



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Washington 2020



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$706,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$533,868
Forest Legacy	\$30,000
Forest Stewardship	\$216,500
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$600,000
State Fire Assistance	\$3,273,914
Urban and Community Forestry	\$569,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$623,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,553,065</b>

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

Cooperative Forestry programs are implemented through a partnership between the State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of private forest lands, city and community trees and forests, and rural economies. Emphasis is on sustainable forests for timber and other forest products, watersheds, healthy urban and community ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and local economies. The goal is to continue providing economic, environmental, and social values and products to all Washington residents.

## Program Goals

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery.
- Continue voluntary and non-regulatory approaches with programs.
- Reduce the rate of conversion of working forestlands to non-forest uses.
- Support forest landowners' provision of ecosystem services, including flood control, clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and riparian function.
- Empower landowners, cities, communities, and land managers to be stewards of the land and of their city trees and forests.
- Continue integration of Forest Stewardship, National Fire Plan, and Forest Health Protection to provide a coordinated multi-program, multi-resource education, technical assistance, and cost-share program for family forest landowners.
- Assist cities, communities, and neighborhoods in planning for, planting, and managing their trees for economic, environmental, and social benefits.

## Key Issues

- Assisting communities to mitigate the wildland fire problem in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Providing technical assistance and education to landowners to promote active management that addresses forest health concerns (bark beetles, root disease, defoliators) related to tree vigor, density, and species diversity.
- Helping communities pass new or strengthened tree ordinances, develop tree inventories and management plans, train local staff, support tree advisory committees, and develop comprehensive municipal urban forestry programs.
- Administering the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program to effectively support eligible rural fire departments and improve the fire protection district capabilities.
- Monitoring and reporting on activity and impacts of forest insects and diseases.

- Mitigating the effects of forest fragmentation in urbanizing areas and the wildland-urban interface by helping cities, counties, and landowners maintain forest values as land develops. Staff continues to educate cities and communities on the benefits of trees to mitigate climate change and aid in the cleanup of Puget Sound.
- Continuing cooperative efforts to monitor and eradicate introductions of exotic organisms such as sudden oak death and gypsy moth, and to manage and suppress established invasive plants on state and private lands.
- Supporting long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands.
- Educating cities about the public safety, economic development, environmental quality, human health and community livability benefits that result from proper planning and management of their urban trees

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2019 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,724,540	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	7,964
Acres of Forest Land	22,104,865	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	7,708
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	7,559
Number of NIPF Landowners	215,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	278
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	180,756	State Fire Communities Assisted	215
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,194,932	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2,855
Number of Rural Fire Departments	558	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	281	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	137
Forest Based Employment	28,970	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4,321,755
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	73,640
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	145,877,000		

## Program Highlights

### 2014 Statewide Energy Team - Biomass

- Having concluded its project life in 2019 the Statewide Energy Team can list many accomplishments that benefited increase utilization of biomass and has led to other connections beyond energy utilization alone.

The most recent highlights is the WSU Extension Energy Program completed a full wood energy feasibility study for the Larch Correction Center in Yacolt, WA. In addition to the Wind River Biomass, to design, procure and test an efficient system for sorting, gathering and transporting woody biomass—primarily harvest slash—based on a system common to Scandinavian countries.

The WA State Department of Commerce awarded grants from the Forest Products Financial Assistance Program to four proposed projects that provide wood heat, power, engineered fuel products and/or significant energy efficiency improvements.

- Darrington Wood Innovation Center: to support design of a cutting-edge Wood Innovation Center. The first development phase will consist of infrastructure and three buildings hosting a mass timber plant, a modular fabrication facility using cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels produced at the plant and a small European-grade re-manufacturing sawmill facility.

- The Lands Council (Spokane): for conversion of residual woody debris to biochar (a soil amendment product), promoting an economically viable approach to forest health enhancement and carbon sequestration, eliminating costly material transport and associated emissions, and simplifying logistics through onsite production.

