



MARCH 22, 2016

# EXAMINING THE SPENDING PRIORITIES AND MISSIONS OF THE FOREST SERVICE IN THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET PROPOSAL

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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## HEARING CONTENTS:

Hearing Memo

[\[View pdf\]](#)

Subcommittee Hearing Notice

[\[View pdf\]](#)

Thomas Tidwell

Chief, U.S. Forest Service

[\[View pdf\]](#)

[\[View pdf\]](#)

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# Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman  
Hearing Memorandum

March 21, 2016

To: All, Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Brent Blevins  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands x6-7736

Hearing: Budget oversight hearing on “*Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.*”

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The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a budget oversight hearing on the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) budget request and other spending as it relates to U.S. Forest Service. The hearing will take place on **March 22, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in 1324 Longworth**. The hearing will focus on agency priorities and accountability, appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, as well as the future mission of the Forest Service.

## Policy Overview

- With our national debt currently exceeding **\$19.1 trillion**<sup>1</sup>, the Obama Administration’s overall federal budget, including more than **\$5 billion**<sup>2</sup> for the Forest Service, continues a trend of irresponsible federal spending, while failing to address ongoing problems on Forest Service land.
- The budget seeks millions of new taxpayer dollars to purchase more federal lands despite massive maintenance backlogs and failed stewardship of current lands. According to the budget justification, the Forest Service has a **deferred maintenance backlog exceeding \$5 billion**.<sup>3</sup>
- The Forest Service’s annual timber harvest for FY15 was 2.9 billion board feet, which is **less than a quarter of the timber harvest in 1989**.<sup>4</sup> This reduction in management can be **linked to the declining health of our nation’s forests**.
- The President’s FY17 Budget significantly **expands federal land acquisition** with a significant increase and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The proposal also requests almost \$128 million from LWCF be appropriated to the Forest Service for land acquisition, more than double the enacted amount in FY16.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.treasurydirect.gov/NP/debt/current>

<sup>2</sup> Page B-2, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/FY-2017-FS-budget-justification.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/documents/sold-harvest/reports/2015/2015\\_Q1-Q4\\_CandS\\_SW.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/documents/sold-harvest/reports/2015/2015_Q1-Q4_CandS_SW.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Pages 39 and 40, *Forest Service, FY 2017 Budget Justification*

- Thought it is not reflected in the President’s budget proposal, the effects of **litigation** on the Forest Service have been paralyzing. The Forest Service engages in lengthy analysis in order to reduce the possibility of litigation, which reduces the emphasis on active management.
- The Forest Service has touted the environmental and social benefits of a robust and responsible grazing program, yet the Administration is **proposing reductions in range management while increasing fees.**

**Invited Witness**

*Thomas Tidwell*  
 Chief, U.S. Forest Service  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 Washington, DC

**Budget Overview**

The Forest Service is responsible for managing 193 million acres of land in 155 National Forests, 20 National Grasslands and 8 National Monuments in 44 states and territories (equivalent of ten percent of the continental U.S. land base).<sup>6</sup> Within this area, the agency manages 442 wilderness areas encompassing 36 million acres. The Forest Service is entrusted with a multiple-use mission and claims activities on Forest Service lands contribute \$36 billion to America’s economy each year and supports nearly 450,000 jobs.<sup>7</sup> In 2015, the agency employed more than **32,000 Full Time Employees** (FTEs).<sup>8</sup>

**FY16 President’s Request \$5.78 billion**  
**FY16 Enacted \$6.36 billion\*** (*\*Included a one-time deposit of \$823 million into the FLAME suppression account and a one-time increase of \$600 million for wildfire suppression.*)  
**FY17 President’s Request \$6.22 billion\*\*** (*\*\*includes a fire transfer repayment cap contingency of \$864 million*)<sup>9</sup>

The President’s total FY17 discretionary request for the Forest Service is \$4.94 billion, a decrease of \$130 million from FY16 enacted. The Administration is also requesting an additional \$864 million as a Wildland Fire Suppression Cap adjustment to pay for the largest and expensive fires (**roughly one percent of all Forest Service fires**).

