

SUFC Policy Working Group
June 29, 2012

Participating: Christy (TCIA), Jake/Cara/Kim (NASF), Alice (FS), Gerry (AmF), John (SAF), Jen (SUFC)

House Appropriations: Analysis debrief points included:

- Some good things came out of the House Interior bill passed last week – such as the report language that SUFC/Am Forests worked on with Rep. Moran’s office (VA – Tim Aiken) for urban and community forestry-related research;
 - The House version did follow the SUFC recommended funding for forest health program (i.e. \$49MM for Cooperative Forest Health);
 - While funding for the Urban Waters Program was not explicitly stated in the bill, it is likely that the program will see reductions;
 - Overall there was a \$55 million dollar reduction in Forest Service research funding;
 - It is unlikely the House Interior bill will receive a vote in the House or Senate;
 - A Continuing Resolution (CR) is expected into November. Funding thereafter will be determined during the lame duck session.
- Recommendation by WG members is NOT to take any action/advocacy now but to see what the bill language actually looks like in the fall – as it is likely to be higher than the committee figures.
- *Senate appropriations* has voted out a handful of bills but Interior Bill has only received a hearing (FS Chief testified); unlikely that the Interior approps bill receives a mark up in the Senate related to the EPA issues (overreach concerns, green house gas regs, farm dust etc.)
- Farm Bill: House Marker/draft bill will come out in July – committee mark up scheduled for July 11th. Note: The House Ag Chair is charged with reducing the Farm Bill by approx. 10 billion, therefore many areas (including U&CF) are subject to lower caps.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Gerry to check in with Tim Aiken/Moran’s office – thank for language on report re: urban research, acknowledge that SUFC is working closely with FS to better understand funding priorities.
- Jen to set up webinar panel on SUFC advocacy activities (Farm Bill, Appropriations).
- Jen & Cara to draft background piece for Farm Bill for participant review prior to webinar.
- Jen/Gerry to follow up with FS to set next urban research meeting with SUFC Steering Committee and FS research leadership.