



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

North Carolina 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$5,249,219
Forest Legacy	\$2,000,000
Forest Stewardship	\$173,509
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$540,774
State Fire Assistance	\$1,445,870
Urban and Community Forestry	\$583,995
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$379,118
Total	\$10,372,485

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 North Carolina, the USDA Forest Service as well as many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies. Emphasis focuses on timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices.
- The overarching goal is to maintain and improve the health of rural and urban forests and related economies, as well as to protect the forests and citizens of the state. These programs maximize cost effectiveness in program delivery, increase forestland value and sustainability through partnerships, and do so in a voluntary and non-regulatory manner.

Key Issues

- Promotion of the expansion of forest products markets both domestically and internationally. A key component of this effort is timely Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data. This effort should be maintained at current levels or enhanced to provide the most current information. Another key component is the education of landowners to the numerous benefits of forest certification.
- Providing technical assistance to a changing woodland owner demographic to keep working forests working.
- Continued development of ecosystem markets in collaboration with state agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as federal partners such as the Department of Defense.
- The N.C. Forest Service and our military partners have a mutually beneficial relationship. The agency's goals of "keeping working forests working" and forest conservation closely align with efforts to maintain our military's training capacity. To reach those goals, both groups must continue to effectively reach out to private woodland owners.
- Population growth, land use change and development patterns continue to complicate land management and natural resource conservation efforts.
- Continued outreach to an urbanizing and growing population about the multiple benefits that forests provide to North Carolina is needed.
- Providing technical assistance, education and outreach to communities to enhance the benefits and sustainable management of urban forests.
- Many of the thousands of communities across the state face wildland/urban interface (WUI) hazards. Efforts to prevent and mitigate hazards and raise awareness are ongoing and need to be continued.
- Continued development and use of technology in the planning, response and reporting of wildfire risk

and the impacts to timber, air, water and wildlife resources.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	9,535,483	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	26,794
Acres of Forest Land	18,814,430	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	11,565
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	13,969,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,952
Number of NIPF Landowners	525,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	160
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,900,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	755
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	15,601,438	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	117,619
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,325	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	553	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	141
Forest Based Employment	144,815	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	5,819,965
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	8,035
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	65,802,285		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Firewise USA® continues to be a very strong program in North Carolina with 28 active communities in the state. N.C. Forest Service personnel provided information at more than 300 outreach opportunities, including attendance at home and garden shows, conferences and local festivals. Numerous Firewise meetings were held across North Carolina during FY18, covering evacuation planning and hazard mitigation projects to homeowner associations and fire departments. In FY18, six communities received Firewise USA® grants to do mitigation work, totaling \$37,675. Another community has been awarded \$8,000 and will receive their funds after completion of mitigation activities. The Firewise USA® Program also receives promotional assistance through four Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) across Western North Carolina, which receive grant money through the US Forest Service to promote mitigation activities in North Carolina.

The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists North Carolina fire departments in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. The N.C. Forest Service administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments that support firefighting resources throughout North Carolina, including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). There are currently 1,670 approved CWPPs at the fire district level in the state. Working with Federal partners, the N.C. Forest Service Fire Environment Program continues to be a leader in fire research, improving the safety of firefighters and the public through science-based applications.

Economic Action

The N.C. Forest Service continues to provide support to North Carolina's \$32.7 billion forest products industry while also increasing efforts to attract new industry to the state. North Carolina's forest products manufacturing industry supports about 150,000 full and part time jobs in the state with a payroll of \$7.8 billion. International markets play a vital role for the forest products industry as North Carolina benefits from export activity with 120 nations, representing approximately \$1.6 billion in trade value. The forest sector in North Carolina contributes about \$894.1 million to state and local taxes and \$878.8 million to federal taxes.

Forest Health Protection

The N.C. Forest Service is responsible for assisting forest landowners in the detection and control of destructive forest insects and diseases. Services are provided to landowners through district and county organizations with forest health staff providing training and professional/technical expertise in identification, biology and control of destructive insect and disease epidemics. The program has been increasingly challenged with prevention, monitoring and control of non-native invasive species of insects and diseases that threaten our forests. Established non-native invasive pests in North Carolina that damage forests include: balsam and hemlock woolly adelgids, beech bark disease, dogwood anthracnose, butternut canker, Phytophthora root rot and gypsy moth. More recently, emerald ash borer, redbay ambrosia beetle/laurel wilt and thousand cankers disease have been detected in the state and are having an impact on ash, bay and walnut species. Several non-native invasive pests found elsewhere in the U.S. are also capable of impacting our forests in the future. These include Asian longhorn beetle, spotted lanternfly and sudden oak death. Forest Health staff, in collaboration with other state and federal agencies, as well as universities, monitor the movement of these pests through trappings and surveys. Staff then alert and train N.C. Forest Service personnel, forestry, agricultural and environmental interests, as well as landowners to recognize and deal with these pests. In FY18, approximately 18.7 million acres were surveyed for insects, diseases and storm damage by N.C. Forest Service personnel.

Forest Legacy

There are currently 10 projects involving 16 tracts in the North Carolina Forest Legacy Program. The Program has 11,463 acres in the program; 4,198 acres owned in fee and 7,265 acres under a "working forest conservation easement." An additional two projects, Headwaters State Forest and Balsam Range have recently received funding under the program and efforts are being made to close on them in FY19.

Forest Stewardship

North Carolina has 209,665 acres in forestland currently covered by the N.C. Forest Stewardship Program. Priority forest resource areas, as identified by the N.C. Forest Action Plan, are comprised of 126,549 acres. FY18 monitoring data indicate that these Forest Stewardship Plans are being implemented on at least 38,856 acres.

