



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Kansas 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$161,856
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$185,910
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$600,000
State Fire Assistance	\$620,943
Urban and Community Forestry	\$312,950
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$394,259
Total	\$2,275,918

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

The Kansas Forest Service through State Statute K.A.76-425, has the responsibility of overseeing the state's 2.4 million acres of forestland, 1.2 million acres of Trees Outside of Forests, and 337,239 acres of community and urban forests. The Kansas Forest Service employs 35 full-time employees and over 40 temporary and student employees. The Cooperative Programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Kansas, Kansas State University, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Kansas forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis is on timber, forest products, wildlife, water resources, energy conservation, and conservation practices. These programs improve cost-effectiveness by using partnerships in delivery, values through sustained productivity of forests and are voluntary, using non-regulatory approaches.

Program Goals

- Increase and sustain healthy and productive forests providing professional forestry assistance to landowners in important forest resource areas.
- Protect life and property on 46 million acres empowering fire departments to build stronger programs.
- Sustain healthy urban and community forests by building local capacity in cities and towns to care for and manage public trees.
- Strategies may be found in the Kansas Forest Action Plan, http://www.kansasforests.org/kansas_forest_services/

Key Issues

- Wildfire risk
- Forest Health Threats (EAB, TCD, Invasives)
- Loss of Forestland
- Sustaining Water Quality and Quantity
- Protecting and Restoring Forest Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat
- Sustaining and Protecting Forest Agroforestry Ecosystems
- Maintaining and Protecting the Economic Benefits of Woodlands

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	2,853,118	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,344
Acres of Forest Land	2,457,623	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	9,434
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,994,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	6,733
Number of NIPF Landowners	103,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	493
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	30
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	46,400,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	20
Number of Rural Fire Departments	620	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	627	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	119
Forest Based Employment	9,000	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,865,848
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	13	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	21,360
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	3,755,287		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

No Open Space projects to highlight

Conservation Education

Contracted with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) to provide Project Learning Tree in Kansas. These professional learning opportunities focus on preparing educators to teach about trees and forests. The challenges of COVID-19 meant a significant change in the work that KACEE did in 2020 and into 2021. While delivery of PLT professional learning opportunities was limited, KACEE did three workshops with 42 participants who reach an estimated 25,000 PreK-12 students on an annual basis. In addition, KACEE integrated PLT into weekly virtual learning for over 200 Kansas kids in collaboration with key partners, issued eeGuidance for Safely Reopening Schools which included recommendations to use the PLT Green Schools schoolyard investigation, worked on online courses and adaptations of PLT activities for virtual learning, and began work on a Five Year Strategic Plan for PLT over the course of the year.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire Protection

Protection of state and private lands from wildland fire is accomplished by building strong and efficient fire programs to protect an estimated 1,176,000 people and property valued at over \$4 billion. KFS, in 2020 continued to assist fire departments through the Equipment Donation Program, issuing SCBA tanks, emergency lights and sirens, radios, pagers, and personal protective equipment. Agreements are in place with 496 KS fire districts. KFS maintains an excess property inventory of 600 pieces of equipment valued at \$41 million, issuing 37 items at \$4.8 million in 2020. The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant funds were allocated to cooperating departments with an emphasis on communication, personnel safety and front monitors. For 2020, 120 departments (increase of 17 departments) providing protection for 493 communities requested grants totaling \$1.1M. KFS awarded 114 fire departments grants totaling \$327,081, covering 54 counties. Additionally, firefighters are becoming increasingly aware of the value of quality wildland fire suppression training. In 2020, KFS scheduled 70 classes with over 487 hours of instruction to 1146 students, an increase of close to 400 students. Not included are the additional 11 classes and academies cancelled due to the pandemic. KFS also delivered 8 prescribed fire training and defensible space workshops to 238 students. Due to Covid, KFS was unable to hold our annual Spring Mitigation Project, where we host fire science college students in a Type 3 incident setting and perform fuels mitigation. Our state fire season showcased KFS' ability to make a meaningful impact of fire suppression, utilizing our contracted tanker multiple times. Additionally, KFS was able to support the

hectic fire season nationally, with KFS employees assisting fires into December 2020. Prescribe fire continues to be a priority for KFS, as an AFMO is serving as an advisor to the KS Prescribed Fire Council.

Forest Health Protection

In 2020, no new detections of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were found in Kansas. Restrictions due to COVID-19 led to reduced ability to complete survey work, however. EAB is currently known to exist in 10 northeast Kansas counties. The slow progression suggests success in long-term "Don't Move Firewood" outreach. With pending deregulation of EAB, KFS and partners formed a unified plan to maintain outreach messaging, survey & detection, and technical support for Kansas communities going forward. These efforts will help blunt the impact of EAB, as the compensatory value of urban ash in Kansas is more than \$1.3 billion. KFS continues to assist communities with transitioning to a more diverse canopy, with less risk to future threats.

As of 2020, Kansas is still free of Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut (TCD). The Kansas Department of Agriculture reports that all survey and sampling returned negative results for TCD and the Walnut Twig Beetle. Should TCD be introduced into Kansas, it would represent a potential loss of \$160 million to the Kansas economy. Multiple targeted outreach efforts spread the message that wood movement increases the risk of spreading TCD and other pests and diseases.

