



Northern Mariana Islands



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2011 Final
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	0
Forest Legacy	0
Forest Stewardship	0
State Fire Assistance	92,000
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	23,200
Urban and Community Forestry	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance	0
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	0
Total	115,200

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

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of CNMI's forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis were extracted from its newly developed "Forest Action Plan (SWARS)", addressing Conservation, Protection and Enhancement of forest settings, wildlife and water resources. The goal is to maintain and improve the health of CNMI's landscape and its relation to the current economies.

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery, Increase values through Sustained productivity of forests, and Are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues:

- To Educate and Train Land managers and Forest Staff in managing natural resources, Increase involvement between Government and Private Agencies Increase island wide conservation practices, emphasizing economical and environmental values and Protection of limestone forest ecosystem thru suppressing known / recognize invasive species, Enhance green spaces within the core and periphery of urban setting, Expand forestry program through the guidance of forestry managers, stake holders and cooperators

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2011 Accomplishments	
Population	69,221	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	8
Acres of Forest Land	74,132	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	20
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	4,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	20
Number of NIPF Landowners	680	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	4,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	8	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	0
Cities and Towns	4	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	21
Forest Based Employment	5	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	39,844
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	1,627
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	115,000		

Program Highlights:

Conservation Education

With its limited funding, conservation education has focused its outreach through reprinting of posters and pamphlets as giveaways to schools and interested individuals, during presentations and project implementations. Forestry managers and coordinators continue to seek ways to improve effectiveness in reaching various communities through the use of these educational materials.

Cooperative Fire Protection

The submitted and completed Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been implemented throughout the funded period. Completion of this plan was one of the top three "Protection" strategies in the CNMI's "Forestry Action Plan." With many changes in the administrative portion, challenges in the program delivery remain constant whereas the suppression and extinction of wildfires are a priority. This year, more than a hundred acres of grassland fire were suppressed successfully.

Forest Health Protection

This funded programs made it possible for the CNMI to address four of the top ten pests and diseases in the assessment portion of its “Forestry Action Plan:” Cuban slug (*Veronicella cubensis*), Erythrina Gall-wasp (*Quadrastichus erythrinae*), Coconut rhinoceros (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) and other fungal diseases such as “Root-rot and Butt-rot”. CNMI is very prone to infestation, due to the fact that Guam was recently noted to have existing pest – detrimental to any given forest ecosystem. Methodologies in protecting of our fragile forest ecosystem is currently in-discussion with other pertinent agencies along with Guam Entomologists Dr. Reddi, Dr. Schlub and Dr. Moore. In addition, the invasive specie known as Ivy Gourd (*Coccinia grandis*) continues to top the invasive species list in the CNMI “Forestry Action Plan”. The released of biological agents (*Acythopeous c.* and *Millitia o.*), continues to suppress the spread and expansion of these particular weed. Although the suppression continues to impact the spread, these invasive plants remains a threat to our limestone ecosystem. The collaboration between the CNMI government agencies, NMC-CREES and UOG- Agro Life Science, continues to work with CNMI-Forestry in tackling and controlling additional listed invasive species, using biological agents to reduce cost and time.

Forest Stewardship

Eight (8) Landowners were given full assistance with this program’s benefits. These assistances were in a form of planting materials, technical and educational components. Currently, these landowners are reaching out for additional assistance in silvicultural and agrisilviculture systems to meet needs on their limited land spaces. These practiced systems are all under the Agro forestry practices, which is now the most ideal method of addressing landowner’s needs. The FSP Advisory Councils are reviewing strategies in meeting the Landowner’s requests. The State-Wide Action Plan are currently being utilized for program directions, as “enhancing outreach to private landowners” is the #2 “Enhance” strategy

Urban and Community Forestry

Under the direction of the Departments of Lands and Natural Resources, CNMI Forestry, Forestry Advisory Councils and various volunteers were able to continue reaching communities through planting projects, such as Neighborhood Greening, School grounds beautification, Roadside and Beach Planting projects. This implemented the CNMI’s #3 “Enhance” strategy for “existing tree stand on Parks and Recreational Places.” These activities increase the public awareness’s in the care of the natural resources such as trees, shrubs and hedges for island wide-beautification and enhancement purposes. Partnership between government and private entities continues to work in harmony to achieve the UCF goals and objectives. Currently, non-profit groups were to aid the enhancement and protection of CNMI’s environmental concern. These groups are currently working with CNMI Forestry to address urban runoffs and urban forest stabilization.

For more information contact:



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