

Budget Line Item	Law Enforcement Operations				
	(dollars in thousands)				
	FY 2012 Enacted	FY 2013 Annualized CR	FY 2014 President's Budget	Program Changes	Percent of Program Changes
Law Enforcement Operations					
Annual Appropriations	\$143,829	\$144,709	\$126,653	-\$18,056	-12.48%
Law Enforcement Operations Total	143,829	144,709	126,653	-18,056	-12.48%
Annual Appropriations FTEs	782	782	729	-53	-6.78%
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	782	782	729	-53	-6.78%
Law Enforcement Operations					
Enforce Laws & Regulations	94,942	95,561	83,591	-11,970	-12.53%
Investigate Crime	48,887	49,148	43,062	-6,086	-12.38%

	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Target	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Target	FY 2014 Target
Law Enforcement Operations						
Percent of cases referred for adjudication	6.9%	7.5%	6.8%	7.7%	6.7%	7.3%
Number of documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits	7.1	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.1

FY 2014 Program Changes

The FY 2014 President’s budget proposes \$126,653,000 for Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI), a decrease of \$18,056,000 from the FY 2013 Annualized CR. The Budget contains \$603,000 for pay costs which includes \$99,000 for annualization of the fiscal year 2013 pay raise and \$504,000 for the anticipated fiscal year 2014 pay raise. The pay costs increase would enable the program to cover its increased staff costs without reducing the resources available for program delivery.

LEI will continue to prioritize response to emergency and life-threatening situations. LEI will also continue crime prevention with the National Sheriff’s Association through the use of cooperative law enforcement agreements at a reduced level. In support of the National Fire Plan, LEI will continue to prioritize arson investigations. LEI will also continue to combat the activities of drug trafficking organizations along the Southwest and Northern borders. LEI efforts focusing on California will address the cultivation of marijuana on the National Forest System lands.

Specific priorities within each activity include:

Enforce Law and Regulations – The FY 2014 President’s Budget request of \$83,193,000 funds uniform patrol presence to protect natural resources, Forest Service employees, and the public and respond to safety incidents and violations of law and regulations.

Investigate Crime – The FY 2014 President’s Budget request of \$42,857,000 will fund criminal and civil investigations for arson, drug possession, theft and assaults. Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) have been identified as the key producer of marijuana on NFS lands. DTO activities have been confirmed on 67 national forests in 20 States.

In FY 2014, LEI estimates 7.3 percent of cases will be referred for adjudication and there will be approximately 6.1 documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits.

Past Performance

In FY 2012, 7.7 percent of cases were referred for adjudication compared to a target of 6.8 percent. The adjudicated cases target of 6.8 percent was based on the projection using the 2010 actual adjudicated cases number of 6.9 percent. This number was low compared to our 5 year average of 7.8 percent and we likely projected a conservative number based on a flat budget. There were 6.5 documented law enforcement incidents per 10,000 forest visits, compared to a target of 7.0. The documented law enforcement incidents for 2012 is lower than expected for two primary reasons. First, the exceptional 2012 fire season committed a large percentage of LEI field personnel to fire related incidents during the busy summer months. This resulted in less time doing normal patrol activities. Second, the hiring of new personnel to replace officers lost due to attrition and retirement did not occur until late in the 4th quarter.

Drug Eradication on the Los Padres NF

The Los Padres National Forest successfully eradicated 159,575 plants of marijuana and made 19 associated arrests during FY 2012. The Forest Service Law Enforcement organization partnered with Kern, Monterey, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties and other Federal law enforcement agencies to combat drug cartel activities on the Forest.

Program Description

Program Overview

The Forest Service LEI program is charged with providing a safe environment for the public, our employees and protecting the Nation’s natural resources on approximately 193 million acres of NFS lands in 44 states. LEI staff cooperates with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and other Forest Service programs in support of this mission. Increasing population growth in the Wildland Urban Interface, increasing popularity of NFS lands for motorized recreational use, and illegal occupancy of NFS lands cause significant impacts to NFS lands and resources and increase risks to public and employee health and safety.

This program performs the following two activities:

Enforce Laws & Regulations – Includes uniformed patrol presence resource protection patrols and response to public and employee safety incidents and violations of law and regulations. Common incidents on national forests include theft, assault, alcohol and drug use, unauthorized motor vehicle use, illegal occupancy, and trespassing.

Cultivation activities produce large amounts of trash and hazardous materials which are typically left on NFS lands. Growers frequently damage soils, cut timber, and clear vegetation to create room for their crops creating resources damage and erosion problems, and have assaulted and threatened Forest Service employees with violence. To protect NFS resources and visitors, Forest Service law enforcement officers carry firearms, defensive equipment, make arrests, execute search warrants, complete reports and testify in court. They establish a regular and recurring presence on a vast amount of public lands, roads, and recreation sites. The regulations law enforcement officers enforce include 36 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 242 & 261. Part 242 of 36 CFR refers specifically to

subsistence hunting and fishing regulations and is only applicable to Federal land in Alaska. Part 261 of 36 CFR refers to regulations that apply to all National Forest lands nationwide. The primary focus of their jobs is the protection of natural resources, protection of Forest Service employees and the protection of visitors.

Investigate Crime – Covers criminal and civil investigations of both internal and external cases such as felony arson, drug possession, smuggling and manufacturing, thefts, and assaults.

Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) have been identified as the key producers of marijuana on NFS lands. DTO activities have been confirmed on 67 National Forests in Region 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. Of the marijuana grown on Federal public land, 83 percent is on NFS lands. Illegal ground importation and trafficking on or near national forest lands of immigrants, drugs, weapons and other contraband, and illegal exportation of weapons and illicit cash profits create ongoing and imminent threats to the personal safety of employees and the visiting public. Special Agents plan and conduct investigations concerning possible violations of criminal and administrative provisions of the Forest Service and other statues under the United States Code. These normally plain clothes officers carry concealed firearms and other defensive equipment, make arrests, carry out complex criminal investigations, present cases for prosecution to U.S. Attorneys, and prepare investigative reports.

Allocation and Integration

Funding allocations support core operations and address priority needs, based on competitive regional criteria including number of visitors and acreage of NFS lands. In addition to public safety, priority is placed on responding to activity by drug trafficking organizations.

Partnerships

LEI staff cooperate with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and other Forest Service programs by building strong relationships with sheriff's offices, State police agencies, and Federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Office of the United States Attorney, the Federal Court System; and other Federal land management agencies.