*National Forest System Funding*

The FY17 budget request for the National Forest System is \$1.509 billion, \$8 million fewer dollars than the enacted FY16 level. This figure includes: \$131 million for Law

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<sup>6</sup> *Forest Service Snapshot, Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*  
<sup>7</sup> *Forest Service Snapshot, Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*  
<sup>8</sup> *FTE Information provided by FS Budget Staff.*  
<sup>9</sup> *Page B-2 of Overview-- Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

Enforcement Operations; \$76.4 million for Minerals and Geology Management, a 2 percent decrease from FY16; \$50 million for grazing management, a 10 percent decrease from FY16; \$263.9 million for recreation management; \$60 million for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration; and \$127 million in Land Acquisition<sup>10</sup>

### *Wildland Fire Management*

The FY16 budget requests \$2.45 billion, a \$65.1 million increase over FY16 enacted levels. It must be noted that this does not include the one-time appropriation of \$283 million to the FLAME reserve account.

This account includes: \$1.08 billion in preparedness and \$873.9 million for suppression, an eight percent increase of FY16 enacted levels. The Administration requests for the hazardous fuels program is \$384.1 million for wildfire prevention treatments in near communities with a projected target of 1.8 million acres treated.<sup>11</sup> The budget request for State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance is flat at \$78 million and \$13 million respectfully.<sup>12</sup>

### *Forest and Rangeland Research*

The FY17 budget requests \$291.9 million; an increase of \$900,000 over the FY16 enacted level for forest and rangeland research, which includes areas such as wildland fire behavior, the spread of invasive species, and watershed protection.

### *State and Private Forestry*

The FY17 budget requests \$234 million, a decrease of \$3 million over the FY16 enacted level.<sup>13</sup> This includes reductions in the Forest Health Management Program, Urban and Community Forestry Program and International Forestry Program and increases in the Forest Legacy Program (conservation easements) and Landscape Scale Restoration Program.<sup>14</sup> Approximately \$62 million would be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

### *Capital Improvement and Maintenance*

The FY17 budget requests \$343.3 million for the Forest Service's principle construction and maintenance account for roads and facilities, a decrease of \$21 million from the FY16 enacted level.<sup>15</sup> The Roads budget, important for access to forest health treatments and firefighting, is cut by more than \$22 million or 13 percent.<sup>16</sup> The Forest Service proposes to reduce the number of miles of roads maintained by the agency by almost 5,000 from FY15.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Page 228 of Land Acquisition, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>11</sup> Page 283 of Wildland Fire Management, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>12</sup> Pages 298 and 303 of Wildland Fire Management, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>13</sup> Page 89 of State & Private Forestry, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>14</sup> Page 89 of State & Private Forestry, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>15</sup> Page 211 of Capital Improvements & Maintenance, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>16</sup> Page 224 of Capital Improvements & Maintenance, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>17</sup> Page 224 of Capital Improvements & Maintenance, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

### *Secure Rural Schools*

The budget requests a reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools program through FY19 and requests \$279 million for FY17.<sup>18</sup> The budget proposal includes a phase-out of the program, but does not include a legislative proposal for achieving this goal.

### *Fire Borrowing*

The Administration again proposes a fire borrowing cap adjustment, noting that FY16 was the first year where a majority of the agency's spending was on fire suppression. This is the third consecutive year that the President's budget has included a proposal that would allow for 30 percent of the 10-year average of fire suppression costs to be off-budget. The House passed H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forest Act, in July 2015<sup>19</sup> which includes language that would allow the Forest Service to access the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) in order to eliminate the practice of fire borrowing.

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<sup>18</sup> Page 337 of Payments to Communities, *Forest Service FY 2017 Budget Justification*

<sup>19</sup> <http://naturalresources.house.gov/hr2647/>

March 15, 2016

☆☆☆ Hearing Notice ☆☆☆

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Members, Subcommittee on Federal Lands  
**From:** The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman  
**Subject:** Oversight Hearing – March 22, 2016

On **Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold an oversight hearing entitled *“Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal.”*

Thomas Tidwell, Chief of the Forest Service, will testify at the hearing.

If you need further information, please contact Aniela Butler, Clerk, Subcommittee on Federal Lands at (202) 226-7736.

