Investment in State’s Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2023 Estimate</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>$1,217,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$260,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$421,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$1,218,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$905,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$556,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,579,784</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, Private, and Tribal 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

- Enhance coordination among cooperative programs, stakeholders, and partners.
- Advocate for sound forestry policies.
- Increase economic productivity and benefits.
- Communicate the value and importance of forestry.
- Involve partners and the public in managing Michigan’s forests.
- Monitor the condition of the forest and impacts of our work.
- Improve understanding of forests through research.
- Implement actions to improve Michigan’s forests.
Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Facts</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>FY 2023 Accomplishments</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>10,077,331</td>
<td>Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance</td>
<td>9,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Forest Land</td>
<td>20,167,228</td>
<td>Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>29,786</td>
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<td>Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land</td>
<td>10,607,555</td>
<td>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>23,145</td>
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<td>Number of NIPF Landowners</td>
<td>185,698</td>
<td>Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted</td>
<td>208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>State Fire Communities Assisted</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>Coop Forest Health Acres Protected</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Rural Fire Departments</td>
<td>1,071</td>
<td>Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cities and Towns</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Based Employment</td>
<td>36,202</td>
<td>Population Living in Communities</td>
<td>5,443,366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>State Forestry Budget (All Sources)</td>
<td>32,000,000</td>
<td>Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance</td>
<td>14,944</td>
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</table>

Program Highlights

**Community Forestry and Open Space**

A $90,000 grant from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program to the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy created a new community forest just outside of Marquette. The Dead River Community Forest is comprised of two tracts of land and totals 185 acres of forests along the Dead River. It offers opportunities for low-impact recreation, provides public water access, and facilitates educational opportunities through research and outdoor gathering spaces. This community forest also protects a community-loved scenic area in the Marquette area along the McClure Storage Basin adjacent to the historic Trestle Bridge.

Through an incredible partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, a community forest was created on the Keweenaw Peninsula using Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds. The Superior Watershed Partnership used $600,000 from GLRI to acquire 226 acres of north shore forest along Gratiot River using Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program acquisition authorities. The Keweenaw North Shore/Gratiot River Community Forest will be open for hiking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, geologic study and rock picking, swimming, hunting, nature study, and birding recreational opportunities. The frontage along the Gratiot River offers excellent fishing opportunities.

**Cooperative Fire Protection**

State Fire Assistance allowed Michigan to train over 1,330 firefighters. This training was supported by a $299,925 Landscape Scale Restoration grant to increase prescribed fire use in Michigan. The State received a Cross-Boundary fuels reduction grant for $345,000 for fire prevention and to build and maintain fuel breaks in high wildfire risk areas. The State also received two Wildfire Risk Reduction grants for $453,000 to expand hazardous fuels reductions and prescribed fire training and implementation. The Michigan Volunteer Fire Assistance program awarded $476,531 in grants to 128 rural fire departments throughout Michigan. Michigan acquired $195,966 of firefighting equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

**Economic Action**

In 2023, five projects in Michigan were selected for funding, totaling more than $2 million in Forest Markets grant funding. The goals of the four Wood Innovations projects range from installing thermal and combined heat-and-power boilers, investing in lumber mill markets, and university research. A Temporary Bridge Crossing project with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was also among those funded.
**Forest Health Protection**

The State of Michigan, in cooperation with partners, continues to survey and treat hemlock woolly adelgid across six positive counties in the western Lower Peninsula to slow the spread into Michigan’s vast hemlock resource to the north. Balsam woolly adelgid was detected in two counties. Eradication efforts were planned in one county, and survey efforts are ongoing in the other. In southeast Michigan, a small spotted lanternfly infestation is being monitored and treated to slow the spread. Surveys for beech leaf disease have identified seven positive counties in southeast Michigan. Early season defoliation continued in 2023. After several years of defoliation, a spruce budworm outbreak appears to be subsiding in the Upper Peninsula. In the northern Lower Peninsula, a second year of a jack pine budworm outbreak occurred. Spongy moth also continued to subside in largely oak- and aspen-dominated stands across the Lower Peninsula following two to three consecutive years of severe defoliation.

**Forest Stewardship**

The Michigan Forest Stewardship Program prioritizes the tenets of empowered landowners, accessible markets, clean water, certified forests, and school forests to implement their program by building public-private partnerships. Following these tenets helps build capacity among program participants and implementers and uses management plans as connections to help foster a robust private forest management environment within the State. The program invested $57,876 in key partners who serve family forest landowners statewide. Partners include Michigan Tree Farm Committee, Michigan Forest Association, Association of Consulting Foresters, Huron River Watershed Council, and Sustainable Resources Institute. Investing in and building capacity among these partners benefited all residents of Michigan by enabling private forest landowners and supporting the diverse suite of partners who help to maintain the flow of a variety of ecosystem service from Michigan’s forests.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources ceased their conifer production at Wyman State Forest Nursery in Manistique around 2018. They now purchase all conifers from a private nursery but grow a limited number of hardwoods at Wyman and process and handle seed at the site. 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.

**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

In 2023, 20 Michigan projects were selected for over $1.8 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funding through the USDA Forest Service’s competitive grant programs. Project work includes managing invasive plant species that threaten native habitat and species, replacing trees lost due to emerald ash borer, planting trees as green stormwater infrastructure, and restoring and protecting coastal and riparian habitat. At least two projects plan to use climate-adapted tree species in their plantings, and four plan to partner with Tribal governments. Six projects will include sites located in underserved areas and/or will be engaging underserved communities in some capacity.

**Landscape Scale Restoration**

Grantee: Superior Watershed Partnership
Federal investment: $124,321
Project: Using Fire Mitigation to Improve Habitat, Water Quality and Climate Resiliency in the Northern Great Lakes
Summary: This collaborative project will reduce wildfire risk due to climate change, improve wildlife habitat, and provide water quality benefits in targeted riparian and coastal zones. The project works with local units of government, five Native American communities, and private landowners with critical connecting corridors. The project will also incorporate traditional indigenous knowledge and will benefit several disadvantaged communities identified by the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Grantee: Sustainable Resources Institute
Federal investment: $297,000
Project: Master Loggers for Clean Water
Summary: In States like Michigan with minimal forest and water regulations, forest certification is the leader in protecting clean water. This project will expand the 80 Michigan Master Loggers who are certified for their compliance for protecting clean water in the Great Lakes State. In addition, the project will provide employment in rural communities, including disadvantaged communities identified by the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool.
Urban and Community Forestry

In FY 2023, 5.4 million Michigan citizens, living in 260 communities, were provided direct and indirect assistance through the State’s Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program. Additionally, the program secured $7.5 million in Federal funding through an award from the USDA Forest Service as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Department of Natural Resource’s UCF program was also a key partner in the kick-off of the Detroit Tree Equity Partnership and helped facilitate one of the USDA’s national media events in Detroit announcing the national UCF IRA grant awards.

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