



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Louisiana 2023



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2022 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$181,265
Forest Legacy	\$30,000
Forest Stewardship	\$140,004
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$24,629
State Fire Assistance	\$868,074
Urban and Community Forestry	\$254,769
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$353,063
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,851,804</b>

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

The primary responsibilities of the office of Forestry are to: suppress timberland wildfires; promote sound forest management practices; disseminate information and enforce timber-related laws; investigate timber theft. The Office of Forestry also operates and maintains the Alexander State Forest located in central Louisiana.

With adequate protection, followed by appropriate and accepted forest management techniques, Louisiana's forests are available to serve our state, both rural and urban, not only on a sustained basis, but at an increased level productivity. Recognizing the various interests and needs of so many owners, efforts to encourage and promote sound forestry practices on such a vast area requires a balanced, educational process.

### Program Goals

- The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is committed to protecting and sustaining the state's forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principles and education. LDAF, OOF, utilized cooperative programs that are administered and implemented through a partnership between LDAF, the USDA, The Forest Service, LSU AgCenter and many others. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies.

### Key Issues

- LDAF keys issues are also addressed in the 2020 Forest Action Plan. Lack of Active Management of Private Lands, which includes logging and mill related challenges. Challenges to Forest Health, which includes insects, disease, and invasive species. Challenges Facing Wildland Fire Management, which includes smoke management and urbanization related challenges facing wildland firefighting and prescribed burning.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2022 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	4,657,757	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	2,164
Acres of Forest Land	14,944,790	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	4,088
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	7,966,019	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	3,227
Number of NIPF Landowners	51,069	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	130
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	40
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	18,931,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	554	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	304	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	41
Forest Based Employment	19,969	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,712,821
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	7,690
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	14,945,406		

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support firefighting resources throughout Louisiana, including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists Louisiana in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, the Louisiana Office of Forestry administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments.

### **Economic Action**

Louisiana continues to focus on diversifying local economies to include consideration of forest resource-based development opportunities.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Southern pine beetle (SPB) trapping continued this year. SPB infestations were observed aerially, and confirmed on the ground, in East and West Feliciana Parishes during the regular trapping season. Due to numerous hurricanes in Louisiana in 2020 and 2021, additional trapping will be performed this Spring. Trapping to monitor gypsy moth and emerald ash borer (EAB) introductions continues with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). Several parishes are still under quarantine due to EAB confirmation. Annual defoliation by the bald cypress leaf roller and forest tent caterpillar in the forested wetlands of southeast Louisiana continues to be monitored by aerial survey.

### **Forest Legacy**

An Assessment of Need (AON) was completed in November 2010. Louisiana added two additional project areas to the Legacy program. With the 2012 finalization of a land purchase, 182 acres are now enrolled under Louisiana's Legacy program. LDAF utilized a contract writer for one Legacy proposal. LDAF is currently in the process of an acquisition for one project in the Florida Parishes. The project in the Florida Parishes is in the assessment stage. Another project has been suggested.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The Forest Stewardship Program assists private landowners with managing their forests and related resources. This assistance helps keep these lands in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners and increases the social, economic, and environmental benefits of these lands.

### **Landowner Assistance**

Louisiana's landowner assistance efforts continue to focus on conservation of multiple forest resources, especially wildlife habitat enhancement, water quality improvement, and other environmental services.

### ***Landscape Scale Restoration***

Louisiana is working in partnership with our neighboring states on two LSR projects.

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## **Contact Information**



### **Louisiana Office of Forestry**

Wade Dubea  
*State Forester*  
5825 Florida Blvd, Suite 6000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
225-925-4500  
[wdubea@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:wdubea@ldaf.state.la.us)

### **US Forest Service Southern Region**

Edward Hunter  
*Deputy Regional Forester - State and Private Forestry*  
USDA Forest Service  
1720 Peachtree Street, Suite 760S  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
404-660-7391  
[edward.hunter@usda.gov](mailto:edward.hunter@usda.gov)

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