



WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION FISCAL YEAR 2014 U.S. FOREST SERVICE BUDGET REVIEW

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This document provides information to WFLC members on the recently released USDA Forest Service (USFS) Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 President's Budget proposal and will be posted on the WFLC website at http://wflccenter.org/infomaterials/issue_briefs.php. Please note that this is not an exhaustive review of programs that the WFLC is tracking relative to the federal budgeting process. We will provide updates as new information becomes available.

Budget Summary

On April 10, 2013 President Obama released the expanded budget for federal FY 2014, including a proposed budget for the USFS of **\$4.835 billion, a \$29 million reduction from FY 2013 enacted** levels. The FY 2014 Budget Justification and Overview from the USFS is also available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/>.

State & Private Forestry

The State & Private Forestry programs (S&PF) budget request is down \$14.5 million from the FY 2013 enacted level, from \$254.5 million in FY 2013 to a proposed level of \$240 million for FY 2014. Notable changes to the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) priority programs from the FY 2013 enacted levels include the following:

- Cooperative Fire Protection programs (State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance): the President's Budget would consolidate these two programs under the Wildland Fire Management (WFM) appropriation, thus they are effectively zeroed out in the S&PF appropriation. **Additional information on proposed cuts to State and Volunteer Fire Assistance is included in this document under the WFM section.**
- Forest Health Management: the President's Budget would consolidate Forest Health into two budget line items (BLIs) under S&PF, one for Federal Lands and one for Cooperative Lands. Previously, separately funded BLIs existed for Federal Lands and Cooperative Lands Forest Health under both the S&PF and the WFM appropriations for a total of four BLIs.
 - The President's FY 2014 budget request includes reductions of \$4.75 million for Federal Lands and \$2.9 million for Cooperative Lands Forest Health Programs when compared with FY 2013 enacted levels.
- Landscape Scale Restoration: the President's budget again proposes establishing a new BLI that would formalize the S&PF Redesign process by allowing states to fund landscape-scale projects across the S&PF authorities.
 - The President's Budget proposes \$20 million for the Landscape Scale Restoration BLI in FY 2014. This is an increase from the President's request in FY 2013, which was \$18 million for the new BLI.

- Forest Resources Information and Analysis (FIA): the President's Budget proposes consolidating FIA within the Forest and Rangeland Research appropriation. Thus, the President's Budget effectively zeros out FIA under the S&PF appropriation. **Additional information on proposed cuts to FIA is included in this document under the Forest and Rangeland Research section.**
- Forest Stewardship: the President's Budget proposes a \$6.6 million (23%) reduction to the program from the FY 2013 enacted level to \$22.4 million in FY 2014.
- Forest Legacy Program: the President's Budget proposes a \$6.3 million increase to the program from the FY 2013 enacted level to \$60 million in FY 2014. This request is continued from the President's FY 2013 budget and represents a 12% increase over FY 2013 enacted levels.
- Urban and Community Forestry: the President's Budget proposes a \$6.2 million (20%) reduction to the program from FY 2013 enacted levels.

Forest and Rangeland Research

The President's Budget proposes \$310.24 million for Forest and Rangeland Research in FY 2013. This represents a \$13.1 million increase from FY 2013 enacted levels.

- FIA: the President's Budget proposes funding FIA at \$67 million from a single BLI within Research. When compared with overall enacted funding in FY 2013, from both Research and S&PF budget areas, this request represents a reduction of nearly \$3 million to the FIA program in FY 2014.

Wildland Fire Management

The President's Budget proposes \$2.05 billion for Wildland Fire Management (WFM) in FY 2014, a 4% increase over FY 2013 enacted levels.

- Preparedness: the President's Budget request includes an increase of \$53.14 million for the Preparedness Budget to \$1.057 billion. The President's Budget requests that of this amount \$50 million go toward modernizing the large airtanker fleet. The President made a similar request last year for \$24 million to implement the Large Airtanker Modernization Strategy.
- Suppression: the President's Budget request includes an increase of \$145.7 million for the Suppression budget. This request, when combined with the FLAME Reserve account, fully funds the 10-year average of suppression costs.
- FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund: the President's Budget request includes nearly flat funding for the FLAME Reserve at \$315.0 million.
- Hazardous Fuels: the President's Budget request includes a \$115.8 million (37%) reduction to Hazardous Fuels. However, the request states, as it did in FY 2013, that non-Wildland Urban Interface hazardous fuels work will be funded out of the proposed Integrated Resources Restoration line item. This proposal presumably accounts for some portion of the large proposed reduction to the Hazardous fuels program.
- State Fire Assistance (SFA): the President's Budget request includes a total of \$69.5 million for SFA in FY 2014. As discussed above, the President's Budget consolidates SFA to be funded

solely under the WFM appropriation. In past years, SFA has been funded by BLIs under both the S&PF to the WFM appropriations. When previous year S&PF and WFM appropriations are combined, the request represents a reduction of \$16.7 million (19%) from FY 2013. This follows an \$11 million reduction in SFA funding from FY 2011 to FY 2012.

- Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): the President's Budget request includes a total of \$11.2 million for VFA in FY 2014. As discussed above, the President's Budget consolidates VFA, which has been partially funded under S&PF, to the WFM appropriation. When previous year S&PF and WFM appropriations are combined, the request represents a reduction of more than \$1.8 million from FY 2013 enacted levels. This reduction follows a \$2.5 million reduction to VFA from FY 2011 to FY 2012.

National Forest System

The National Forest System (NFS) budget request is essentially flat from the FY 2013 enacted level.

- Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR): the President's Budget would establish an IRR line item at \$756.8 million in FY 2014 and extend the program to all U.S. Forest Service regions from the three where it is currently being piloted
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR): the President's Budget would nearly fully fund the CFLR program at \$39.85 million in FY 2014 (full funding is \$40 million).
- The President's Budget proposes to consolidate the Land Management Planning and the Inventory and Monitoring line items into one Land Management Planning, Assessment and Monitoring BLI. This combination is designed to provide the agency with flexibility to implement the requirements of the new Planning Rule. The request represents an \$18.1 million reduction when the two previous BLIs are combined for a requested level of \$184.78 for the new BLI.

Other Budget highlights

- The President's Budget continues the proposal made in the FY 2013 budget to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools Act for five years and proposes mandatory funding for the payments,
- The Budget proposal seeks permanent authority to enter into stewardship contracts. Existing Stewardship Contracting authority expires in September 2013.
- Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Management
 - DOI Wildland Fire & FLAME Reserve Fund: the President's Budget requests \$92 million for the DOI FLAME account in FY 2014, roughly flat from FY 2013. Total wildland fire request for DOI is \$776.9 million, an increase of \$43 million from the FY 2013 enacted level to fully fund the 10-year average including the FLAME Reserve fund.

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