



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Wisconsin 2020



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$515,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$227,327
Forest Legacy	\$20,000
Forest Stewardship	\$255,273
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$327,998
State Fire Assistance	\$1,140,220
Urban and Community Forestry	\$255,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$317,506
Total	\$3,058,324

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

State, private, and other non-Federal forests make up 92 percent of the 176 million acres of forests across the 20 states of the Northeast and Midwest. The U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies collaborate with other partners on shared stewardship goals, which also support each State Forest Action Plan. The State and Private Forestry programs promote the health, resilience, and productivity of trees and forests across all ownerships for the benefit of people and wildlife; establish and manage urban and community forests; empower private landowners with information and technical assistance to sustainably manage their forests; and protect critically important rural forests and watersheds.

Program Goals

- Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
- Protect forests from threats.
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

Key Issues

- Fragmentation and Parcelization: Forest land, parcel size, large blocks of forests, landscape scale management, and sustainably managed forest.
- Forest Composition and Structure: Improving forested communities, landscape scale planning, deer, urban forests, and invasives.
- Energy and Climate Change: Biomass, adaptation, and mitigation.
- Forests as Economic Contributors: Forest value, markets, capacity, and recreation.
- Protection of Life and Property in Forested Areas: Fire, safety, and law enforcement.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2019 Accomplishments	Value
Population	5,686,986	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	11,674
Acres of Forest Land	17,018,699	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	117,728
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,438,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	41,453
Number of NIPF Landowners	362,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	400
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	578
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,299,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	77,271
Number of Rural Fire Departments	947	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	594	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	257
Forest Based Employment	74,548	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	3,595,393
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,995
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	29,004,400		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Wisconsin was awarded two competitive State Fire Assistance grants to support fuels reduction in the highest wildfire risk urban interface areas, planning of evacuation routes, home ignition assessments, and fire prevention programs. Wisconsin acquired \$52,000 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program. The property is used to support the state's and volunteer fire departments' wildland fire programs. Wisconsin is serving as the host for the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact's development of the Northeast Wildfire Risk Assessment, which will cover the entire 20-state Eastern Geographic Area. The risk assessment will analyze small fire size occurrence that is not easily captured by the ongoing regional risk assessment efforts using landscape scale fire simulation modeling methods.

Forest Health Protection

Extreme weather impacts to trees and forests in 2019 included severe damage from major July storms, and flood damage due to excessive rainfall during the wettest year on record. Emerald ash borer has been confirmed in 52 of 72 counties, a statewide quarantine is in effect, and mortality is common in the southeastern and western portions of the state. Oak wilt disease continues to be a concern, particularly with expansion of the known distribution in parts of northern Wisconsin.

Forest Stewardship

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is making strides toward their 5-year goal to connect 20,000 new non-industrial private forest landowners with a resource professional to move 1 million acres toward sustainable forestry. Property visits by WDNR service foresters are up nearly 50 percent from previous years as a result of successful outreach campaigns, including direct mail, television, radio and digital ads, and billboards. WDNR is also deploying the American Forest Foundation's WoodsCamp tool, which uses social media to connect with private woodland owners.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Non-profits including Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc., municipalities including Milwaukee, and counties received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through competitive grants for activities including surveying and treating invasive species, and planting trees to mitigate loss from emerald ash borer and as green stormwater infrastructure.

Urban and Community Forestry

Working with a conference planning committee of partners from diverse professional affiliations, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry program hosted the inaugural Good Health Grows on Trees: The Influence of Nearby Nature on Public Health conference in May 2019. This event

attracted over 100 attendees from the fields of public health, landscape architecture, urban and regional planning, and urban and community forestry to learn about and discuss the mental and physical health benefits that trees provide.

Contact Information



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