

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

244 ND Forest Service

Date: 12/23/2014

Time: 12:28:59

Program: Operations

Reporting level: 00-244-100-00-00-00-00000000

Program Performance Measures

See performance measures under agency overview.

Program Statistical Data

The North Dakota Forest Service provided technical, financial and educational assistance to 53 counties, 175 fire departments, 197 communities, 2,407 landowners, 1,380 K-12 teachers and 29,324 K-12 students during 2011-2013. Program highlights include:

Forestry and Fire Management awarded \$357,168 in community forestry grant funds for tree planting and other forestry development projects; funded \$516,660 in cooperative forestry landowner assistance for tree planting and forest improvement projects; enrolled 796 landowner contracts with 40,979 acres in the Forest Stewardship Tax Law; and provided 2,750 training hours to enhance rural fire department capacity. The Forest Service reached 1,380 teachers and 29,324 students through educational workshops, poster contests, eco-education camps, conservation days, school presentations and the high school envirothon program.

Nursery and State Forests produced and marketed 1,124,760 high quality tree seedlings from Towner State Nursery to North Dakota customers for conservation plantings. The trees included 29 species and stock types. Tree orders are shipped to over 500 soil conservation districts, natural resource agencies and private landowners each year. State Forests leased 965 acres for haying and grazing to 11 landowners.

Explanation of Program Costs

The total requested base budget increase for Operations is \$767,728. Operations fund public forestry services provided by the North Dakota Forest Service through field offices at Bismarck, Bottineau, Carrington, Fargo, Grafton, Jamestown, Lisbon, Towner and Walhalla. Expenditures include travel, telephone and motor pool costs associated with servicing over 2,000 field forestry requests statewide each year. Operations fund tree production at Towner State Nursery. Expenditures include utilities, repairs and supplies for seeding, weeding, irrigating, fertilizing, lifting, packing and shipping operations associated with both bare-root seedling and containerized tree production. Towner State Nursery provides essentially all of the conifer (evergreen) seedlings for conservation and forestry plantings in every county of North Dakota.

The Forest Service cost to continue adjustment for operations is \$133,997. This includes \$48,974 for continuation of the 2014-15 legislatively funded salary increase of 3% and \$85,023 for operating inflation of 2.4% for FY 2016 and 2.5% for FY 2017.

The Forest Service base budget request for the 2015-17 Cooperative Fire Protection Initiative is \$704,145. This request includes \$361,140 to fund salaries and fringes for three fire technician positions to assist fire departments, emergency managers, communities and landowners with implementation of fire prevention, suppression and mitigation practices; \$343,005 to fund operating expenses for travel, supplies, contracts for fire department training programs and grants to at-risk communities and fire departments for personal protective equipment, firefighting equipment, training and hazardous fuels reduction projects to mitigate wildland fire hazards; and \$70,414 for match. The required \$70,414 match has been secured through a FY 2013 Hazardous Fuels Reduction grant from the US Forest Service. The net 2015-17 general fund request is \$633,731. The North Dakota Cooperative Fire Protection Initiative will provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to prevent, suppress and mitigate wildland fires. The initiative will support: 1) suppression and mutual aid support for the state's rural fire departments, 2) the implementation of planning and preparedness practices with local jurisdictions, 3) educational outreach to communities, landowners and managers on firewise practices and fire prevention, and 4) fire training at the local, regional and statewide level for emergency responders, and 5) grants to at-risk communities and fire departments for equipment, hazardous fuels reduction projects and fire prevention/outreach programs. Funds will also be used for conducting fire risk assessments, preparing firewise plans and the implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects. The Cooperative Fire Protection Initiative will conserve, protect and enhance at-risk landscapes identified in the North Dakota Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Forest Resource Strategy. Upland forests, riparian forests, rural planting and community forests are identified in the priority forest landscapes as needing improved management, restoration and protection. Required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill), the forest resource strategy provides a long-term plan for investing state, federal and leveraged resources to address the management, restoration and protection of forest resource landscape priorities.

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Strategies include: a) conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses, b) protecting forests from threats, including catastrophic wildfires, storms, flooding, insect or disease outbreaks and invasive species, c) enhancing benefits from trees and forests that include air and water quality, soil conservation, wildlife and fish habitat, biological diversity, carbon storage, forest products, forestry related jobs, production of renewable energy and wildlife.

