Investment in State’s Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2019 Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$535,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$3,545,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$273,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$1,268,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$265,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$252,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,151,058</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester’s office.

Program Goals

- The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Mississippi, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies. Emphasis is on forest sustainability and the production of commodity and amenity values such as wildlife, water quality, and environmental services.

Key Issues

- There is a need to develop sustainable urban forestry programs in Mississippi communities and to educate the public on how trees can conserve energy.

- The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is striving to expand its firefighting capacity by providing Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) with grant funding for wildland firefighting equipment. We also provide VFDs with equipment acquired through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program and the Firefighter Property Program (FFP).

Forest Facts and Accomplishments
### Program Highlights

#### Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support firefighting resources throughout Mississippi. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program and the Firefighter Property Program allow us to acquire and place fire equipment in rural communities statewide. In FY19, these programs issued 37 vehicles and 46 other pieces of wildland firefighting equipment, with an estimated value of $5.09 million. Forty-eight Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, with a total value of $199,926, were also awarded to Mississippi's Volunteer Fire Departments.

#### Forest Health Protection

The MFC provides forest pest detection, evaluation, and control recommendations on private, urban, and non-federal public forestland in Mississippi. The MFC continued to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to administer a Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, which aimed to teach private forest landowners the benefits of thinning to reduce the risk of southern pine beetle hazards. At the end of FY19, southern pine beetle activity increased on National Forest land in Mississippi. While the MFC has active detection and control programs for kudzu and cogongrass, invasive plants continue to impact Mississippi's forest ecosystems. In FY19, the MFC treated 389 acres for cogongrass.

#### Forest Legacy

The Griffith Tract was acquired in FY18. This new tract consists of 1,233 contiguous acres along the Pascagoula River in George/Jackson Counties, and became part of the Pascagoula River Wildlife Management Area in FY19. Mississippi will continue to protect working forests on the Pascagoula River in southeast Mississippi for fish and wildlife habitat, protection of bottomland hardwoods and swamp forests, longleaf pine habitat, and protection of public access.

#### Forest Stewardship

The MFC continues to promote natural resource planning on private forestland. In FY19, 91,944 acres were under forest management plans.

#### Landowner Assistance

The Mississippi Forestry Commission offers a variety of services, programs, and resources to private forest landowners. The Forest Resource Development Program distributed $2.15 million in cost-share funding to private forest landowners and 35,890 acres were regenerated or improved in FY19.

#### Urban and Community Forestry

The MFC provides assistance and training to urban areas in developing community forestry programs.
The MFC, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, is able to aid in the development of long-term, self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs through the Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program. Financial assistance grants provided in FY19 totaled $23,330.

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