- San Juan Islands Conservation District (Friday Harbor): \$181,882 to develop appropriate energy and biochar technologies to process woody biomass at different distances from town centers. This proposal

includes a technology assessment, site analysis and conceptual design of an advanced wood energy microgrid gasifier system to generate heat and power for community facilities on Orcas Island.

- DNR continued to serve on Forterra's CLT/Mass Timber Coalition Leadership Committee.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Cooperative Fire funds provide key resources for the DNR fire program to assist in implementation of the State Forest Action Plan. In Federal FY19, through this assistance, 100 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions; 11 new communities achieved Firewise USA® recognition and 135 were maintained in active status; over 7,500 acres of forestland received technical assistance or were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class. 14 vehicles for conversion to fire engines and water tenders, and 2 command vehicles were placed in volunteer fire districts through the Fire Fighter Property; 133 fire districts received funding for acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment; 42 fire districts received grants for fire equipment, communications equipment, or vehicle refurbishment. In 2018, there were 34 Type 3 and 12 Type 1 & 2 incidents. Type 3 and 2 incidents were managed by interagency Incident Management Teams (IMT). This year the department successfully suppressed 91% of all DNR fires at less than 10 acres.

### **Forest Health Protection**

DNR Forest Health Protection staff continue an effective forest health education, technical assistance and site visit program for state and private landowners. They also provide expertise to All-Lands forest health planning, including implementing the Forest Action Plan and the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan. For the 2019-21 biennium, DNR received a \$14.2 million forest health capital budget appropriation from the WA State Legislature. Funds will be used to increase pace and scale of forest health and watershed health restoration treatments on private, state, and federal forest lands, including through cross-boundary partnerships. Insect and disease aerial detection surveys, in cooperation with the Forest Service, were conducted on 22 million acres. Areas affected by bark beetle mortality and Douglas-fir tussock moth defoliation increased. Cumulative drought stress continues to be an inciting factor for increased conifer mortality and secondary bark beetle activity in many tree species. Mortality and forest pest range expansion related to drought and climate change are a priority for DNR monitoring work. DNR continues to monitor for *Phytophthora ramorum* (the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death), which been detected in one waterway, but is not yet established in native vegetation. Cost share funding for eastern WA landowners through the USFS Western Bark Beetle Prevention grant is available. DNR publishes an annual Forest Health Highlights report covering statewide forest health conditions and monitoring activities. WA State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) implements an EDRR program for invasive plants, including a biocontrol program which is est. to treat 46,000 ac/yr and saves an est. \$84,000 in herbicide costs. WSDA treated 1,706 ac for gypsy moth (GM) eradication on 3 sites in 2019; several new GM finds, including a Hokaido GM (the first detection of this Asian species in the US) will result in additional eradication efforts in 2020.

### **Forest Legacy**

Washington received two Forest Legacy grants in 2018, Dewatto Headwaters Phase 1 and South Puget Sound Coastal Forest Phase 3, which together will protect approximately 8000 acres in a landscape that connects to Puget Sound. Maintaining upland forests will help improve the health of this significant waterway by reducing pollution from residential development, aiding in the protection of marine and forest habitats, and contributing to local timber and shellfish industries. These projects are expected to close in 2020. The Forest Legacy Program is a component of the statewide strategy to protect working forests.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The Forest Stewardship Program provides forest management advice and supports educational programs to encourage long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands. A cornerstone of the program continues to be the highly popular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses. This 8-week course enables landowners to learn about all aspects of sustainable forest management and to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) customized to their specific objectives and property conditions. Since participants have "ownership" in developing their plan, the result is a very high rate of subsequent on-the-ground implementation. This year, 73 landowners created or revised their Forest Stewardship plans covering almost 7,800 acres. 2019 marked the 23rd year of Washington's very successful Family Forest Owners Field Day program. These regional events have proven to be an excellent way to attract new landowners to the Forest Stewardship Program with nearly 20,000 participating since the program's

inception. Washington continues to implement an extensive cost-share program, jointly supported by state and federal funds, to incentivize landowners to implement practices to improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The program targets priority areas identified in the State Forest Action Plan.

