

National S&PF Program Authorities and Guidance
May 11, 2011

Introduction

This document provides the national State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Program authorities, a summary of allowable activities, match requirements, and required accomplishments reporting, including S&PF Core Performance Measures (see measures marked with an asterisk “*”). It was developed to accompany the new non-competitive grant narrative format designed for beta testing in FY2011. The information can be copied and pasted into grant narratives for non-competitive funds. It also functions as general guidance for delivery of S&PF programs and may be used in other grants and agreements. It is intended that each USFS Region, NA, and IITF can supplement this document with any region-specific guidance making use of it.

Additional Resources

- For more information about the principal laws relating to S&PF Programs, refer to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/SPF-CF%20handbook.pdf>
- The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) provides information about Federal grant programs. CFDA 10.664 is used for consolidated payment grants, which may include Conservation Education, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance, Urban and Community Forestry, and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs. These programs also have unique CFDA numbers that may be used when individual program or project grants and agreements are entered into. A complete list of all CFDA numbers is available at: <https://www.cfda.gov/>
- In addition to program-specific match requirements identified in this document, the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (as amended) states that consolidated payments to any State during any fiscal year shall not exceed the total amount of non-Federal funds expended within the State during that year to implement its State forest resources program.

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Community Forest Program (CFDA Number to be Assigned)

Authority: The Community Forest Program (CFP) was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; P.L. 110-234) to provide financial assistance to local governments, Indian Tribes, and qualified non-profit entities to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits.

Purpose: The purpose of the Community Forest Program (CFP) is to assist communities in acquiring forest land that would provide public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs, while also protecting forest land that has been identified as a national, regional, or local priority for conservation.

Authorized Activities:

- **Project Funds:** Project funds will be used to purchase land eligible for the CFP and may be used to cover transaction costs including, but not limited to, appraisals and appraisal review, land surveys, closing costs, title work, purchase of title insurance, and other real estate expenses for tracts purchased. Project funds cannot be used for ongoing operation and maintenance, construction, or removal of existing structures.
- **Technical Assistance:** Technical Assistance funds will be provided to State Foresters and equivalent Indian Tribe officials through a grant to help implement CFP projects. These funds may be used for program administration, technical assistance, such as development of Community Forest Plans, and all activities identified as eligible uses of project funds to prepare projects and potential projects. These funds cannot exceed 10% of all funds appropriated under this authority each fiscal year and may not be used for ongoing operation and maintenance, construction, or removal of existing structures.

Match Requirements: Eligible entities receiving CFP project funds are required to provide a 1:1 project-specific non-federal cost share match.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: The CFP is currently undergoing rule making. At this time, performance measures for accomplishments reporting have not been established for the program.

Conservation Education (CFDA 10.664)

Authority: The Conservation Education (CE) program draws its authority from the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-313, as amended); Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill, as amended, Public Law 101-624); National Environmental Education Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-619); and the Woodsy Owl & Smokey Bear Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-318).

Purpose: The Conservation Education (CE) program addresses a national priority of the USDA Forest Service (USFS). It provides technical and financial assistance to State Forestry agencies and other organizations to help them create an informed public that can make wise decisions affecting forests and other natural resources. It coordinates development and delivery of high-quality, science based education about forests, grasslands, and related natural resources. Emphasis is on the core themes of sustainability of natural and cultural resources in forest, grassland, and aquatic ecosystems and developing awareness of the interrelationships between people and the land.

Authorized Activities: The CE program focuses its specific educational efforts on children (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade) and their educators in both classroom and informal settings. Activities are delivered by a network of land managers, scientists, educators, and interpreters representing all branches of the USFS, and by extensive partnerships with non-governmental organizations, State and local agencies, and other educational institutions. These activities include: program development, program delivery, product development, and product dissemination. CE also coordinates with other USFS educational programs directed toward adults to ensure continuity and consistency of educational materials and messages from childhood to adulthood.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: The following measures are reported annually by States and Forest Service Units to the National Information for Conservation Education (NICE) database (<http://na.fs.fed.us/nice/>).

