



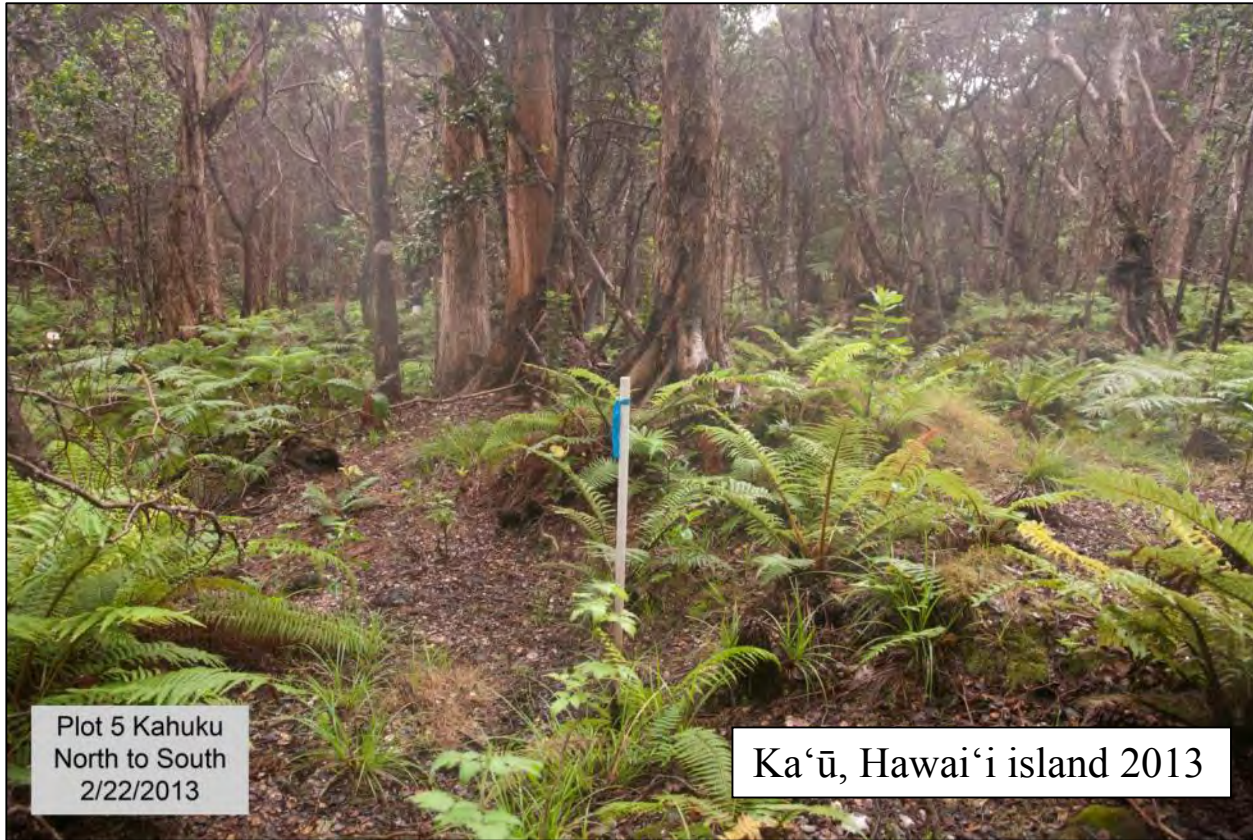
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**Attachments to the Testimony of Dr. Sam 'Ohukani'ōhi'a Gon,
Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Field Hearing on Water Security in Hawai'i, October 18, 2016**

- Attachment 1: Before and After Hawaiian Watershed Photos**
- Attachment 2: Land and Water Conservation Fund Handout**
- Attachment 3: Wildfire Disaster Funding Act Handout**

Before and After Fencing and Animal Control
Selected Priority Hawai'i Watershed Areas



