



## FY 2010 Forest Service Budget Recommendations

### *Invest in Urban Forests for Healthier Cities*

US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program Budget			
2008 Enacted	2009 Enacted	2010 President's Request	2010 SUFC Recommendations
\$27.7 million	\$29.5 million	\$29.3 million	<b>\$100 million</b>

### **\$100 million for the Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF)**

- **\$36 million for State Cooperative Assistance.** U&CF leverages \$3 for every \$1 in federal assistance and serves 83% of the population. This program helps communities assess, manage, and maximize the benefits of trees in urbanized landscapes.
- **\$14 million for competitive state, multi-state, and regional grants to address forest issues across the landscape.** The U&CF Program will address forest issues in cities and urban interface areas as part of the agency's larger landscape-scale initiatives promoting forest health.
- **\$14 million for competitive Functional Urban Forests grants for communities to target specific environmental challenges with strategic urban forestry solutions.** Energy conservation, heat island reduction, stormwater mitigation, emissions reduction, and projects supporting *green jobs* in underserved communities will be emphasized.
- **\$12 million for matching implementation grants for ULTRA cities.** To leverage the research investment the agency will make in Urban Long Term Research Areas, the U&CF Program will provide assistance to preserve and enhance tree canopy in up to 16 ULTRA cities. Focus funds will support collaborative partnerships that coordinate tree canopy action across land ownerships—mobilizing public agencies, civic organizations, private businesses, and residents to act in support of a scientifically established canopy goal.
- **\$12 million for urban tree canopy assessment for baseline data.** Many cities lack baseline data regarding the extent, health and function of their urban forest resources. Focus funds would support approximately 120 cities to assess tree canopy assets and improve urban forest management plans.
- **\$10 million for volunteer coordination.** Public agencies rely on volunteers to help plant, maintain and monitor urban forests. Focus funds would support 200 community organizers to engage 400,000 volunteers in hands-on action to improve urban forests.
- **\$2 million for integrated Technology Transfer and Education** to further best practices in urban forest management and care.

Alliance for Community Trees

American Forests

American Nursery and Landscape Association

American Planning Association

American Public Works Association

American Society of Consulting Arborists

American Society of Landscape Architects

International City/County Management Association

International Society of Arboriculture

Keep America Beautiful

National Arbor Day Foundation

National Association of State Foresters

Society of American Foresters

Society of Municipal Arborists

Tree Care Industry of America

TreeLink

Utility Arborist Association

US Conference of Mayors

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*The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is a group of national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities.*

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### **\$16 million for urban forest research**

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The coalition supports the recommendations of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council to increase the Forest Service's investment to \$24 million for urban natural resources research by the year 2015. Consistent with this goal, in FY 2010, the coalition recommends \$16 million for urban resources research including the establishment of ULTRAS.

Key units:

- Northern Station at Syracuse, NY – urban forest effects on air and water quality
- Northern Station at Evanston, IL – natural environments for human populations
- Northern Station at Burlington, VT – human values and urban forests
- Pacific Southwestern Station at Davis, CA – helping cities manage risks/benefits of trees
- Pacific Southwestern Station at Riverside, CA – wildland interface and urban cultures
- Southern Station at Gainesville, FL – southern fire and reducing wildland interface risks/benefits of trees, reducing risk related to storms and natural disasters, assessing storm damage, mitigating storm damage; loss of open space.

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### **USDA Forest Service Forest Health Management Program**

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**The Coalition supports an appropriation of \$140 million for the USDA Forest Service to manage non-native insects and plant diseases that threaten America's forests.** The Forest Service plays a critical support role by providing management expertise and research – in close coordination with APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine and through cooperative funding agreements with state forestry, state departments of agriculture and state Land Grant Universities.

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### **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program**

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**The Coalition supports \$10 million for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program** authorized in Title VIII, Section 8002 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. This new program will provide matching funds to help local government entities, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations to create new community forests. It will also offer technical assistance to develop and implement management plans for each new community forest. This should include funding for the states to administer the program and to provide technical assistance, as directed by the program's authorizing language.

### Key Benefits of Urban Forests

- **Climate:** Trees cool ambient temperatures in cities, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Urban trees also sequester 22.8 million tons of carbon per year – a service worth \$3.8 billion annually.
- **Energy:** Tree windbreaks reduce residential heating costs 10-15%; while shading and evaporative cooling from trees can cut residential cooling costs 20-50%.
- **Water:** Urban forests promote water quality and reduce stormwater management costs.
- **Air:** Trees produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates, and reduce smog.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Increasing tree cover by 10% in New York City would meet over 1/3 of the city's federal air quality compliance needs for ground level ozone.
- **Risk Management:** Professional urban forest management reduces risk of tree-related storm damage and slows the spread of invasive species, exotic pests, and fire—all of which pose a risk to forestlands and public health, safety and welfare.
- **Public Health:** Access to trees, green spaces, and parks promotes greater physical activity, reduces stress, and improves the quality of life in our cities and towns.
- **Economic Development:** Communities and business districts with healthy tree cover attract new residents, industry, and commercial activity. Homes and rental properties move faster and at a premium as well as shoppers stay longer and spend more.