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
Number of people who annually participate in Forest Service and state forestry agency environmental literacy programs and activities (categorized by: educators, students, general public; how many by urban; and how many are in underserved groups).*	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Other required project and/or region specific measures	[Region/State]	[enter target]

Cooperative Fire Protection: State Fire Assistance Program (CFDA 10.664)

Authority: The State Fire Assistance program is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-313) as amended by the 1990 Farm Bill (Food, Conservation, and Energy act of 1990; P.L. 101-624) to support State forestry agencies with responsibility for wildfire suppression by providing financial support for equipment and training. Funding provided through this program promotes mobilization readiness for efficient suppression of wildfires on all State and private lands to help maintain healthy forests and promote working relationships and service excellence.

Purpose: The purpose of the State Fire Assistance Program (SFA) is to provide financial, technical and related assistance to State Foresters or equivalent State officials and through them to other agencies and individuals. Funding provided through State Fire Assistance should be focused to address critical

preparedness needs and hazard mitigation. Critical preparedness needs include firefighter safety, fire planning, firefighter training, increased initial attack capability, and mobilization readiness for the efficient suppression and prevention of wildfires on non-Federal forest lands and other non-Federal lands. Hazard mitigation activities should focus on creating fire adapted communities by reducing hazardous fuels, developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), providing prevention and mitigation education, and achieving Firewise programming and community hazard mitigation. SFA funding promotes sustainable economic development, both traditional and non-traditional partnerships and service excellence.

Authorized Activities: Goals, objectives and program focus for SFA funds include:

- Administration, preparedness, suppression / support, equipment, training,
- Community mitigation: plans / assessments, prevention / education, hazard fuels / mitigation projects,
- Hazard Fuels: total acres, mechanical acres and communities assisted.

Match Requirements: Unless otherwise exempted by law, regulation or policy, all grant applicants must provide a 1:1 cost share match. This match must be available at the time of application. Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of Federal assistance. The applicant’s share of the financial assistance can be in the form of cash or “in-kind” contributions. Examples of in-kind contributions include the use of volunteer labor to remove hazardous fuels and to deliver training.

In certain cases, a waiver may be granted to allow grant applicants to provide less than a 1:1 cost share match. Any waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the Office of the Deputy Chief, State & Private Forestry. Supporting documentation shall be provided with any waiver request to show how a reduced cost share match will benefit the U.S. Forest Service.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: Reported through the National Fire Plan Operating Reporting System (NFPORS) (<https://www.nfpors.gov>) and Fire and Aviation Management Web (FAMweb) (<http://famweb.nwcg.gov/>).

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
<i>Reported through the National Fire Plan Operating Reporting System (NFPORS)</i>		
Total \$ used to administer program	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Total SFA \$ expended for preparedness activities (e.g. personnel cost, facilities maintenance).	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of communities receiving firefighting capacity building.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
SFA \$ expended for suppression operations and support (e.g. dispatch centers, fire suppression).	Nat. Program	[enter target]
SFA \$ used to purchase, maintain or rehab all types of equipment.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of personnel trained (e.g. agency, other state, career fire service, volunteers) (SFA \$ expended for that purpose).	Nat. Program	[enter target]

Number of Fire Management Plans, Risk Assessments, or equivalent plans completed (SFS \$ awarded for that purpose and number of communities assisted with that activity).	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of prevention or education programs conducted or implemented (SFA \$ awarded and # of communities assisted by such programs).	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of Hazardous Fuels Reduction or Mitigation projects conducted (SFA \$ expended and # of communities assisted by those projects)	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels on state and private lands through SFA (direct federal grant only).*	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres treated by mechanical means with by-products utilized.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of communities assisted not previously accounted for under SFA.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
<i>Reported as part of the 10 Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan by States</i>		
Number and percent of communities-at-risk covered by a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or equivalent that are reducing their risk from wildland fire.*	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Percentage of at-risk communities that report increased local suppression capacity as evidenced by: (1) the increasing number of trained and/or certified fire fighters and crews or (2) Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment obtained or (3) Formation of a new fire department or expansion of an existing department involved in wildland fire fighting.*	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of other communities at reduced risk	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Other project and/or region specific measures	[Region/State]	[enter target]

