



# Economic Action Program: Executive Summary 2004

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## RECOMMENDATION

Restore and increase funding for the Economic Action Programs to **\$60 million**. Restore the **\$12.6 million** provided through the National Fire Plan to assist communities in building their capacity to play a meaningful role in the reduction of hazardous fuels on our public lands.

## ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM

The USFS Economic Action Program (EAP) is a group of Forest Service State and Private programs listed in the congressional budget under one heading. ***The purpose of the EAP program is to help rural communities and businesses dependent on natural resources become sustainable and self-sufficient.***

## EAP ADVANCES HEALTHY FORESTS

The Forest Service's EAP is the most successful federal program to achieve needed results toward the collaborative restoration and maintenance of our public lands, while building the economies of our rural communities. EAP is vital because:

- EAP is already understood and popular in rural communities across the country
- EAP helps the Forest Service develop relationships with communities and creates opportunities for collaboration
- EAP helps rural communities build viable conservation-based economies by providing critical financial and technical resources
- EAP leads to community self-reliance and sustainability.

**EAP STRENGTHENS RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTY PAYMENT PROGRAMS**

<b>USFS Economic Action Program</b>	<b>USDA Rural Development Program</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural resource focus</li> <li>• Small grants (most under \$250,000; average \$30,000)</li> <li>• Grants and assistance for capacity building activities</li> <li>• Sustainable community development</li> <li>• Provides seed money and leverages large amount of non-federal dollars</li> <li>• Builds local economies through local business support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No natural resource focus</li> <li>• Large loans and grants (+\$1 million)</li> <li>• Mostly loans</li> <li>• Grants for water systems and public utilities</li> </ul>

<b>Economic Action Program</b>	<b>Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus entirely on rural communities and natural resource related businesses</li> <li>• <u>Capacity building</u> grants and technical assistance</li> <li>• 14 + years of demonstrated success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus primarily on funding rural schools and roads</li> <li>• Part of funding provided for restoration and stewardship <u>implementation projects</u></li> </ul>



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