



Legislative Update

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Treu

Update on Federal Budget for Urban and Community Forests

The Administration has proposed major funding cuts for the USDA Forest Service – State and Private Forestry Program in its FY 2009 budget. Forestry cuts deeply into existing programs, affecting a number of programs here in Wisconsin. The House is likely to mark up the Interior Appropriations bill this month. Please consider contacting your representatives to voice your position on the budget. 5/08

Estimated **CUTS** by State and Private Forestry Program:

- 83% Forest Stewardship
- 82% Urban and Community Forestry
- 77% Forest Health
- 76% Forest Legacy
- 20% State and Volunteer Fire Assistance

Senators Push for Invasive Pest Funding

U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) led a bipartisan group of twenty senators in sending a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking for \$90 million to increase funding to help eradicate invasive pests that threaten our forests. Senator Feingold was one of the senators signing on to the letter to Senator Kohl for support. Please consider contacting your representative regarding this funding. 5/08