The ***Grants for Trees For North Dakota*** request is \$900,000. The Trees for North Dakota Trust Fund provides tree planting grants and supports promotional, educational and fund raising projects associated with strengthening the tradition of tree planting and management in North Dakota. This request will finance the Tree Planting Mitigation Program to replace trees and shrubs on public and private properties impacted by the construction of public and private utilities. Mitigation criteria established by the Public Service Commission (PSC) ensures trees and shrubs lost or destroyed during construction projects are replaced at a 2:1 ratio. The North Dakota Forest Service is using the Trees for North Dakota Trust Fund to accept private contributions to finance program operating expenditures including the administration, planting, care and maintenance of trees and shrubs. The remaining \$750,000 special funds represents revenue generated from tree sales at Towner Nursery.

Program Goals and Objectives

Administer forestry programs statewide by providing leadership, direction and coordination of agency operations to improve public service and assure compliance with statutory responsibilities. Provide technical forestry services relating to the management of private forest lands, state forest lands, urban and community forests, tree planting and wildland fire protection. Produce high quality acclimated tree nursery stock at the lowest possible cost to meet landowners' demand for conservation, forestry, wildlife and amenity tree plantings.

REQUEST DETAIL BY PROGRAM244 ND Forest Service
Biennium: 2015-2017

Bill#: HB1003

Date: 12/23/2014

Time: 12:28:59

| Program: Operations | | Reporting Level: 00-244-100-00-00-00-00000000 | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Description | Expenditures 2011-2013 Biennium | Present Budget 2013-2015 | Budget Request Change | Requested Budget 2015-2017 Biennium | Optional Request 2015-2017 |
| Operating Expenses | | | | | |
| Operating Fees and Services | 4,738,970 | 6,249,979 | 133,997 | 6,383,976 | 633,731 |
| Total | 4,738,970 | 6,249,979 | 133,997 | 6,383,976 | 633,731 |
| Operating Expenses | | | | | |
| General Fund | 3,723,143 | 4,599,979 | 133,997 | 4,733,976 | 633,731 |
| Federal Funds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Funds | 1,015,827 | 1,650,000 | 0 | 1,650,000 | 0 |
| Total | 4,738,970 | 6,249,979 | 133,997 | 6,383,976 | 633,731 |
| Biennium Carryover | | | | | |
| Operating Fees and Services | 298,228 | 402,086 | (402,086) | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 298,228 | 402,086 | (402,086) | 0 | 0 |
| Biennium Carryover | | | | | |
| General Fund | 64,264 | 402,086 | (402,086) | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Funds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Funds | 233,964 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 298,228 | 402,086 | (402,086) | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expenditures | 5,037,198 | 6,652,065 | (268,089) | 6,383,976 | 633,731 |
| Funding Sources | | | | | |
| General Fund | | | | | |
| Total | 3,787,407 | 5,002,065 | (268,089) | 4,733,976 | 633,731 |
| Special Funds | | | | | |
| 326 Forest Service Fund 244c | 707,022 | 750,000 | 0 | 750,000 | 0 |
| 451 Cent. Tree Prog. Trust Fund | 542,769 | 900,000 | 0 | 900,000 | 0 |
| Total | 1,249,791 | 1,650,000 | 0 | 1,650,000 | 0 |
| Total Funding Sources | 5,037,198 | 6,652,065 | (268,089) | 6,383,976 | 633,731 |
| FTE Employees | 28.00 | 28.96 | 0.00 | 28.96 | 3.00 |

CHANGE PACKAGE DETAIL

244 ND Forest Service
Biennium: 2015-2017

Bill#: HB1003

Date: 12/23/2014

Time: 12:28:59

| Program: Operations | | | Reporting Level: 00-244-100-00-00-00-00000000 | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Description | Priority | FTE | General Fund | Federal Funds | Special Funds | Total Funds |

Base Budget Changes

One Time Budget Changes

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| A-E 6 Remove 2011-13 Operating Carryover | | 0.00 | (402,086) | 0 | 0 | (402,086) |
| Total One Time Budget Changes | | 0.00 | (402,086) | 0 | 0 | (402,086) |

Ongoing Budget Changes

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| A-A 1 CTC, Operating Inflation and Utilities Increases | | 0.00 | 133,997 | 0 | 0 | 133,997 |
| A-A 20 2013-15 Adjusted FTE | | 28.96 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Base Payroll Change | | (28.96) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Ongoing Budget Changes | | 0.00 | 133,997 | 0 | 0 | 133,997 |

Total Base Budget Changes

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| | | 0.00 | (268,089) | 0 | 0 | (268,089) |
|--|--|-------------|------------------|----------|----------|------------------|

Optional Budget Changes

Ongoing Optional Changes

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| A-C 5 Forest Service Fire Protection Initiative | 1 | 3.00 | 633,731 | 0 | 0 | 633,731 |
| Total Ongoing Optional Changes | | 3.00 | 633,731 | 0 | 0 | 633,731 |

Total Optional Budget Changes

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| | | 3.00 | 633,731 | 0 | 0 | 633,731 |
|--|--|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------|

PROGRAM NARRATIVE**Date:** 12/23/2014**244 ND Forest Service****Time:** 12:28:59**Program:** Capital Assets**Reporting level:** 00-244-200-00-00-00-00000000**Program Performance Measures**

See performance measures under agency overview..

