring windstorms.
- Fifteen miles of trail were maintained on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
- Twenty-Six miles of trail were maintained on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.
- The Forest Service is working with the Trail's nonprofit partner, qa' ánin n'ískit, to develop a comprehensive interpretation inventory along the trail.
- Partner Alvin Joseph Cultural Center hosted a grand opening of a traveling exhibit, which includes a social media kiosk for interviewing tribal elders and a booklet for the project "Heads & Hearts: Seeing The Landscape Through Nimiipuu Eyes." This exhibit showcases Nez Perce stories, art, and photographs to which provide insights into indigenous understanding of the landscape ethnology on the trail. The Nez Perce County Historical Museum exhibit has had 1,550 visitors so far this year.
- Trail partners acquired 28 acres of land to preserve a section of the trail near Joseph, OR.

### **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 Bureau of Land Management field offices, six national parks, five national monuments, and 47 designated wilderness areas. Nearly 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 Association (SCA), Washington Trails Association, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, Siskiyou Mountain Club, Truckee Trails Foundation, Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps, Washington Conservation Corps, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Backcountry Horsemen of California, Oregon, Washington, and many others. The compounding trail damage caused by extreme weather events makes it increasingly difficult to keep the trail fully open and safely accessible to the public. The PCT experienced accelerated trail degradation from present and past year's rain, hurricanes, heavy snowpack and fires which resulted in compounding trail maintenance needs including accelerated erosion, downed trees, and washed-out bridges. Below are PCT FY 2024 accomplishments and challenges:

- 32,446 volunteer hours and 17,737 conservation crew hours accomplished 1,031 miles of maintenance along the PCT during 2024. PCTA held 3 Trail Skills Colleges across the trail, resulting in training 186 volunteers on trail maintenance and management skills.
- In 2024, 16 miles of the PCT were burned while 665 miles (25 percent of PCT trail) were administratively closed for public safety. Critical scheduled trail maintenance work was disrupted or cancelled due to the fire closures and public use was limited.
- The GAOA PCT Deferred Trail Maintenance project in the Pacific Southwest Region (R5) reached 65 percent completion, in partnership with PCTA and ACE, which



included work on the Lassen, Plumas, Eldorado, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Sequoia, Tahoe, and Inyo National Forests. Volunteers contributed 2020 hours and corps crews contributed over 3726 hours of deferred maintenance trail work.

- In 2024, the Pacific Northwest Region (R6) GAOA PCT Deferred Trail Maintenance project reached 27 percent completion. Corps crews contributed over 2000 work hours, whereas volunteers contributed over 1,400 hours. Partners and volunteers maintained over 22 miles of the PCT in Oregon and Washington. Work was completed on the Fremont-Winema, Deschutes, Willamette, Mt. Hood, Gifford Pinchot, Okanogan-Wenatchee, and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests, as well as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Wildfires prevented critical trail maintenance work planned for this project from occurring in Glacier Peak Wilderness in the 2024 season. In 2025, the R6 maintenance work will address complex, remote trail maintenance and repair in the Glacier Peak Wilderness.
- The Forest Service is finalizing three regional volunteer service agreements (Regions 4, 5, 6) with PCTA to create a cohesive and standardized program that best serves and supports volunteers along the entire trail. The PCTA Saw Program<sup>100</sup> continues to operate a successful formal U.S. Forest Service cooperator and volunteer saw program.
- 6,840 PCT Long-distance Permits were issued for thru and section travel in partnership with PCTA.
- The Cleveland and Inyo National Forests had two seasonal PCTA Crest Runners and two Crest Rangers through peak season which allowed for increased engagement, enforcement, and education for long-distance users in areas where visitor impacts are prominent. 3,949 total visitor contacts were made at the Southern Terminus and in the southern Sierras. One PCTA Crest Runner<sup>101</sup> was hired for the Northern Terminus to engage with south-bound trail users in the Pasayten Wilderness on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. 668 total visitor contacts were made.
- Investment in visitor use management research continues to be a priority at the termini and in the Sierra Nevada to understand permit utilization and travel patterns. The PCT program continues to collaborate with wilderness managers in the Southern Sierra on visitor use management concerns where the John Muir Trail overlaps the PCT for 160-miles.
- Planning efforts continued, including the Big Bear Land Exchange PCT relocation on the San Bernardino National Forest (Public Law 116–283: 134 STAT. 3388), Sky River PCT relocation in Southern California, and complex trail maintenance within the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Resource management planning efforts included Piute’s Travel Management on the Sequoia National Forest, Over-Snow-Vehicle planning on the Tahoe National Forest, California High Speed Rail, and proposed energy projects within the trail viewshed. The collaborative management with California State Parks and Bureau of Land Management continued to address motorized conflict and ensure timely resolution of issues.

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<sup>100</sup> Training and certification program for operation of both chainsaws and crosscut saws.

<sup>101</sup> The PCTA, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, manages the Crest Runner program which provides staff along segments of the PCT to meet trail users to help share Leave No Trace principles, the importance of permits, and the nuances of trail and trail town culture.

## **Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail**

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) begins at the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park in Montana and travels 1,200 miles through Montana, Idaho, and Washington before reaching the Pacific Ocean. The trail's complex landownership includes three national parks, seven national forests, and six Washington State parks. Partners include the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA), various Back Country Horsemen chapters from across the trail, Washington Trails Association, University of Montana, and other organizations.

The PNT was designated by Congress in 2009 and the Forest Service has completed the statutorily required PNT Comprehensive Plan. The Chief of the Forest Service signed the plan and submitted it to Congress in December 2023. With the plan complete, the administrative focus has shifted to implementation of the plan and identifying priorities for closing gaps and completing the trail. In partnership with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, the Forest Service developed draft guidelines for conducting Optimal Location Reviews, which is an essential first step in the process of moving the Congressionally designated route off roads to locations that better meet the intent of the National Trails System Act.

The Forest Service is moving forward with its partnership with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association to develop a new service mark (trail logo), with contributions and input from tribes and tribal artists, that better reflects the importance of the PNT landscape to indigenous communities of the Pacific Northwest.

In FY 2024, through a partnership with the Forest Service, a team of researchers from the University of Montana continued to collect trail use monitoring data for sites along the PNT in Montana and Idaho. The team collects trail use data, compiled into an annual report, that is used by the Forest Service and others to assess trends in visitor use in and around core grizzly bear habitat. Annual monitoring reports dating back to 2017 are available on the USFS PNT website.

The Forest Service held five meetings with the PNT Federal Advisory Council in FY24. The council provided input on the Comprehensive Plan and, following completion of the plan, shared ideas and input related to implementation planning. The Advisory Council had their final meeting in May 2024, after which the statutory authority for the council, as established by the National Trails System Act, expired.

In FY 2024, The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) employed seven, six-person full-time Performance Trail Crews across the PNT, with field seasons ranging from five to seven months. PNTA crew leaders led numerous summer maintenance and construction projects for dozens of students in a partnership with the Job Corps Centers in Eastern Washington. The Performance Trail Crew program employed approximately 50 youth and young adults from trailside communities to perform more than 20,000 hours of service to the trail, helping to build stronger connections between the people of these communities and their public lands. By paying participants a living wage, providing all meals and transportation to job sites, and maintaining an outdoor gear library so that all participants in the program were prepared to thrive in the backcountry regardless of resources at home, the Performance Trail Crew program created a positive experience for the participants.

Through a partnership with the University of Washington Master of Library and Information Science program, PNT facilitated an internship to catalog and preserve a large collection of historical photographs, documents, journals, correspondence and artifacts donated to PNTA by the trail's founder Ron Strickland and others, which contain the story of the development

of the trail from 1970 to the present. The collection has proven useful in its documentation of the development of the current PNT servicemark, as well as the history of tribal relations between PNTA and tribal partners along the trail's length. The collection will be used to create exhibits that will increase interest and support for the trail at PNTA headquarters.

