



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet American Samoa 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$58,201
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$57,001
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$120,850
State Fire Assistance	\$30,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$77,798
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$343,850

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

American Samoa's Forest Action Plan identified several key issues across the islands. These issues include the following: 1) Sustainability of urban forests; 2) Protection of coral reefs; 3) Conservation of wetlands; 4) Maintaining freshwater quality; and 5) Conservation of native flora and fauna. Priority areas to be addressed by the Forestry program by: protecting and improving air and water quality, wildfire prevention, tree planting activities, conservation education, controlling invasive species, and more.

Program Goals

- 1). Provide assistance to landowners, farmers, community members in managing their lands and resources with systems that reduces ecosystem impacts while increasing land productivity.
- 2). Promote and encourage Forestry Advisory Council meetings, Invasive species group meetings and technical assistance among groups to improve program efficiency and outreach activities for urban and forest landscape areas to coincide with climate change issues in American Samoa.
- 3). Work cooperatively with other environmental partner agencies on projects in managing, securing and protecting important forest resource areas, forests lands priority areas with hence on improving water quality and supply, adaptation to climate change, and other issues.
- 4). Secure consistent supplies of seeds for greenhouse activities, conduct conservation activities, maintain demonstration and nursery plots.
- 5). Build local staff capacity by attending or hosting trainings, conferences, workshops, etc. to improve forestry extension services while seeking internship opportunities and enhance extension capacity building efforts.

Key Issues

- 1) Sustainability of Urban Forests; 2) Protection of Coral Reefs; 3) Conservation of Wetlands; 4) Maintaining Freshwater Quality; 5) Conservation of Native Flora and Fauna
- Another issue during this period was the COVID-19 restrictions, closed borders, and increase in rainfall and tropical storms. All of these issues limited the Forestry Programs ability to implement more projects and conduct more forest outreach and management activities.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	57,291	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	69
Acres of Forest Land	39,156	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	14
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	23,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	10
Number of NIPF Landowners	20,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	15
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	0
Forest Based Employment	0	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	0
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	18
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	230,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

The Department of Public Safety - Fire Bureau (DPS-Fire) continues to work closely with the ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program in conducting outreach education and assessments on fire safety and prevention. The programs assisted with the Special Education tour here at the ACNR compound, where more than 40 SPED students, parents, and teachers visited the Forestry Plots and Fire Demonstrations. In addition, the DPS-Fire conducted a vegetation risk assessments within the Tualauta and Fofu districts, where 26 species were found to be fire prone in those areas.

Forest Health Protection

The Forestry Program overall controlled 246 *Castilla elastica* invasive trees, 808 saplings, and 885 seedlings in control project sites (Malota, Faga'alu, and Ili'ili villages). Method of control varied between girdling or herbicide application (depending on the weather). The Forestry Program also assisted the Entomology Program in addressing the Little Fire Ant (LFA) issue here in American Samoa. As of now, a combined total of 44 applications of insecticidal baits were completed across the six known areas of infestation. Subsequent assessments indicated near 100% reduction (no LFA detected) in five of the six infestations and an 83% reduction in prevalence in the sixth. These are preliminary assessments and much more intensive sampling is required to gain a more accurate and reliable assessment of LFA status in the treatment areas. The program aims to target other invasive plant species and control other sites within the Forest Action Plan priority areas.

Forest Stewardship

The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program have initiated the disassembling of the Forestry Greenhouse in preparation for the installation of a new one. The Forestry Greenhouse has been in a poor and unsafe condition since 2017. Although poor and unsafe, the Forestry Program still continued to serve the community and landowners by providing native seedlings and saplings. This effort will be ongoing until the new greenhouse arrives. The program also continued performing its daily operations such as serving landowner clients, planting trees, greenhouse activities, etc. The Forest Stewardship Program continues to collaborate and work closely with landowners. Forest management efforts, such as promoting agroforestry, were implemented through planting trees and removing unwanted plant species. The program overall collected planted 1,014 seeds, propagated 1,105 seeds, transplanted 761 seedlings, and distributed 559 saplings to more than 39 landowners and greenhouse customers.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Forestry 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. The students planted in honor of Alzheimer's month. In partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, planted a total of 9 native trees at the Faga'alu Park. The event took place on April 22nd, 2020, which was also globally designated as Earth Day. The ASCC-ACNR Forestry Program and fellow Extension staff members planted 3 Flame trees, 3 Fetau trees, and 3 Poumuli trees at the park. Other tree planting activities, outreach presentations, and urban forest management activities were conducted throughout the year.

Contact Information



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