Cooperative Fire Protection: Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (CFDA 10.664)

Authority: The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program is authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill (PL 101-624) to provide financial, technical, and other assistance through State forestry agencies to organize, equip, and train small, local fire departments in rural communities with populations under 10,000 to prevent and suppress rural fires.¹ Work contributes to healthy forests, forest stewardship, and sustainable economic development. VFA dollars may be used to fund multi-community/fire department projects such as mutual-aid communications networks.

¹ The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program was originally authorized in Title IV of Public Law 92-419, The Rural Development Act of 1972, repealed by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-313), and amended by the Forest Stewardship Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill).

Purpose: The purpose of the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program is to provide financial, technical and related assistance to State Foresters for organizing, training and equipping rural fire departments. State Foresters pass this funding through to local fire departments and fire training academies. This program authorizes expenditure of federal funding to prevent and suppress rural fires and enhance protection capabilities by assisting rural communities with training, equipping and organizing fire service. Distribution of available VFA funds should be given out with an emphasis on the most needy. Funding provided through VFA should be focused to address wildland urban interface issues and needs for communities at risk in the wildland urban interface. Issues and needs include firefighter safety and training, enhancing community water supply and delivery capabilities, communications, and equipping. Funds are not authorized for purchase, construction, or renovation of capital improvements such as fire stations or pressurized water systems.

Authorized Activities: Projects to consider are those that reduce the numbers of rural fires, improve firefighter safety and training, enhance community water supplies, and improve communities' abilities to deliver extinguishing agents on fires. Examples of high priority proposals submitted by fire departments which will be approved include:

- Building community fire suppression capacity for communities at greatest risk from wildland fire, and provide funding for essential training and equipment.
- Assist rural fire departments by providing local leadership in the area of firefighter safety and the purchase of structural and wildland fire resistant protective clothing.
- Continue to assist rural fire departments with training in the National Incident Management System in order to allow departments to more effectively coordinate with State and national wildfire and emergency organizations.
- Projects in the acquisition and conversion of Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) vehicles to fire fighting apparatus.
- Installation of dry fire hydrants to improve water supplies for fire suppression in rural areas.

Match Requirements: Grant applicants must provide a 1:1 cost share match. This match of the financial assistance must be available at the time of application. Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of Federal assistance. The applicant's share of the financial assistance can be in the form of cash or "in-kind" contributions. Examples of in-kind contributions include the use of volunteer labor to install dry fire hydrants or deliver training. No waivers shall be provided to reduce the amount of cost share required.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: Reported through the National Fire Plan Operating Reporting System (NFPORS) (<https://www.nfpors.gov>) and Fire and Aviation Management Web (FAMweb) (<http://famweb.nwcg.gov/>).

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
Applications: Total # of applications received (estimated) and total \$ requested for firefighting capacity building	Nat. Program	[enter target]

Applications: Total # of applications approved (estimated) and total \$ awarded for firefighting capacity building	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Equipment: Total \$ used to purchase/maintain/rehab all types of equipment	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Organization: Total # of new fire departments established or current departments expanded (Volunteer, Rural or District) and total \$ awarded	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Training: Total # of firefighters trained and \$ awarded for that purpose	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Administration: Total \$ used to administer program	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Communities assisted: Total # of communities assisted under VFA	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Other project and/or region specific measures	[Region/State]	[enter target]

Cooperative Lands Forest Health: Forest Health Management and Monitoring (CFDA 10.680)

Authority: Cooperative Lands Forest Health, Forest Health Management and Monitoring is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-313, as amended; Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended, Public Law 101-624.