In FY 2024, PNTA began discussions with multiple private landowners who are interested in working with the association and public land managers to offer easements that will permanently protect public access to the trail corridor, including a substantial section of trail needed to maintain connectivity between Olympic National Forest and the Olympic coastline. The Forest Service developed a partnership in FY24 with the Trust for Public Land to analyze landownership along the PNT and nearby lands. This project will ultimately result in a map-based parcel-level tool that will help the Forest Service and partners implement the PNT's land acquisition and protection plan, which is contained within the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Other National Scenic and Historic Trails**

The Forest Service coordinates management with other Federal public land agencies for an additional 16 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.

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-101. 2023 National Scenic and Historic Trails Accomplishments and Partner Contributions

<b>Name</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Volunteer In-kind Contributions (in thousands)</b>	<b>Non-Cash Contributions (in thousands)</b>	<b>Miles of Trail Maintained</b>	<b>Miles of Trail Improved/ Constructed</b>	<b>Acres Acquired</b>	<b>Major Structures Constructed</b>
Arizona .....	194	583	118	381	2.3	-	25
Continental Divide.....	75	565	195	635	4	0	22
Florida .....	24	816	117	1,122	10	0	2
Nez Perce.....	45	125	400	350	12	28	5
Pacific Crest.....	54	1,790	81	1,210	14	0	2
Pacific Northwest	7.6	266	178	306	1	0	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>399.6</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>56</b>

**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REIMBURSEMENT****Background**

This special exhibit is required by P.L. 117-328, 136 STAT. 4807, Administrative Provisions, which directed:

*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.*

**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-102. Office of General Counsel Reimbursement FY 2023 through FY 2026 (dollars in thousands)

<b>FY 2023 Actual Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2024 Actual Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2025 Planned Reimbursement</b>	<b>FY 2026 Planned Reimbursement</b>
\$12,569	\$1,472	\$25,000	\$26,000

## **PRESCRIBED FIRE**

### **Background**

This exhibit addresses the requirement from the Joint Explanatory Statement of Division G – 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 (FY).*

### **Overview**

Hazardous fuels reduction is the intentional removal or manipulation of vegetation to change fire behavior that reduces the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire for communities, infrastructure, watersheds, critical habitat, and traditional Tribal lands. Hazardous fuels reduction treatments generally include mechanical thinning, mastication, and prescribed fire. A prescribed fire is a planned fire intentionally ignited by forest managers, frequently after mechanical thinning and/or mastication, to achieve desirable outcomes and meet management objectives, 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.

**FY 2024 Activities**

The Forest Service collaborated with partners and various entities to treat landscapes across Federal, State, and private lands achieving 4.29 million acres of hazardous fuels reduction. On NFS lands, a total of 3.68 million acres were treated, including a record high of nearly 2.19 million acres through prescribed fire. This represents a ten percent increase from last year and exceeds the ten-year average of 1.5 million acres by over 700,000 acres.

Table FS-103. Hazardous fuels reduction accomplishments on NFS lands in FY 2024.

<b>Region</b>	<b>All Treatment Types (acres)<sup>a/</sup></b>	<b>Prescribed Fire Treatments (acres)</b>	<b>Percent of Prescribed Fire Treatments (%)</b>
01 – Northern .....	198,000	63,000	32%
02 – Rocky Mountain.....	163,000	59,000	37%
03 – Southwestern .....	452,000	203,000	45%
04 – Intermountain.....	336,000	78,000	23%
05 – Pacific Southwest.....	337,000	72,000	21%
06 – Pacific Northwest.....	451,000	120,000	27%
08 – Southern.....	1,548,000	1,490,000	96%
09 – Eastern.....	198,000	101,000	51%
10 – Alaska .....	3,000	-	-
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,686,000</b>	<b>2,186,000</b>	<b>59%</b>

a/ FY 2024 year-end data from Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS); rounded to the nearest thousand acre and includes wildfire from natural ignitions.

The treated acres in FY 2024 add to the 16.6-million-acre network of treated landscapes established by the Forest Service since 2000 and the initiation of the National Fire Plan. The Hazardous Fuels Program focuses on maintaining high-priority areas and treating new high-risk areas annually, increasing the workload to keep these areas in low-risk condition. Leveraging base resources with supplemental funding in 2024 resulted in another historic year for prescribed fire accomplishments, with every region exceeding both the FY 2023 levels and their ten-year average.

In FY 2022, the Forest Service released the “National Prescribed Fire Program Review.” The review initiated continuous improvements in prescribed burning operations. Seven of the immediate recommendations have been implemented and continue to support prescribed fire work. The review also presented 45 near-term and long-term considerations. Of the nine near-term considerations, five have been completed, and the standardization of the wildfire review process is nearing completion. Evaluations are ongoing for near-term considerations six, eight, and nine to determine necessary investments levels. Among the 36 long-term considerations, five are being evaluated to identify required actions and resources for program enhancement.

As of May 2024, the National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center (NIPFTC) established eight additional Field Modules in three geographic locations known as “Hubs”. These Hubs are in Tulsa, OK, Flagstaff, AZ, and Rapid City, SD. The Field Modules at these locations collaborate with interagency partners within a 400-mile radius.

## **STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING**

### **Background**

This exhibit addresses the 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 the 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. 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 contracts also enable the Forest Service to promote sustainable local rural economies, restore and maintain healthy forest ecosystems, and provide a continuing source of local income and employment. Stewardship contracting selection criteria include capability, use of local workforce, creation of jobs, and price. The objective 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 Forest Service has operationalized the 20-year stewardship contracting authority by extending the current executed agreements beyond ten years and by entering into new 20-year stewardship agreements.

The Forest Service continues 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 facilitate its use in attaining land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs. To improve Forest



Service understanding and use of this authority, the Forest Service continued to expand the national stewardship contracting and agreements training for staff in the field. In FY 2024, The Forest Service continued to offer Stewardship contracting training courses to program partners on a virtual platform. The training gave partners a better understanding of the processes and procedures used within the Forest Service for the reporting and accounting of project accomplishments and 77 certificates were received nationally with an additional 28 partners attending regional training. The results for the FY 2024 training cycle were positive with 168 agency personnel completing the training representing a 19 percent increase from the previous year.

A third-party monitoring effort is ongoing and under development 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 scientists. The report will use the feedback from interviews along with data from national databases to get a trend line of usage of the authority and key items where the Forest Service can improve on its application. Results of the monitoring effort will be available at the end of FY 2025.

### Specific Accomplishments

The table below displays accomplishments between FY 2020 and FY 2024. 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 local rural economies.

Table FS-104. Actual Stewardship Contracting Accomplishments (FY 2020 to FY 2024)

Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Acres of forest vegetation established	5,285	2,715	6,988	5,299	9,589
Acres of forest vegetation improved	28,443	12,692	18,655	36,509	16,502
Acres of noxious weeds and invasive plant treatments	3,947	4,951	2,607	2,912	1,943
Acres of wildlife habitat restored or improved	67,345	83,625	10,360	16,225	2,974
Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced	52	130	46	20	-
Miles of roads decommissioned	-	-	-	2	-
Volume of timber sold (million board feet)	888	670	697	1,063	894**
Ten thousand tons of biomass made available for energy production	161,380	87,271	149,744	582,381	397,552
Acres of hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires (non- WUI)	58,307	52,573	52,686	108,988	54,113
Acres of wildland-urban interface (WUI) high-priority hazardous fuels treated	82,176	122,734	100,818	181,463	175,554
Stewardship contracts and agreements contributing to watersheds in fully functioning condition	2	1	7	15	24

\*Completed acres as of October 31, 2024, an extended reporting period granted due to hurricane and wildfire response.

\*\*Data sourced from geo-enabled Performance Accountability System (gPAS) Reports. Data sort: "Initiative code of Stewardship" timber Volume Source: PSTAR reports.