There are currently two Stewardship Foresters and one Stewardship Fish & Wildlife Biologist who are funded through the Forest Stewardship Program. On average, each Forester conducts approximately 80 site visits per year to help landowners manage their lands to improve their forest health, create or maintain wildlife habitat and meet any other specific management objectives they may have. Collectively, the Stewardship Foresters receive over 800 landowner assistance requests each year. These requests are via email, phone call, or office visits.

### ***Landowner Assistance***

In Federal FY19, through this assistance, 100 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions; 11 new communities achieved Firewise USA® recognition and 135 were maintained in active status; over 7,500 acres of forestland received technical assistance or were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class.

### ***Landscape Scale Restoration***

Over 40 FSP were written on 2,200ac in the Chehalis River Watershed (2016 LSR). The project includes landowner outreach/education with support for a forestry educator who conducted 3 Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses and 3 regional Family Forest Owners Field Day events in the project area. This project targets the highest priority landscape for the Forest Stewardship Program as identified in the FAP. A landscape-scale FSP will be completed for the Colville-Little Spokane River watersheds in NE WA (2018 LSR). The master plan will expedite individual FSP development, significantly increasing the acreage being sustainably managed. The project will include landowner outreach/education with support for a forester to conduct minimum of 3 regional Family Forest Owners Field Days and prepare for FSP development and implementation; conduct at least 6 8-week Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses to help landowners develop FSP with instruction and coaching from natural resource professionals; and conduct at least 6 forest health and wildfire hazard reduction workshops to help landowners identify problems and provide treatment options to mitigate risks. Cost-share programs for FSPs prepared by foresters and to incentivize treatment implementation will also be started. The UCF restoration project, 2014 funded, completed in 2019 with WA Conservation Corps crews doing projects in 3 communities. Projects included structural tree pruning, invasive plant removal, and community safety and stormwater mitigation. UCF was awarded 2 LSR grants in 2019 for multi-year projects in SeaTac, Des Moines, and Burien among the most economically and racially diverse cities in the nation and in the lower Green-Duwamish Watershed -one of the most degraded in the nation due to industrial use. Partners will develop and implement urban forestry projects in the Highline School District. Projects will engage students and community and will be located on school land and adjacent city property.

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

Technical, financial, & educational assistance provided by Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) includes community forestry management planning, tree inventories & assessments, municipal code development, training for municipal staff statewide & arboriculture consultation for trees on the WA State Capitol Campus. UCF seeks to develop statewide partnerships to raise awareness of the program and implement projects on behalf of Washington urban forest managers. UCF-staffed WA Community Forestry Council met four times with three site based meetings and one conference call. 95 cities & towns met Tree City USA standards - 48% of WA residents live in TCUSA communities; 13 TCUSA communities received Growth Awards for outstanding program activities, 10 Utility Companies met Tree Line USA standards, & 10 college & university campuses met Tree Campus USA standards. Grants awarded to communities & orgs include 3 small community forestry grants for management plan development, implementation of management plan goals (structural pruning) and 1 community tree arboretum. One UCF environmental justice grant was awarded to engage an underserved community to develop plans to install trees associated with a green infrastructure project near the local school and 11 Tree City USA Arbor Day tree planting grants. Grant projects continue from 2018 including a fire-adapted community tree arboretum and a city inventory update and management plan. UCF partnered w/ Spokane and Cascadia Conservation Districts to provide tech assistance to communities in eastern WA. Grant funded work continues w/ WA State University Extension to develop online UF learning modules for master gardeners & others. The 2019 seminar series, Protecting Trees During Construction, was

presented in 8 communities statewide. UCF outreach included presentations delivered to 20 allied professional organizations, communities, and DNR regions.

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## Contact Information



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