The use of cellular telephones is prohibited on the Committee dais or in the Committee hearing rooms during the meeting of the Committee pursuant to Rule 3(m) of the Committee Rules. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities, including assistive listening systems, interpreters, and materials in alternate formats, may be arranged by contacting the Committee in advance of the scheduled event (4 business days notice is requested) at voice (202) 225-2761; or 1324 Longworth House Office Building (HOB), Washington, D.C. 20515-6201.

**Statement of Tom Tidwell, Chief of the USDA Forest Service**  
**Before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands**  
**Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President's**  
**Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal**  
**March 22, 2016**

Mister Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me here today to testify on the President's (FY) 2017 Budget request for the Forest Service. I appreciate the support this Subcommittee has shown for the Forest Service in the past. I look forward to continuing to work together with members of the Subcommittee to ensure that stewardship of our Nation's forests and grasslands continues to meet the desires and expectations of the American people. I am confident that this budget will allow the Forest Service to meet our mutual goals while demonstrating fiscal restraint, efficiency, and cost-effective spending.

***Budget Request and Focus Areas***

The President's proposed overall budget for discretionary funding for the Forest Service in FY 2017 is \$4.9 billion. That is \$787 million less than the FY 2016 enacted level and reflects strategic investments to reduce wildfire threats to communities and maintain forest restoration investments. The FY 2017 President's Budget for the Forest Service focuses on three strategic goals, as identified in our Strategic Plan for FY 2015–2020<sup>1</sup>: (1) sustaining our Nation's forests and grasslands; (2) delivering benefits to the public; and (3) applying knowledge globally. Below, we outline how our budget for FY 2017 will fund programs corresponding to each strategic goal.

**Strategic Goal 1 -- Sustaining Our Nation's Forests and Grasslands**

The Forest Service responds to the many stressors affecting our landscapes and watersheds by sustaining and restoring healthy, forests and grasslands. By restoration, we mean restoring the functions and processes characteristic of healthier, more resistant, more resilient ecosystems, even if they are not exactly the same ecosystems as before. Our goal is to protect and restore the ability of America's forests and grasslands to deliver all the social, economic, and ecological values and benefits that Americans want and need, both now and for generations to come.

The FY 2017 President's Budget for the Forest Service will fund the treatments and infrastructure needed to protect and restore the most critical landscapes<sup>1</sup>. Our goal is to sustain and restore ecosystems that are capable of (1) furnishing clean and abundant drinking water; (2) resisting damage from fire, drought, floods, and insects and diseases; and (3) maintaining a strong productive capacity, thereby supporting economic opportunities for rural communities. To meet our goal, the FY 2017 President's Budget makes key investments in the following program areas:

- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (\$40 million, the same level as enacted for FY 2016) -- to continue the 23 existing projects, which reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in high-priority, high-risk areas; improve water quality and quantity; increase carbon sequestration; and build on innovative implementation and monitoring work with our partners.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Forest Service Strategic Plan 2015-2020: [www.fs.fed.us/strategicplan](http://www.fs.fed.us/strategicplan).

- Suppression (\$873.9 million, an increase of \$62.9 million above the FY 2016 enacted level) -- this amount represents 70 percent of the 10-year average costs for fire suppression, currently calculated at \$1.248 billion. The proposed cap adjustment would cover the remaining 30 percent of the 10-year average suppression costs as well as any costs currently funded through fire transfers. For FY 2017, the proposed cap adjustment is \$864 million.
- Hazardous Fuels (\$384.1 million, an increase of \$9.1 million above the FY 2016 enacted level) -- focusing on fuels treatments in the wildland/urban interface to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire on 1.8 million acres.
- Land Acquisition Program (\$65.7 million in discretionary funding, \$2.2 million above the FY 2016 enacted level, and \$62.3 million in mandatory funding) to consolidate fragmented lands within National Forest System borders and specially designated areas to support effective land and watershed management. The mandatory funds are part of the President's proposal for Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorization, which calls for full mandatory funding starting in FY 2018.
- Forest Legacy Program (\$62.3 million in discretionary funding, the same as the FY 2016 enacted level and \$37.7 million in mandatory funding) to focus on preventing the parcelization of ownership and conversion of private forests to other land uses. The Forest Legacy Program is a key component of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative to conserve critical landscapes and reconnect Americans to the outdoors through reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund, with full mandatory funding starting in FY 2018.
- Forest Products (\$359.8 million, the same as the FY 2016 enacted level) to accelerate the pace of restoration and continue to work to create healthy landscapes. We anticipate the sale of 3.2 billion board feet of timber with this funding level.

