



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet American Samoa 2020



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$50,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$67,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$30,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$78,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>

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

American Samoa's Forest Action Plan, or Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS), identified five key issues and priority areas for the Forestry Program: 1) Sustainability of urban forests, 2) Protection of coral reefs, 3) Conservation of wetlands, 3) Maintaining fresh water quality, and 5) Conservation of native flora and fauna. Additionally, American Samoa's SWARS identified critical forestry issues along with the resource strategies to address those key issues and priority areas.

## Program Goals

- 1) Sustainability of urban forests; 2) Protection of coral reefs; 3) Conservation of wetlands; 4) Maintaining fresh water quality; 5) Conservation of native flora and fauna.

## Key Issues

- 1) Incoming invasive species (i.e little fire ant).
- 2) Climate change
- 3) Poor environmental stewardship.
- 4) Land use change.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2019 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	57,291	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	223
Acres of Forest Land	39,156	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	9
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	23,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1
Number of NIPF Landowners	20,000	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	0	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	2	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	73	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1
Forest Based Employment	0	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	5,154
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	504
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	230,000		

## Program Highlights

### **Another LSR Success Story**

The Forestry Program completed its Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Watershed Restoration project with the Leone village and churches. The program collaborated with the 6 village Fuaialas' and 4 churches to complete this watershed restoration activity. On June 15th, 2019, the Forestry Program along with the ASCC-ACNR Director Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta, ASCC-ACNR Extension Coordinator Molly Lagai, and other ASCC-ACNR staff members attended the Ava ceremony that initiated the activities for the day. The 6 village Fuaialas' who participated in the project were the Fuaiala Sa Tuitele, Fuaiala Auma, Fuaiala Tuiteleapaga, Fuaiala Sa Ilaoa, Fuaiala Sa Leoso, and the Fuaiala Sa Fai'ivae. The 4 churches who participated in the project were the Leone Catholic Church, Leone Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS), Leone Assembly of God (AOG), and the Leone Latter Day Saints (LDS) church. More than 1.05 tons of solid wastes were removed from the villages main streams and a total of 3 native trees were planted on the watersheds stream corridors for soils stabilization. More than 150 participants from ASCC-ACNR, the Fuaialas', churches, the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA), and student volunteers assisted with the project.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Under the Cooperative Fire Protection, the local Department of Public Safety - Fire Bureau is able to collaborate with the ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program in various fire prevention activities. The DPS – Fire assisted the ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program with their annual Arbor Week celebration from April 1st to April 5th, 2019. On Friday (April 5th, 2019), the ASCC-ACNR Forestry concluded their Arbor Week celebration with the Manulele Elementary outreach presentations and tree planting activities. The DPS – Fire participated in the activities by conducting a fire prevention and safety presentation and a fire truck in action demonstration for the students and teachers. A total of 59 students, 3 teachers, and 1 vice principal participated in the activities. On June 20th, 2019, the DPS – Fire assisted the ASCC-ACNR with the annual Safety Day event where a total of more than 200 youth participants attended. The DPS – Fire conducted a fire prevention presentation and a climate change – wildfires presentation towards the participants. A fire truck in action demonstration was also conducted towards the end of the event. With the support of the Cooperative Fire Protection, the local Fire Bureau and Forestry Program will continue to implement fire prevention activities across American Samoa.

### **Environmental Workshop**

The Forestry Program also co-hosted the Finafinau I Lumana'i Environmental Workshop at the U.S Army Reserve Center on September 12, 2019. A total of 26 participants from all public high schools (Leone, Tafuna, Nu'uuli Vo-Tech, Samoa, and Faga'itua) attended the workshop. In addition, 6 participants from the Independent State of Samoa attended the workshop. The focus of the workshop was to inform the student and teacher participants on environmental stewardship activities and conservation issues here in

