



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet American Samoa 2019



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$56,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$71,500
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$30,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$72,500
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$230,000</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

American Samoa's Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS) identified five key issues and priority areas for the Forestry Program: 1) Sustainability of urban forests, 2) Protection of coral reefs, 3) Conservation of wetlands, 3) Maintaining fresh water quality, and 5) Conservation of native flora and fauna. Additionally, American Samoa's SWARS identified resource strategies to address the key issues and priority areas.

### Program Goals

- 1) Sustainability of urban forests; 2) Protection of coral reefs; 3) Conservation of wetlands; 4) Maintaining fresh water quality; 5) Conservation of native flora and fauna.

### Key Issues

- 1) Incoming invasive species (i.e little fire ant).
- 2) Climate change
- 3) Poor environmental stewardship.
- 4) Land use change.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	57,291	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	210
Acres of Forest Land	39,156	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	11
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	23,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1
Number of NIPF Landowners	20,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	12
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	10
Number of Rural Fire Departments	2	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	73	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1
Forest Based Employment	0	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	5,154
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	2,042
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	230,000		

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program began managing the State Fire Assistance award in July 2019, and in close collaboration with the DPS-Fire Department, will continue to implement and complete the fire projects goals and outputs. The main focus for this years goals were outreach awareness and vegetation assessments. On June 28th, 2018, the ASCC-ACNR hosted its annual Farm Safety Day event. The 152 students, 18 parents, and 7 volunteers in attendance learned about the valuable safety of field equipment and tools safety, pesticide and chemical safety, and food safety. The DPS-Fire Department had the opportunity to demonstrate fire safety protocols and discussed fire prevention techniques with the participants. The DPS-Fire Department looks forward to attending this event every year. The DPS presented on fire safety and the importance of wildfires on forests and buildings. On October 29, 2018, the Forestry Program assisted the DPS-Fire Department with their outreach presentation to the Tafuna ECE School. A total of 177 students, 16 teachers, and 28 parents participated in the outreach. Important lessons based on fire emergencies, fire evacuations, and others were presented towards the audience. The DPS-Fire Department and ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program will begin conducting vegetation assessments within the upcoming months.

### **Forest Health Protection**

American Samoa's Forest Health and Invasive Plants (FHIP) program continues to monitor the Maloata project site and control the *Castilla elastica* (Pulumamoe) invasive tree found within the site. The FHIP program staff foliar sprayed a 100% Roundup herbicide for to control new sprouts of *Castilla elastica* in Maloata. A total of 22 trees and 63 saplings were sprayed. The program notes that there were more saplings due to higher access to sunlight. Additional projects such as the beetle bark survey and the little fire ant survey and control were recently added to the FHIP program. The bark and ambrosia beetle trapping has been completed in a range of vegetation types in 16 villages on Tutuila and Aunu'u islands for a total of 1,977 trap-days. The samples have been sent to the USFS taxonomist for identifications. More than 12 multifunnel traps baited with quercivorol or ethanol, 25 yellow pan traps, and five Malaise traps were run at six locations on the islands of Ofu, Olosega, and Ta'u for a total of 883 additional trap-days. All the additional specimens have been sent to the USFS taxonomist for identifications. Additional taxonomic support has been obtained from other scientists specializing on particular taxa within the scolytinae. The little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) (LFA) was first identified in American Samoa in October 2018 in a residential area in the western part of Tutuila island. The density and extent of the infestation indicate that LFA arrived there long before it was "discovered" and reported. A delimitation survey is underway, but it appears that an area of about 10-20 acres is infested. Because the infestation is well-established, it is likely that the ant has been accidentally transport to other areas of the island, and the public is being asked for assistance in identifying any additional infestations. The FHIP staff will continue to work with the local Entomologist in the LFA project and will continue to monitor/control the

Maloata project.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The American Samoa Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) continues to update client list and recruit clients for possible FSP projects. After the Cyclone Gita, there was a drop in client visits to the Forestry Greenhouse. Many of the landowners were hesitant in receiving planting materials due to the tree damages in their homes sustained from the cyclone. The FSP staff propagated more than a 1,000 seeds and cuttings throughout the year. Due to the sizes of some seeds, a final count of seeds propagated were based on the amount of seedlings that germinated. A total of 832 trees were transplanted and 642 were distributed to FSP clients. The FSP coordinator will continue to collaborate with current and potential landowners and provide an update on the total landowner clients, trees distributed, and projects implemented. The Forestry Greenhouse received a total of 772 visitors from a total of 19 schools and organizations. The greenhouse is currently undergoing reconstruction due to the heavy damages that were sustained from Cyclone Gita. The Forestry Program aims to complete this reconstruction by the end of the year 2019.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program hosted its first Landscape Scale Restoration project in the village of Nu'uuli on May 19th and May 26th, 2018. The focus and goal of this project is to restore the Nu'uuli Watersheds through stream debris removal, native tree planting, and conservation education efforts. Youth groups from the Nu'uuli Catholic, CCCAS, Methodist, and Nazarene churches participated in this event, summing up to a total of 237 youth participants. Environmental agency partners such as the local Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), and National Park Service (NPS) also participated, summing up to a total of 30+ participants. The Reverends from each church along with the partnered agencies were of great assistance in the project's success. A total of 2.5 tons of debris were collected from the streams and a total of 8 Malili Trees and 25 Vetiver plugs were planted for controlling soil eroded slopes along the stream corridors and stream banks. The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program aims on implementing the next watershed project in the Pago Pago village and other villages within the upcoming months.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

American Samoa's Urban Community and Forestry (UCF) program conducted various outreach presentations, tree planting projects, and inter-agency/community activities that pertain to the UCF programs goals. In response to the Cyclone Gita tragedy that occurred on February 9th, 2018, the UCF program was responsible in facilitating recovery and restoration activities by removing fallen and damaged trees/branches around the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) compound. A total of 5 large fallen Pride of India trees were fully removed and 4 other native trees pruned. In April, the UCF program celebrated its 23rd annual Arbor Week with outreach and tree planting activities to a total of 137 students, 8 teachers, 1 Vice Principal, and 3 Principals from 2 elementary schools and 1 high school. A total of 5 trees were planted at each schools. In addition to the school outreach and tree planting activities, a wave and peaceful demonstration was done to celebrate Earth Day. Other environmental agency partners such as the local Environmental Protection Agency, National Parks Service, Coral Reef Advisory Group, and others participated in this wave. The UCF program also had the privilege to participate in the Faga'itua High School 50th Anniversary celebration. As a part of their celebration, the UCF program facilitated their Tree Planting Day activity and planted 8 Ifilele trees to represent the 8 Alumni Clusters who organized the celebration. A total of 29 participants were present during this activity. The acting UCF program coordinator Denis Sene attended the 2018 Partners in Community Forestry (PCF) conference that was held Irvine, California, from November 5th to the 9th, at the Irvine Hotel. Denis had the opportunity to present on the UCF Program here in American Samoa and the various UCF activities, events, and efforts that were conducted in the past few years.

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## Contact Information



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