Purpose: The Forest Health Management Program assists States in conducting forest health management activities on non-federal forest lands to achieve healthy forests by providing States with Federal funds to detect, monitor, and evaluate forest health conditions. These Federal funds enable States to collect forest health data in a standardized manner that ensures compatibility across the region and/or nationally. Forest Health Monitoring promotes the collection of forest stress and disturbance data among States using nationally standardized methods. Standardized data are necessary to produce reports and maps depicting regional and national forest health conditions in an unbiased and scientific manner.

Authorized Activities:

- Detect, identify, and evaluate population trends of pests known to cause serious damage, the impact of biotic or abiotic agents, and the cause of health problems on tree species or sites of concern.
- Manage forest pests through integrated methods. Treatment of pests should be a minor component of the scope of work—no more than 20 percent of total Cooperative Lands Forest Health funds may be used for these activities. Treatment projects and programs are not included in Consolidated Grants (per FSM 3431.2).
- Federal funds will be used to conduct aerial and ground surveys using survey procedures in support of regional and national activities. States are to use national standards to conduct aerial and ground surveys and report survey data as detailed in documents located at <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/gis.shtml>. Sketch-mapping will be conducted at

1:100,000 or 1:50,000 scale. All reported damages and associated attributes must be consistent with those documented in the national standards.

- Aerially detected damages are to be verified through ground checks. Areas not surveyed from the air or ground should be indicated in a separate geo-spatial data file to distinguish non-surveyed areas from areas with no damage.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: Data are recorded in the Forest Health Accomplishment Database (FAD) by USFS Regional staff. Refer to USFS Regional guidance for any additional Cooperative Forest Health Program reporting required.

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive pests (insects, diseases, and plants).*	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests (insects, diseases, and plants).*	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres of forested land surveyed for damage using national aerial survey standards.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Other project and/or region specific measures	[Region/State]	[enter target]

Forest Legacy Program (CFDA 10.676)

Authority: The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill (P.L. 101-624:104 stat. 3359: 16 U.S.C. 2103c), which amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, and directs the Secretary to establish the FLP to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. FLP was amended by the 1996 Farm Bill (P.L. 104-127) to allow grants to States.

Purpose: The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) provides funds to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to development and other non-forest uses. FLP promotes forest land protection and other conservation opportunities, such as protecting important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife and recreational resources, riparian areas and other ecological values. Forest land meeting FLP purposes are protected through conservation easements and fee-simple purchases.

Authorized Activities: FLP funds are allocated in one of the three following categories:

- Project Funds: Project funds consist of a 25% non-fed cost share match and 75% FLP Federal funds. The funds are used to directly purchase land or interests in land joining the FLP tract. Project funds may be used by the State lead agency to cover transaction costs, including but not limited to, appraisals and appraisal review, land surveys, closing costs, establishing conservation easement baseline information, title work, purchase of title insurance, conservation easement drafting, and other real estate transaction expenses for those tracts. Project funds may also be

used to facilitate donations of land or interests in lands to a qualified and willing donee for FLP purposes, by paying for expenses directly relating to the donation, including but not limited to, land surveys, conservation easement drafting, title work, and establishing baseline information. For outright donation of a conservation easement or land, FLP funds may not be used to pay for an appraisal. In case of a partial donation of a conservation easement or land, an appraisal meeting Federal standards is required to determine the value of property, in which FLP funds may be used for these partial donations. FLP funds may not be used for monitoring and enforcement, or for an outright donation of a conservation easement or land.

- **Administrative Funds:** Administrative funds for States are provided through a separate grant and must have at least 25% non-fed cost share match. Administrative funds are used for day-to-day program management at all levels. Administrative funds are used for a variety of activities, such as FLP program administration, personnel and overhead, and all activities indentified as eligible uses of project funds to prepare projects and potential projects. Administrative cost should be kept under 15% of the total funds appropriated. Administrative funds cannot be used for ongoing operation and maintenance cost, monitoring, or removal of structures.

