



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Texas 2019



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$890,341
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$314,486
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$621,980
State Fire Assistance	\$1,986,348
Urban and Community Forestry	\$667,565
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$744,906
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,225,626</b>

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

### Program Goals

- To maintain and improve the health of rural and urban forests and to protect the forests and citizens of Texas. These programs maximize cost effectiveness through the use of program delivery partnerships and increase forestland sustainability and value in a non-regulatory, voluntary manner.
- The cooperative programs, implemented through partnerships between Texas, USDA Forest Service, and other entities, emphasize forest sustainability and the production of amenity and commodity values.

### Key Issues

- Working with counties, communities, and homeowners to mitigate wildfire risk and enhance community forest sustainability.
- Invasive plants, insects, diseases, and drought-related impacts are key issues within forest health.
- Protecting the health and value of trees for wildlife and water where woodlands are not traditionally harvested commercially.
- Addressing landscape scale issues, and developing incentive-based programs that increase water quality and forest health.
- Increasing awareness for the Healthy Trees Healthy Lives campaign through which the role that urban trees and forests play in human health.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	25,145,561	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	6,242
Acres of Forest Land	62,614,955	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	99,548
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	12,996,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	73,594
Number of NIPF Landowners	354,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	378
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	89
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	157,658,560	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	4,900
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,650	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	5,438
Cities and Towns	1,214	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	114
Forest Based Employment	67,000	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	13,423,487
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	9	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	5,735
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	79,324,608		

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) continued to work with counties, communities, and homeowners to mitigate wildfire risk using the Ready Set Go program. During FY 18 TFS provided 157 fire prevention workshops educating over 30,000 Texans on mitigating wildfire risk. TFS staff provided training to over 3,000 firefighters and provided almost 3,500 VFD assists. Local, state, and national resources responded to 10,579 wildfires burning 537,421 acres in 2018. State Fire Assistance provided funding to support fire protection and training activities across Texas. The federal excess property programs (FEPP and FFP) assisted Texas in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, TFS administered Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support firefighter safety and the training efforts of rural community fire departments.

### **Forest Health Protection**

TFS continues to coordinate public outreach concerning the movement of emerald ash borer (EAB) since the original detection in 2016. During 2018, EAB was confirmed in the Fort Worth area posing a threat to urban forests and trees in the area. TFS works closely with USDA-APHIS to implement the EAB Monitoring and Detection Program across the state. Although southern pine beetle (SPB) hasn't been identified in Texas for some time, TFS continues to work with landowners to reduce the threat of SPB infestations in overly dense pine stands. Oak wilt continues to spread throughout Central and North Texas infecting healthy live oak trees impacting both rural and urban landscapes. TFS continues to provide both technical and financial assistance through the Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Project to limit the spread of oak wilt to non-infected areas and trees. During 2018, utilizing Cooperative FHP funding, TFS was able to oversee the installation of over 9 miles of oak wilt trenching and thin almost over 2,000 acres of overly dense pine stands. These activities combined with traditional assistance helps maintain the health of Texas forests and woodlands. The threat from invasive pests and plants continues to grow in Texas with increased port activity and urbanization. TFS continued to expand its relationship with US Customs and Border Patrol in monitoring for exotic pests that pose a threat to the state's natural resources.

### **Forest Legacy**

TFS continues to promote the Forest Legacy program and currently has a total of 6 funded projects protecting more than 30,000 acres of forestland within high priority areas. During 2018, TFS did not have a Forest Legacy project funded but staff will continue to promote a longleaf conservation project in far East Texas.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The TFS continued to focus efforts towards the stated National Program Priorities. As a part of the

program, TFS delivered 622 Forest Stewardship Plans during FY18 representing almost 100,000 acres. Of those acres, 74% are located within identified high priority areas as identified in the Texas Forest Action Plan. Through the TFS seed orchard, 3,500 pounds of improved seed were collected and/or produced and over 50,000 seedlings were produced through the West Texas Nursery. Through the FSTW program during FY 18, through traditional technical assistance, outreach and mobile applications TFS was able to assist almost 50,000 landowners and managers statewide. The State Stewardship Coordinating Committee continues to provide direction and guidance for ensuring that a balanced and effective program reaches landowners statewide.