The table below shows the acres awarded, number of contracts or agreements awarded, and volume awarded from FY 2020 to FY 2024. 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-105. Acres Awarded, Number of Contract or Agreements Awarded, and Volume Awarded

Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Acres Awarded .....	185,933	158,943	186,417	252,306	252,306
Number of Contracts and Agreements ..	156	141	138	195	895
Volume Awarded (thousand board feet (MBF)) .....	888,000	670,000	697,000	1,063,00	894,000

\*Completed acres as of October 31, 2024, an extended reporting period granted due to hurricane and wildfire response.

### 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. This cooperation allows the Forest Service to tailor stewardship offerings that address local issues, needs, and capabilities.

**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, 2024.

Table FS-106. Forest Service Status of ULO Balances in Prior Fiscal Years as of September 30, 2024 (thousands of dollars)

<b>Item</b>	<b>2021 and Prior</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Forest Service Operations:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses.....	\$ 47	\$ 787	\$14,466	\$23,516	\$38,816
Facilities Maintenance and Leases .....	5,176	4,529	7,864	37,322	54,891
Information Technology and Centralized Processing .....	5,671	4,608	37,763	165,838	213,880
Organizational Services .....	3,581	7,954	14,586	33,726	59,847
Disaster Funding .....	-	23,252	-	-	23,252
<b>Total, Forest Service Operations .....</b>	<b>14,474</b>	<b>41,130</b>	<b>74,680</b>	<b>260,402</b>	<b>390,686</b>
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses.....	5	166	44	612	826
Forest and Rangeland Research – Other	26	-	-	-	26
Forest Inventory and Analysis .....	793	2,883	15,585	23,860	43,121
Joint Fire Science .....	1,049	1,727	4,325	3,000	10,101
Research and Development Programs ...	10,009	19,254	30,053	38,806	98,122
Disaster Funding .....	168	7,276	627	-	8,071
<b>Total, Forest and Rangeland Research .....</b>	<b>12,050</b>	<b>31,306</b>	<b>50,633</b>	<b>66,279</b>	<b>160,267</b>
<b>State, Private, and Tribal Forestry:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses.....	-	66	65	328	458
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation .....	86	2,121	3,831	2,361	8,399
Cooperative Forestry - Forest Legacy ....	63,485	-	-	-	63,485
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management .....	9,094	10,269	17,823	22,979	60,165
Federal Lands Forest Health Management .....	3,252	1,996	6,681	9,725	21,654
Forest Resource Information and Analysis .....	-	21,208	28,876	16,369	66,453
Forest Stewardship (Working Forest Lands) .....	4,725	5,200	9,191	8,750	27,867
International Programs and Trade Compliance .....	1,915	1,926	6,068	14,844	24,752
Landscape Scale Restoration	13,920	9,096	14,914	10,481	48,411

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Item	2021 and Prior	2022	2023	2024	Total
State Fire Capacity Grants (State Fire Assistance).....	46,047	27,355	39,801	56,580	169,783
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, Other.....	670	-	-	-	670
Urban and Community Forestry.....	11,976	16,988	31,915	28,841	89,720
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (Volunteer Fire Assistance).....	6,710	6,960	14,561	17,807	46,038
Disaster Funding .....	548	33,857	118,814	-	153,219
<b>Total, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry.....</b>	<b>162,428</b>	<b>137,041</b>	<b>292,541</b>	<b>189,064</b>	<b>781,075</b>
<b>National Forest System:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses.....	66	270	3,416	8,567	12,319
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund.....	5,486	6,955	14,522	20,855	47,818
Forest Products .....	9,746	4,667	8,569	9,825	32,808
Grazing Management .....	769	655	1,435	1,344	4,202
Hazardous Fuels.....	48,701	32,983	53,916	80,492	216,092
Integrated Resource Restoration Pilot ...	362	-	-	-	362
Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring .....	6,184	2,758	6,332	8,740	24,015
Law Enforcement Operations.....	1,034	844	1,921	3,862	7,659
Minerals and Geology Management.....	2,584	962	3,063	6,718	13,326
National Forest System, Other .....	5,028	11,091	13,414	16,489	46,021
Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness ....	6,532	6,410	10,675	14,442	38,060
Vegetation and Watershed Management	12,250	10,479	12,100	17,568	52,396
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management .....	5,886	3,513	6,951	10,042	26,391
Disaster Funding .....	11,213	300,373	141,392	-	452,979
<b>Total, National Forest System .....</b>	<b>115,840</b>	<b>381,959</b>	<b>277,706</b>	<b>198,944</b>	<b>974,449</b>
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance:</b>					
Construction Projects .....	-	7,261	2,199	1,199	10,658
Facilities.....	14,442	16,447	20,361	33,224	84,473
Legacy Roads and Trails .....	55	893	1,881	4,662	7,492
Roads .....	4,941	6,325	9,003	26,527	46,796
Trails .....	2,347	928	3,078	8,737	15,090
Disaster Funding .....	19,867	168,138	56,374	-	244,379
<b>Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance .....</b>	<b>41,651</b>	<b>199,993</b>	<b>92,896</b>	<b>74,349</b>	<b>408,888</b>
<b>Land Acquisition:</b>					
Acquisition of Land for National Forests, Special Acts.....	-	-	-	664	664
Land Acquisition .....	251	-	-	-	251
<b>Total, Land Acquisition .....</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>915</b>
<b>Other Appropriations:</b>					
Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses.....	87	75	563	764	1,489
Range Betterment Fund .....	45	96	264	35	440

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<b>Item</b>	<b>2021 and Prior</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total, Other Appropriations .....</b>	132	171	828	799	1,929
<b>Wildland Fire Management:</b>					
Salaries and Expenses.....	3,202	265	2,044	4,532	10,042
Preparedness .....	5,732	2,070	6,680	25,294	39,774
Fuels Management (Hazardous Fuels Reduction) .....	6,110	-	-	-	6,110
Wildland Fire Management, Other .....	5,947	24,223	83,226	380,925	494,321
Disaster Funding .....	1,092	-	-	-	1,092
<b>Total, Wildland Fire Management.....</b>	<b>22,082</b>	<b>26,557</b>	<b>91,950</b>	<b>410,750</b>	<b>551,340</b>
<b>Total, Forest Service .....</b>	<b>368,909</b>	<b>818,156</b>	<b>881,233</b>	<b>1,201,251</b>	<b>3,269,548</b>

## **USDA WORKING CAPITAL FUND, DEPARTMENTAL SHARED COST PROGRAMS, AND E-GOVERNMENT**

### **Background**

This exhibit is included to provide a four-year summary of the USDA 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 OMB, 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 agencies and non-USDA 102 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, IT, 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. The Chief of the Forest Service (or a duly appointed representative) must sign an agreement at the beginning of the FY 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 CFO as to the financial effectiveness of the WCF. The Forest Service works with the Department's CFO to review activities included in the Greenbook/Shared Cost Programs and the basis for any costs attributed to the Forest Service.

Table FS-107. Forest Service actual and estimated fees made to the USDA WCF between FY 2023 and FY 2026 (thousands of dollars)

<b>Item</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025 Estimated</b>	<b>2026 Estimated</b>
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA Contact Center .....	\$1,102	\$1,931	\$1,920	\$1,920
Fleet Charge Card Services .....	-	-	1,126	1,126
General Counsel Legal Compliance.....	-	-	304	3,764
Materiel Management Service .....	697	1,088	825	849
Mail and Reproduction Services .....	562	694	672	676
Integrated Procurement Systems .....	8,543	9,643	8,408	8,413
Procurement Operations Services .....	91	99	85	98
HR Enterprise Management Systems .....	997	5,451	6,079	6,189
Subtotal, Administrative Services.....	11,992	18,906	19,419	23,035

<sup>102</sup> Services to non-USDA agencies help reduce USDA's share of fixed costs for WCF-supported services.

