



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

	FY 2004 Final	FY 2004 Final	FY 2005 Estimate	FY 2005 Estimate
Programs	SPF	NFP	SPF	NFP
Coop Forest Health Management	\$59,000	\$59,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Coop Forest Health Management (Prevention & Suppression)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
State Fire Assistance	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Fire Assistance	-	-	-	-
Forest Stewardship Program	\$106,002	\$106,002	\$70,000	\$70,000
Forest Legacy Program	-	-	-	-
Urban and Community Forestry	\$140,259	\$140,259	\$118,300	\$118,300
Economic Action Programs	-	-	-	-
PNW Assistance Program	-	-	-	-
Forest Resource Information and Analysis	-	-	-	-
Forest Land Enhancement Program	\$68,666	\$68,666	-	-
TOTAL	\$423,927	\$423,927	\$293,300	\$293,300

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), 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 focuses on timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices. The goal is to maintain and improve the health of CNMI's urban and rural forests and related economies. These programs:

- *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:

Key issues which state and federal programs will address together in the next few years include:

- Educate and train forest staff in managing natural resources
- Increase involvement between government and private agencies,
- Replace/replant damaged trees within the core and periphery of the urban setting,
- Increase island wide planting emphasizing economical and environmental values,
- Suppress known and potential invasive species from altering the limestone forest ecosystem, and
- Expand forestry program through the guidance of forestry managers, stake holders, and cooperators.

Forest Facts and 2004 Accomplishments

SELECTED FACTS		FY 2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
Population	72,895	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	1
Acres of Forest Land	20,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	5
Acres of NonIndustrial Private Forest Land	4,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	5
Number of NIPF Landowners	680	Multi-resource practices implemented on NIPF - Acres	5
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	-	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted SPF NFP	-
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	-	State Fire – Communities Assisted SPF NFP	-
Number of Rural Fire Departments	-	Coop Forest Health – Acres Protected SPF NFP	-
Number of Cities and Towns	66	Coop Forest Health – Acres Surveyed SPF NFP	75,027
Forest Based Employment	12	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition - Acres	-
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	-	Urban Forestry-Participating communities	39
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	365,261	Urban Forestry –Volunteer Assistance Generated-Days	-
PNW-Communities working under broad-based local strategic	-	EAP-Communitis working under broad-based local strategic plans	3

Program Highlights:

Urban and Community Forestry: Under the direction of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, CNMI Forestry, Forestry Advisory Councils and various volunteers were able to continue reaching communities through planting projects, such as Arbor Month, Neighborhood Greening, Beach Planting and Roadside Beautification projects. These activities increase the public’s awareness in the care of natural resources, such as trees, shrubs and hedges for island-wide beautification purposes. Partnerships between government and private entities continues to achieve the CNMI UCF goals and objectives. Non-profit groups are being organized to aid in the enhancement and protection of CNMI’s growing environmental concern. These groups are currently working with CNMI Forestry to address urban runoff and forest stabilization.

Cooperative Fire Protection: No report provided.

Landowner Assistance: Five landowners were given full assistance with the FSP and the FLEP program. The provided assistance was in the form of plant materials, technical expertise and education. Currently, these landowners are reaching out for additional assistance in silviculture and agrisilviculture systems to meet needs on their limited land spaces. These practiced systems are all under the agroforestry 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. Their 5-year plans are currently under review for finalization.

Forest Health Protection: Due to the present circumstances, the invasive species known as Ivy Gourd (*Coccinia grandis*) continues as the number one invasive species in the CNMI. Although the release of *Acythopeous cocciniae* to control the ivy gourd is successful, its effect is taking longer than initially expected, thus the vine continues to pose a threat to the forest ecosystem. The collaboration between the CNMI and Guam continues to strengthen the effort to control invasive species using biological means.

Since ivy gourd has been established for more than two years, using biological control is the only option to minimize the continuing spread. The intent to introduce another insect (*Acythopeus burkhartorum*) for biocontrol is in the planning stages. The introduction of *A. burkhartorum* would aid in the control of *C. grandis* in the CNMI.

Forest Health Protection (Prevention and Suppression): This program made it possible for the CNMI to address additional issues on invasive species including the contracting of a professional and recognized entomologist to provide consultation and technical support to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources - Forestry. Currently, additional avenues to control the invasive species *Mimosa invisa* using another insect (*Heterophylla spinulosa*) are being explored.

Economic Action Programs: No report provided.

For more information contact:

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