## **Strategic Goal 2. Deliver Benefits to the Public**

The FY 2017 President's Budget will help the Forest Service with our goal to build thriving communities by helping ensure abundant clean water, jobs and flourishing local economies, and opportunities to connect to the outdoors. To meet our goal, the FY 2017 President's Budget makes key investments in the following program areas:

- Landscape Scale Restoration (\$23.5 million, an increase of \$9.5 million above the FY 2016 enacted level) – this increase will fund about 20 more innovative, cross-boundary projects that target high-priority areas identified in the States' forest action plans. This continued investment in cross-boundary, landscape-scale projects on State and private lands will spur innovation, bring partners to the table, support climate change mitigation and adaptation, and allow the agency to leverage partner contributions. This investment will sustain and restore forest health across large landscapes, assist urban communities in protecting their forests, and increase the number of cross-boundary projects.
- Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness (\$264 million, an increase of \$2.2 million above the FY 2016 enacted level). This increase will modernize our recreation special uses program, expand access to the National Forest System, and increase the capacity of our community service and volunteer programs.

- Law Enforcement & Investigations (\$131.6 million, an increase of \$5 million above the FY 2016 enacted level). The funds will support intensive operations at marijuana plantations on the national forests and a comprehensive eradication, dismantling, and reclamation strategy. The additional resources will pay for removing infrastructure, trash, debris, and hazardous materials (such as rodenticides and herbicides) at the plantations and for reclaiming old marijuana sites.
- Facilities (\$71.6 million, a slight increase from the FY 2016 enacted level) to maintain our developed recreation sites and our fire, administrative, and other facilities.
- Secure Rural Schools (SRS)—the administration proposes reauthorization of the act. SRS is an important tool to strengthen economic opportunities for local communities.

### **Strategic Goal 3. Apply Knowledge Globally**

The Forest Service has a long record of land management success, even though we work in complex and changing environments. We attribute our success in part to our world-class expertise in research and development; our capacity to develop new technologies; our innovation in forest products; our ability to conduct resource assessments; and our vast collection of geospatial information, inventory data, and monitoring information.

Through intellectual inquiry and knowledge transfer, the Forest Service will continue offering land managers and others better information, applications, and tools for natural resource management. By improving our fundamental understanding of forests and grasslands, we will make better decisions and better achieve our goals of sustaining the Nation’s forests and grasslands and delivering benefits to the people we serve.

The FY 2017 President’s Budget for the Forest Service will fund the research and development needed to sustain America’s forests and grasslands and to deliver benefits to people. From on-the-ground natural resource management to long-term strategic policy development, all of our efforts to sustain forests and grasslands and to deliver benefits to people depend on new knowledge, information, and applications.

To meet our goal, the FY 2017 President’s Budget makes key investments in the following program areas:

- Forest Inventory and Analysis (\$77 million, an increase of \$2 million from the FY 2016 enacted level) to continue to implement the annualized inventory program in all 50 States (including interior Alaska), the affiliated Pacific islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Land Management Planning, Assessment, and Monitoring (\$183.9 million, a slight decrease from the FY 2016 enacted level). Through implementing the 2012 Planning Rule, we will achieve efficiencies in agency assessment and monitoring activities. The 2012 planning rule promotes a collaborative science-based approach for planning, monitoring, and conducting assessments.
- International Forestry (\$8 million, the same as the FY 2016 enacted level). These funds will support preventing illegal logging internationally, protecting U.S. forests from invasive species, supporting international policy discussions on climate change and the

role of forests and grasslands in greenhouse gas mitigation, and bringing innovative technology developments to the United States.