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Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Communications:				
Creative Media and Broadcast Center .....	462	406	384	290
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center .....	8,874	8,732	9,358	9,678
Internal Control Support Services .....	299	415	323	323
Financial Shared Services .....	45,970	48,044	43,074	42,885
Personnel and Document Security Program .....	1,547	1,781	1,935	1,935
Subtotal, Finance and Management .....	56,690	58,972	54,690	54,821
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center .....	58,096	70,451	66,451	70,623
Digital Infrastructure Services Center .....	52,928	52,187	48,811	46,411
Enterprise Network Services .....	14,443	63,258	39,021	45,720
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services .....	8,718	16,991	19,812	19,812
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services .....	1,445	9,145	8,813	8,802
Subtotal, Information Technology .....	135,630	212,032	182,698	191,368
Correspondence Management Services:				
Office of the Executive Secretariat .....	490	512	469	370
<b>Total, Working Capital Fund .....</b>	<b>205,264</b>	<b>290,828</b>	<b>257,660</b>	<b>269,884</b>

### ***USDA WCF Centralized Services***

#### *Administration*

USDA WCF Administration activities are managed under the Assistant Secretary for Administration 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.

Fleet Charge Card Services provides policy, operational support, and oversight, ensuring adherence to government and departmental guidance for the Fleet Charge Card and mandatory training. Additional provisions include negotiation and coordination with General Services Administration, Wright Express, and Citibank.

General Counsel Legal Compliance provides technology and support to the Department in performing legal compliance functions related to federal records and other electronically stored information. GCLC administers both, AgRecords and the eDiscovery Program.

Human Resources Enterprise System Management provides modernized, cost-effective, and standardized Department-wide human resource solutions that support the strategic management of human capital.

Integrated Procurement Systems provides modernized and integrated Department-wide procurement automation tools and systems.

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.

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.

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.

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.

*Financial Management*

USDA WCF Financial Management is managed by USDA's Office of the CFO and includes the following:

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 IT.

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.

Personnel and Document Security<sup>103</sup> is responsible for the protection of classified national security information by providing security clearance, training, policies, and guidance for USDA personnel.

*Information Technology*

USDA WCF Information Technology is managed by USDA's Office of the Chief Information Officer and includes the following:

Client Experience Center provides Department-wide fee-for-service activities related to IT 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 agencies.

Enterprise Cybersecurity Services protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data and IT systems.

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<sup>103</sup> The Personnel Security and Classified National Security Information programs were consolidated into the Personnel and Document Security program in 2018.



Enterprise Data and Analytics Services provides Department-wide aggregated data in multiple dashboards 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.

## 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. The Forest Service shared cost transfers between FY 2023 and FY 2024, and estimated transfers between FY 2025 and FY 2026, are detailed in the below table.

Table FS-108. Forest Service transfers to USDA shared cost programs for FY 2023 through FY 2026 (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services .....	\$261	\$294	\$257	\$257
Agency Partnership Outreach .....	2,313	2,307	2,506	2,351
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility <sup>a/</sup> .....	626	820	186	0
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network.....	1,123	1,123	0	0
Medical Services.....	202	328	196	196
National Capital Region Interpreting Services .....	64	133	66	66
Office of Customer Experience.....	1,009	941	1,007	1,007
Physical Security .....	1,423	1,476	1,929	1,929
Security Detail .....	1,581	1,678	2,650	2,650
Security Operations .....	2,190	2,340	2,465	2,465
Talent Group.....	1,138	1,041	1,107	1,107
TARGET Center .....	521	508	529	529
Employee Experience .....	1,079	1,166	937	937
<b>Total, Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs</b>				
<b>b/ .....</b>	<b>13,530</b>	<b>14,155</b>	<b>13,835</b>	<b>13,649</b>

a/ In alignment with the current Administration's priorities, the FY 2025 amounts reflect expenses incurred prior to January 20, 2025.

b/ This table is based on a preliminary 2026 estimate, which will be adjusted at a later date to reflect the Department's updated posture and footprint.

### Shared Cost Programs

Advisory Committee Liaison Services is managed by the USDA's 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 USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement and supports multiple USDA partnership and outreach activities that benefit rural and underserved communities.

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 and service delivery; 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.

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, 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 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, IT, procurement, property, fleet operations, and homeland security.

Employee Experience recognizes significant accomplishments of USDA employees through the Department's highest honor awards program and creates effective pipelines for attracting, hiring, developing, rewarding, and retaining a high performing talented workforce that is responsive to, and reflective of, the agricultural sector and customer.

## 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 OMB; established a Chief Information Officers Council<sup>104</sup>; established an E-Government Fund<sup>105</sup>; and included provisions requiring the use of "Internet-based IT to enhance citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes."

Table FS-109. Forest Service contributions to E-Gov initiatives for FY 2023 through FY 2026 (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution LOB .....	\$34	\$39	\$39	\$39
E-Rulemaking .....	45	36	48	44
Financial Management Line of Business .....	85	81	81	81
Geospatial Line of Business.....	13	13	13	13

<sup>104</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>105</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.

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Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Grants.gov .....	9	5	5	7
Human Resources Line of Business .....	93	92	92	92
Integrated Acquisition Environment .....	239	323	315	321
<b>Total, E-Gov .....</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>595</b>

### ***USDA E-Gov Initiatives***

USDA E-Gov initiatives, managed by the USDA’s Office of the Chief Information Officer, provide efficient, cost-effective electronic services and resources to USDA customers, partners, and personnel.

Geospatial Line of Business (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>106</sup> website; a resource that publishes grant opportunities and application packages and provides forms and resources for applying for grants.

Budget Formulation and Execution LoB collaborates with partner agencies on best practices for Federal budgeting (budget formulation, budget execution, and workforce planning).

Financial Management LoB provides financial management standards, requirements, tools, and services in support of USDA’s financial information management and reporting.

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.

Hiring Assessment Tool provides resources designed to recruit and acquire talent to the Federal governments using various strategies.

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<sup>106</sup> <https://www.grants.gov/>

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### **SPEND PLAN FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT, 2022 (P.L. 117-58)**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) 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 (FY) 2022, and for each FY 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 FY.*

#### **Forest Service Operations**

Forest Service Operations receives IIJA funds by transfer from other discretionary areas to support key shared services, salaries management, and administrative functions.

Table FS-110. Forest Service Operations IIJA spend plan (dollars in thousands)

<b>Item</b>	<b>2025 Carryover</b>	<b>2026 Appropriations</b>	<b>2026 Transfers In</b>	<b>2026 Transfers Out</b>	<b>2026 Total Available</b>	<b>2026 Anticipated Obligations</b>
Organizational Services						
Salaries and Expenses .....	\$5,000	-	-	-	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Total, Forest Service Operations .....</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>

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

The IIJA provides the Forest Service an additional amount for Forest and Rangeland Research of \$10 million. Of this total, two million dollars is appropriated each FY starting in FY 2022 through FY 2026. Each FY'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.

Forest and Rangeland Research receives IIJA transfer funds from other Deputy Areas for salaries and expenses to support research functions for various IIJA provisions.

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Table FS-111. Forest and Rangeland Research IIJA spend plan (dollars in thousands)

Item	2025 Carryover	2026 Appropriations	2026 Transfers In	2026 Transfers Out	2026 Total Available	2026 Anticipated Obligations
Joint Fire Science <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	\$2,000	-	-\$2,000	-	-
Salaries and Expenses .....	\$16,263	-	-	-	16,263	16,263
<b>Total, Forest and Rangeland Research ..</b>	<b>16,263</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>16,263</b>	<b>18,263</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Includes a transfer to DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service and the required transfer to OIG.

### State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

The IIJA provides the Forest Service an additional amount of \$1.5 billion for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry. Of this total, \$305 million is appropriated in each year starting in FY 2022 through FY 2026. Each FY'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 of the Act, for grants to at-risk communities for wildfire mitigation activities, State Fire Capacity Grants, and Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants.

