



Maine Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

| Program | FY 2024 Final |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cooperative Fire Protection | \$0 |
| Cooperative Forestry | \$17,250 |
| Forest Health Management | \$0 |
| Forest Legacy and Community Forestry | \$0 |
| Total | \$17,250 |

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

Key Issues

- Support a diverse, robust forest economy.
- Support active management of the forest land base.
- Address climate change and its impacts on Maine's forests.
- Maintain the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine.
- Maintain the health and resiliency of Maine's forests in the face of threats from biotic and abiotic agents.
- Promote outcome based forestry and streamline the regulatory framework.
- Predict future forest conditions and wood supplies.
- Conserve forests for clean drinking water supplies and healthy fisheries.
- Conserve forest biodiversity.
- Maintain healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas.
- Address ongoing erosion of federal support for Cooperative Forestry programs.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

| Selected Facts | Value | FY 2024 Accomplishments | Value |
|---|------------|--|-----------|
| Population | 1,362,359 | Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance | 12,521 |
| Acres of Forest Land | 17,518,847 | Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans | 3,613 |
| Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land | 9,450,240 | Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 2,995 |
| Number of NIPF Landowners | 78,566 | Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted | 125 |
| Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0 | State Fire Communities Assisted | 85 |
| Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 1,766,000 | Coop Forest Health Acres Protected | 0 |
| Number of Rural Fire Departments | 419 | Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions | 0 |
| Cities and Towns | 453 | Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 208 |
| Forest Based Employment | 14,207 | Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 1,094,588 |
| Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank) | 1 | Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance | 7,289 |
| State Forestry Budget (All Sources) | 10,450,000 | | |

Program Highlights

Community Forests and Open Space

The Blue Hill Heritage Trust was able to acquire a 336-acre tract of land with 206 acres protected by the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program, in the Town of Penobscot. The trust used \$226,000 in program funds to establish the Penobscot Community Forest at Wallamatogus Mountain. The property features many trails and spectacular views of Penobscot Bay and Acadia National Park. The additional 130 acres consist of wild blueberry fields, which will be managed to continue to offer delicious treats for visitors during the appropriate season.

In direct partnership with the Town of Rumford, Inland Woods + Trails acquired a 446-acre forested parcel just a couple miles outside of the town center, creating the Rumford Community Forest. With \$413,000 in funds from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program, the property--once planned for 257 house lots--is now permanently conserved. The property features existing trails along with new trails, and a new parking access point to be added. The property is used for hiking, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling, and the high school cross country team practices there too.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Funding assistance was provided to 125 volunteer fire departments, 350 firefighters were provided training, and 550 acres of fuels treatment. The state acquired \$397,627 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program and \$28,000 in Federal Excess Personal Property to support wildland fire suppression.

Economic Action

In 2024, four Maine projects received over \$2 million in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Temporary Bridge Crossings Funding. Project work includes developing technologies that will allow molded fiber from wood-based cellulose to replace plastic packaging, the design and engineering of renovating an abandoned papermill to be a sawmill, establishing a thermally modified wood treatment facility, and temporary bridge crossings for the state.

Forest Stewardship

In fiscal year 2024, the Maine Forest Stewardship Program, known in Maine as "Be Woods Wise"/WoodsWISE Incentives Program, developed 70 new forest stewardship plans covering 3,613 acres, of which 2,995 acres were in spatially defined Important Forest Areas. Additional CAP-106 Plans were funded through Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Over 71,000 acres of forestland are currently under stewardship plans. Approximately 10,000 woodland owners took part in or were reached by educational programs offered by Maine Forest Service promoting activities which encourage the sound, long term management of Maine's forest resources. 2,404 individuals received assistance with matters pertaining to forest stewardship, from Maine Forest Service personnel.

Maine does not operate a State nursery. Through the Forest Stewardship program and National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resource program, the State receives financial assistance to support nursery, genetics, and seed programs.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal Investment: \$585,824 (Multi-State Project)

Project: Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: The Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water is an interagency, multi-partner collaboration that advances restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water from West Virginia to Maine. This project will facilitate continued collaboration among the diverse array of partners in states across the northeast and mid-Atlantic, will foster shared learning, and support forested watershed restoration activities.

Urban and Community Forestry

Maine's Project Canopy has a vision that every community in Maine will actively and wisely manage its community forestry resources in a sustainable manner, and that all Maine citizens become well informed as to the proper management of these resources and the benefits derived from them. In 2024, Project Canopy worked to improve understanding of the benefits of tree cover in urban areas and communities, encouraged maintenance of trees and community forests, and expanded the number of communities managing their natural resources, including those benefiting from program assistance. Another core priority in 2024 was to increase the number of communities with tree boards, ordinances, public tree inventories, management plans, and professional arborists, and foresters. Project Canopy grants support public access and education on town forests, including development of forest management and additional complementary inventory and resource plans. Also in 2024, the Woodstock Conservation Commission completed forest management, stewardship, forest carbon credit review, and ecological assessment for the newly acquired Buck's Ledge property (646 Acres) in Woodstock, Maine.



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