



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet American Samoa 2018



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2017 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$55,020
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$66,812
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$140,078
State Fire Assistance	\$30,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$78,168
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$370,078

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

- Increase community awareness and appreciation of trees, forests, wildlife, and natural and cultural resources
- Multiply and distribute native trees for private, community, and urban projects
- Survey and control invasive tree species and other pests and diseases
- Increase number of watershed management projects
- Sustain partnership with federal and local government agencies, and non government organizations through MOU

Key Issues

- 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

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2017 Accomplishments	Value
Population	57,291	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	128
Acres of Forest Land	39,156	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	31
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	23,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	9
Number of NIPF Landowners	20,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	25
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2
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	6,440
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	730,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

The Cooperative Fire Protection program continues to fund fire prevention and safety outreach education programs to schools and community organizations, as well as fire readiness and safety equipment/supplies.

Forest Health Protection

Forest Health Protection

The Cooperative Forest Health Protection & Invasive Plant Management (CFHP-IP) Program continues to monitor and manage all Forestry Plots within the ASCC-ACNR compound and closely collaborate with the ASCC-ACNR GIS Specialist to use the new UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) to map areas infested with invasive species. CFHP-IP is the first local environmental agency to utilize this tool to post-process imagery captured from UAV/sensors into a geo-referenced map. This UAV technology will help the CFHP-IP staff and other Forestry staff to easily identify invasive species threatening American Samoa's forests, especially on steep mountain slopes. The UAV was able to map 34 acres of infested area at Maloata. The CFHP-IP crew and other Forestry program staff were able to eradicate a total of 53 trees, 220 saplings, and 285 seedlings of Mexican rubber tree (*Castilla elastica*).

Forest Stewardship

Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program continues to provide the people of American Samoa appropriate science based and timely information and services in the areas of Community and Natural resources. FSP Program hosted 14 elementary school tours last year, with a total of 867 students. The Forestry greenhouse is one of the largest nurseries in the Pacific. FSP staff and other Forestry staff joined efforts to continue greenhouse activities such as seed collection, propagation, transplanting, and distribution of plants to private and communal landowners for beautification, reforestation, coastal management, shade, agro-forest, and watershed improvement purposes. FSP/Forestry staff propagated 5,492 seedlings, transplanted 2,681 plants, and distributed 3,225 plants of 13 different species.

Urban and Community Forestry

Urban Community Forestry Program (UCF)

The UCF program hosted the Le Tausagi Environmental Camp. Le Tausagi Group is made up of local and federal environmental agencies, including DOC, DYWA, NOAA, NRCS, AS-NPS, AS-EPA, AS-DMWR, AND AS-DOE. A total of 35 youth participants and 11 volunteers attended this camp. In addition, UCF participated in six other events to focus attention on the importance of the environment, the trees and forests and the impacts of forest threats on the land and the people. These events included Farm

Safety Day, Village Coral Reef Transect 100 Year celebration, Summer Youth Education Program, DOC Coastal Week, NOAA Explorer Research Vessel; and National Marine Sanctuary Summer Science Program. A total of 1,250 participants in all events. In addition to outreach, UCF, CRAG and NOAA agencies joined efforts in implementing two new rain gardens at the American Samoa Community College campus. These rain gardens reduced flooding and erosion in the vicinity of the main campus resulting from water runoff during heavy rain.

Contact Information



American Samoa Forestry Division

Mary L Taufete'e
Forestry Program Manager
P.O. Box 5319 ASCC/AHNR
Pago Pago, AS 96799
011-684-699-1575
marytaufetee@yahoo.com

US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region

Kathleen Stearns Friday
Forest Legacy/Stewardship Program Manager
USDA Forest Service
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
808-854-2620
kfriday@fs.fed.us