Match Requirements: Grant applicants must provide a 1:4 cost share match. This match of the financial assistance must be available at the time of application. Applicants may not derive their share from other sources of Federal assistance.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: Data are to be entered into the Forest Legacy Information System (FLIS).

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are protected from conversion (acres – annual and cumulative)*	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Percentage of unprotected private forest acres in priority areas that have been protected by FLP from conversion to non-forest uses	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of perpetual conservation easements	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of parcels prevented	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of fee simple purchases	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Average length of time between project funding and completion	Nat. Program	[enter target]

Forest Stewardship Program (CFDA 10.678)

Authority: The Forest Stewardship Program is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-313, as amended; Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended, Public Law 101-624.

Purpose: The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program is to encourage the long-term stewardship of non-federal, non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands, particularly in priority landscape areas that have been identified in the Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy. In cooperation with the State forestry agencies and the State stewardship coordinating committees, the Forest Stewardship Program promotes healthy forests, sustainable management, and sustainable economic development. The Forest Stewardship Program is funded through an annual appropriation to an Expanded Budget Line Item (EBLI) that includes CFAA Section 5: Forest Stewardship Program and CFAA Section 3: Rural Forestry Assistance.

Authorized Activities: Activities authorized for the Forest Stewardship Program EBLI are, for the most part, related to the delivery of information and professional technical assistance, (including the development of multi-resource Forest Stewardship plans), through State Foresters, to eligible private and non-federal forest landowners. Guidance for the delivery of planning and technical assistance is provided by the Forest Stewardship Program National Standards

(<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.shtml>) and Guidelines and by the Forest Service Manual, Chapters 3210 and 3250. Other authorized activities include:

- 1) Assisting landowners to implement forest management activities, including use of existing cost share programs where appropriate;
- 2) Educating landowners about forest management practices and issues;
- 3) Coordinating with partners to improve program delivery, including regularly convening a State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee;
- 4) Providing recognition to exemplary Forest Stewardship landowners;
- 5) Training state and partner staffs on topics relevant to program delivery; and
- 6) Monitoring and reporting program implementation and effectiveness.

The CFAA Sec. 3 (b): State Forestry Assistance also authorizes the Forest Service to provide financial assistance to State Foresters (or equivalent state officials) for the following:

- 1) Develop genetically improved tree seeds;
- 2) Develop and contract for the development of field arboretums, greenhouses, and tree nurseries, in cooperation with a State, to facilitate production and distribution of tree seeds and seedlings in States where the Secretary determines that there is an inadequate capacity to carry out present and future reforestation needs;
- 3) Procure, produce, and distribute tree seeds and trees for the purpose of establishing forests, windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots, and other plantings;
- 4) Plant tree seeds and seedlings on non-Federal forest lands that are suitable for the production of timber, recreation, and for other benefits associated with the growing of trees;
- 5) Plan, organize, and implement measures on non-Federal forest lands, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural activities designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of trees and other vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and water yielded therefrom; and
- 6) Protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forest lands and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields therefrom.

The following general guidance applies to all activities under the Forest Stewardship Program:

- Grants must be awarded to State Foresters or equivalent State officials.
- State Foresters may use funds for sub-grants to partners or contractors to carry out practices.
- Funds cannot be used to directly “cost-share” individual forest management practices with individual landowners.
- Funds cannot be used for work associated with the acquisition of conservation easements (FLP or otherwise) or title to forest property as this would be seen to augment Forest Legacy Program funding.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: Currently reported through the Performance Measurement and Accountability System (PMAS).