Program Statistical Data

The agency is responsible for maintaining buildings and facilities at 5 locations. Buildings at Bottineau, Lisbon and Walhalla deliver forestry services while the Towner State Nursery provides tree seedlings to the citizens of North Dakota. Recreational improvements are also located on the State Forests. Capital assets consist of 41 office, shop and storage buildings. The buildings are valued at \$3,143,418. Building ages vary from 1 year to 79 years. In addition, the infrastructure associated with these facilities is valued at \$1,869,582.

Explanation of Program Costs

Extraordinary repairs include miscellaneous small projects at field offices and state forests at Bottineau, Towner and Walhalla. The 2015-17 NDUS budget request includes increased base funding for facilities and infrastructure repairs, equivalent to 50% of the OMB building and infrastructure formula. The total 2015-17 budget request for extraordinary repairs is \$223,055. Projects include interior and exterior building repairs, parking lot, sidewalk, irrigation system and structural repairs at Bottineau, Towner, and Walhalla field offices and state forest boundary improvements.

No capital projects are requested.

Program Goals and Objectives

Utilization of funds for plant improvements in high need areas, resulting in more efficient services to the public, long-range cost savings and a safer work environment. Upgrade facilities in compliance with state and federal regulations.

REQUEST DETAIL BY PROGRAM

244 ND Forest Service
Biennium: 2015-2017

Bill#: HB1003

Date: 12/23/2014

Time: 12:28:59

| Program: Capital Assets | | Reporting Level: 00-244-200-00-00-00-00000000 | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Description | Expenditures 2011-2013 Biennium | Present Budget 2013-2015 | Budget Request Change | Requested Budget 2015-2017 Biennium | Optional Request 2015-2017 |
| Capital Assets | | | | | |
| Land and Buildings | 6,000 | 785,000 | (785,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Extraordinary Repairs | 41,543 | 74,962 | 148,093 | 223,055 | 0 |
| Equipment Over \$5000 | 56,248 | 56,248 | 0 | 56,248 | 0 |
| Total | 103,791 | 916,210 | (636,907) | 279,303 | 0 |
| Capital Assets | | | | | |
| General Fund | 97,791 | 916,210 | (636,907) | 279,303 | 0 |
| Federal Funds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Funds | 6,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 103,791 | 916,210 | (636,907) | 279,303 | 0 |
| Total Expenditures | 103,791 | 916,210 | (636,907) | 279,303 | 0 |
| Funding Sources | | | | | |
| General Fund | | | | | |
| Total | 97,791 | 916,210 | (636,907) | 279,303 | 0 |
| Special Funds | | | | | |
| 326 Forest Service Fund 244c | 24,399 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 24,399 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding Sources | 122,190 | 916,210 | (636,907) | 279,303 | 0 |

CHANGE PACKAGE DETAIL

244 ND Forest Service
Biennium: 2015-2017

Bill#: HB1003

Date: 12/23/2014

Time: 12:28:59

| Program: Capital Assets | | | Reporting Level: 00-244-200-00-00-00-00-00000000 | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-----|--|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Description | Priority | FTE | General Fund | Federal Funds | Special Funds | Total Funds |

Base Budget Changes

One Time Budget Changes

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| A-E 1 Remove 2013-15 Capital Projects | | 0.00 | (785,000) | 0 | 0 | (785,000) |
| A-E 3 Remove Deferred Maintenance Pool | | 0.00 | (30,000) | 0 | 0 | (30,000) |
| Total One Time Budget Changes | | 0.00 | (815,000) | 0 | 0 | (815,000) |

Ongoing Budget Changes

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| A-A 5 Base Funding for Equipment over \$5,000 | | 0.00 | 56,248 | 0 | 0 | 56,248 |
| A-A 6 Base Plus Incr for Extraordinary Repairs | | 0.00 | 223,055 | 0 | 0 | 223,055 |
| A-F 2 Remove Base Funding Extraordinary Repairs | | 0.00 | (44,962) | 0 | 0 | (44,962) |
| A-F 4 Remove Base Funding Equipment over \$5,000 | | 0.00 | (56,248) | 0 | 0 | (56,248) |
| Total Ongoing Budget Changes | | 0.00 | 178,093 | 0 | 0 | 178,093 |

Total Base Budget Changes

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| | | 0.00 | (636,907) | 0 | 0 | (636,907) |
|--|--|-------------|------------------|----------|----------|------------------|