



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

North Dakota 2025



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Community Forests and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$138,100
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$114,682
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$927,036
Urban and Community Forestry	\$341,864
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$391,564
Total	\$1,913,246

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 (USDA FS), and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of North Dakota's forest and rural economies and follow priorities established by the 2020 North Dakota Forest Action Plan and its predecessors, the 2010 North Dakota Forest Action Plan and the 2015 plan revision. North Dakota's key issues align with current national themes and serve to focus program implementation.

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

- Forest decline associated with natural disturbance alterations
- Conversion to nonforest
- Limited wood utilization incentives
- Native and invasive tree pests
- Vulnerability to damaging agents due to limited species variety
- Wildland fire
- Disconnect from forests and natural resources

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	779,094	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	327
Acres of Forest Land	823,407	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	2,900
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	560,844	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,065
Number of NIPF Landowners	6,480	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	310
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,867,118	State Fire Communities Assisted	230
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,878,661	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,500
Number of Rural Fire Departments	378	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	357	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	85
Forest Based Employment	850	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	544,896
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	13,323
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	12,739,074		

Program Highlights

Conservation Education

Conservation Education funds were 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 NDFS delivered Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Project WILD curriculum, resources, professional development, and a support network to natural resource educators and teachers of students in grades PreK-16. PLT and Project WILD workshops use hands-on activities that adhere to the Excellence in Environmental Education Guidelines established by NAAEE; these are used in school and university classrooms, informal settings, and outdoors. The Outreach and Education program also participated in Envirothon, Eco Eds, Earth Day and Arbor Day events, STEM camps, Marketplace for Kids, fire prevention education, the 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 Capacity (SFC) and Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) 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 NDFS and its partners provided comprehensive fire training to more than 1250 firefighters from 189 North Dakota fire departments. VFC funds were utilized to provide Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance grants to rural fire departments for the purchase of personal protective equipment, fire suppression equipment, communication equipment, and fire suppression vehicles. SFC funds were utilized for training fire staff, maintaining the NDFS fire cache, repositioning 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 one Type 3 Wildland Urban Interface engine and four Type 6 wildland fire engines, and maintain three initial attack UTVs and two crew carriers. 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

The Forest Health Protection (FHP) program provided technical assistance, educational outreach, and training to state and private land managers in collaboration with state, university, federal, and other partners. A primary emphasis was the statewide detection and monitoring of forest insect and disease conditions, evaluation of forest pests on private and public lands, and the provision of technical assistance and training in forest health. Detection and monitoring findings are summarized in the annual Forest Health Highlights. The NDInvasives.org website delivered information regarding invasive forest pests, and a Sick Tree Assistance form through the Survey123 app encouraged forest pest reporting. The

Sick Tree Assistance Form is under further development to include public access to data summaries. The FHP program collaborated with the USDA Forest Service to implement the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. A forest health monitoring plan was developed in 2023 and included establishment of permanent plots for long-term monitoring, biennial bark and wood boring insect surveys, and an aerial detection survey schedule for forest canopy damage. The bark and wood boring beetle survey was conducted in 2024. Woodboring beetle surveys from APHIS and NDDA included no species of concern. NDFS participated in the ND Department of Agriculture's emerald ash borer (EAB) trapping efforts, setting and monitoring traps at 28 locations. EAB was discovered in ND for the first time at a rest area near Edgeley, ND during the survey. Outreach and education planning for EAB continued with a collaborative three agency social media focus. Staff participated in EAB training and in EAB delimiting surveys in the Edgeley area following the EAB discovery. The Forest Health program also assisted with discussions regarding ponderosa pine health on Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Forest Stewardship

The NDFS Forest Stewardship program focused on assistance (technical and financial) and education to non-industrial private forest landowners to actively and sustainably manage their forests. In FY 2024, Forest Stewardship staff provided technical assistance to landowners statewide directly and through Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAP) with local Soil Conservation Districts. This provided landowners guidance for addressing forestry resource concerns such as; managing natural regeneration, increasing forest species variance and resiliency, controlling invasive tree pests, reducing hazardous vegetative fuels, utilizing forest products, and keeping windbreaks functional. Ongoing direct financial assistance for windbreak renovation was provided with funds from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. In FY 2024, the NDFS reimbursed \$165,362.23 of these state grant funds to 18 rural landowners that completed renovation on 24.71 acres of deteriorated windbreaks. Four of those projects were also eligible for EAB Mitigation Funds as well that totaled another \$18,371.89 in financial assistance to North Dakota landowners. After two years of work gathering information, engaging partners, and assessing resource concerns, the Turtle Mountain Landscape Forest Stewardship Plan was completed. The plan for this High Priority Forest resource area, as identified in the North Dakota 2020 Forest Action Plan, will serve as a guide moving forward for working with partners and landowners on any of the 258,499 acres included in this plan. Forest Stewardship staff also work closely with landowners and county officials in counties participating in the Forest Stewardship Tax Law program. This program offers eligible landowners a \$.50/acre tax rate on eligible acres. In FY 2024, there were 21,272.74 acres enrolled in the program across 8 counties in northwest North Dakota.

Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Management

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) coordinates the efforts of county and city weed boards and state and federal land managers to implement integrated weed management programs. County and city weed officers are charged with enforcing the noxious weed law in their respective counties and cities. North Dakota law provides for multiple county assistance programs and NDDA allocated approximately \$1.4 million in cost-share payments to County and City Weed Boards for the 2023-2025 biennium. NDDA also cooperates with the U.S. Forest Service to detect, suppress, and control non-native invasive plants. 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. In 2024, Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) continued to be on the rise and was a prevalent weed reported in the county reports. NDDA facilitated the purchase and release of agents for various counties across the state and assisted several counties with their public collection of leafy spurge flea beetles. NDDA also collaborated with the Montana Biocontrol Project to collect and distribute new agents across North Dakota.

Urban and Community Forestry

The NDFS Community Forestry grant program took another step forward in 2024 with 79 community forestry projects that totaled over \$996,000 in grant awards to communities. These grants increased the local economy and increased job opportunities for local contractors. In 2024, there were 544,896 people living in communities that received educational, technical, or financial assistance. Technical assistance includes use of the web-based ND TIP (Tree Inventory and Planning) Tool to create and update street tree inventories, followed by simple forest management plans designed to develop resilient and

sustainable community forests. These tree inventories can help communities prepare for the arrival of emerald ash borer by showing them their existing tree canopy. Community Forestry staff work closely with small municipalities and volunteer groups to plan grant projects and coordinate workshops, with an emphasis on species variance and plant health care. These workshops, which included tree planting and pruning, provided communities the skills to take care of their newly planted trees. Volunteers logged 13,323 hours invested in community forestry efforts. Arbor Day Foundation recognition programs remain strong in the state, with 4 Tree Campus Higher Education campuses, 5 Community Growth Awards, and 52 Tree City USA communities.

Contact Information



North Dakota Forest Service

Thomas A Claeys
State Forester
916 E Interstate Ave, Suite #4
Bismarck, ND 58503-1227
701-328-9945
Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu

US Forest Service Northern Region

Daniel McBride
Director, State & Private Forestry
USDA Forest Service
200 East Broadway
Missoula, MT 59807
801-625-5253
daniel.mcbride@usda.gov
