



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Oklahoma 2019



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$159,920
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$252,762
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$61,000
State Fire Assistance	\$824,565
Urban and Community Forestry	\$141,820
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$287,620
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,727,687</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

### Program Goals

- Oklahoma's cooperative forestry programs are administered by and implemented through a partnership between the State Forester, the USDA Forest Service and many private, non-profit, and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of the state's forestlands and improve rural economies. Emphasis is on conserving, enhancing, and protecting the benefits that forests provide in rural and urban areas.

### Key Issues

- Wildfire prevention is an increased priority for Oklahoma Forestry Service. The last three years have shown a large increase in both the number of occurrences and acres burned by wildfire. Persistent severe drought increases tree mortality, creates extreme wildfire risks, and this complicates water quality and quantity issues while placing significant stress on plant communities.
- Oklahoma landowners utilize active land management to promote long term protection, conservation, and utilization of forest land and resources. Current estimates reveal that Oklahoma has 1,721,434 forested acres under active management. By 2021, the goal is to increase lands under active management to 1,900,000 acres.
- Prescribed burning is one of the management tools used to increase health and resilience of Oklahoma's landscape. Careful application of prescribed fire where practicable is used for hazardous fuels mitigation, increased resource benefits, and reduced wildfire impacts to natural resources and values-at-risk. OFS provides technical expertise and training to promote prescribed burning in Oklahoma.
- Tree City USA is a community forest program designed to encourage healthy trees and forests within the boundaries of communities across Oklahoma. Currently, Oklahoma's Tree City USA communities serve 43% of Oklahoma's population. OFS will continue to invest in this program in order to increase the percent of population living in a Tree City USA.
- Eastern redcedar is encroaching on plant communities, degrading forest ecosystems (especially in the Cross Timbers region) and increasing wildfire risk. Reduced land management and increased cost for redcedar removal are primary reasons for this encroachment. One solution to this problem is to promote utilization and develop new redcedar markets.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	3,751,351	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	608
Acres of Forest Land	12,284,180	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	7,327
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	5,952,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,161
Number of NIPF Landowners	71,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	500
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	926,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	201
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	5,340,376	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	40
Number of Rural Fire Departments	863	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	597	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	23
Forest Based Employment	6,770	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,719,388
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	16,712
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	14,123,847		

## Program Highlights

### **Conservation Education**

The State Project Learning Tree (PLT) Coordinator expanded teacher training and will develop PLT correlations with new state educational standards. The Youth Forestry Camp completed its 62nd consecutive year in 2018, helping young people reconnect to the outdoors and explore natural resource careers.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

State Fire Assistance supports wildland firefighting efforts across Oklahoma. State incident management teams were strengthened to respond to wildfires and other natural disasters. The Federal Excess Property Program provided equipment with a total value of almost \$7 million to departments across the state. The Wildfire Volunteer Fire Assistance Program supports the fire protection efforts of rural fire departments by funding critical training programs and supplying much-needed wildland personal protective equipment. Sixty-five communities have completed or are developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans or striving to achieve Firewise status, ranking Oklahoma 8th in the nation in this program.

### **Forest Action Plan**

Oklahoma's Forest Action Plan (2010) was updated in 2015 and identifies critical issues, priority forest areas, and strategies for service delivery. Work is continuing to improve the document and integrate it into Division management.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Forest pest monitoring (including early detection activities with APHIS) and prevention practices are reducing risks to the state's forests from southern pine beetle, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, thousand cankers disease and other pests. Emerald ash borer was found in Oklahoma in 2016 and Oklahoma Forestry Services initiated an Action Plan to help landowners with this issue.

### **Forest Inventory and Analysis**

Oklahoma's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) has been completed statewide for the first time. Estimates indicate 12.3 million acres of forests and woodlands in Oklahoma. FIA data is essential for determining trends and recruiting new industry, such as redcedar utilization and biomass energy.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Increased successes in land management planning focused on priority forest areas and landscapes of concern have been reported in Oklahoma. Other programs that continue to promote good stewardship are the shortleaf pine initiative, genetic loblolly pine improvement programs, water quality programs and forest health. OFS promotes the Huber Reforestation Project (initiated in 2005) which provides free seedlings to landowners engaged in pine reforestation efforts. The intent of these programs is to educate landowners and encourage stewardship planning to protect natural resources.

### ***Landowner Assistance***

Managing forests for resiliency and reducing wildfire risk is accomplished by providing professional forest management expertise. Oklahoma Forestry Services provides assistance to private landowners, communities, and other agencies regarding wildland fire suppression, prescribed fire, water quality, reforestation and silvicultural management.

### ***Urban and Community Forestry***

U&CF training and projects continue to expand in Oklahoma. OFS is providing communities Tree Risk Assessment tools and educating them on their use. Oklahoma Forestry Service's objective is to improve community forest health.

Oklahoma recognizes 22 cities/towns and two Air Force bases as Tree City USA, four utility companies as Tree Line USA, and ten universities as Tree Campus USA.

### ***Water Quality Protection***

Well-managed forests provide the state with abundant supplies of clean water. The state's timber industry contributes an estimated \$5.1 billion annually to Oklahoma's economy. This vibrant industry follows Oklahoma's voluntary forestry Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines. BMP implementation rate following timber sales is 92%.

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## **Contact Information**



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