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
Number of landowners receiving Forest Stewardship Program technical assistance.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of landowners participating in Forest Stewardship Program educational programs.	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres of new and/or revised Forest Stewardship Management Plans	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres of new and/or revised Forest Stewardship Management Plans in <i>Important Forest Resource Areas+</i>	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of new and/or revised Forest Stewardship Management Plans	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Total acres covered by current Forest Stewardship Management Plans (cumulative)	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Total acres in <i>Important Forest Resource Areas+</i> covered by current Forest Stewardship Management Plans (cumulative)	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Base NIPF acres in <i>Important Forest Resource Areas+</i>	Nat. Program	N/A
Number of acres in forest areas being managed sustainably as defined by current Forest Stewardship Management Plan (cumulative) – through a nationally consistent monitoring program.*	Nat. Program,	[enter target]
Number of new and/or revised EQIP Management Plans++	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Acres of new and/or revised EQIP Management Plans++	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Other project and/or region specific measures	[Region/State]	[enter target]

+ Important forest resource areas are defined as “high” potential for Forest Stewardship benefit from the Spatial Analysis Project).

++ Report the number of new or revised management plans and acres that were created using EQIP (Practice 106) cost-share assistance.

Urban & Community Forestry Program (CFDA 10.675)

Authority: The Urban and Community Forestry Program is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-313, as amended; Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended, Public Law 101-624.

Purpose: The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program provides financial, technical, educational and related assistance to State foresters or equivalent State officials to assist communities to plan urban forestry programs and to plant, protect, maintain and utilize wood from community trees and forests to maximize social, environmental and economic benefits. The program is also authorized to cooperate directly with units of local government, nonprofit private organizations and others. The goals of the UCF program are to improve understanding of the benefits of tree cover in urban areas and communities; encourage and provide educational and technical assistance to communities for the maintenance and expansion of tree cover; provide competitive matching grants to communities for urban and community forestry projects; implement tree planting and other demonstration projects to address climate change and provide environmental benefits; enhance the technical skills of individuals involved in planning, development and maintenance of urban and community forests; and expand research and education efforts intended to improve the understanding of trees' economic, environmental, social and psychological, and energy conservation benefits.

Authorized Activities: Federal funds are to be used to address the goals stated above through program partners including State Foresters, State extension directors, nonprofit private organizations, local governments, the general public and others. Authorized activities include:

- Assist in the development of State and local management plans for trees and associated resources in urban areas and communities, including open space and green infrastructure planning.
- Provide education, technical assistance and research to increase public understanding of the energy conservation, economic, social, environmental and psychological values of trees and open space in urban and community environments.
- Implement tree planting and demonstration projects to illustrate the value of tree cover to address climate change and to provide environmental, economic, and social benefits.
- Targeted assistance for tree planting and active management of the urban forest to maintain and increase tree cover for air and water quality, energy conservation, carbon sequestration, invasive species, fire, storm resistance, open space retention, and biomass utilization.
- Assist urban areas and communities in conducting inventories of their forest resources.
- Provide education and technical assistance to enhance the technical skills of individuals involved in tree care, other arboricultural practices; and planning, development and maintenance of urban and community trees and forests.
- Assist State and local organizations in organizing and conducting urban and community forestry projects and programs.

- Assist in identifying sources and obtaining plant material from public or private sources for the purposes of reforesting open spaces, replacing dead and dying trees, promoting energy conservation, and providing other benefits through expanding tree cover in urban areas and communities.

Accomplishments Reporting Required: Currently reported through the Community Accomplishments Reporting System (CARS) (<http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/nicportal/>)

Accomplishment /Performance Measure	Measure Type	Grant Target
Number of “Managing” Communities+	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of “Developing” Communities++	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of volunteer hours contributed to Urban & Community Forestry Programs	Nat. Program	[enter target]
Number of people living in communities provided educational, technical and/or financial assistance.	Nat. Program	[enter target]

+ Managing communities have all of the following: management plan; professional staff/contract; ordinance; tree board/advocacy organization.

++ Developing communities received State assistance in the current year and have at least one of the following: management plan; professional staff/contract; ordinance; tree board/advocacy organization.

To determine the number of managing and developing communities, the following will be reported in CARS: the number of communities with (1) a management plan, (2) professional forestry staff/contracted services, (3) UCF related ordinance(s), and (4) tree advocacy groups/advisory organizations.

