



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Tennessee 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$288,450
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$165,322
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$93,500
State Fire Assistance	\$1,149,208
Urban and Community Forestry	\$355,643
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$264,368
Total	\$2,316,491

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 Tennessee, the USDA Forest Service, and 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 urban and rural forests and related economies as well as to protect the forests and citizens of the state. These programs maximize cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in program delivery, increase forestland value and sustainability, and they do so in a voluntary and non-regulatory manner.

Key Issues

- Dealing with increasing forest health risks from native and non-native forest pests, from an aging forest, and from an urbanizing human population.
- Dealing with increasing demand for prescribed fire services to ensure management objectives are met while minimizing the potential for escaped fires.
- Maintaining a motivated, well-trained, experienced work force.
- Determining appropriate services and incentives to facilitate increased forest management on private lands when the average tract size is shrinking and long-term landowners are increasingly passing management of land to inexperienced heirs.
- Providing landowners guidance before timber is harvested to ensure the harvest method is meeting objectives and that a plan is in place for regeneration.
- Determining appropriate services and incentives to create value added forest industry based jobs.
- Taking advantage of the current and future income and marketing opportunities forest certification offers non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners for managing their lands.
- Determining the most effective ways for the Tennessee Division of Forestry to use existing and emerging technology to improve forest health.
- Utilizing social media to educate and engage Tennessee citizens and landowners with forestry issues.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,346,105	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	22,976
Acres of Forest Land	13,967,140	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	12,796
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	11,206,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,839
Number of NIPF Landowners	534,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	70,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	70
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	25,668,400	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	100
Number of Rural Fire Departments	821	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	956
Cities and Towns	345	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	56
Forest Based Employment	101,000	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,795,526
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	395
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	30,533,000		

Program Highlights

Conservation Education

- Held 17,638 educational outreach activities reaching 75,730 children and adults statewide.
- Facilitated the 69th annual Forestry Camp for 47 Future Farmers of America high school students.
- Maintained fire prevention website - BurnSafeTN.org - where citizens learn about safe debris burning, wildfire conditions, Firewise Communities and where they can obtain a burn permit. The site had 366,584 page views from 168,622 visits.
- Maintained forest health website - ProtectTNForests.org - where citizens learn about forest health issues affecting the state's trees and forests and which offers information on ways they can be active in managing outbreaks or slowing the spread of forest pests. The site had 10,055 page views from 6,651 visits.
- Maintained the Division's YouTube Channel. The number of video views was 15,900.
- Conducted 3 tree trail conservation education programs at the Tennessee Governor's Residence at the request of the First Lady's office
- Produced 13 news releases pertaining to relevant topics including forest pests, wildfire danger, burn permit requirements, employee awards, tree planting and urban forestry

Cooperative Fire Protection

- Responded to 583 wildfires that burned 5,837 acres, compared to 74,816 acres in FY 2017
- Issued 382,365 burn permits, compared to 386,793 in FY 2017. 76,906 of those were permitted prescribed burns
- Issued 91,933 permits through BurnSafeTN.org, compared to 77,566 issued in FY 2017
- Held the 3rd Annual Tennessee Firewise Community workshop
- Worked with an estimated 30 communities to implement elements of the Fire Adapted Communities strategy (CWPPs, Firewise Program, fuel reduction projects, grants, and educational programs).
- Recognized 12 new Firewise USA® Communities and led the nation in newly recognized communities for much of the year
- Provided \$279,763 to Tennessee communities to assist in the development of 15 new Community Wildfire Protection Plans, hazardous fuels reduction projects, and to facilitate best practices for Tennessee Fire Adapted Communities
- Provided 107 cost share grants to volunteer fire departments totaling \$259,000.
- Deployed 5 overhead and two 20 person initial attack crews to federal wildfire assignments in Colorado, Montana, Oklahoma, and Oregon. Two task forces of engines and dozers with eighteen employees were ordered through the Southeastern States Compact for Oklahoma fire support in April 2018
- Sponsored, coordinated and participated in the 16th annual TN-KY Wildland Fire Academy, which offers

advanced wildfire training for Division and interagency firefighters nationwide. 462 firefighters attended training at the Academy from 28 different states. 52 TN Division of Forestry personnel participated in the Academy as instructor or student

- Utilized the TN Division of Forestry's role as Tennessee's only accredited National Wildfire Coordinating Group training provider to train 663 structural firefighters from 56 fire departments throughout the year.
- Conducted 2 TN Certified Prescribed Burn Manager training courses, with a total of 80 students. The TN Division of Forestry maintains a roster of over 300 burn managers in TN.

Forest Health Protection

- Conducted southern pine beetle (SPB) trapping in Chester, Marion, Rhea, and Wayne counties where pine is a major component of several forest types. The survey indicated low SPB populations, however, further considerations of future populations must be made due to the drought.
- Placed 8,524 gypsy moth detection and delimiting traps in 95 counties.
- Detected 80 gypsy moths in 12 counties, mostly in the northeast, potentially signaling an infestation.
- Monitored 95 counties for forest health issues and reported over 90 occurrences per month.
- Treated over 15,000 hemlocks for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) over 1,300 acres and designated hemlock conservation areas within the state. This was completed by the TDF HWA strike team.
- Conducted community outreach meetings to educate forest industry and private landowners on the impacts of the expanded EAB quarantine in 3 new counties.
- Partnered with The Nature Conservancy and other state and federal organizations to lead a firewood kiln workshop to promote the development of a potential private sector firewood industry. TDF also launched a new cost share assistance program to provide financial assistance to people interested in building or purchasing a firewood kiln.

Forest Stewardship

- Wrote 103 Forest Stewardship plans addressing 13,617 acres.
- Recognized implementation of 4 Stewardship plans improving 1,080 acres.

Landowner Assistance

- Forest Management Planning - Wrote 813 other forest management plans addressing 68,633
- Forest Stand Prescription Planning - Wrote 436 prescription plans improving 21,968 acres.
- Forest Stand Prescriptions Implemented - Assisted 252 landowners in other forest management activities on 11,996 acres that included hardwood and softwood tree planting, site preparation and release activities, prescribed burning, wildlife habitat improvement, stream crossings and erosion control.
- Provided \$77,719 of Southern Pine Beetle Initiative cost share funds as incentive for 24 landowners who improved 1,634 acres through tree planting and pine beetle hazard reduction activities
- Provided \$64,101 of Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program cost share funds as incentive for 26 landowners who improved 1,412 acres through tree planting and site preparation activities
- Provided \$12,787 of Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program cost share funds as incentive for 3 loggers to protect water quality by installing stream and wet area crossing structures

Urban and Community Forestry

- Utilized the federal Urban and Community grant program to assist in funding the hiring of city foresters in Memphis, Crossville, and Cookeville. Cookeville City Council voted to permanently hire the city forester supported by this program
- Completed tree canopy cover analysis for the communities of Maryville and Lewisburg
- Recognized 47 cities and towns as Tree City USA.
- Recognized 19 utility companies as Tree Line USA (15 municipal utilities and 4 cooperatives). Tennessee still remains #1 in the country for Tree Line utilities.
- Recognized 9 college campuses as Tree Campus USA.
- Continued to partner with the Tennessee Stormwater Association with the goal of further developing the riparian program in Tennessee and assisting MS4 projects with green infrastructure information.

Contact Information



Tennessee Department of Agriculture

David Arnold
State Forester
Division of Forestry
P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
615-837-5411
david.arnold@tn.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
