



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Mississippi 2019



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$458,856
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$224,191
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$106,500
State Fire Assistance	\$1,268,688
Urban and Community Forestry	\$207,500
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$233,365
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,499,100</b>

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

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	2,967,297	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	10,829
Acres of Forest Land	19,380,136	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	30,486
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	15,340,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	13,409
Number of NIPF Landowners	370,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	46
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	30
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	19,800,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	3,090
Number of Rural Fire Departments	755	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	1,233
Cities and Towns	298	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	26
Forest Based Employment	69,445	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	520,657
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	742
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	29,244,251		

## 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 FY18, these programs issued 80 vehicles and 94 other pieces of wildland firefighting equipment, with an estimated value of \$10.3 million. Forty-nine Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, with a total value of \$207,500, 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 FY18, 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.

### **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 will become 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 FY18, 94,683 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 \$1.92 million in cost-share funding to private forest landowners and 31,053 acres were regenerated or improved in FY18.

### **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 FY18 totaled \$59,299.

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## Contact Information



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