Invasive plants continue to pose a threat to Kansas landscapes, with severe infestations of bush honeysuckle, callery pear, tamarisk, and others disrupting the functionality of local ecosystems across the state. Supported by a 2016 LSR competitive grant, 2019 Emerging Pests funding, and other partner funding, KFS has partnered with local land managers to increase their effectiveness in treating invasive plants by offering technical assistance and leveraged grant funding in excess of \$700,000.

Continued emphasis is focused on outreach to landowners, agency partners, and others to identify insect, disease, invasive plant, and abiotic stress factors in order to reduce impact on our forests and woodlands and increase overall tree health and vigor.

Forest Legacy

Highlights of work on the Kansas Forest Legacy areas covered educational, ecological, and monitoring activities. In October of 2019 the Kansas Biological Field Station of the Kansas Biological Survey hosted a Walk in the Woods public education event with about 100 in attendance. This event covered a range of topics to include the unique ecological value of the forest legacy property and information for the public on the forest legacy program. Two additional public education events were planned, but had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In May of 2020 the Field Station staff completed 20ac of thinning of undesirable species towards a goal of restoring a glade to a portion of the property. In early October of 2020 KFS staff partnered with Field Station staff to collaborate with a UAS class at the Kansas State Polytechnic University. The instructor and students of the UAS class completed a UAS based survey, mapping, and monitoring of the property.

Forest Stewardship

Forest Stewardship:

There 7.9 million priority Forest Stewardship acres in Kansas. There are 578 active Forest Stewardship Management plans providing professional forestry recommendations on 173,532 acres. 530 of those plans occur in important forest resource areas covering 149,873 acres. Fourteen Landscape Forest Stewardship Plans have been prepared for 21,759 acres on state wildlife areas and adjacent private lands. In addition practice plans have led to the implementation of tree planting, windbreak establishment and renovation and forest stand improvement on 54,512 acres. Continued participation in the state initiative to reduce sedimentation of federal reservoirs and loss of water supply by protecting and establishing riparian forests. A \$13-million-dollar Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant awarded to the Kansas Forest Service to address the issue in targeted watersheds through EQIP received an extension and is in its 6th and final year of implementation. This enabled the hiring of 3 additional foresters. KFS continues to geospatially assess size, condition and location of windbreaks and riparian forests to target landowner participation in EQIP, RCPP and other conservation programs. This last year KFS partnered with KDA-Division of Conservation to implement the Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative (REQI).

Landowner Assistance

Landowner Assistance:

Provided technical assists to 798 landowners. Prepared 54 Forest Stewardship Management Plans for 9,434 acres, and practice plans for 54,512 acres for private landowners that provide recommendations on timber harvest, timber stand improvement, tree planting, water quality, wildlife, soil conservation, and recreation. Through a Contribution Agreement with NRCS KFS prepared 218 forestry conservation practice plans for windbreak establishment and renovation, forest stand improvement, riparian forest buffers and tree and shrub establishment through EQIP and CRP. KFS also provided forestry education at 29 events to 546 adults at workshops/field days and to 260 youth.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Landscape scale restoration projects: 1) assess the condition of shelterbelts/streamside forests in priority areas and target restoration to improve water quality, reduce wind-blown soil while increasing crop yields; 2) target threats to KS forests through education, monitoring and control of invasive bush honeysuckle, emerald ash borer and thousand cankers disease of black walnut; 3) inventory valuable forestlands in the KS City Metro area, I-70 corridor and Wichita placing eco-system services values on green infrastructure to influence development policy/reduce loss of forestland; 4) develop landscape forest stewardship planning across private/public lands to increase the economic, environmental and wildlife values 5) develop target marketing tools and messaging to engage KS farmers in the protection and management of their woodlands and related natural resources; 6) bringing Landscape Forest Stewardship to Tribal lands in KS; 7) Community Threat Assessment Protocol inventories in communities statewide with emphasis on current/impending forest threats; 8) to select, trial and promote environmentally adapted tree species to continue to build diverse and sustainable landscapes; 9) completed the ITC study of the Wichita metro area to promote the benefits and ecosystems services provided by green infrastructure; 10) Restoring the Arkansas River corridor through the removal of invasive phyreatophytes like tamarisk and Russian olive and establishment of native grass, willow and cottonwood communities; 11) Establishment of a Water Quality Advocate Network (WQAN) to increase capacity and outreach through peer-to-peer learning. All of which is directed in priority landscapes identified in the Kansas Forest Action Plan (<https://www.kansasforests.org/KSForestActionPlan.html>).

Urban and Community Forestry

Provided assistance to communities in developing sustained local efforts to manage public trees, with an emphasis on capacity building by providing program organization, tree inventories, management, tree planting plans and training for tree boards, residents, city employees and arborists. The 93 communities certified as Tree City USA's spent over \$19.8 million and involved 1,996 volunteers spending 17,636 hours helping improve and protect the local community forest resource. Provided 37 outreach and training sessions for 1,648 participants. Community Foresters provided 214 technical assists. To promote and build sustainable community forestry programs we have partnered with the Kansas Arborist Association for 46 years hosting the Arborist Training Course. This is a week long course and is the first step in becoming a Kansas Certified Arborist. During the 46 years, there have been over 1,965 attendees and there are currently 217 Kansas Certified Arborists. Kansas also has 42 current ISA Certified Arborists.

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