Table FS-112. State, Private, and Tribal Forestry IIJA spend plan (dollars in thousands)

Item	2025 Carryover	2026 Appropriations	2026 Transfers In	2026 Transfers Out	2026 Total Available	2026 Anticipated Obligations
State Fire Capacity Grants <sup>a/</sup> .....	\$4,649	\$17,600	-	-\$22,249	-	-
Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants <sup>a/</sup> .....	1,000	4,000	-	-5,000	-	-
Community Wildfire Defense Grants <sup>a/</sup> .....	32,129	100,000	-	-132,129	-	-
Firewood Banks <sup>b/</sup> .....	386	1,600	-	-8	\$1,978	\$1,978
Invasive Species Detection, Prevention, Eradication and Research <sup>b/</sup> .....	5,476	20,000	-	-101	25,375	25,375
National Revegetation <sup>b/</sup> .....	4,113	12,000	-	-60	16,053	16,053
Portable Skidder Bridges <sup>b/</sup> .....	4,030	10,000	-	-50	13,980	13,980
State Forest Action Plans <sup>b/</sup> .....	10,247	40,160	-	-220	50,187	50,187
At Risk Communities Wildfire Mitigation Grants (CWDG) <sup>a/</sup> .....	34,300	100,000	-	-134,300	-	-
<b>Total, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry .....</b>	<b>96,330</b>	<b>305,360</b>		<b>-294,117</b>	<b>107,573</b>	<b>107,573</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Includes a transfer to DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service and the required 0.5% transfer to OIG.

<sup>b/</sup> Includes the required 0.5% transfer to OIG.

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

### National Forest System

The IIJA provides the Forest Service an additional amount of \$2.8 billion for NFS. Of this total, \$529 million is appropriated each year starting in FY 2022 through FY 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 of the Act, for hazardous fuels reduction and burned area recovery.

Table FS-113. National Forest System IIJA spend plan (dollars in thousands).

Item	2025 Carryover	2026 Appropriations	2026 Transfers In	2026 Transfers Out	2026 Total Available	2026 Anticipated Obligations
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program .....	-	\$20,000	-	-\$100	\$19,900	\$19,900
Mechanical Thinning, Timber Harvesting or Pre-commercial Thinning .....	\$7,688	80,000	-	-400	87,288	87,288
Control Lines and Fuelbreaks <sup>b/</sup>	2,054	50,000	-	-26,027	26,027	26,027
Hazardous Fuels <sup>c/</sup> .....	3,726	82,800	-	-86,526	-	-
Hazardous Fuels-Biomass <sup>c/</sup> .....	3,474	12,000	-	-15,474	-	-
Hazardous Fuels-Tribal Forest Protection Act <sup>c/</sup> .....	2,358	8,000	-	-10,358	-	-
Prescribed Fire and Related Activities <sup>c/</sup> .....	2,195	50,000	-	-52,195	-	-
Removal of Flammable Vegetation <sup>c/</sup> .....	2,431	20,000	-	-22,431	-	-
Restoration Projects-Good Neighbor or Tribal Forest Protection Act Agreement....	10,647	32,000	-	-160	42,487	42,487
Byproducts .....	21,299	80,000	-	-400	100,899	100,899
Restore Native Vegetation and Mitigate Environmental Hazards on Mined Lands...	-	20,000	-	-100	19,900	19,900
National Revegetation .....	-	14,000	-	-70	13,930	13,930
Restore Water Quality and Fish Passage ....	-	16,000	-	-80	15,920	15,920
Burned Area Recovery .....	-	45,000	-	-225	44,775	44,775
Restore Ecological Health .....	10,811	-	-	-	10,811	10,811
<b>Total, National Forest System.....</b>	<b>66,681</b>	<b>529,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-214,546</b>	<b>381,937</b>	<b>381,937</b>

a/ Includes the required 0.5% transfer to OIG.

b/ Based on historical practices, 0.5% will be transferred to OIG. Of the remaining amount, half will continue to be managed by the Forest Service and half transferred to DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

c/ Includes a transfer to DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service and the required 0.5% transfer to OIG.

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

### Capital Improvement and Maintenance

The IIJA provides the Forest Service an additional amount of \$360 million for CIM. Of this total, \$72 million is appropriated each year starting in FY 2022 through FY 2026. Each FY'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.

Table FS-114. Capital Improvement and Maintenance IIJA spend plan (dollars in thousands)

Item	2025 Carryover	2026 Appropriations	2026 Transfers In	2026 Transfers Out	2026 Total Available	2026 Anticipated Obligations
Roads <sup>a/</sup> .....	\$3,280	\$20,000	-	-\$100	\$23,180	\$23,180
Dams <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	2,000	-	-10	1,990	1,990
Legacy Roads and Trails <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	50,000	-	-250	49,750	49,750
<b>Total, Capital Improvement and Maintenance.....</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-360</b>	<b>74,920</b>	<b>74,920</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Includes the required 0.5% transfer to OIG.

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

### Wildland Fire Management

The IIJA provides the Forest Service an additional amount of \$696 million for Wildland Fire Management. Of this total, \$552 million was appropriated in FY 2022 and \$36 million is appropriated starting in FY 2023 through FY 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. DOI received complementary appropriations for wildland fire management.

Table FS-115. Wildland Fire Management IIJA spend plan (dollars in thousands)

Item	2025 Carryover	2026 Appropriations	2026 Transfers In	2026 Transfers Out	2026 Total Available	2026 Anticipated Obligations
Preparedness <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	\$10,000	-	-\$10,000	-	-
Post Fire Recovery .....	-	20,000	-	-100	19,900	19,900
Reverse 911 <sup>a/</sup> .....	-	6,000	-	-6,000	-	-
Wildfire Prevention Treatment Data <sup>a/</sup> ..	\$21	-	-	-21	-	-
Salaries and Expenses <sup>a/</sup> .....	10,000	-	-	-10,000	-	-
<b>Total, Wildland Fire Management..</b>	<b>10,021</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-26,121</b>	<b>19,900</b>	<b>19,900</b>

<sup>a/</sup> Includes a transfer to DOI as part of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service and the required 0.5% transfer to OIG.



**TRANSFERS WITHIN APPROPRIATIONS****Background**

The Explanatory Statement for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023, included the following directive:

*The Forest Service is directed to include a list of approved administrative transfers for the previous Fiscal Year (FY), 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 FY 2024, the Forest Service transferred \$65.514 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-116. Administrative transfers by account, FY 2024 (thousands of dollars)

<b>Transfer Item</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>
<b>Forest Service Operations</b>	
Transfers In:	
Forest and Rangeland Research .....	\$5,423
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry .....	4,905
National Forest System .....	6,548
Capital Improvement and Maintenance .....	4,028
Wildland Fire Management .....	44,610
Subtotal, Transfers In .....	65,514
<b>Forest and Rangeland Research</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-5,423
<b>State, Private, and Tribal Forestry</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-4,905
<b>National Forest System</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-6,548
<b>Capital Improvement and Maintenance</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-4,028
<b>Wildland Fire Management</b>	
Transfers Out:	
Forest Service Operations .....	-44,610

**Transfers Between Accounts Affected by Hazardous Fuels Mitigation**

In FY 2024, 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 infrastructure and facilities in the national forests and grasslands through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, 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, as reflected in the tables below. The FY 2025 sequestration pop-up (payback), once returned, will act as the FY 2026 contingency fund. The Forest Service has developed the projects in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance. The full Project Data Sheets, including the project descriptions, will be transmitted to Congress concurrently with the FY 2026 Budget request. This project list may differ from what is provided in an enacted appropriations bill.

