State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
Tennessee 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>$484,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$5,690,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$203,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$794,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$1,149,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$235,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$264,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,820,862</strong></td>
</tr>
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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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Facts</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>6,346,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Forest Land</td>
<td>13,919,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land</td>
<td>11,206,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of NIPF Landowners</td>
<td>534,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>25,668,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Rural Fire Departments</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities and Towns</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Based Employment</td>
<td>101,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forestry Budget (All Sources)</td>
<td>31,309,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2019 Accomplishments</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance</td>
<td>20,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>9,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>3,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Communities Assisted</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coop Forest Health Acres Protected</td>
<td>2,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Living in Communities</td>
<td>2,678,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance</td>
<td>16,000</td>
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**Program Highlights**

**Connecting Southern Forest Products to the World**

To offer solutions for businesses looking to grow in new markets, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry hosted the Southern Forest Products Export Conference in Memphis at the Guesthouse at Graceland Resort, October 21-24, 2018. The conference aimed to highlight challenges and opportunities for inland exporting and to raise awareness of the importance of southern forest products, the industry that produces them, and the economic impact on the region.

**Conservation Education**

- Held 5,057 educational outreach activities reaching 52,557 children and adults statewide.
- Hosted 5th regional Southern Forest Products Export Conference in Memphis with 120 attendees who represented 71 companies/agencies/organizations from 18 states.
- Hosted 2019 Southern Group of State Foresters Summer Meeting in Franklin with over 200 regional state agency staff and partners.
- Initiated a contract with the Tennessee Forestry Association to fund a Conservation Education Coordinator who managed the Project Learning Tree Program, conducted Teacher Conservation Workshops, and trained facilitators.
- Facilitated the 70th annual Forestry Camp for 47 FFA high school students.
- Conducted 2 tree trail conservation education programs at the Tennessee Governor's Residence at the request of the First Lady's office.
- Produced 19 news releases pertaining to relevant topics including forest pests, wildland fire danger, burn permit requirements, capital improvements, tree planting, urban forestry, and cost share opportunities.
- Gave multiple radio and television interviews addressing Division programs and topical issues.
- Promoted Division services and outreach campaigns across multiple media outlets. This included advertising campaigns for wildland fire prevention, forest health, the Tennessee Wood Products campaign, and East Tennessee Nursery tree seedlings.
- Launched social media profiles for Protect TN Forests conservation.
campaign including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to reach a broad audience and promote conservation education and Division activity in forest management.

**Cooperative Fire Protection**

- Responded to 302 wildfires totaling 3,485 acres, which marks the lowest fiscal year suppression numbers on record. These low numbers were aided by a wet year and robust education and outreach campaigns.
- Saved 208 threatened structures and 55 vehicles and equipment worth a combined estimate of $13 million.
- Deployed personnel to support emergency wildland fire operations across the country. Division firefighters were recognized by Governor Haslam in a special ceremony honoring their commitment and sacrifice.
- Initiated development of fiResponse software platform, which is an enterprise decision support system that provides capabilities for monitoring wildland fire incidents and all associated operational activities related to incident response, dispatch, and resource tracking. Use of the platform is expected to dramatically increase situational awareness for partner agencies and the public.
- Conducted two Tennessee Certified Prescribed Burn Manager training courses with a total of 90 students. The Division maintains a roster of nearly 370 burn managers in Tennessee.
- Trained 700 structural firefighters from 60 fire departments in the use of fire operations in the wildland-urban interface, as well as other wildland fire courses accredited by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.
- Provided 98 cost share grants to volunteer fire departments totaling $262,000.
- Completed the contracting process with Central Procurement Office—including specification details and vendor identification—for the future purchase of 112 new dozers and transport trucks to support wildfire suppression.
- Trained personnel in necessary heavy equipment and NWCG courses. Additionally, TDF escalated training for our Type 3 Incident Management Team through multiple position-specific trainings, ISuites incident database training, and two full-scale multi-day team exercise mobilization events.

**Economic Action**

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture awarded $590,000 to growth and expansion projects for wood products businesses in FY2019. These awards leveraged $4.8 million in total capital expenditures and created 53 new jobs.

