SPECIAL REPORT:
FY 2015 Department of Agriculture Budget and California Implications
March 2014

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
The budget provides $146.3 billion in total budget authority, including $23.7 billion in discretionary resources, for the Department of Agriculture to invest in rural communities; nutrition assistance for vulnerable populations; renewable energy and energy improvements to cut carbon pollution and make America more energy independent; and agricultural research in key areas such as climate resilience and improved crop production techniques.

U.S. Forest Service
The Budget funds the Forest Service at $306.28 million, a decrease from the FY 2014 amount of $350 million. Funding provides for capital improvement and maintenance of Forest Service assets including facilities, roads, and trails. The Budget shifts activities previously conducted under the Legacy Roads and Trails program, such as road decommissioning, to the Integrated Resource Restoration program under the National Forest System appropriation.

Market Access Program (MAP)
The Budget funds the MAP at $200 million, which is consistent with the annual $200 million payment as authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill for 2014-2018. Under the MAP, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Funds are used to reimburse participating organizations for a portion of the costs of carrying out overseas marketing and promotional activities.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
The Budget funds the ARS at $1.104 billion, a decrease from the FY 2014 enacted level of $1.122 billion, which includes increases for new and expanded research initiatives in environmental stewardship; animal/crop breeding and protection; food safety; child and human nutrition; and the National Agricultural Library.

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
The 2015 Budget proposes to increase funding for AFRI from $316 million to $325 million, a 3 percent increase in this program from the 2014 enacted level. AFRI is a competitive grant program for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences.
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**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**
The Budget funds the APHIS at $834.34 million, an increase from the FY 2014 amount of $821.72 million. The Budget request includes funding to continue implementation of the refocused Animal Disease Traceability program that will enable the Agency to detect animal disease faster, minimize disease spread, and assist in keeping global trade markets open to U.S. animals and animal products. The Agency also notes areas where funding can be reduced and redirected because programs have already achieved success, such as with the near eradication of cotton pests.

**Food Safety and Inspection Service (FIS)**
The Budget funds the FIS at $1 billion, which is roughly equivalent to the FY 2014 level. The Budget funding would enable FIS to inspect meat, poultry and egg products. There is a decrease for implementation of new methods in poultry slaughter inspection. In addition, the budget proposes a performance-based user fee, which will be charged to plants that have sample failures or require additional inspection activities due to regulatory non-compliance.

**Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)**
The Budget funds the AMS at $83 million, which is $3 million more than the FY 2014 level. These marketing activities assist producers and handlers of agricultural commodities by providing a variety of marketing-related services.

**Economic Research Service (ERS)**
The Budget funds ERS at $83.446 million, an increase from the FY 2014 enacted level of $78.058 million. The Economic Research Service provides economic and other social science research and analysis to inform public and private decision-making on food, agriculture, natural resources, and rural America.

**Wildland Fire Management (WFM)**
The Budget funds WFM at $2.265 billion, a slight increase over the FY 2014 enacted level. The Budget would fund Forest Service fire preparedness, fire suppression, hazardous fuels treatments, joint fire sciences, research and development, and cooperative fire programs on National Forest System (NFS) lands, adjacent State and private lands, and other lands under fire protection agreement. The 2015 Budget proposes an alternative funding approach to wildland fire suppression which does not rely on fire transfers and does not increase total discretionary spending, according to Budget documents. In this proposed approach, the documents note, additional budget resources are made available to USDA through a budget cap adjustment to cover wildland fire suppression above the base appropriation. This approach will allow the Forest Service to stabilize and invest in programs that more effectively restore forested landscapes and prepare the 70,000 communities in the Wildland Urban Interface to avert and minimize damage from future wildfires.

**Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)**
The Budget funds the administrative costs at FNS at $155 million, an increase from the FY 2014
amount of $141 million. FNS administers the following programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the primary source of nutrition assistance for low-income Americans and serves 46.9 million individuals; 30.4 million children will be served school lunches and over 14 million will be served school breakfast each day; 8.7 million women, infants, and children will get better nutrition through the WIC program.

National Forest Land Acquisition

The Budget funds National Forest Land Acquisition at $51 million, an increase from the FY 2014 amount of $43.5 million. For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California, $950,000 is requested, to be derived from forest receipts. Appropriations for the purchase of lands are permitted in order to minimize erosion and flood damage to critical watersheds by providing soil stabilization and restoration of vegetation within the aforementioned National Forests.