In connection with the FY 2017 President's Budget, we propose several key legislative changes to improve our effectiveness in delivering programs and services:

- *Fire Suppression Cap Adjustment.* We propose a budget cap adjustment to fund suppression costs for large and complex fires. Suppression would be funded at a level that covers 98 percent of the fires we fight, or 70 percent of our 10-year average suppression costs. Remaining fire costs would be funded through an "off-budget" fire suppression cap adjustment. Off-budget funding would follow from Secretarial declaration of need and the imminent end of appropriated discretionary funds.
- *Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.* We propose increasing the authorized funding level for this successful program from \$40 million to \$80 million which would fund up to 10 additional projects. The legislative proposal also extends the end date of the authority to 2026 to allow for the full implementation of additional projects should the Forest Service receive an increased appropriation.
- *Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.* We propose permanent authorization of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Under the Act, 95 percent of the recreation fees collected on a national forest or grassland are retained at the unit where collected, to be reinvested in recreation sites and services. This is an interagency proposal together with the Department of the Interior. The current act expires on September 30, 2017.
- *Small Tracts Act Conveyance Authority.* We propose establishing additional categories of NFS land which the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to sell, interchange or exchange, if in the public interest. By tying to the existing Small Tracts Act, the Forest Service will be better equipped to resolve landownership and management challenges, save limited resources, address community needs, and to move appropriate lands into private ownership. It would also minimally increase the maximum value of the land that could be conveyed to better align with current land values.
- *Land and Water Conservation Fund.* The Administration proposes permanent authorization for annual mandatory funding, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Land and Water Conservation Fund programs beginning in FY 2018. Starting in FY 2018, \$900 million annually in mandatory funds would become available. In FY 2017, our budget proposes \$900 million in total Land and Water Conservation Fund funding, comprising \$425 million in mandatory and \$475 million in discretionary funds. Proposed language will be transmitted to Congress shortly.
- *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.* We support Congress reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 making payments through mandatory funding. The funding for extending the act through 2020 is included in our Budget Justification, and we look forward to working with the Committees to develop the legislative proposal.
- *Extension of Grazing Permits.* We propose that the terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108-108 (117 Stat. 1307), which regard grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on any lands not subject to administration under section 402 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752), shall remain in effect for FY 2017. This would address recent amendments to section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and

Management Act and public concerns that the amendments do not apply to grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on the national grasslands and on eastern national forests.

- *Direct-Hire Authority.* We propose Direct-Hire Authority for resource assistant interns who have successfully completed the new Resource Assistant Program. The program is designed to attract recent graduates of institutions of higher education, with particular emphasis on women and on graduates from historically Black, Hispanic, and Native American schools or other schools with diverse student populations. Direct-Hire Authority will give us more flexibility in recruiting successful graduates of the program into our workforce.
- *Grazing Administrative Processing Fees.* The Budget includes appropriations language for a three-year pilot project to allow the Forest Service to recover some of the costs of issuing grazing permits/leases on Forest Service lands. The Forest Service would charge a fee of \$2.50 per Animal Unit Month, which would be collected along with current grazing fees. The fee will assist the Forest Service in processing pending applications for grazing permit renewals. During the period of the pilot, the Forest Service would work through the process of promulgating regulations for the continuation of the grazing administrative fee as a cost recovery fee after the pilot expires. The fees will be credited to the Management of Lands and Resources appropriation. The estimate for 2017 is \$15,000,000.

### **Future Outlook**

The Forest Service serves the American people by ensuring that their forests and grasslands deliver a full range of values and benefits, including hundreds of thousands of jobs and annual contributions to the economy worth many times more than our entire annual discretionary budget.

Now we are facing some of the greatest challenges in our history. Invasive species, climate change effects, regional drought and watershed degradation, fuel buildups and severe wildfires, habitat fragmentation and loss of open space, and devastating outbreaks of insects and disease all threaten the ability of America's forests and grasslands to continue delivering the ecosystem services that Americans want and need. In response, the Forest Service is increasing the pace and scale of ecological restoration. We are working to create healthy, resilient forest and grassland ecosystems capable of sustaining and delivering clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and many other benefits.

