



## West Virginia Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$124,723
Cooperative Forestry	\$404,466
Forest Health Management	\$582,484
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$47,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,159,473</b>

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

### Key Issues

- Competing land uses.
- Communications and education.
- Sustainability of forest resources in West Virginia.
- Water quality.
- Wildfire.
- Sustainability of urban forests.
- Forest health.
- Utilization, marketing, and economic development.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,793,716	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	3,909
Acres of Forest Land	12,013,467	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	30,680
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	7,878,875	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	18,857
Number of NIPF Landowners	96,965	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	125
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	166
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	34,994
Number of Rural Fire Departments	432	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	232	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	24
Forest Based Employment	10,198	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	274,779
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	6,377
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	8,007,548		

### Program Highlights

#### Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help West Virginia meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. The Division of Forestry participated in the restoration of 94 acres of riparian forest buffers and three acres of urban tree planting in the most recent reporting cycle, approved in 2024. Other significant watershed forestry activities in 2024 included working with partners at the Cacapon Institute to implement tree planting efforts through Project CommuniTree grants; participating in the Chesapeake Forestry Workgroup, Timber Harvest Task Force, and the West Virginia Forests and Drinking Water Partnership; and implementing West Virginia's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

#### Cooperative Fire Protection

Volunteer Fire Capacity funds were used to support 125 rural fire departments. Cooperative Fire Program funds supported the training of 270 firefighters and treatment of 550 acres of hazardous fuels. Fire prevention efforts reached 160 Communities through 250 events or programs.

#### Forest Health Protection

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) found the following new detections of invasive pests through forest health surveys: elongate hemlock scale was found in Summers and Ohio Counties; hemlock woolly adelgid was detected in Brooke, Hancock and Ohio Counties; beech leaf disease was reported in Jefferson County; spotted lanternfly was detected in Monongalia

and Wood Counties. Oak decline has been a concern state-wide, and the severe drought experienced during the growing season has exacerbated the issue. WVDA continued using Forewarn to identify, survey, collect, and report large forest disturbances across the state, which continues to provide a more comprehensive method for reporting statewide disturbances and data all season long.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The West Virginia Stewardship Program reported 199 new or revised Forest Stewardship/Conservation Planning Activities plans covering 30,680 acres, of which 18,857 acres were in Forest Stewardship Program priority areas per West Virginia's State Forest Action Plan. In collaboration with other forestry-related partners, 2,242 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 1,667 landowners participated in education programs. Forest Stewards Training Workshops were hosted monthly via Zoom by the West Virginia University Extension Service in conjunction with the West Virginia Division of Forestry. Attendees included private forestry consultants, woodland owners, and individuals from various State agencies and industry.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources closed Clements Nursery in early 2020. Through the Forest Stewardship program and National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resource program, the State receives financial assistance to support nursery, genetics, and seed programs.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

Grantee: West Virginia University Research Corporation

Federal Investment: \$425,870

Project: Using West Virginia State Forests as Examples of Impactful Invasive Management

Summary: This project will deliver educational and management opportunities to forest stakeholders, including public agencies, private landowners, non-profit organizations, and professionals within the forest industry. The primary focus of this initiative is to enhance the public's knowledge of improved forest management, primarily focusing on invasive species control, by building on a newly implemented management partnership initiated on West Virginia's state-managed forests.

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal Investment: \$585,824 (Multi-State Project)

Project: Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: The Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water is an interagency, multi-partner collaboration that advances restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water from West Virginia to Maine. This project will facilitate continued collaboration among the diverse array of partners in states across the northeast and mid-Atlantic, will foster shared learning, and support forested watershed restoration activities.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

In 2024, West Virginia's Urban Forestry program provided assistance to 41 communities and positively impacted 322,344 West Virginians. Our grant program funded eight local projects resulting in a total of \$168,520 in urban forestry investments that include: two inventories and management plans, tree planting and maintenance for six Tree City USA communities, and a Grant Specialist from West Virginia University to provide outreach and technical assistance to communities, schools and organizations applying for grants. A total of 17 communities were certified as Tree City USAs, including our State Capital, Charleston, and Wheeling receiving the award for the first time. Additionally, West Virginia University, West Virginia State University and Shepherd University achieved Tree Campus USA status and were recognized for these accomplishments. Both Potomac Edison and Mon Power, under the First Energy umbrella, were recognized as a Tree Line USA this year.



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