The Forest Stewardship Program added 71 new and revised Forest Stewardship Plans, addressing multiple resource management objectives on 11,565 acres in FY18. These plans addressed more than 5,592 acres that are considered priority forest resource areas based on the North Carolina Forest Action Plan.

The N.C. Forest Stewardship Program held its first annual Forest Stewardship Landowner Recognition Workshop on May 19, 2018. The program recognized a landowner from each of the three geographic regions as Outstanding Woodland Stewards (OWLS) for doing exemplary work as they implemented their Forest Stewardship plan. Additionally, to foster the partnerships that help drive the program at the local level, the Tar River Land Conservancy and a N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission technical biologist were recognized as OWLS for promoting the principles of the Forest Stewardship Program.

The N.C. Forest Stewardship Program and N.C. Tree Farm Program continue to work together, sharing data and meetings that will ideally make Tree Farm's third-party forest certification available to Forest Stewardship Program participants. A secondary result is the leveraging of each program's strengths related to landowner assistance and outreach.

Landowner Assistance

Through the N.C. Forest Service Information, Education and Outreach Program, rangers and foresters statewide have provided valuable information to forest landowners and the public related to N.C. Forest Service programs, services and forestry-related issues. Personnel with the N.C. Forest Service participated in more than 2,700 outreach events, reaching more than a million farmers, forest landowners and the public. These events include landowner workshops, natural resource conferences, media interviews, newspaper and magazine articles, a variety of advertising opportunities, state and county fairs, as well as other community connections.

Longleaf Pine Initiative

The Longleaf Pine Initiative within the N.C. Forest Service continues to prioritize landowner engagement and natural resource professional training in longleaf pine conservation and restoration. In 2018, the N.C. Forest Service collaborated with partners to host three longleaf workshops with 22 private landowners

and 100 natural resource professionals in attendance. Personnel supported eight additional partner workshops serving as featured speakers, reaching more than 200 landowners. The Longleaf Initiative continues to be active in the N.C. Longleaf Coalition and exhibited at eight community and educational events in 2018. To support outreach efforts, new longleaf displays were developed for field staff and debuted a N.C. longleaf management booklet, while updating existing longleaf handouts and online resources. Progress on the longleaf management areas spatial database for private landowners included acquiring 603 longleaf documents in 12 counties and mapping 59 longleaf management areas totaling 1,103 acres. As sponsors and committee members of the "North Carolina Longleaf Honor Roll" landowner recognition program, the N.C. Forest Service helped recognize three landowners for their outstanding efforts to restore longleaf. Financial assistance through the Forest Development Program and the Timber Restoration Fund aided establishment of 2,123 acres of longleaf on private lands in 2018. Across the state, over 6,000* acres of longleaf were established and more than 12,000* acres of longleaf acres were burned on private lands (*estimates due to data still pending).

Renewable Energy

North Carolina remains heavily engaged in utility-scale wood pellet production with operations based in the Eastern portion of the state, including three facilities currently producing wood pellets for electricity generation by Western European power companies. Construction on a fourth pellet plant located in the Sandhills region of North Carolina began in 2018. A deep-water marine terminal at the Port of Wilmington facilitates wood pellet transport to European ports. Additionally, numerous combined heat and power (CHP) projects using woody biomass as a primary feedstock source are currently in operation across North Carolina.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban & Community Forestry Program continues its charge to promote the health and management of urban forests in North Carolina by offering grants, technical assistance, education opportunities and program support to municipalities, organizations, agencies, industries and private landowners. Urban and community forestry grants were awarded to 10 communities to assist funding projects to enhance their urban forest management program or provide education and training. Support and assistance was also provided to the N.C. Urban Forestry Council in delivering urban forestry outreach and educational programs. Direct urban forestry technical assistance was provided to 175 communities by N.C. Forest Service staff, which includes 25 International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists.

Water Resources

During FY18, the agency conducted 3,160 water quality compliance inspections on timber harvests and an additional 4,503 follow-up inspections. We continued to loan portable steel bridgemats to loggers for establishing stream or ditch crossings on harvest sites: agency bridgemats were used on 24 logging jobs to establish 29 crossings and access an estimated 550 acres of timber. We conducted several workshops, classes, trainings and refresher events on Best Management Practices (BMPs), preharvest planning and general forestry/water quality topics reaching: 156 ProLoggers, 40 new agency rangers, 88 college students, 215 erosion and sediment control professionals, 50 Boy Scouts, 165 school students and 300 other attendees. We co-hosted an interagency NC/SC Forests & Drinking Water Forum focusing on the Catawba-Wateree river basin, facilitated through the Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water; approximately 90 attended. The event included a field trip hosted at Mountain Island Educational State Forest. Having successfully received a U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration (LaSR) grant, the next cycle of BMP implementation monitoring will begin soon and support ongoing work in the Southern Region to correlate erosion risk model estimates with BMP implementation; the goal is to assess approximately 216 logging sites. The N.C. Forest Service water quality program is funded through a combination of state appropriations and annual allocations via the USEPA Nonpoint Source 319-Grant Program (critical for staff support), with occasional contributions from state and private forestry funds and LaSR grants.

Contact Information



North Carolina Forest Service

Scott Bissette
Assistant Commissioner
1616 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1616
919-857-4801
Scott.Bissette@ncagr.gov

US Forest Service Southern Region

Ken Arney
Deputy Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
1720 Peachtree Street, Suite 760S
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-347-4178
ken.arney@usda.gov
