State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
Kansas 2022

Investment in State’s Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2021 Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$142,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$146,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$116,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$684,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$470,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$452,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,012,869</strong></td>
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*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 currently employs 30 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Facts</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>FY 2021 Accomplishments</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>2,853,118</td>
<td>Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance</td>
<td>1,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Forest Land</td>
<td>2,457,623</td>
<td>Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>8,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land</td>
<td>1,994,000</td>
<td>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>2,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of NIPF Landowners</td>
<td>103,000</td>
<td>Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>State Fire Communities Assisted</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>46,400,000</td>
<td>Coop Forest Health Acres Protected</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Rural Fire Departments</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities and Towns</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Based Employment</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>Population Living in Communities</td>
<td>1,783,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forestry Budget (All Sources)</td>
<td>3,755,287</td>
<td>Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance</td>
<td>20,071</td>
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Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space
No Open Space projects to highlight for FY ’21.

Conservation Education
Contracted with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACCEE) 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 KACCE did in 2020 and continuing into 2021. While delivery of PLT professional learning opportunities was limited, KACEE completed six workshops with 45 educators who reach an estimated 26,800 PreK-12 students on an annual basis. In addition, KACEE integrated PLT into the Topeka Water Festival for over 450 Kansas kids in collaboration with key partners, issued eeGuidance for Creating Outdoor Classrooms which included recommendations to use the PLT Green Schools, launched our PLT and PLT Early Childhood Online eeCourses and are in the final stages of developing and releasing a PLT Green Schools program for early childhood educators.

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 2021 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 499 KS fire districts. KFS maintains an excess property inventory of over 600 pieces of equipment valued at $43 million, issuing 21 items at $2.08 million in 2021. The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant funds were allocated to cooperating departments with an emphasis on communication, personnel safety and front monitors. For 2021, 116 departments providing protection for 538 communities requested grants totaling $874K. KFS awarded 109 fire departments grants totaling $403,211, covering 56 counties. Additionally, firefighters are becoming increasingly aware of the value of quality wildland fire suppression training. In 2021, KFS scheduled 70 classes with over 831 hours of instruction to 1215 students. KFS was also able to conduct prevention messaging through Smokey Bear visits, 6 visits with 335 attendees. KFS was able to hold our annual Spring Mitigation Project, where we host fire science college students performing fuels mitigation and prescribe fire training at Sand Hills State Park in Hutchinson, KS. Our state fire season showcased KFS ability to make a meaningful impact of fire suppression, utilizing our contracted tanker and SEATs multiple times. Additionally, KFS was able to support efforts nationally, with KFS employees assisting vaccination efforts in April to assisting on fires...
into December 2021. Prescribe fire continues to be a priority for KFS, as an AFMO is serving as an
advisor to the KS Prescribed Fire Council. KFS is now focusing increasing efforts on community
education and preparation.

**Forest Health Protection**

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is currently known to exist in 10 northeast Kansas counties. In 2021, EAB trap
trees in 18 counties were peeled with no positive finds. Restrictions due to COVID-19 led to reduced
ability to complete survey work. With deregulation of EAB, KFS and partners maintained 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 2021, 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. KFS is working on updating a Sentinel Walnuts project in western Kansas, with 227
trees located and assessed, aiding in early detection. Should TCD be introduced into Kansas there is 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 a variety of ecosystems
across the state. Supported by a USDA competitive grant funding, KFS has partnered with local land
managers to increase their effectiveness in treating invasive plants by offering remote sensing, access to
specialized equipment, technical assistance and leveraged grant funding to address these threats.

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, research, and
monitoring activities.

In October the Kansas Biological Field Station of the Kansas Biological Survey hosted a public education
event. 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic
attendance was limited to 70.

Field station staff conducted a prescribed burn (20ac) as the next step of glade restoration efforts began
last year.

During the prescribed burn researchers studying integration of UAS technology into wildland fire
operations conducted some tests.

Monitoring was conducted in early October of 2020 when 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**

There are 7.9 million priority Forest Stewardship acres in Kansas. There are 655 active Forest
Stewardship Management plans providing professional forestry recommendations on 168,855 acres. 579
of those plans occur in important forest resource areas covering 54,362 acres. Fourteen Landscape
Forest Stewardship Plans have been prepared for 21,790 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 61,451 acres.

**Landowner Assistance**

Landowner Assistance:

Provided technical assists to 697 landowners. Prepared 42 Forest Stewardship Management Plans for
8,098 acres, and practice plans for 6,939 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 334 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 13 events to 467 adults at workshops/field days and to 136 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) to select, trial and promote environmentally adapted tree species to continue to build diverse and sustainable landscapes; 8) completed Utilizing Community-based Programs to Combat Canopy Loss in Metro Kansas City; 9) 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; 10) 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. Build sustainable and climate adapted community canopies with additional species diversity and to enhance tree equity in cities. The 96 communities certified as Tree City USA's spent over $19.7 million and involved 807 volunteers spending 20,071 hours helping improve and protect the local community forest resource. Provided 23 outreach and training sessions for 667 participants. Community Foresters provided 209 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 310 Kansas Certified Arborists. Kansas also has 82 current ISA Certified Arborists.

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