



## Maine Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2024

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### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$728,607
Cooperative Forestry	\$759,689
Forest Health Management	\$242,000
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$3,665,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,395,296</b>

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

### Key Issues

- Support a diverse, robust forest economy.
- Support active management of the forest land base.
- Address climate change and its impacts on Maine's forests.
- Maintain the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine.
- Maintain the health and resiliency of Maine's forests in the face of threats from biotic and abiotic agents.
- Promote outcome based forestry and streamline the regulatory framework.
- Predict future forest conditions and wood supplies.
- Conserve forests for clean drinking water supplies and healthy fisheries.
- Conserve forest biodiversity.
- Maintain healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas.
- Address ongoing erosion of federal support for Cooperative Forestry programs.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,362,359	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	27,045
Acres of Forest Land	17,518,847	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	46,768
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	9,450,240	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,982
Number of NIPF Landowners	78,566	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	125
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	650
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	1,766,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	419	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	17,933
Cities and Towns	453	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	201
Forest Based Employment	14,207	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,063,820
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	10,902
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	10,450,000		

### Program Highlights

#### Community Forestry and Open Space

In Bethel, 531 acres of forest were added to the existing 979-acre Bethel Community Forest. With the assistance of \$478,000 in Community Forest and Open Space Conservation funds, Inland Woods + Trails expanded this community forest's recreation opportunities. Management of this community forest is balanced to provide quality recreational experiences, outdoor educational opportunities, and protection of critical wildlife habitat while modeling thoughtful stewardship of the timber resources, all for the benefit of the public.

The Greater Lovell Land Trust used \$200,000 from a grant from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program to acquire three tracts in Lovell to create the 1,285-acre Kezar Corridor Community Forest. The forested landscape extends from the riparian corridors along the Kezar River and Patterson Brook and rises toward the tops of surrounding hills, offering a diversity of habitat types and microclimates. The property hosts a 2-mile stretch of Kezar River, the entirety of the 20-acre Dan Charles Pond, 120 acres of deer wintering area, and extensive wild brook trout habitat.

#### Cooperative Fire Protection

Funding assistance was provided to 125 volunteer fire departments and 350 firefighters were provided training. The State acquired \$319,750 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program to support wildland fire suppression. The State of Maine is helping communities develop Community Wildfire Assistance Grants through a \$400,000 grant to provide technical assistance.

### **Economic Action**

In 2023, five Maine projects were selected for over \$2.5 million in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Temporary Bridge Crossings. Project work includes mass timber expansion in public buildings, developing technologies that will allow molded fiber from wood-based cellulose to replace plastic packaging, conducting market research on wood fiber insulation, and temporary bridge crossings for the State.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Elevated populations of browntail moth continue to be observed in different regions in Maine, most notably Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Penobscot, and Waldo Counties, totaling 46,738 acres of observable damage. Emerald ash borer biocontrol efforts continued to release the three parasitoids *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, *Spathius galinae*, and *Oobius agrili*. Maine had extreme cold spells in January and February 2023 that led to very high mortality of 98 to 100 percent of hemlock woolly adelgid. Forest tent caterpillar defoliation continued in Aroostook County in 2022, increasing to 30,584 acres of damage. Spruce budworm and spongy moth defoliation decreased in 2023. Beech leaf disease detections continue. The disease has been confirmed in 11 of 16 Maine counties. Maine experienced a frost event in May 2023 that impacted 4,256 acres.

### **Forest Legacy**

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands completed two Forest Legacy Program (FLP) projects resulting in the permanent protection of three separate tracts. The two tracts protected through the Quill Hill to Perham Stream project--a 6,578-acre tract of public land and a 7,028-acre conservation easement--utilized a total of \$7,287,715 in FLP funds, while leveraging \$1,775,000 in matching funding from the Department of the Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program. The third tract--the 4,327-acre East Grand/Weston conservation easement--used \$3,125,851 in FLP funds and protects over 21 miles of East Grand Lake shoreline along the border of the United States and Canada in northeastern Maine.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

Grantee: Forest Stewards Guild

Federal investment: \$236,025 (multistate project)

Project: Sustaining Ash of the Northeast Through Training, Treatment and Outreach

Summary: The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that threatens to functionally eliminate ash from our forests. The loss of ash is ecologically, economically, and culturally devastating, particularly for indigenous peoples for whom ash holds a key role in basketry and other traditions. This project will create a regional response to EAB through educating and engaging land managers in science-based, thoughtful treatment of ash, sharing stories of hope, and encouraging actions that will sustain ash across the landscape. The project will also elevate indigenous voices and priorities to the forestry community.

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal investment: \$600,000 (13-State project)

Project: Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: This interagency, multi-partner collaboration advances science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water in 13 States across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The project is also supported by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and includes focus on protecting water supplies for underserved communities and a climate markets work group. Regional collaboration will drive alignment between the forest and water sectors and facilitate greater information sharing. Projects will result in measurable on-the-ground outcomes.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Project Canopy has a vision that every community in Maine will actively and wisely manage its community forestry resources in a sustainable manner, and that all Maine citizens will become well informed about proper management of these resources and the benefits derived from them. This year's project, Planting Trees for Houlton's Future, has a goal to plan and plant 15 street trees in 3 neighborhoods. The project received mention on several occasions and was featured in the weekly newspaper Houlton Pioneer Times. Outreach through the grant project and informal conversations led to the creation of the Houlton Canopy Crew, a community group of volunteers who have met regularly since June and are focused on planning, planting, and maintaining Houlton's trees and public gardens.



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