American Samoa. The Forestry Program Manager, Mr. DJ Sene, facilitated the second half of the workshop; where the participants had to develop a management project on various environmental issues found in American Samoa.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Little fire ants (*Wasmannia auropunctata*, LFA) were first detected in American Samoa in late 2018. Due to the small area of infestation and the potential harm to American Samoa's economy and environment should LFA spread and establish in the territory, it was decided to initiate intensive control measures to attempt to eradicate the invaders. The program's activities include informing the public to watch out for and report any possible LFA infestations, detection surveys in areas of suspected LFA infestations, delimitation surveys to map infested areas, meetings with families living in infested areas to solicit their cooperation, applications of insecticidal baits to infested areas, and population assessments to document efficacy of the control program. In the July-December 2019 reporting period, a total of 84 people participated in the LFA outreach programs and many more were reached via media PSAs, collaborations were established with families in five of the six infestation areas, delimitation surveys were completed in all six known infested areas, detection surveys were conducted at 14 suspected infestation sites (all negative), and a total of 33 applications of insecticidal baits were completed in five of the six areas. (At the sixth area meetings with the families are continuing to finalize arrangements to allow treatments to begin.) Initial assessments after the second round of bait applications at the largest infestation site found a 94% reduction in LFA prevalence, a promising sign that the methods that have worked in Hawai'i and elsewhere may also succeed in American Samoa. A great deal more work remains, however, and efforts continue to solicit additional funding to scale up the effort.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) staff was able to host two Landowners Day as part of the programs major highlights. The staff were able to travel to Manu'a Islands on March 19 - 21, 2019, to conduct a Landowners Day for Olosega, Sili and Ofu. The staff were able to sign 20 FSP clients for that trip. A total of 25 visited the ACNR Greenhouse for this event. The second Landowners Day was held on Saturday, November 9, 2019. The FSP staff collaborated with the Latter Day Saints church Relief Society Auxiliary in planning and hosting this workshop to encourage housewives to utilize their time in managing the natural resources they have available to them at their homes. A total of 25 landowners were present on that day and were involved in demonstration projects on basic plant care, plant identification, and other Forestry related issues. The staff were able to initiate future restoration projects for some of the landowners present. The FSP staff will continue to follow up on these projects in the next 6 months.

### **Invasive Species Training in Samoa**

Two staff members from the ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program had the opportunity to attend a 5 week training on Invasive Species Management in Samoa. The training was held at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) office in Vaillima, Samoa. Two staff from the Forestry Program (Mr. Simon Stowers and Mr. Galutau Aga) represented ASCC-ACNR and American Samoa as a whole for the training. The training began on September 23rd and concluded on November 22nd, 2019. Staff members were able to collaborate and connect with other invasive coordinators from other Pacific Islands such as Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and more. In addition, staff members were able to develop a strategic action plan in addressing targeted invasive species and other issues within their respective islands.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

The Forestry Program completed its Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Watershed Restoration project with the Pago Pago village and churches. On May 17th, 2019, the Forestry Program implemented its first LSR activity with the Seventh Day Adventist church in removing .310 solid wastes and planted 4 Fetau trees along the harbors coast. On May 18th, 2019, the program implemented its second LSR activity with the Pago Pago Congregation Church of Jesus Christ (CCJS), Methodist, and Baptist churches. A total of 1.74 solid wastes were removed from the main stream and 2 Ifilele trees were planted in the villages riparian zones. On May 25th, 2019, the program implemented its second LSR activity with the Pago Pago Congregation Christian Church of American Samoa (CCAS), Latter Day Saints (LDS), Pentecostal, and Catholic churches. A total of 3.2 tons of solid wastes were removed from the main stream and 2 Malili trees were planted in the villages' riparian zones. A total of 170 youth participants from the churches attended and assisted with the project. A total of 11 volunteer students from the Finafinau group at Samoana High School, 10 volunteer students from the Student Government Association (SGA) at the

American Samoa Community College (ASCC), 1 representative from the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), 4 representatives from the National Parks Service (NPS), and 15 ASCC-ACNR staff members participated in this project. The LSR Watershed Restoration project in the Pago Pago village was a major and complete success. The village and church youth groups were educated on watershed conservation topics and had the opportunity to work with the Forestry Program and other agencies in promoting good environmental stewardship activities. Other watershed projects in other villages were completed as well.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

American Samoa's Urban Community and Forestry (UCF) program completed numerous activities in 2019. A coastal tree planting activity was held at the Tula Elementary on September 27th, 2019, in celebration of the islands Coast Week hosted by the Department of Commerce. A total of 33 students and 2 teachers assisted with the activity and planted 6 Milo trees for coastal stabilization. In addition to Coast Weeks celebration, an outreach presentation was conducted towards 16 Tafuna High School students at the Pala Lagoon. This outreach presentation focused on mangrove protection and conservation, and the impacts of land use changes. The UCF Program conducted a tree planting and outreach activity at the Samoa Baptist Academy on both November 6th and 7th, 2019. A total of 60 students and 2 teachers participated in both events. In honor of Alzheimer's month, the students had the opportunity to combine both art and forestry for the event. A total of 3 foxtail trees were planted on the school compound. With each tree came a tire for barrier and protection. The students painted those tires purple in honor of Alzheimer's. Lastly, three Forestry staff traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii on April 4th - 15th to attend the Arboriculture training and sit the Certification exam held on April 13th, 2019. The staff participated in a weeklong classroom lecture on Arborists Certification and then sit the examination on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at UH Manoa.

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## **Contact Information**



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