



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Kansas 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$107,200
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$125,146
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$600,000
State Fire Assistance	\$789,642
Urban and Community Forestry	\$210,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$495,691
Total	\$2,327,679

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 30 full-time employees, 25 in professional positions and 5 support staff. 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, prescribed fire, wildfire suppression, community 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.
- Slow sedimentation deposition in public and private water reservoirs by sustaining, re-establishing and managing riparian forests.
- Strategies may be found in Kansas' Forest Action Plan.
http://www.kansasforests.org/kansas_forests_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 and Agroforestry Ecosystems
- Maintaining and Protecting the Economic Benefits of Woodlands

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	2,853,118	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	4,164
Acres of Forest Land	2,527,087	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	8,730
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,994,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	7,725
Number of NIPF Landowners	103,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	514
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	661
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	46,400,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	52
Number of Rural Fire Departments	620	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	627	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	130
Forest Based Employment	9,000	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,037,576
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	13	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	27,537
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	3,144,770		

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 95 communities certified as Tree City USA's spent over \$19.3 million and involved over 1,706 volunteers spending 31,925 hours helping improve and protect the local community forest resource. Provided 50 outreach and training sessions for 4,462 participants. Community Foresters provided 219 technical assists. To promote and build sustainable community forestry programs we have partnered with the Kansas Arborist Association for 45 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 45 years, there have been over 1,800 attendees and there are currently 258 Kansas Certified Arborists.

Conservation Education

Contracted with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) who provided professional development to educators in Project Learning Tree (PLT). KACEE has 452 schools enrolled in the Green Schools program plus 19 school districts representing an additional 200 schools involve in environmental education. Through these programs over 9,600 secondary and early childhood students are impacted. KACEE programs include PLT, Project WILD, WILD Aquatic, Growing Up WILD, and Project WET offering college credits to attendees.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Protection of state and private lands from wildland fire is accomplished by helping build strong, efficient rural fire programs to protect an estimated 1,176,000 people and property valued at over \$4 billion. KFS, in 2018 continued to expand the Equipment Donation Program by facilitating the re-utilization of \$4.2 million in equipment to rural fire departments throughout Kansas. Agreements are in place with 78% of KS' fire departments. KFS maintains an excess property inventory valued at \$36 million through 575 fire fighting vehicles. VFA doubles the purchasing capacity in rural and municipal departments serving the Urban Interface. One hundred percent of VFA funds are allocated to cooperating departments with an emphasis on communication, wildland fire and personnel safety. For 2018, 124 departments received grants and through mutual aid these grants add service and protection values to 524 KS communities. Additionally, firefighters are becoming increasingly aware of the value of using NWCG as a standard of quality for wildland fire suppression. In 2018, KFS, through 51 training programs, trained 700 fire fighters from 157 departments. The 2018 fire season had one career, one volunteer department and one KFS

engine participate in national wildfire response. Seven full-time and 30 temporary employees responded to national emergencies in 14 states. In 2018 KFS was represented on an incident 214 days without interruption, with KFS employees on a fireline or in support roles for 713 days. KFS continues to work with the Fire Marshal, KS Department of Emergency Management, Firefighters and Fire Chiefs associations to improve the quantity and quality of information entered in the NFIRS database. Prescribed fire continues to evolve with the KFS Protection Specialist serving as the director of the Prescribed Fire Council, providing leadership to thirteen Burn Associations.

Economic Action

No action.

Forest Health Protection

In 2018, no detections of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were found outside eight previously quarantined counties, all contiguous in northeast Kansas. This lack of new infestations indicates success in the long-term "Don't Move Firewood" outreach by KFS and partners. Supported by funding from a 2014 LSR competitive grant, successful programs were continued for promoting urban wood utilization, increased tree diversity through community replanting efforts, and slowing movement of firewood that threatens urban and rural forests. The compensatory value of just the urban ash in Kansas is more than \$1.3 billion.

At the close of 2018, 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 Asian Bush Honeysuckle continues to pose a threat to Kansas woodlands, with severe infestations prevalent in and around several major cities. Several other invasive plants species threaten to disrupt the functionality of local ecosystems, including callery pear, tamarisk, Japanese honeysuckle, sericea, and others. Supported by a 2016 LSR competitive grant, the Kansas Forest Service has partnered with local land managers to increase their effectiveness in treating invasive plants by offering technical assistance and leveraged grant funding of \$300,000.

Continued emphasis is being placed on outreach to landowners, extension, 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

2018 work involved conservation planning at Baldwin Woods.

Accomplishments include:

1. Created database to hold ecological and personal information about 152 landowner tracts in the greater Baldwin Woods site.
2. Held three events to raise awareness about forest values and identify landowners with conservation interests.
3. Assigned a conservation priority rating to each landowner tract in the area of interest. Identified nine landowner tracts (220 acres) with high conservation interest for potential addition to the Baldwin Woods Forest Preserve (BWFP); seven of these contain significant forest resources (128 acres).
4. Engaged directly with landowners in an effort to secure protection of tracts adjacent to the BWFP. Actively pursuing protection of four tracts (101 total acres which includes 67 forested acres).

Forest Stewardship

29 million acres have Stewardship potential in Kansas. There are 476 active Forest Stewardship Management plans providing professional forestry recommendations on 136,702 acres. 413 of those plans occur in important forest resource areas covering 110,289 acres. Fourteen Landscape Forest Stewardship Plans have been prepared for 15,984 acres on state wildlife areas and adjacent private

lands. Six-hundred seventy-six forestry practice plans have led to the implementation of tree planting, windbreak establishment and renovation and forest stand improvement on 16,615 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 (RCPP) grant awarded to the Kansas Forest Service to address the issue in targeted watersheds through EQIP is in its fourth year of implementation. This enabled the hiring of 3 additional foresters. Continued to spatially assess size, condition and location of windbreaks and riparian forests to target landowner participation in EQIP, RCPP and other conservation programs. Hosted the annual Walnut Council meeting, Fall Forestry Field Day, Agroforestry Workshop and presented Agroforestry and Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year awards and the Kansas Wildlife Federation Forest Conservationist of the Year award. The Program is currently implementing 499 EQIP forestry contracts to renovate windbreaks and improve forest health.

Landowner Assistance

- Provided technical assists to 843 landowners. Prepared 92 Forest Stewardship Management Plans for 20,945 acres, and 676 practice plans for 16,615 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 110 events to 4,259 adults at workshops/field days and to 4,348 youth.

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 Kansas 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 Kansas City Metro area and I-70 corridor 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 Kansas farms and public lands; 5) develop target marketing tools and messaging to engage Kansas farmers in the active protection and management of their woodlands and related natural resources; 6) bringing Landscape Forest Stewardship to Tribal lands in Kansas; and promoting both the development of new wood industries and secondary processing industries in Kansas; 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 ecosystems 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 95 communities certified as Tree City USA's spent over \$19.3 million and involved over 2,068 volunteers spending 27,537 hours helping improve and protect the local community forest resource. Provided 50 outreach and training sessions for 4,462 participants. Community Foresters provided 219 technical assists. To promote and build sustainable community forestry programs we have partnered with the Kansas Arborist Association for 45 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 45 years, there have been over 1,845 attendees and there are currently 265 Kansas Certified Arborists.

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