**Forest Health Protection**

- Protected 1,643 acres and treated 17,153 trees for HWA.
- Monitored for gypsy moth via placement of 6,740 gypsy moth traps, capturing 171 male gypsy moths in 7 counties, which is an increase from moths detected in 2017 and 2018.
- Held several forest health trainings for Division personnel.
- Monitored all counties for forest health issues and reported an average of 90 issues per month.

**Water Quality**

From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the Division inspected 1,021 harvesting operations statewide and responded to 44 water quality complaints. Of the harvest sites inspected for BMP compliance, TDF found that loggers implemented BMPs 96% percent of the time. On the sites that were visited due to reported water quality complaints, 26 of the 44 had issues affecting water quality and were brought back into compliance within Tennessee’s Water Quality Control Act (TCA 69-3-101) following technical consultation with the Division’s water
quality forester.

**Forest Legacy**
- Received $5,665,000 in Forest Legacy federal funding for the Skinner Mountain Forest Conservation Easement purchase.
- Successfully completed the Quality Assurance Inspection of Forest Legacy appraisal activities conducted by the USDA Forest Service.
- Completed all annual compliance monitoring visits for Forest Legacy conservation easement tracts.

**Forest Stewardship**
- Held the first annual Tennessee Forester's Academy to provide professional development to Division foresters and establish a cohesive understanding of the Division's vision for landowner services. All forester ranks attended to hear Division program updates from unit leaders and program specialists, and learn about prescribed fire, forest markets, herbicide application, communications, and forest inventory from industry leaders and academic experts.
- Secured $150,000 Landscape Scale Restoration grant from the USDA Forest Service for the development of a Tennessee landscape level forest management plan. Implementation of this project will reduce the burden of individual management plan development, allow foresters to spend more time with landowners on the ground, and contribute to accomplishing landscape level goals.
- Trained Division foresters on ArcGIS Pro software and a related customized project specifically designed for landowner assistance.
- Developed a landowner assistance operations dashboard using ArcGIS software.
- Wrote 84 Stewardship plans addressing 9,971 acres.
- Recognized implementation of 2 stewardship plans improving 332 acres.
- Wrote 544 other forest management plans addressing 43,736 acres.
- Wrote 362 prescription plans improving 16,117 acres.
- Assisted 173 landowners in the implementation of forest management activities on 6,326 acres that included hardwood and softwood tree planting, site preparation and release activities, prescribed burning, wildlife habitat improvement, stream crossings, and erosion control.

**Landowner Assistance**
- Reforestation
  - Sold nearly 3.5 million seedlings to more than 1,300 customers; 60% of sales were online, 40% of sales were by phone and mail.
  - Published advertisements for the nursery in the TFA Membership Directory, the TWRA Fall Hunting Guide, Tennessee Home and Farm Magazine, and Tennessee Magazine.
  - Promoted seedlings at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention.
  - Promoted the nursery at the Steak and Potatoes Field Day in Crossville.
  - Worked with the Tennessee Environmental Council to provide and distribute 52,100 seedlings for the Council's 250K Tree Day. Cooperating agencies and partners planted approximately 97,100 seedlings on March 23, 2019 for this event. All Tennessee counties participated, as well as ten other states.
  - Partnered with Promark and Huber Engineered Woods to provide 75,000 hardwood seedlings and 260,200 pine seedlings to Tennessee landowners free of charge.

**Urban and Community Forestry**
- Completed 22 TAEP community tree planting grants for a total of 2,419 trees planted.
- Funded urban forester positions in Memphis and Cookeville using federal Urban and Community Forestry grant funds. Cookeville made their forester a permanent position.
- Recognized 47 Tree City USA Tennessee cities and towns.
- Recognized 19 utility companies as Tree Line USA. Tennessee remains ranked #1 for Tree Line USA in the country.
- Recognized 10 Tree Campus USA institutions of higher learning and began recruiting for Tree Campus K-12 USA, a new program for elementary through high schools.
- Partnered with local foresters, the Great Smoky Mountain National Park vegetation manager,
local fire departments, and citizens to identify a suitable area for forest health demonstrations in Sevier County to address invasive plant issues.

- Partnered with Tennessee Invasive Plant Council to produce the Invasive Plant Primer for the Home Landscape brochure that provides instruction on the treatment and removal of nonnative invasive plants.
- Provided education and outreach to 41 entities including master gardener groups, non-profit organizations, cities and towns, schools, and others.

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