



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Kansas 2020



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$141,013
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$174,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$300,000
State Fire Assistance	\$584,858
Urban and Community Forestry	\$244,200
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$375,044
Total	\$1,819,115

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

The Kansas Forest Service through State Statute K.A.76-425, has the responsibility of overseeing the state's 3.8 million acres of forests, woodlands and agroforestry resources. The Kansas Forest Service employs 35 full-time employees and over 40 temporary and student employees. The Cooperative Programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Kansas, Kansas State University, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Kansas forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis is on timber, forest products, wildlife, water resources, energy conservation, and conservation practices. These programs improve cost-effectiveness by using partnerships in delivery, values through sustained productivity of forests and are voluntary, using non-regulatory approaches.

Program Goals

- Increase and sustain healthy and productive forests providing professional forestry assistance to landowners in important forest resource areas.
- Protect life and property on 46 million acres empowering fire departments to build stronger programs.
- Sustain healthy urban and community forests by building local capacity in cities and towns to care for and manage public trees.
- Strategies may be found in the Kansas Forest Action Plan, http://www.kansasforests.org/kansas_forest_services/

Key Issues

- Wildfire risk
- Forest Health Threats (EAB, TCD, Invasives)
- Loss of Forestland
- Sustaining Water Quality and Quantity
- Protecting and Restoring Forest Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat
- Sustaining and Protecting Forest Agroforestry Ecosystems
- Maintaining and Protecting the Economic Benefits of Woodlands

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2019 Accomplishments	Value
Population	2,853,118	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,980
Acres of Forest Land	2,483,060	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	15,381
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,994,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	11,864
Number of NIPF Landowners	103,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	507
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	3
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	46,400,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	50
Number of Rural Fire Departments	620	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	627	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	128
Forest Based Employment	9,000	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,981,183
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	13	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	25,350
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	3,755,287		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

Provided assistance to communities in developing sustained local efforts to manage public trees, with an emphasis on capacity building by providing program organization, tree inventories, management, tree planting plans and training for tree boards, residents, city employees and arborists. The 96 communities certified as Tree City USA's spent over \$20.8 million and involved over 2,156 volunteers spending 25,350 hours helping improve and protect the local community forest resource. Provided 59 outreach and training sessions for 3,281 participants. Community Foresters provided 193 technical assists. To promote and build sustainable community forestry programs we have partnered with the Kansas Arborist Association for 46 years hosting the Arborist Training Course. This is a week long course and is the first step in becoming a Kansas Certified Arborist. During the 46 years, there have been over 1,965 attendees and there are currently 280 Kansas Certified Arborists. Kansas also has 72 current ISA Certified Arborists.

Conservation Education

US Forest Service:

Contracted with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) to provide Project Learning Tree trainings to educators in Kansas. This program reached 288 educators this year, bringing Project Learning Tree to 85,851 K-12 students across the state. KACEE integrates Project Learning Tree into the Kansas Green Schools program which reaches 462 schools and 19 school districts throughout the state. These programs directly connect learning about trees and forests to the state science standards and STEM teaching, strengthening the opportunity for environmental education to be included in every classroom. Teachers are supported with additional educational curriculum including Projects WILD, WILD Aquatic and WET and are eligible for graduate credit when attending a workshop. KACEE is working with the Kansas Tree Farm program to connect educators to local tree farmers.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire Protection

Protection of state and private lands from wildland fire is accomplished by building strong and efficient fire programs to protect an estimated 1,176,000 people and property valued at over \$4 billion. KFS, in 2019 continued to assist fire departments through the Equipment Donation Program, issuing radios, pagers, and personal protective equipment. Agreements are in place with 492 KS fire districts. KFS maintains an excess property inventory of 600 pieces of equipment valued at \$41 million, issuing 40 items at \$2.7 million in 2019. The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant funds were allocated to cooperating departments with an emphasis on communication and personnel safety. For 2019, 103 departments providing protection for 412 communities received grants. Additionally, firefighters are becoming increasingly

aware of the value of NWCG as a standard of quality for wildland fire suppression training. In 2019, KFS was able to deliver 61 courses over 366 hours of instruction to 770 students representing 149 fire departments and state agencies. KFS also delivered 15 prescribe fire training and defensible space workshops to 392 students, including a 3-day burn school in September. Like the nation, wildfire outbreaks in KS were below normal in 2019. However, KFS did have multiple staff member in Alaska in June and the KFS' Type 4 engine got 3 fire assignments. The 2019 Spring Mitigation Project, at Quivira Scout Ranch, was the largest attended mitigation to date, with 108 participants, including a mobilization exercise for 2 KS Wildland Fire Task Forces. Additionally, KFS in cooperation with other state agencies and associations are developing a basic KS centric wildland fire training curriculum to be delivered by fire department personnel. Prescribe fire continues to be a priority for KFS, as an Assistant Fire Management Officer is serving as an advisor to the KS Prescribed Fire Council and leadership for 13 Prescribe Burn Associations.

Forest Health Protection

In 2019, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in Miami & Jackson Counties, the first new detections since 2017. There are now 10 quarantined counties, all contiguous in northeast Kansas. The slow progression suggests success in long-term "Don't Move Firewood" outreach. With pending federal deregulation of EAB, KFS and partners formed a unified plan to maintain outreach messaging, survey & detection, and technical support for Kansas communities going forward. These efforts will help blunt the impact of EAB, as the compensatory value of urban ash in Kansas is more than \$1.3 billion. KFS continues to assist communities with transitioning to a more diverse canopy, with less risk to future threats.

