

The USDA Renewable Resource Extension Act (RREA) provides funding to enhance and expand forestry and rangeland Cooperative Extension programs at 73 land-grant institutions. These programs translate science into useable, practical, and relevant information that private owners and managers can use to improve their lives and/or livelihoods.

The FY 2018 RREA appropriation was \$4,060,000, or about 13.5% of the authorized funding level of \$30,000,000. Since the beginning, RREA has been consistently underfunded. Despite this, the program has demonstrated improvements in capacity-building for Extension forest and rangeland programs.

Between 2012 and 2016:

- the annual average return in value of RREA programing to local communities was \$53,863,140 (See table).
- every \$1 invested by RREA contributed over \$13 to local economies.

Number of educational events conducts	Number of private landowners, managers, and public land users who implemented or adopted a new practice or management program	Number of direct and indirect contacts who increased awareness or knowledge	Number of forest and rangeland acres impacted
5,760	73,749	13,252,089	52,491,229
Number of new jobs created	Number of new forest, rangeland, or fish and wildlife income-generating businesses created or expanded	Estimated number of dollars earned or saved by forest, rangeland, and fish and wildlife income-generating business	
3,153	1,148	2012–2016 Total 269,315,698	Annual Average 53,863,140

If funded at the full authorized level, imagine what an additional \$25,940,000 would do for enhancing Extension forestry and rangeland programs at that expected return in value to local communities?

In a national survey, natural resource Extension educators indicated they would use an additional \$10,000 in their programs for:

- program delivery (64%)
- hiring personnel (57%)
- technology use (50%)

These results suggest that increased funding would be invested directly into building capacity in Extension forestry and rangeland programs.

The need to increase funding for RREA remains relevant and vital to addressing the needs of owners and managers. The good news is that the RREA and Cooperative Extension are well-positioned to address these issues directly with key stakeholders. For more than 100 years, Extension educators have been effectively distilling research results and providing unbiased scientific information and useful technologies to the public. An additional investment in RREA will help sustain the nation’s forest and rangelands for future generations.



Read the RREA 2018–2022 Strategic Plan:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/rrea-strategic-plan-fy-2018-2022> or <https://globalrangelands.org/rreasp/>