USDA Forest Service Caring for the land and serving people



United States Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations



US FOREST SERVICE ENFORCEMENT OVERVIEW ILEA – Botswana 2018

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Caring for the land and serving people



Forest Service Mission To Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's Forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Protecting the Public, Employees, and Natural Resources Since 1905



- 155 National Forests/20 National Grasslands
- 📮 383,000 Miles of Road

36,000 authorized activities (pipelines, water treatment, power lines, hydrodams, elec. Sites, etc.)

- > 500 Million Visits/Year
- > 1,000 miles of contiguous NFS along international borders
- Multiple Use Concept
- 50% of Western Water Supply
- > 30,000 Employees Nationwide

(approx. 650 field law enforcement personnel)











Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers enforce Federal laws and regulations governing NFS lands and resources, as well as provide for public and employee safety. They establish a regular and recurring presence on the vast amount of public lands, roads, and recreation sites.

- > Prevent and Detect Resource Crimes
- > **Respond to Crimes in Progress**
- > General Forest Patrol
- > Search and Rescue
- > Controlled Substance Enforcement
- > Accident Investigation











Special Agents are criminal investigators who plan and conduct complex investigations concerning possible violations of criminal law and administrative provisions of the Forest Service

- > Timber/Forest Product Theft
- Manufacture & Distribution of Controlled Substance
- > Wildland Arson and Fire
- > Theft of Government Property
- > Illegal outfitter and guiding
- > Domestic or Eco-Terrorism
- > Theft / Damage to Archeological Sites







Primary US Environmental Agencies

- Environmental Protection Agency
- > US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- > US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau Of Land Management
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- > US Coast Guard



Significant US Environmental Laws

- Lacey Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Protection Act
- Clean Water Act
- > Clean Air Act

Layered Approach to Resource Protection



Natural Resources Management in the United States