Our budget request focuses on restoring resilient landscapes, building thriving communities, and safely managing wildland fire while providing an effective emergency response. Our requested budget will enable us to address the growing extent and magnitude of our management challenges and to furnish the mix of values and benefits that the public expects from the national forests and grasslands. Our budget priorities highlight the need to strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and public/private partnerships that leverage our investments to reach shared goals. Through strategic partnerships, we can accomplish more work while also yielding more benefits for all Americans, for the sake of all generations to come.

This concludes my testimony, Mister Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or the Subcommittee members have for me.

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**114<sup>th</sup> Congress Disclosure Form**  
**As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)**

*Oversight hearing on “Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal” on March 22, 2016*

**For Individuals:**

Name:  
Address:  
Email Address:  
Phone Number:

\* \* \* \* \*

**For Witnesses Representing Organizations:**

Name: Tom Tidwell  
Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: USDA Forest Service  
Business Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Name: Tony Dixon  
Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: USDA Forest Service  
Business Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Email Address: [REDACTED]  
Business Phone Number: [REDACTED]

\* \* \* \* \*

**For Nongovernment Witnesses ONLY:**

1. Please attach/include current curriculum vitae or resume.
2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract.
3. Please list any contracts or payments originating with a foreign government related to the subject matter of the hearing that were received in the current year and previous two calendar years by you or the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

## **Tom Tidwell**

### **Chief, USDA Forest Service**



Tom Tidwell has spent 39 years in the Forest Service. He has served in a variety of positions at all levels of the agency, including as district ranger, forest supervisor, and legislative affairs specialist in the Washington Office. As deputy regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, Tom facilitated collaborative approaches to wildland fire management, roadless area management, and other issues. As regional forester for the Northern Region, Tom strongly supported community-based collaboration in the region, finding solutions based on mutual goals and thereby reducing the number of appeals and lawsuits.

In 2009, after being named Chief, Tom set about implementing the Secretary's vision for America's forests. Under his leadership, the Forest Service is restoring healthy, resilient forest and grassland ecosystems—ecosystems that can sustain all the benefits that Americans get from their wildlands, including plentiful supplies of clean water, abundant habitat for wildlife and fish, renewable supplies of wood and energy, and more.

Such benefits are at risk from the effects of climate change, and Tom has led the way in forging a national response. Under Tom's leadership, the Forest Service has charted a national roadmap for addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation. The Forest Service is taking steps to help ecosystems adapt to the effects of a changing climate while also taking action to mitigate climate change, partly by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Tom has facilitated an all-lands approach to addressing the challenges facing America's forests and grasslands, including the overarching challenge of climate change. Such challenges cross borders and boundaries; no single entity can meet them alone. Under Tom's leadership, the Forest Service is working with states, Tribes, private landowners, and other partners for landscape-scale conservation—to restore ecosystems on a landscape scale.

Tom is married to Kim, and they have one daughter, MacKenzie.

**Tony Dixon**  
**Director of Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability (Budget)**  
**USDA Forest Service**



Tony Dixon, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, is currently the Director for the Strategic Planning, Budget, and Accountability office for the USDA Forest Service, a position he has held since July 2013. In this capacity, he is responsible for management and oversight of the execution, formulation, and presentation of the agency's budget, developing and integrating implementation of the agency strategic plan, and all performance and accountability measures and agency strategic goals.

Tony is a 25-year employee of the US Forest Service and launched his career as a cooperative education student on the Routt National Forest in Steamboat Springs, CO. He has served in a variety of positions and geographical locations, including the National Director of the Forest Service Job Corps Program, Deputy Regional Forester of the Rocky Mountain Region, and Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in Mississippi. He also served as the Deputy Regional Director of Public Affairs in the Atlanta-based Southern Regional Office and held a number of positions in the National Headquarters in Washington, DC, including Program Analyst, Legislative Affairs Specialist, Deputy Area Budget Coordinator, and Chief of Staff for the Deputy Chief of the National Forest System.

Tony has a bachelor's degree in marketing and forestry from Alabama A&M University and a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University. Tony is married to Dr. Angela Cole Dixon, and has one adult son, Christopher.