

## Forest Service Operations and Cost Pools

In Public Law 107-63, Congress directed the Forest Service to fund enterprise-wide activities such as the salaries and related costs of the Regional Foresters and other line officers, budgeting, acquisition, human resources, information technology management, and utilities through cost pools charged to each account. As part of continuing efforts to improve transparency and collaboration in budgeting, Public Law 115-141 directed the Forest Service to provide to Congress a plan to end cost pools. The fiscal year 2020 budget request includes such a plan and proposes to consolidate certain budget line items. This bill establishes the “Forest Service Operations” account to fund activities previously supported through cost pools but does not accept the proposal to consolidate budget lines. The report accompanying this bill includes budget line tables for every Forest Service account that remove the cost pools from fiscal year 2019 enacted levels. This “apples to apples” comparison is provided to make programmatic changes clear. The table below provides that comparison at the account level. While proposing a plan to end cost pools, the budget request also included discretionary cost pool estimates for fiscal year 2020 that total \$835,161,000. The fiscal year 2020 cost pool estimates reflect a budget request that substantially reduces Forest Service activities. As you can see from this table, the discretionary cost pool estimates for fiscal year 2019 total \$921,849,000 which is the amount included in this bill for “Forest Service Operations”.

Account (in thousands)	FY19	Cost Pool	FY19 adjusted	FY20 PB	Cost Pool	FY20 PB adjusted	FY20 Rec	Rec/adj. FY19	Rec/ adj. PB
Forest and Rangeland Research	300,000	(38,845)	261,155	254,500	(37,725)	217,225	277,155	+16,000	+59,930
State and Private Forestry	335,487	(20,843)	314,644	182,296	(15,490)	166,806	382,894	+66,747	+216,088
National Forest System	1,938,000	(440,350)	1,497,650	1,912,750	(404,909)	1,507,841	1,599,308	+101,658	+91,467
Capital Improvement & Maintenance	446,000	(78,841)	367,159	434,000	(19,793)	414,207	419,103	+51,944	+4,896
Land Acquisition Management	7,352	(1,895)	5,457	0	0	0	8,500	+3,043	+8,500
Wildland Fire Management (with cap adjusted funds)	3,004,986	(341,075)	2,663,911	4,300,620	(357,694)	3,942,926	3,959,545	+1,295,634	+16,619