Table FS-117. FY 2026 National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund – Proposed Projects

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Asset Types</b>	<b>2026 Funding</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
1	2	Shoshone National Forest	WY	Forest-Wide Housing Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing, Wastewater System, Water System	\$2,161,000	This project will renovate kitchens and bathrooms, paint, replace furnaces and water heaters, repair drywall, replace flooring, and repair plumbing at employee housing facilities on the Shoshone National Forest.
2	3	Coconino National Forest	AZ	Coconino National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Housing, Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Road, Wastewater System	4,470,000	This project will install recreational vehicle pads for workforce housing, improve developed recreation opportunities, and improve aquatic organism passage on the Coconino National Forest.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
3	5	Eldorado National Forest	CA	Pacific Barracks Housing Rehabilitation	Facility - Housing	764,000	This project will address deferred maintenance, including replacement of roofing, siding, doors, and windows, at employee housing facilities on the Eldorado National Forest.
4	5	Sierra National Forest	CA	Sierra National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Housing, Water System, Road	10,480,000	This project will repair employee housing and rehabilitate a highly trafficked road that provides access to develop recreation sites, dispersed camping sites, timber projects, private property access, cattle permittees, fire lookout, OHV, winter recreation, and snow survey areas on the Sierra National Forest.
5	2	Black Hills National Forest	SD, WY	Black Hills National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing, Wastewater System, Dam, Facility - Fire	7,337,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at an administrative site, repair workforce housing, and rehabilitate Major Dam on the Black Hills National Forest.
6	5	Stanislaus National Forest	CA	Buck Meadows Barracks Replacement	Facility - Housing	5,000,000	This project will decommission existing quarters facilities and construct new standard barracks to consolidate employee housing and reduce operational costs on the Stanislaus National Forest.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
7	9	Mark Twain National Forest	MO	Mark Twain National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Water System, Trail, Trl Bridge	3,291,000	This project will convert a campground well from propane to electric power, repair trail bridges, and replace shower houses and toilets at campgrounds on the Mark Twain National Forest.
8	10	Chugach National Forest	AK	Chugach National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Housing, Recreation Site, Road, Rd Bridge	9,331,000	This project will repair workforce housing, address deferred maintenance at the Begich Boggs Visitor Center, and repair a road that provides critical access for subsistence, mining, and recreation on the Chugach National Forest.
9	2	Nebraska National Forest	NE	Pine Ridge Bunkhouse Rehabilitation	Facility - Housing, Wastewater System	510,000	This project will rehabilitate a fifty year old structure and upgrade the site's septic system to ensure livable accommodations for temporary and seasonal employees on the Nebraska National Forest.
10	3	Coronado National Forest	AZ	Coronado National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Fire, Facility - Housing, Recreation Site	1,415,000	This project will rehabilitate historic properties and remodel employee housing on the Coronado National Forest.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
11	1	Kootenai National Forest	MT	Kootenai National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Housing, Wastewater System, Road	1,550,000	This project will replace sewage lift stations that support employee housing and administrative operations on the Kootenai National Forest. This project will also repair a highly-used paved road.
12	5	Angeles National Forest	CA	Quarters Facility Improvements for Health and Safety	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing	830,000	This project will execute many exterior repairs on forest quarters by repainting, sealing, replacing damaged areas, mitigating all leaks, and protecting against weathering. The project will also address critical parking lot repairs and enhance security to prevent vandalism and unauthorized access.
13	4	Ashley National Forest	UT	Housing Critical Maintenance Repairs	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing	510,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at employee housing including roofing, flooring, exterior and interior painting, and bathroom and kitchen upgrades at facilities on the Ashley National Forest.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
14	1	Custer Gallatin National Forest	MT	Custer Gallatin National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing, Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Trl Bridge	1,963,000	This project will repair employee housing and address deferred maintenance near the Big Sky resort, including trail and trail bridge construction, boating access improvements, road surfacing and drainage, trailhead maintenance, and aquatic organism passage.
15	1	Flathead National Forest	MT	Spotted Bear Employee Housing Replacement	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing	1,607,000	This project replaces a trailer and a bunkhouse with modern facilities. The Spotted Bear Ranger District has the responsibility of housing all of its employees during the field season due since the nearest private housing is 2 hours away.
16	3	Tonto National Forest	AZ	Goldfield Fire and Hotshot Station	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing, Wastewater System, Water System	8,860,000	This project will replace a deteriorating and undersized facility with a fire engine office, warehouses, and hotshot office on the Tonto National Forest. The project also includes upgrading the existing water and wastewater systems.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
17	4	Sawtooth National Forest	ID	Sawtooth National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing, Facility - Fire, Road	8,971,000	This project will replace an administrative building and address deferred maintenance at employee housing facilities on the Sawtooth National Forest.
18	8	Kisatchie National Forest	LA	Kisatchie Critical Finding Bridge Replacement	Road, Rd Bridge	8,262,000	This project will replace road bridges with critical findings on the Kisatchie National Forest to ensure continued safe public access.
19	6	Rogue River-Siskiyou NF	OR	Eden Valley Safety Improvement and Slump Repair	Road	1,800,000	This project will address deferred maintenance on a paved road that is used to access popular recreation sites, haul timber, connect Oregon communities, and also serves as a Department of Defense utility corridor on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. These repairs will reduce natural resource impacts and extend the life of the pavement.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
20	6	Ochoco National Forest	OR	Road 22 Primary Recreation and Timber Haul Access Route - Phase 2	Road	11,690,000	This project will address road deferred maintenance, including milling the existing chipseal and asphalt to regain road width, mitigating frost heave, widening roadway sections, improving drainage, and repaving the newly constructed road prism. This road serves as a major access for timber haul, fire patrols, and both summer and winter recreation on the Ochoco National Forest.
21	8	Cherokee National Forest	TN	Indian Boundary Recreation Area Rehabilitation	Dam, Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Trl Bridge, Wastewater System, Water System	6,970,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at the Indian Boundary Recreation Area, including electrical systems, recreation facilities, drainage infrastructure, roads, and the Indian Boundary Lake Dam.



2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
22	8	George Washington And Jefferson NFs	VA	Sugar Grove Volunteer Trail Camp (Konnarock) And Work Center Reconstruction	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing, Facility - Fire, Wastewater System	18,725,000	This project will rebuild the Sugar Grove Volunteer Trail Camp (Konnarock) and adjacent work center to improve safety and to integrate functions of both facilities for long-term partnership effectiveness. The trail camp serves as training center, lodging, and recruiting experience for Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards volunteers and staff.
23	4	Fishlake National Forest	UT	Little Reservoir Dam Reconstruction	Dam	1,888,000	This project will reconstruct the Little Reservoir Dam on the Fishlake National Forest to meet safety standards. Work includes the addition of an outlet for maintenance, upstream slope stabilization, foundation drain installation, and spillway modification.
24	6	Olympic National Forest	WA	Olympic National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Trail, Trl Bridge	2,026,000	This project will address deferred maintenance on popular trails on the Olympic National Forest.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
25	1	Dakota Prairie Grasslands	ND	Grassland Roads Deferred Maintenance	Road	1,240,000	This project will improve driving conditions and reduce deferred maintenance on Roads on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.
26	4	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest	UT	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Road, Water System, Dam	14,160,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at important recreational sites on the Pineview Reservoir and perform repairs on the high hazard Tony Grove dam on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.
27	2	Pike And San Isabel National Forests	CO	Pike And San Isabel National Forests Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing, Facility - Fire, Wastewater System, Road, Trail, Recreation Site	7,296,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at administrative and employee housing facilities, repair popular recreation sites, and improve trails on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests.
28	3	Santa Fe National Forest	NM	Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River Corridor Road, Recreation Site, And Access Improvements	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Road, Wastewater System, Water System	4,485,000	This project will improve recreational opportunities and access on the Santa Fe National Forest. This project will reduce negative effects to natural and cultural resources and improve river access points.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
29	9	Shawnee National Forest	IL	Shawnee National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Road, Rd Bridge, Trail	1,072,000	This project will replace a road bridge and complete road maintenance to reduce erosion and provide for aquatic organism passage. This project will also improve parking and complete deferred maintenance at the principle rock climbing location on the Shawnee National Forest.
30	2	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, And Gunnison National Forest	CO	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Trl Bridge, Water System, Facility - Admin/Other	13,674,000	This project will repair an administrative facility, conduct road maintenance to improve safety and aquatic organism passage, replace old vault toilets to improve accessibility and mitigate environmental damage, replace trail bridges, and reconstruct a recreation complex on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
31	5	Shasta Trinity National Forest	CA	Shasta Trinity National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Water System, Road	6,560,000	This project will repair a highly-used road that provides access to year-round recreation opportunities and fire and fuels reduction activities. This project will also replace a water system that serves multiple campgrounds on the Shasta Trinity National Forest.
32	1	Helena-Lewis And Clark National Forest	MT	Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Fire, Trail, Road, Rd Bridge	3,720,000	This project will replace load-rated road bridges, complete trail maintenance, and improve a fire warehouse for compatibility with new fire engine vehicles on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.
33	1	Idaho Panhandle National Forest	ID	Idaho Panhandle National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Road, Rd Bridge, Water System, Trail	4,269,000	This project will reconstruct campgrounds, redesign trails to improve sustainability, and replace timber bridges on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
34	9	Superior National Forest	MN	Minnesota Interagency Fire Center Small Engine Lab Expansion	Facility - Fire	1,700,000	This project will upgrade the small engine lab inside the existing cache building to meet current code and address safety issues. This project would increase workshop space without expanding the footprint of the building, provide a new ventilation systems, and address all code compliance issues.
35	1	Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest	ID	Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Road, Rd Bridge, Water System, Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Housing	10,276,000	This project will update campgrounds and trailheads, repair a ranger station, and replace road bridges to improve public safety and aquatic organism passage on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest.
36	2	San Juan National Forest	CO	San Juan National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Trail, Road	1,514,000	This project will resurface roads for the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative and address deferred maintenance at Chimney Rock National Monument on the San Juan National Forest.