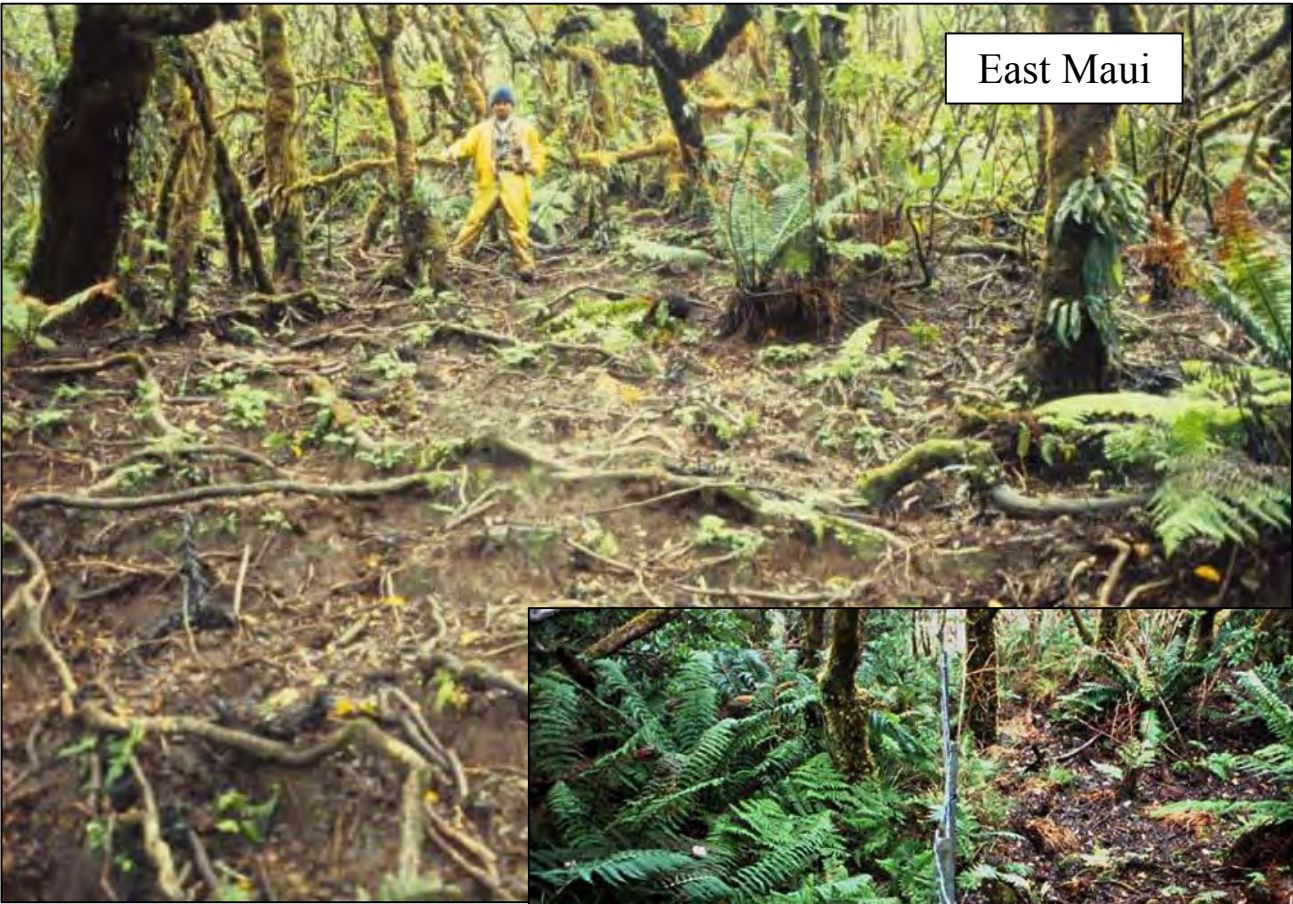
Moloka'i South Slope 2009

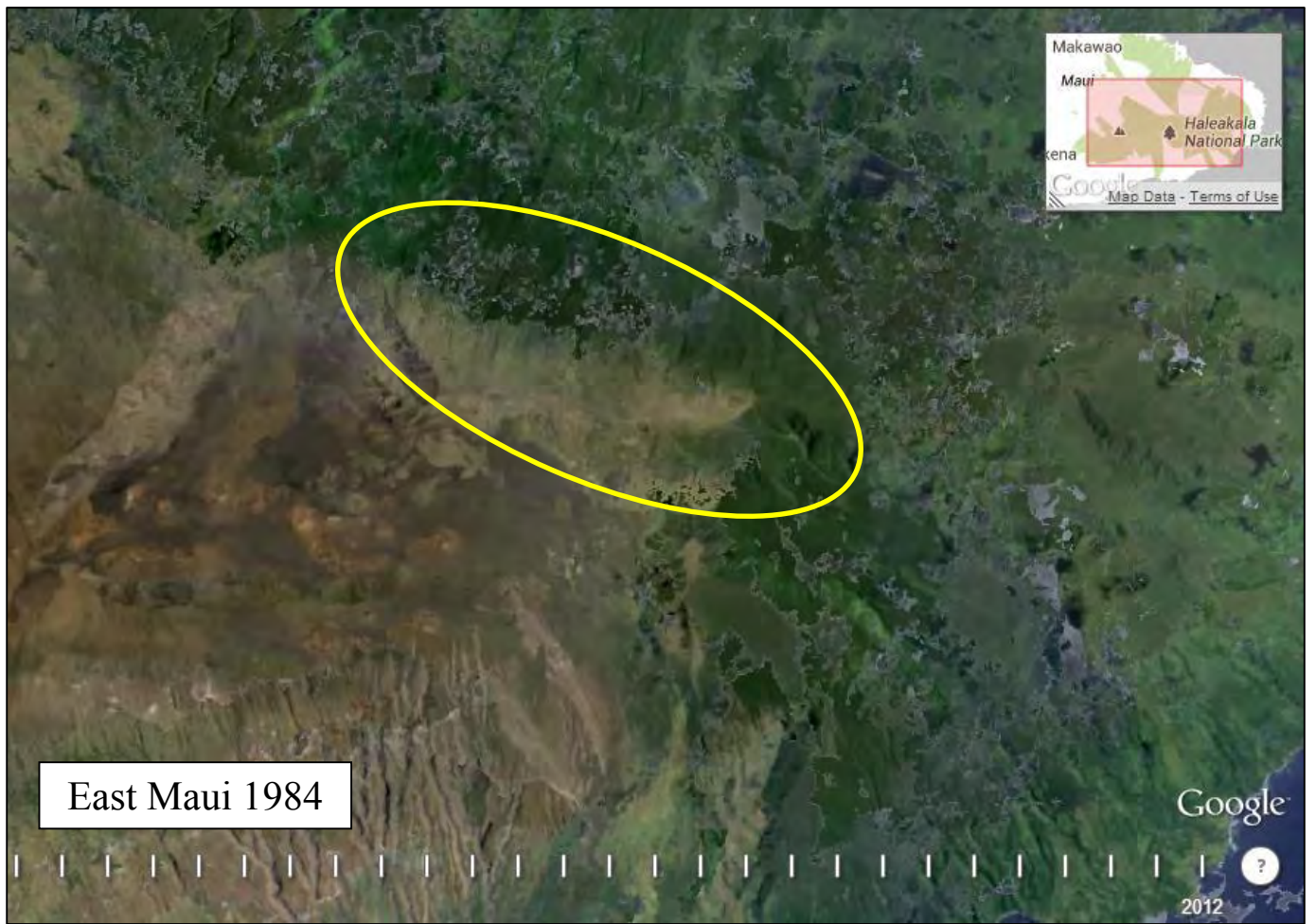


Moloka'i South Slope 2014

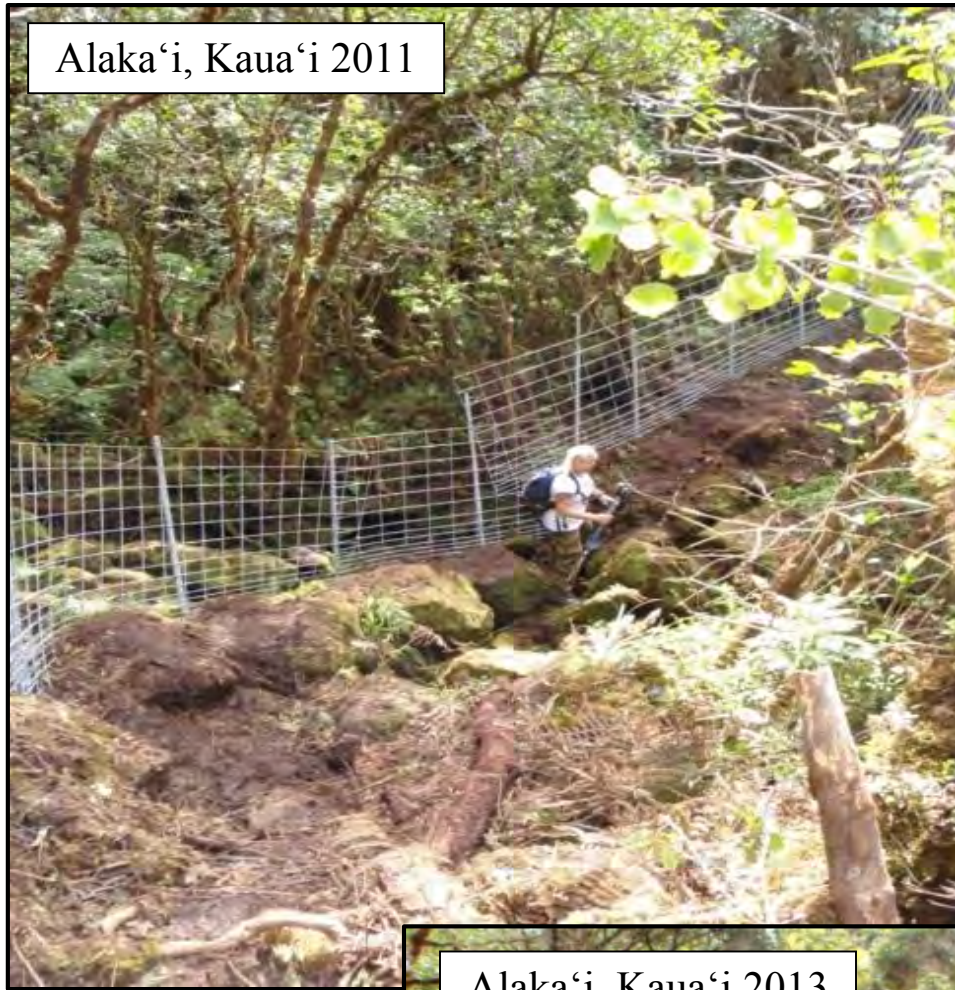