As of 2019, Kansas is still free of Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut (TCD). Working in close cooperation with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, all survey and sampling returned negative results for TCD and the Walnut Twig Beetle associated with this deadly disease. Should TCD be introduced into Kansas, it would represent a potential loss of \$160 million to the Kansas economy. Multiple targeted outreach efforts spread the message that wood movement increases the risk of spreading TCD and other pests and diseases.

Invasive plants continue to pose a threat to Kansas landscapes, with severe infestations of bush honeysuckle, callery pear, tamarisk, and others disrupting the functionality of local ecosystems across the state. Supported by a 2016 LSR competitive grant, 2019 Emerging Pests funding, and other partner funding, KFS has partnered with local land managers to increase their effectiveness in treating invasive plants by offering technical assistance and leveraged grant funding in excess of \$683,000.

Continued emphasis is focused on outreach to landowners, agency partners, and others to identify insect, disease, invasive plant, and abiotic stress factors in order to reduce impact on our forests and woodlands and increase overall tree health and vigor.

Forest Legacy

Through the leadership of the University of Kansas' - Kansas Biological Survey, a forum and a two public tours were planned and conducted in the greater Baldwin Woods Forest Legacy project area. The intent of these field functions was to introduce nearby landowners and other local persons to the Forest Legacy program to the Baldwin Woods Forest Reserve project site completed in 2016. Approximately 70 persons, young and old, participated in these events with most enjoying a day in the woods and in some cases persons returning home to query the Legacy protocols.

Forest Stewardship

Forest Stewardship:

29 million acres have Stewardship potential in Kansas. There are 578 active Forest Stewardship Management plans providing professional forestry recommendations on 173,532 acres. 495 of those plans occur in important forest resource areas covering 143,058 acres. Fourteen Landscape Forest Stewardship Plans have been prepared for 21,759 acres on state wildlife areas and adjacent private lands. Four-hundred sixty-three forestry practice plans have led to the implementation of tree planting, windbreak establishment and renovation and forest stand improvement on 10,262 acres. Continued participation in the state initiative to reduce sedimentation of federal reservoirs and loss of water supply by protecting and establishing riparian forests. A \$13-million-dollar Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) grant awarded to the Kansas Forest Service to address the issue in targeted watersheds through EQIP is in its 5th year of implementation and will be extended into 2021. This

enabled the hiring of 3 additional foresters. KFS continues to geospatially assess size, condition and location of windbreaks and riparian forests to target landowner participation in EQIP, RCPP and other conservation programs. Hosted the National Walnut Council meeting and Fall Forestry Field Day, and presented Agroforestry and Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year awards. The Program is currently implementing over 500 EQIP forestry contracts to renovate windbreaks and improve forest health and productivity.

Landowner Assistance

Landowner Assistance:

Provided technical assists to 1,113 landowners. Prepared 63 Forest Stewardship Management Plans for 15,381 acres, and 463 practice plans for 46,588 acres for private landowners that provide recommendations on timber harvest, timber stand improvement, tree planting, water quality, wildlife, soil conservation, and recreation. Provided forestry education at 56 events to 867 adults at workshops/field days and to 2,719 youth.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Landscape Scale Restoration:

Landscape scale restoration projects 1) assess the condition of shelterbelts and streamside forests in priority areas and target restoration to improve water quality, reduce wind-blown soil while increasing crop yields; 2) target threats to KS forests through education, monitoring and control of invasive bush honeysuckle, emerald ash borer and thousand cankers disease of black walnut; 3) inventory valuable forestlands in the KS City Metro area, I-70 corridor and Wichita placing eco-system services values on green infrastructure to influence wise development policy and reduce loss of forestland to development; 4) develop landscape forest stewardship planning across private and public lands to increase the economic, environmental and wildlife values of KS farms and public lands; 5) develop target marketing tools and messaging to engage KS farmers in the protection and management of their woodlands and related natural resources; 6) bringing Landscape Forest Stewardship to Tribal lands in KS; and promoting both the development of new wood industries and secondary processing industries in KS; 7) completed Community Threat Assessment Protocol inventories in communities statewide with emphasis on current and impending forest threats; 8) to select, trial and promote environmentally adapted tree species to continue to build diverse and sustainable landscapes; 9) completed the ITC study of the Wichita metro area to promote the benefits and ecosystem services provided by green infrastructure; 10) Restoring the Arkansas River corridor through the removal of invasive phyreatophytes like tamarisk and Russian olive and establishment of native grass, willow and cottonwood communities; 11) Establishment of a Water Quality Advocate Network (WQAN) to increase capacity and outreach through peer-to-peer learning. All of which is directed in priority landscapes identified in the Kansas Forest Action Plan (<http://www.kansasforests.org/about/about.shtml>).

Urban and Community Forestry

Provided assistance to communities in developing sustained local efforts to manage public trees, with an emphasis on capacity building by providing program organization, tree inventories, management, tree planting plans and training for tree boards, residents, city employees and arborists. The 96 communities certified as Tree City USA's spent over \$20.8 million and involved over 2,156 volunteers spending 25,350 hours helping improve and protect the local community forest resource. Provided 59 outreach and training sessions for 3,281 participants. Community Foresters provided 193 technical assists. To promote and build sustainable community forestry programs we have partnered with the Kansas Arborist Association for 46 years hosting the Arborist Training Course. This is a week long course and is the first step in becoming a Kansas Certified Arborist. During the 46 years, there have been over 1,965 attendees and there are currently 280 Kansas Certified Arborists. Kansas also has 72 current ISA Certified Arborists.

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