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
37	5	Tahoe National Forest	CA	Campground and Recreation Site Toilet Replacement	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site	1,300,000	This project will replace toilets throughout the Tahoe National Forest. Existing restroom facilities at developed recreation sites have outstanding deferred maintenance needs and inadequately address accessibility accommodations.
38	9	Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forest	VT	Lefferts Pond Parking/Access Improvements	Recreation Site, Road	965,000	This project will expand parking to better align with site capacity and widen the road to improve safety on a primary route in the town's emergency action plan. Lefferts Pond is a popular recreation site providing access for biking, boating, fishing, skiing, hiking, snowmobiling, equestrian use, and camping.
39	4	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	NV	Spring Mountain Developed Site and Trail Improvements	Recreation Site, Road, Trail	1,680,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at high-use developed recreation sites and trails at the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.
40	4	Dixie National Forest	UT	Dixie National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Road, Water System, Trail	2,630,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at campgrounds on the Dixie National Forest.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
41	1	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest	MT	Forest wide Trails Deferred Maintenance	Trail	1,000,000	This project will substantially reduce deferred maintenance on trails throughout the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Maintenance activities include brushing, heavy tread maintenance, replacing and improving drainage structures, water bars, turnpike and puncheon, and reopening inaccessible trails closed by windfall resulting from the pine beetle epidemic.
42	2	Rio Grande National Forest	CO	Rio Grande National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Trail	1,130,000	This project will replace outdated vault toilets and complete trail maintenance to restore safe public access on the Rio Grande National Forest.
43	1	Lolo National Forest	MT	Clearwater Crossing Campground and Access Road Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Water System	370,000	This Project includes replacing campsite infrastructure, signage, and the water system, improving horse trailer and trailhead parking, improving access to public corrals, re-graveling and grading roads to and within the site, and rebuilding a classroom/toolshed used for public and agency training.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
44	4	Payette National Forest	ID	Recreation Site Maintenance	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Water System	921,000	This project will repair infrastructure at recreation sites across the forest to improve visitor safety and experience. Toilets will be repaired or replaced for accessibility improvements. Campground site furnishings, including picnic tables, fire rings, site post markers, signs, fee tubes, and kiosks will be replaced at several recreation sites. Finally, a water system will be replaced at one trailhead where it has failed.
45	10	Tongass National Forest	AK	Tongass National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Trail, Trl Bridge, Road, Rd Bridge, Facility - Admin/Other	8,370,000	This project will complete road and bridge maintenance to improve aquatic organism passage, conduct trail and trail bridge maintenance, address recreation site deferred maintenance, repair a historic cabin, and rehabilitate a bunkhouse on the Tongass National Forest.
46	9	Ottawa National Forest	MI	Ottawa National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Water System, Road, Rd Bridge, Trail, Trl Bridge	6,021,000	This project will replace trail and road bridges, replace a campground water distribution system, and restore boat landings on the Ottawa National Forest.



2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Asset Types</b>	<b>2026 Funding</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
47	8	Ouachita National Forest	OK	Cedar Lake Recreation Site Rehabilitation	Recreation Site, Road, Water System	3,021,000	This project will redesign and repair loops in the Cedar Lake Campground Equestrian Camp.
48	9	Huron Manistee National Forest	MI	Huron Manistee National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Wastewater System, Water System	2,110,000	This project will complete campground improvements, including vault toilet, water system, and retaining wall replacements on the Huron Manistee National Forest.
49	9	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	WI	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Trail, Trl Bridge	1,547,000	This project will rehabilitate historic campground structures and improve trails and trail bridges on a national scenic trail on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.
50	9	Hoosier National Forest	IN	Hardin Ridge Recreation Area Beach Improvements	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site	1,035,000	This project will upgrade the Hardin Beach Recreation Area. Site work will incorporate universal design and interactive interpretive signage and displays to improve site accessibility.
51	5	Lassen National Forest	CA	Jonesville Sno-Park/Trailhead Reconstruction & Expansion	Recreation Site	1,250,000	This project will reconstruct several parts of the Jonesville Sno-Park including milling and replacing the deteriorating asphalt, installing a bioswale to capture runoff, accessibility upgrades, and educational signs.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
52	9	Monongahela National Forest	WV	Monongahela National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Wastewater System, Trail	4,197,000	This project will repair a boardwalk, replace a failing wastewater treatment system, and rehabilitate historic fire towers for use as recreation sites on the Monongahela National Forest.
53	9	Hiawatha National Forest	MI	Camp 7 Lake Recreation Access	Road	737,000	This project will repave the Camp 7 Campground access road on the Hiawatha National Forest.
54	9	White Mountain National Forest	NH	Smarts Brook Mountain Bike Trail System Construction Dm	Trail	440,000	This project consists of reconstructing, decommissioning, and building a sustainable mountain bike trail system on the White Mountain National Forest.
55	5	Klamath National Forest	CA	Klamath National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Water System, Trail	1,065,000	This project will address trail deferred maintenance and upgrade a campground water system to comply with state requirements on the Klamath National Forest.

# 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
56	6	Colville National Forest	WA	Selkirks To Surf Highway 20 Scenic Byway Recreation Accessibility and Amenity Improvements	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Water System	950,000	This project will rehabilitate recreation sites, including new picnic tables, water hydrant replacement, toilet refurbishment, and accessibility enhancements on the Colville National Forest. This project will also repair a historic Civilian Conservation Corps cabin at Lost Lake.
57	R&D	Research and Development	WI, GA, HI, AR, PR	Research and Development Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Housing, Facility - Research & Dev, Facility - Admin/Other	6,625,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at laboratories and employee housing at Research and Development facilities across the country.
58	2	Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest	CO	Colorado Campground Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site	512,000	This project addresses deferred maintenance at campgrounds near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Work includes resurfacing and extending parking spurs and redefining living spaces and tent pads.

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
59	6	Mt Hood National Forest	OR	Timberline Lodge Attic Ventilation and Reroofing	Facility-Recreation	15,000,000	This project will replace the historic three course taper split cedar shake roofing system of the Historic Timberline Lodge on the Mt. Hood National Forest. In conjunction, complete seismic upgrade and weather barrier improvements will be completed. The project will also insulate and ventilate the attic space and establish temperature control to reduce ice damming.
60	3	Carson National Forest	NM	Carson National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site	510,000	This project will address deferred maintenance at cabins for the purpose of incorporating the facilities into the recreation rental program on the Carson National Forest.
61	3	Cibola National Forest	NM	Forest wide Trails Deferred Maintenance Phase I	Trail	350,000	This project will address deferred maintenance and reroutes to improve trail sustainability while factoring heritage and wildlife surveys into the alignments.
62	1	Bitterroot National Forest	MT	Bitterroot National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Facility - Admin/Other, Road, Rd Bridge	1,378,000	This project will replace stream-constricting road bridges and renovate a fire engine bay on the Bitterroot National Forest.

