



# American Samoa



## State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

American Samoa is located in the South Pacific, just east of the International Date Line (lat. 14° 18' S. and long. 170° 41'E.). These islands are approximately 1,000 miles south of the equator and 2,500 miles south of Hawaii, 1,600 miles from New Zealand and 4,200 miles from Los Angeles. There are 5 islands and 2 atolls that make up American Samoa: Tutuila (54 sq. mi.), Aunu'u (.6 sq. mi.), Ofu (2.8 sq. mi.), Olosega (2.1 sq. mi.), Ta'u (17.7 sq. mi.), Swain's atoll (1 sq. mi.) and Rose atoll (.2 sq. mi.). The Manu'a island group (Ofu, Olosega and Ta'u) is approximately 60 mi. from Tutuila. The highest point in American Samoa is Mt. Lata on Ta'u Island, which is 3166 ft (965 m). Tutuila's highest point is Mt. Matafao at 2142 ft (653 m).

American Samoa has a maritime climate with abundant rain ranging from 125 in. to over 250 in. per year depending of the specific area and island. The driest months are June through September and the wettest December through March. The temperature ranges from 70° to 90° with nearly 100% humidity throughout the year. The coolest weather coincides with the dry season and the warmest weather with the wet season. Heavy rain showers can occur all year and often cause damage such as flooding, landslides, electrical power failures and road and culvert damage. Hurricanes are fairly common, occurring generally once every decade. The population is approximately 62,000, the majority of which is on the island of Tutuila.

### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

	FY-04 Final Federal	FY-04 Final Match	FY-05 Estimate Federal	FY-05 Estimate Match
Forest Health Protection	\$50,000	\$19,900	\$45,000	\$8,400
Cooperative Fire Protection – State	\$225,000	-	\$125,000	-
Cooperative Fire Protection – Vol.	-	-	-	-
Forest Resource Management	\$4,500	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$3,600
Reforestation, Nurseries & Genetic Res. Forest	\$15,088	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$9,000
Stewardship Program	\$6,500	\$5,800	\$45,000	\$3,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$165,000	\$125,200	\$160,000	\$190,000
Natural Resource Conservation Education	\$10,000	\$10,519	\$15,000	\$8,500
Forest Legacy Assessment of Needs	\$5,000	\$1,667	-	-
Forest Land Enhancement Program	\$68,000	\$30,000	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$324,088</b>	<b>\$216,086</b>	<b>\$247,222</b>	<b>\$222,500</b>

*\*American Samoa matches \$1 for \$1 for the amount over \$200,000.*

The Cooperative Forestry Programs are administered and implemented through a partnership with the Territory of American Samoa Community College/Community & Natural Resources Forestry Department; DPA Fire Department, the USDA Forest Service, and several other private and government entities. These programs are designed to promote the health and productivity of American Samoa's forestlands, educational system and rural economies. Emphasis is placed on public education and tree planting, agroforestry, water resources, coastal stabilization, community beautification, wildlife, and conservation practices. The goals are to help maintain and improve the health of American Samoa's community trees, rainforests, and to conserve all natural resources.

These programs are effective because they:

- Are culturally sensitive to the values and decision-making processes of American Samoans
- Reduce costs through the use of partnerships
- Raise awareness about the values of forests and natural resources and,
- Are voluntary and use non-regulatory approaches.
- An avenue that brings people together to share and explore other opportunities in forestry and resource management.

### Key Issues:

- Establish the Forest Legacy Program because we are interested in saving the threatened lowland rainforest areas.

- Conduct assessment of the forest damage in Manu'a Islands by Cyclone Olaf February 16-17, 2005.
- Implement a recovery program for restoration of the forests, trees, and vegetation in Manu'a Islands.
- Provide education and administration skills for American Samoans in the natural resource management.
- Enhance technical skills through training programs such as GPS/GIS, tree identification, forest management and invasive species.
- Improve collaborative partnerships through combined Territory wide programs and projects.
- Increase island wide awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship and education.
- Development of a re-forestation-memorial project at John Kneubal's land under Leslie Wood's management in Taputimu.
- Eradication of golden dodder invasive species at Leone as well as other invasive species in Manu'a Islands.



### Highlights:

- Arbor Week 2004 activities reached over 300 students, teachers and interested local farmers attending the closing day ceremonies. The local television and newspaper highlighted the event for a week.
- American Samoan Forestry crewmember (Falaniko Mika) was instrumental in assisting the completion of Saipan's and Kosrae's Forestry Inventory Assessments.
- Our greenhouse in Manu'a (Ta'u) is being constructed and will allow us to increase our productivity in Manu'a significantly.
- The focus of our forestry program this year is to assist the educational endeavours in Manua High School and elementary schools including the dissemination of information and technical services to the community.
- Establishment of the forestry trail at land grant station as an eco-tourist site for school tours to hike and study the environment.
- Educate government and political leaders about the importance of caring for the forestlands and its resources, now and the future.

### Selected Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts		Selected Results	
Population	62,000	Stewardship Plans Prepared	65
Acres of Forest Land	43,500	Area Under Stewardship Plans (2004) (Acres)	52
Acres of Non-Industrial Private Forest Land	23,000	Area Under Stewardship Plans (All yrs) (Acres)	1,4000
Number of NIPF Landowners	10,000	Rural Acres Planted	30
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	n/a	Technical Assists to Private Landowners (2004)	315
Acres of Private Land Under Fire Protection	n/a	Acres Surveyed for Forest Health (acres)	1500
Number of Cities and Towns	73	Acres Protected from Insect & Disease damage	6
Forest Based Employment	n/a	Cities and Urban Areas Assisted	39
Territorial Forestry Budget	\$324,088	Technology transfer and Workshops (seat hrs)	20,000

### For more information contact:

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