East Maui

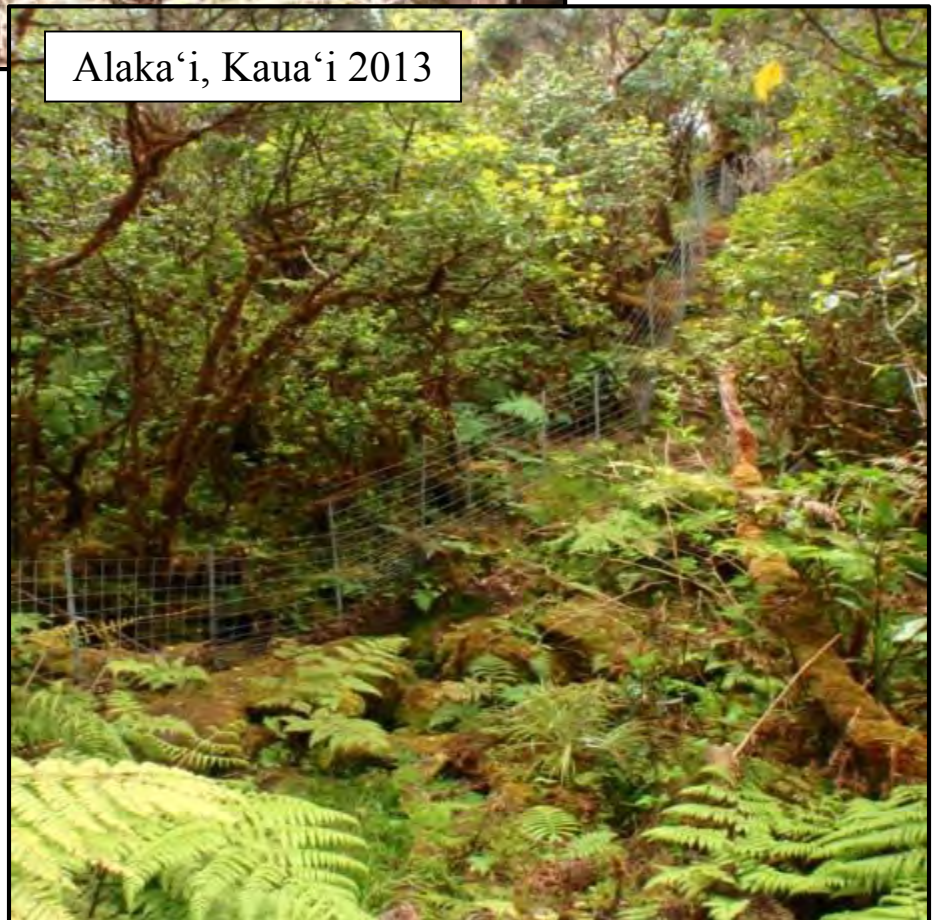




Alaka'i, Kaua'i 2011



Alaka'i, Kaua'i 2013





Wainiha, Kaua'i Feb. 13, 2015



Wainiha, Kaua'i July 17, 2016

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

OUR LAND, OUR WATER, OUR HERITAGE

Healthy land. Clean water. Recreational opportunities. Vibrant working landscapes.