S&PF Core Performance Measures

The S&PF Core Performance Measures were developed and approved by the Redesign Implementation Council (now the S&PF Board) in an effort to produce and communicate accountable, meaningful results for all S&PF Programs. Ten of these twenty measures are currently reported through existing databases of record (see reporting measures with an asterisk) others are under development. For additional information, see: http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/pdf/performance_measure_table.pdf.

Of the ten new measures, seven (in italics below) are considered pilot measures. Most of the pilot measures will require spatial reporting and additional follow-up work. The needed follow-up work for these measures is being carried out by FS staff and does not require additional reporting by grantees at this time. Existing data sources will be utilized wherever possible to minimize reporting burdens.

Objective	Outcome	Core Performance Measure
Priority: Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Uses and Values		
Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes.	High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are identified and conserved.	CURRENT MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are protected from conversion (acres - annual and cumulative).
Actively and sustainably manage forests.	Forests are actively and sustainably managed.	CURRENT MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of acres in forest areas being managed sustainably as defined by current Forest Stewardship Management Plan (cumulative) – through a nationally consistent monitoring program.
Priority: Protect Forests from Threats		
Restore fire-adapted lands and/or reduce risk of wildfire impacts.	Fire-adapted lands are restored and/or risk of wildfire impacts is reduced.	CURRENT MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems that are: (1) moved toward desired conditions and (2) maintained in desired conditions (annual). Total # of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels on state and private lands through State Fire Assistance (annual, direct federal grant only). Percentage of at risk communities that report increased local suppression capacity as evidenced by: (1) The increasing number of trained and/or certified fire fighters and crews or (2) Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment

Objective	Outcome	Core Performance Measure
		obtained or (3) Formation of a new fire department or expansion of an existing department involved in wildland fire fighting.
Identify, manage and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health.	Threats to forest and ecosystem health are identified, managed and reduced.	CURRENT MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percent of forest acres restored and/or protected from (1) invasive and (2) native insects, diseases and plants (annual).
Priority: Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests		
Protect and enhance water quality and quantity.	Water quality and quantity is protected and enhanced.	NEW MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acres and percent of priority watershed areas where S&PF activities are enhancing or protecting water quality and quantity.</i>
Improve air quality and conserve energy.	Air quality is improved and energy is conserved.	NEW MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities designed to contribute to an improvement in air quality.</i> • <i>Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities that result in energy conservation.</i>
Assist communities in planning for and reducing forest health risks.	Communities plan for and reduce their risks from forest health threats.	CURRENT MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percent of communities-at-risk covered by a CWPP or equivalent that are reducing their risk of wildland fire (annual). • Percent of population living in communities developing or managing programs to plant, protect and maintain their urban and community trees and forests.
Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests.	The economic benefits and values of trees and forests are maintained and enhanced.	CURRENT MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of communities and percent of population served under an active urban forest management plan. NEW MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of total jobs (direct, indirect, and induced) sustained or maintained in the economy annually due to S&PF investments. • Total value of resources leveraged through partnerships with states and others partners.

Objective	Outcome	Core Performance Measure
Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat.	Wildlife and fish habitat is protected, conserved, and enhanced.	<p>NEW MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acres and percent of priority habitat areas where S&PF activities are protecting, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat.</i> • <i>Acres of connected forest resulting from S&PF investments.</i>
Connect people to trees and forests, and engage them in environmental stewardship activities.	People are connected to trees and forests and are engaged in environmental stewardship activities.	<p>CURRENT MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people who annually participate in FS and state forestry agency environmental literacy programs and activities. <p>NEW MEASURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people (measured in person days) engaged in environmental stewardship activities as part of an S&PF program.
Manage trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to global climate change	Trees and forests are managed to help mitigate and adapt to global climate change.	<p>NEW MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acres and percent of priority areas vulnerable to climate change where S&PF activities are contributing to resilient forests able to adapt to climate change.</i> • <i>Potential carbon sequestered through implementation of forest management practices that result from S&PF investments on private forest lands.</i>