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
63	5	Inyo National Forest	CA	Eastern Sierra Visitor Center Wind Hazard Safety Improvements	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site	570,000	This project will construct wind hazard safety improvements at the Eastern Sierra Visitor Center. The improvements will also allow area visitors to safely use the patio located next to the main entrance area, including the native plant garden.
64	3	Gila National Forest	NM	Quemado Lake Rec Areas Reconstruction and Accessibility Upgrades	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Road, Trail, Wastewater System	4,300,000	This project will redesign the Quemado Lake Recreation Area to address visitor safety and improve amenities, site accessibility, site drainage, traffic flow and create a high-quality recreation experience.
65	3	Prescott National Forest	AZ	Prescott National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Water System	1,345,000	This project will replace a campground water system and a heritage site viewing platform on the Prescott National Forest.
66	5	Six Rivers National Forest	CA	East Fork Rec Site & Accessibility Adaptations	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site, Road	936,000	This project proposes to move recreation infrastructure away from the stream as well as reduce the deferred maintenance needed at the campground and upgrade for accessibility at the campground and day use area.

2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Item No.	Region	Unit	State	Project Name	Asset Types	2026 Funding	Project Summary
67	5	Cleveland National Forest	CA	Cleveland National Forest Deferred Maintenance	Recreation Site, Road, Wastewater System, Water System	4,611,000	This project will renovate campgrounds to improve amenities, ensure accessibility, and protect cultural and natural resources at sites across the Cleveland National Forest.
68	5	Plumas National Forest	CA	Gold Lake Toilets	Facility - Recreation, Recreation Site	475,000	This project will replace the toilets at the Gold Lake Campground since they were destroyed in a 2020 winter storm.
Total, 2026 Legacy Restoration Project Funding							\$267,728,000
2026 Sequestration (5.7%)							16,245,000
Administrative Funds							20,000,000
Contingency							13,517,000
<b>Total, National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund</b>							<b>285,000,000</b>

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

**FY 2026 Land and Water Conservation Fund Proposed Acquisition Lists**

The 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 FY 2026, the Forest Service is requesting \$15,000,000 for Federal Land Acquisition projects and program administration, \$92,255,000 for Forest Legacy projects and program administration, and \$110,900,000 for Deferred Maintenance projects. 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 below in accordance with GAOA requirements and Administration guidance. The project data sheets will be transmitted to Congress concurrently with the FY 2026 Budget request. These project lists may differ from those provided in an enacted appropriations bill.

The project list for the Deferred Maintenance projects will be transmitted to Congress at a later date but will prioritize deferred maintenance projects that support high-priority objectives such as access for timber production, emergency response, and recreation activities. The funding would be spent predominantly on roads, bridges, and facilities that are critical to housing employees and ensuring visitor safety.

## 2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-118. FY 2026 Forest Service – Land and Water Conservation Fund Land Acquisition and Priority Deferred Maintenance Program – Authority and Proposed Projects

<b>Total New Budget Authority, FY 2026 Allocation</b>					<b>\$126,029,424</b>
Previously Sequestered BA from 2025 (Sequester Pop up Authority)					7,054,253
2026 Sequestration					(7,183,677)
<b>Total Net Budget Authority in FY 2026 (Available Program Funding)</b>					<b>125,900,000</b>
<b>Priority Order</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Forest</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Cong. District</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>
1	AZ	Prescott National Forest	Land Acquisition - Upper Verde River-Yavapai Ranch	AZ-02	10,000,000
2	Multiple	Multiple	Priority Deferred Maintenance Projects	Multiple	100,900,000
<b>Subtotal, Project Funds</b>					110,900,000
Total, LA Recreation Access					4,000,000
Total, LA Administrative Funds					1,000,000
Total, DM Administrative Funds					3,000,000
Total, DM Contingency Funds					7,000,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>125,900,000</b>
<b>Supplemental Land Acquisition Projects</b>					
3	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest	Upper Wenatchee Watershed	WA-08	17,000,000
4	CO	Rio Grande National Forest	Cliff Lake & Conejos Canyon	CO-03	5,000,000
5	CO	White River National Forest	Snowmass Falls Ranch	CO-03	18,000,000
6	MT	Lolo National Forest	Fawn Peak	MT-01	7,500,000
7	CO	San Juan National Forest	Lizard Head Mesa	CO-03	6,250,000
8	PR	El Yunque National Forest	El Yunque National Forest	PR-At-Large	3,213,000
9	IN	Hoosier National Forest	Topoglus	IN-09	2,089,450
10	GA	Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest	Restoring Wild Georgia	GA-14, 09	3,800,000
11	VA, TN	Cherokee National Forest	TN & VA Mountains, Trails and Waters	VA-09, TN-01	1,839,000
12	MT	Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest	Mammoth	MT-01	1,500,000
13	AL	National Forests in Alabama	National Forests in Alabama	AL-06	8,000,000
14	NC	National Forests in North Carolina	National Forests in North Carolina	NC-11	3,400,000
15	WI	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	Board of Commissioners of Public Lands	WI-07	4,700,000
16	WA	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest	Upper Wenatchee Watershed	WA-08	5,000,000
17	CO	White River National Forest	Snowmass Falls Ranch	CO-03	16,000,000
18	SD	Black Hills National Forest	Wind Song Ranch	SD-01	1,080,000
<b>Total, Supplemental LA Project List</b>					104,371,450
<b>Supplemental Acquisition Management Funds</b>					14,041,894



2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES – FOREST SERVICE

Table FS-119. FY 2026 Forest Legacy Program – Proposed Projects

<b>Total New Budget Authority, FY 2026 Allocation</b>				<b>\$92,129,964</b>
Previously Sequestered BA from 2025 (Sequester Return)				5,376,444
2026 Sequestration				(5,251,408)
<b>Total Net Budget Authority in FY 2026 (Available Program Funding)</b>				<b>92,255,000</b>
<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Congressional District</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>
1	HI	East Maui Rainforest	HI-02	9,930,000
2	ME	Barnard Forest	ME-02	3,885,000
3	MI	Little Huron River	MI-01	3,525,000
4	SC	Historic Snows Island	SC-06	8,500,000
5	NC	Little Snowbird	NC-11	8,780,000
6	AZ	The Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor	AZ-07	2,040,000
7	MT	Foy's to Blacktail Forest	MT-01	2,895,000
8	OR	Lostine Forest	OR-02	3,750,000
9	AR	Maumelle Water Excellence 3	AR-02	7,000,000
10	NC	Roanoke River at Scotland Neck	NC-01	3,600,000
11	ID	McNall Family Forest	ID-01	3,000,000
12	OR	Madrone Ridge Forest	OR-02	5,560,000
13	ID	Selkirk Water & Wildlife	ID-01	10,505,000
14	ID	Curley Creek Woodland	ID-01	5,880,000
15	IA	Heritage Valley Phase 2	IA-02	4,675,000
16	UT	Nine Mile Canyon	UT-03	750,000
<b>Total, Project Funds</b>				<b>84,275,000</b>
<b>Total, Administrative Funds</b>				<b>7,980,000</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>92,255,000</b>
17	CO	Table Mountain	CO-05	14,850,000
18	VT	Batten Kill Valley Forest	VT-00	4,580,000
19	WA	Calawah	WA-06	8,800,000
20	MA	Tupper Hill	MA-01	3,480,000
21	MA	Western Mass Headwaters	MA-01, MA-02	16,200,000
22	OR	Lower Jetty Creek Watershed	OR-01	3,750,000
<b>Total, Supplemental Project List</b>				<b>51,660,000</b>