Support full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Nature Conservancy supports protecting America's land and water through full funding and permanent reauthorization of the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**. We seek to reconnect Americans to nature by restoring critical large landscapes such as the Everglades and Flint Hills Conservation Areas.

Funding for LWCF is provided by revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling and directed toward multiple public benefits:

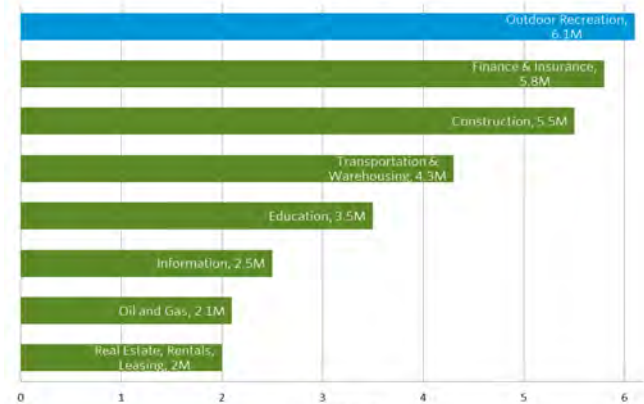
- Important recreational access for hunting & fishing
- Natural areas that sustain clean water and provide other community benefits
- Working farms and ranches
- National parks and forests
- Neighborhood parks and trails
- Historic battlefields and cultural sites
- Fish and wildlife refuges

Overview of the Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund's goal is to balance the extraction of oil and gas resources with conservation by using a portion of drilling fees to protect important land and water resources.

The program is authorized to receive a small percentage of offshore oil and gas revenues—up to \$900 million per year—but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. With 50 acres of farm and ranch land lost to development every hour in the United States, according to American Farmland Trust, it is critical that we ensure funding for the LWCF for the next generation of conservation.

Job Contribution (U.S.)



Source: Outdoor Industry Association, 2012

LWCF Funds & Offshore Energy Revenue FY09-FY14



Note: LWCF funds include federal & stateside funding, Section 6 and Forest Legacy programs.

For FY15, the Department of Interior estimates approx. \$5.2 billion will be collected from offshore energy production. Only \$306 million was set aside to protect America's land and water.



Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been supported by LWCF. It is America's most visited national park. Credit: © Daniel Ewert



Some of America's most iconic places, such as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, have been protected through LWCF. Credit © Jean Calhoun/TNC

Americans Strongly Support Protecting Our Land and Water

A 2013 poll from Public Opinion Strategies found:

- More than 85 percent of Americans support funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its authorized level of \$900 million per year.
- Nearly nine in ten voters opposed future diversions of funding. Support came from 93 percent of Democrats, 84 percent of independents, and 78 percent of Republicans.

Progress on LWCF in 2016

As a part of a larger energy package, Sens. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., crafted an approach that permanently reauthorizes LWCF with positive changes. It maintains the program's current flexibility and includes a critical oversight role for Congress.

The Senate passed the LWCF package with wide bipartisan support in its version of the energy bill (S. 2012) in April. The Nature Conservancy supports this framework. We ask the Senate and House to keep the Senate version of LWCF in the final energy bill.

Conservation = Economic Gains

Sustained investment in LWCF will stimulate our nation's economy, create jobs and protect our infrastructure. LWCF makes substantial contributions by strategically securing the economic assets that our federal, state and local public lands represent:

- Each year, outdoor recreation drives \$646 billion in direct spending and supports 6.1 million jobs in America, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. (See Table 1, front side.) It also brings \$80 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue.
- Considering the ripple effect of outdoor recreation activity (including the impacts of spending, jobs and wages as they circulate further throughout the economy), those numbers grow to \$1.6 trillion in economic impact and 12 million jobs.
- Property values of homes near parks and protected areas are often more than 20 percent higher than similar properties elsewhere.
- Visitor-driven business stimulates the economy in local communities surrounding national parks and other public lands.
- Protecting water sources through watershed, forest and wetland conservation is often a cost-effective way to ensure clean and adequate water supplies.
- The "value of ecosystem services provided by natural habitat in the 48 contiguous United States amount to about \$1.6 trillion annually, which is equivalent to more than 10 percent of the U.S. GDP," according to a 2011 report for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

