



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Federated States of Micronesia 2018



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2017 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$30,000
Forest Legacy	\$565,000
Forest Stewardship	\$97,062
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$159,922
State Fire Assistance	\$30,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$85,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$966,984</b>

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

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) comprise a vast region of over 600 islands spanning 1,678 miles. It is located in the western Pacific in the Caroline Islands, north of the equator, east of Palau and west of the Marshall Islands. The FSM is an independent nation that includes four States: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. The FSM maintains strong ties with the United States, with which it has a compact of free Association. Of the country's population, 50% live on Chuuk, 33% on Pohnpei, 10% in Yap and 7% in Kosrae. The States have a significant level of autonomy with ownership of land and aquatic areas varying between states. In Kosrae and Pohnpei, land is both privately and state owned, with aquatic areas being managed by the States and public trusts. In Chuuk, most land and aquatic areas are privately owned and acquired through inheritance, gift, or more recently, by purchase. In Yap almost all land and aquatic areas are owned or managed by individual estates and usage is subject to traditional control. These land and aquatic tenure systems have critical bearing on the strategic actions required to sustainably manage and protect the natural resources of these islands. Responsibility for environmental issues is shared between the national and state governments. Invasive species affect all aspects of society, including the protection and use of natural resources, and they are a significant threat. This report concerns the ongoing USFS Federal programs (Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Forest Health and Forest Legacy programs), to enhance program awareness with committee members and island communities. The report highlights the goals and objectives of each program to be implemented with partners and agencies of each island state and national government, providing a synopsis of the deliverables required of the programs. At this time all the federal program grants are awarded directly to the states' implementing agencies for program activities.

## Program Goals

- Goals in the Forest Action Plan are derived from the overarching FSM National Strategic Development Plan's Agriculture Sectoral Strategic Goals (1st to 4th) and Environment Sectoral Strategic Goals (5th to 7th and 9th). These provide guidance to the FSM and four State Forestry agencies in partnership with local, national and regional partners to collaborate on achieving the FSM Forestry Program goals:
- Sustainable Resource Management
- Environmental awareness and education
- Biosecurity
- Capacity building

**Key Issues**

**Forest Facts and Accomplishments**

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2017 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	106,836	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	86
Acres of Forest Land	135,668	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	0
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	69,500	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	0
Number of NIPF Landowners	0	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	14
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	29,312	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	5
Number of Rural Fire Departments	4	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	39	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4
Forest Based Employment	0	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	12,574
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,236
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

**Program Highlights**

**Cooperative Fire Protection**

YAP: The program continues to establish low fuel zones and shaded fuel breaks to reduce the contiguous area of highly flammable vegetation to limit the size of areas burnt by wildfires; as well as a fire prevention and education program. This year communities established shaded fuel breaks by planting over 5,000 tree seedlings in fire prone savannah sites, along with establishing low fuel zones. Two communities continued to monitor and maintain 12,000 tree seedlings that were planted to establish shaded fuel breaks in previous years. One Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed. Six community members were selected for a technical assistance study tour in Orlando, Florida. They were able to learn information of wildfire prevention, mitigation and education and suppression management systems used in the U.S.

**Federated States of Micronesia Agriculture Census**

Agriculture Census data entry already completed in Kosrae and Pohnpei states, and now moving to Yap and Chuuk States to start their entry program, and once all complete, final report will share publicly after completion.

**Forest Health Protection**

FSM-Wide: Mapping of *Phellinus noxious* in the FSM states assisted and completed by Dr. Phil Cannon of the USDA Forest Service and support staff in the states.

POHNPEI: The Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) continues the implementation of the invasive plant management program as prioritized in Pohnpei's Strategic Action Plan, focusing on ivy gourd (*Coccinia grandis*), Chain of Love (*Antigonon leptopus*), and Bengal trumpet vine (*Thunbergia grandiflora*). During 2017, all known populations were visited and treated, and there were no new sightings of these species at new sites.

YAP: In August, it was confirmed that little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) had been found on Yap. In September, the Governor issued an emergency declaration. Expertise and funding was obtained in late 2017, and it is hoped that eradication can be achieved in 2 to 3 years.

**Forest Inventory & Analysis**

Forest Inventory & Analysis completed in the FSM in 2017.

### **Forest Stewardship**

YAP: Division of Agriculture and Forestry is working with multiple agencies (The Nature Conservancy, Yap Cap, Micronesia Conservation Trust, USDA Forest Service, and Yap Institute of Natural Science) and Weloy Community to establish and declare the Weloy Forest Stewardship Conservation Area. The area covered by the Weloy Forest Stewardship Plan is 228.6 acres; 9.88 acres of it are within the High Priority Area and 217.09 acres are within the Priority Area. The plan is to help the community foster better stewardship of the Weloy Forest and conserve and enhance the ecosystem services and functions that serve values to them.

POHNPEI: Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and partners completed two Conservation Area Plan (CAP) workshops with two communities in Pohnpei: Pohnuhs community in Kitti municipality, and Sapwohn community in Sokehs municipality. The process of CAP workshop includes meeting with the community, identifying community key partners, identifying their natural resources targets, threats that affect their targets, situation analysis, conservation strategies, and developing their work plan to address the needs to improve and better their natural resources. The two communities' CAPs are still in draft, and once final will be shared with all partners. Also, the Pohnpei state watershed steering committee met quarterly and set their action items that needed to help management of the forest reserve. 2017 forest monitoring shows that there's only one forest clearing found in the reserve. This shows that farmers are aware of the impacts of clearing and they are starting to move down below the watershed area.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

YAP: The breadfruit tree plays a major role in diet for Yap Main Island and its Outer Islands, and is a key staple food. Breadfruit trees are not only sources of food, as the wood is used for craft materials. Today Yap and its Outer Islands have seen a decline in the number of breadfruit trees due to an increase in the number and severity of typhoons and drought. The U&CF program assisted six communities in the development and implementation of breadfruit tree projects to address their needs. The U&CF Program provided 922 breadfruit seedlings, which were planted by the selected communities. The goal for the project is to increase sustainable local food production, preserve the knowledge of traditional planting methods, and mitigate the impacts of climate change to our island communities.

POHNPEI: An U&CF project was established in Peidie Community in Sokehs Municipality. Peidie includes the fragile mangrove ecosystem, the only fairly intact stand left in Sokehs. They took the lead in the process of establishing the first mangrove reserve in Sokehs. Their main goal is to protect their community from destructive dredging activities at the neighboring communities. The process started out with an outreach program on natural resources management, bringing together state government, non-government organizations, municipal government and traditional leaders. During the outreach program, they show interest in protecting their nearshore resources. The Forestry office provided planting and cleaning materials through U&CF to do complementary activities that can support the legislation process and community mobilization. The Forestry office also provides seedlings for coastal stabilization and shade trees for the community. Due to U&CF the community mobilized and conducted two community clean-ups and the Sokehs municipal government pushed through the legislation of the mangrove reserve. The seedlings provided were already planted and forestry is now monitoring survival.

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## **Contact Information**



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