### **Landowner Assistance**

TFS assists landowners across the state through a number of activities through support of USFS State and Private Forestry programs. Through these programs TFS staff are able to provide Texans assistance regarding a wide range of natural resource issues. In addition to Forest Stewardship activities, landowners receive help with land, timber and tree management issues and needs. Landowners and homeowners receive expert advice on things such as reforestation, tax valuation, ecosystem restoration as well as forest and tree health threats. TFS strives to meet the needs of all Texans throughout the diverse state. This includes windbreak needs in the High Plains, insect and disease issues for rural and urban trees, brush control issues in Central and West Texas, water related issues across the state, forest and habitat fragmentation, and protection and sustainability of the commercial forests of East Texas. TFS annually provides more than 100,000 assists across the state. During FY 18 TFS staff provided over 700 education and training events with over 25,000 Texans receiving formal education on natural resource related topics. These assists included training sessions/workshops, one-on-one consultations, and web-based trainings and applications.

### **Outreach and Emerging Markets**

TFS continues to monitor economically-viable sources of biomass and promote biomass energy markets, promote existing traditional wood markets, promote the need for and expansion of new markets for both traditional and non-traditional wood products. TFS continues to expand the capabilities of [www.texasforestinfo.com](http://www.texasforestinfo.com), a web-based portal that provides all Texans and others information on Texas' forest resources. During FY 18, the "Got Land" application was released. This application is designed to provide information on a variety of land management topics for both new and existing landowners across the state. During FY 18, "My Land Management Connector" continued to connect landowners with service providers. The portal also provides landowners, land managers and arborists tools to assist them in the management of forests, woodlands and urban greenspaces and trees.

Through the Forest Stewardship Program, the TFS emphasizes the management and sustainability of resource high-priority areas throughout the state. Using the Texas Forest Action Plan, TFS program leaders direct educational and technical resources to identified priority areas. Program delivery is tailored to address the resource concerns identified and assists Texans in those areas to maintain healthy forests, trees and woodlands. One tool utilized to educate Texans about natural resource priorities is the quarterly newsletter "Stewardship Briefings". The newsletter addresses landscape scale concerns within high priority areas and how Texans can maintain the health and vigor of their forests and trees. During FY 18, TFS staff across the state educated more than 25,000 landowners through a variety of trainings, webinars and workshops focused on current natural resource issues. Outreach efforts also target historically underserved landowners providing the tools necessary to manage their forests or woodlands.

### **Restoration**

TFS continues to collaborate with federal, state, and NGO partners to identify and develop landscape initiatives to address forest and woodland health, improve water quality, and identify barriers to landowners in managing forests and woodlands across the state. Agency staff serve integral roles on various restoration teams including the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team, Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network, and the State Technical Advisory Committee hosted by NRCS. TFS continues to support the restoration of longleaf pine, shortleaf pine, ponderosa pine and native grass restoration as part of restoring historical ecosystem types in Texas. During FY 18, TFS continued efforts to restore ponderosa pine in the Davis Mountain region, identify deteriorated windbreaks in the High Plains for restoration purposes, and continued growing native grass for restoration projects. Through the Good Neighbor Authority, TFS is assisting Texas National Forests in addressing forest health issues and mitigating hazards to both the local ecosystem and general public.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The Urban and Community Forestry Program provides educational and technical assistance to communities and homeowners across the state. This includes tree ordinances, single tree issues, inventories and community management plans for green spaces and trees. Staff work with 6 regional urban forestry councils to educate citizens about the benefit and value of trees in the landscape, coordinate the Texas Tree Conference and assist in the development of applications to aid communities in the management of their trees, including the new Trees Count mobile inventory app and companion tools.

### **Water Resources**

The TFS Water Resources program continues to focus on innovative technology and strategic partnerships to enhance water resources throughout the state. Texas Forestry BMPs, a native smartphone application for the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices handbook, has been downloaded by more than 1,000 users. The web-based Plan My Land Operation application averages 200 sessions per month, providing users with site specific BMP recommendations to support operational planning and layout. Computer models (iTree Hydro) are also being used to quantify and build support for utilizing urban forests in stormwater management programs and watershed protection plans. The Texas Forests and Drinking Water Partnership continues to grow and connects forest managers, owners and water utility districts to advance source water protection initiatives. Priority watersheds have been identified, conservation funding has been directed to these areas, and efforts are underway to develop a forest-water demonstration project. TFS is also delivering land stewardship training to farm and ranch contractors in Central and West Texas, building on the extremely successful logger training model in East Texas.

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### **Contact Information**



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