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Wildfire Disaster Funding Act

STABLE, EFFICIENT, RESPONSIBLE WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING

Wildfire at Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, credit: Josh O'Connor, USFWS

A fire funding solution, like the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, would create a stable budget approach that 1) funds wildfires with disaster funding, 2) minimizes impacts from borrowing, and 3) addresses the increasing costs of suppression over time, allowing for reinvestment into forest health activities.

Over the past two decades, fires have increased in severity, intensity and cost, and the fire seasons have grown longer. However, the structure for wildfire budgeting has not changed and is significantly impacting important non-fire programs. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Department of the Interior (DOI) are responsible for federal fire-fighting response and bear the full burden for funding those activities from their annual budgets.

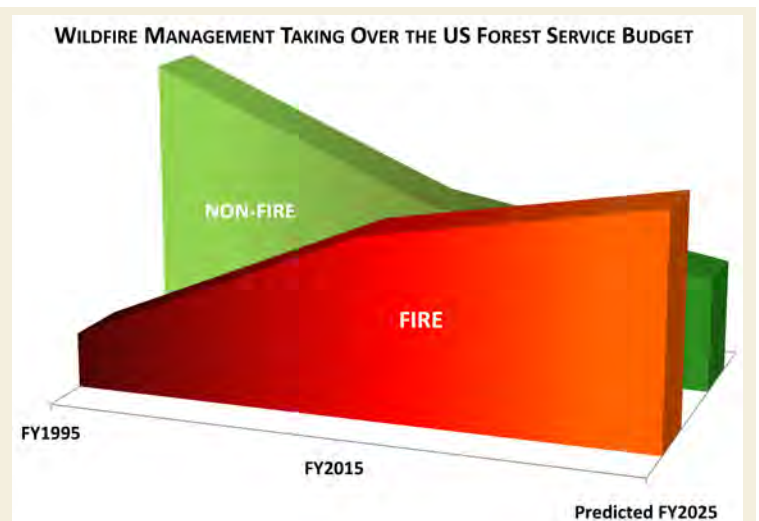
When suppression costs run high, appropriators are forced to shift funding to the ever-increasing proportion of the budget that is devoted to fire suppression, leaving less for programs that restore and manage forests.

Often, that funding is still not sufficient, which forces the agencies to borrow money from other programs to make up the difference. This practice of funding non-fire programs less and then “robbing Peter to pay Paul” has led to decreased budgets for many important programs such as the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and even Forest Service projects aimed at decreasing the severity of wildfires in the first place.

An approach like the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act will fix this inefficiency and reduce the devastating impacts that fire borrowing have had on people, water and wildlife.

Fire Suppression, by the Numbers

- In 1995, fire management accounted for 16% of the USFS budget; today it is more than half. At the current rate, it is expected to make up two-thirds of the agency's budget by 2025.
- USFS and DOI have run short on fire-fighting **twelve** times since 2002.
- USFS transferred **ten** times since 2002; \$700 million in September, 2015.





French Fire at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, credit: National Park Service



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Nevada wildfire, credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A fire funding solution must include all of the following:

- 1)** A full 100 percent of *normal* fire funding activities will continue to be funded through the appropriations process (the 99 percent of wildfires that are predictable).
- 2)** Additional firefighting activities would be funded using disaster funding similar to that currently used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for natural disasters.
- 3)** The practice of borrowing or transferring funds from non-suppression accounts to make up for funding shortfalls would be minimized.

The bipartisan Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (WDFa) meets these criteria by amending the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

In addition, any forest management proposal that may be linked to fire funding must emphasize science-based restoration that promotes collaboration.

Fixing the fire funding problem will ensure that the increasing costs of firefighting do not continue to drain other programs, and will allow appropriators new flexibility to reinvest in restoration programs.

Broad, Bipartisan Support

WDFa is the most widely supported fire funding solution in Congress today. It addresses the problems of transfers and increasing suppression costs by accessing disaster funding.

More than 300 organizations representing a diverse range of interests support WDFa, including conservation, sportsmen, timber, tribal, firefighting, and recreation groups.

There are currently more than 150 bipartisan members of the House and Senate cosponsoring the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.

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