State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
North Dakota 2020

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>$93,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$143,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$738,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$258,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$366,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,600,218</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.

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS), USDA Forest Service (USFS), and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of North Dakota’s forests and rural economies according to priorities established by North Dakota’s "Forest Action Plan" in 2010. Feedback from stakeholders revealed additional priorities in 2015. These priorities will be reevaluated during the Plan update scheduled for 2019-2020. Current issues align with national and state priorities and serve as an implementation focus.

Program Goals

- Increase cost effectiveness by delivering services through partnerships.
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests.
- Use voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues

- Mitigate invasive tree pests
- Reduce forest over-maturity and promote natural regeneration
- Increase species diversity and reduce vulnerability to damaging agents
- Strengthen educational outreach
- Maintain historic vegetation type
- Prevent and respond to wildland fires
- Enhance wood utilization opportunities
- Adapt to climate changes
- Loss of windbreaks
- Oil field mitigation/"boom town" forestry needs
- Riparian forestry restoration
- Drought tolerant species for western North Dakota
Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Facts</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>FY 2019 Accomplishments</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>672,591</td>
<td>Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance</td>
<td>852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Forest Land</td>
<td>819,616</td>
<td>Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>4,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land</td>
<td>510,000</td>
<td>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of NIPF Landowners</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>3,867,118</td>
<td>State Fire Communities Assisted</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>31,878,661</td>
<td>Coop Forest Health Acres Protected</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Rural Fire Departments</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities and Towns</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Based Employment</td>
<td>3,167</td>
<td>Population Living in Communities</td>
<td>464,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forestry Budget (All Sources)</td>
<td>7,671,032</td>
<td>Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance</td>
<td>12,360</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Program Highlights

**Conservation Education**

Natural Resource Conservation Education funds are used to raise awareness about natural resource values, support informed decision-making, and foster individual responsibility for forest resources in stewards of all ages. The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) delivers Project Learning Tree (PLT) professional development, curriculum, resources, and a support network to natural resource educators and teachers of students in grades PreK-16. PLT workshops and hands-on activities use the Excellence in EE Guidelines established by NAAEE and are used in school and university classrooms, informal settings, and outdoors. The Outreach and Education program participates in Marketplace for Kids, Envirothon, Eco Eds, Keep North Dakota Clean poster contest, and many other programs used to educate youth about becoming stewards of the environment.

**Cooperative Fire Protection**

State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) funds provided technical and financial assistance to North Dakota fire departments and aided in acquiring and managing the state’s federal-excess firefighting property program. Partnership efforts continue with the North Dakota Firefighter’s Association (NDFA) to conduct regional training opportunities focused on wildfire suppression. The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) and its partners provided comprehensive fire training to more than 866 firefighters from 175 communities.

VFA funds were utilized to provide Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance grants to 30 fire departments for the purchase of personal protective equipment, fire suppression equipment, communication equipment and fire suppression vehicles.

SFA funds were utilized for training fire staff, maintaining the NDFS fire cache, prepositioning of fire staff and equipment during high fire danger events and suppression assistance requests from fire departments. Funds were also used to secure new equipment to bolster suppression capacity, maintain five Type 6 wildland fire engines and two initial attack UTVs. These investments were critical for suppressing wildfires across North Dakota and in neighboring states, as well as strengthening national interagency cooperation and coordination.

**Forest Health Protection**

Forest Health Protection provides technical assistance, educational outreach, and training to state and private land managers in collaboration with state, university, federal and other partners. A primary emphasis is the statewide detection and monitoring of forest insect and disease conditions, evaluation of forest pests on private and public lands, and providing technical assistance and training in forest health. Forest health issues are presented in the annual Forest Health Highlights and the Biennial Forest Health
Report. A North Dakota Invasives website presents information about invasive forest pests. An online sick tree assistance form encourages forest pest reporting and expedites forest health diagnoses. The program collaborates with the USDA Forest Service to implement the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. Surveys included an Early Detection and Rapid Response survey targeting non-native bark and ambrosia beetles, and a statewide collaborative survey for emerald ash borer (EAB). EAB outreach and education includes EAB Awareness Week, EAB detection and response training for natural resource professionals, and EAB management and risk reduction for homeowners and land managers.

**Forest Stewardship**

Technical forestry assistance includes: (1) providing landowner assistance to implement the $1.8 million Outdoor Heritage Fund Windbreak Renovation Initiative; (2) providing natural resource planning to increase active management within native forestlands and windbreaks; (3) promoting wildfire protection; (4) promoting tree planting to increase the benefits of trees and forests; (5) assisting with timber harvesting and marketing; (6) creating financial incentives for landowners utilizing Mitigation Tree Planting Partnerships; and (7) engaging in hazardous fuels reduction projects. In 2019, 852 landowners received a variety of program assistance and educational opportunities that included developing new Forest Stewardship plans. The state's Conservation Forestry Initiative supports all 55 soil conservation districts with additional staffing and training needs to meet the increased technical assistance workload generated by landowner requests.

**Landscape Scale Restoration**

More than 75 percent of North Dakota's population resides in cities and benefits significantly from healthy and resilient urban forests. But most cities are small, 95 percent with less than 5,000 people, and have limited resources for tree stewardship, which is generally undertaken by a volunteer tree board without a full-time municipal forester. In addition, North Dakota's fragmented urban forests are dominated by green ash and American elm, making them a target for invasive species. The North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association (NDUCFA) is helping build planning and management capacity of small and midsize North Dakota city tree boards to better protect urban forests by providing tools, training, and one-on-one assistance to these cities to encourage ethical practices and meet technical standards for arboriculture.

**Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Management**

This program is delivered through the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for the detection, suppression, and control of non-native invasive plants. In 2019, approximately 23,452 acres were surveyed and 1,344 priority acres were treated using herbicides. The goals of the program are to: (a) enhance education, planning, and monitoring efforts to prevent new weed invasions; (b) implement early detection and rapid response to new invaders; (c) control small infestations and contain the spread of existing infestations; (d) promote the use of biological control agents; and (e) to work cooperatively across ownership boundaries. Cooperative Forestry funds contributed to increased weed control, cooperation, and a better public understanding of the need for an integrated weed management program.

**Urban and Community Forestry**

The North Dakota Community Forestry Council, an advisory group to the State Forester, provides program guidance and maintains priorities, including: Plant Health Care, Species Diversity, Right Tree – Right Place, Sustainable Forestry, and Promoting Professionalism. In 2019, there were 464,895 people living in communities that received educational, technical, or financial assistance. Nearly 78 percent of North Dakota's population lives in communities with active urban and community forestry initiatives. Communities were awarded $241,711 for 38 tree planting and program development grants and with community matching funds, total costs were $585,160. The Community Threat Assessment protocol (CTAP) is a street tree inventory that has been completed in 99 communities across the state. Summaries of CTAP street tree data reveal populations of green ash ranging from 16 to nearly 80 percent, with an average street tree population consisting of 46 percent green ash.
Contact Information

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