



Minnesota Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$8,000
Cooperative Forestry	\$427,553
Forest Health Management	\$20,000
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$39,000
Total	\$494,553

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

Key Issues

- Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes.
- Actively and sustainably manage forests.
- Restore fire-adapted lands and reduce risk of wildfire impacts.
- Identify, manage, and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health.
- Protect and enhance water quality and quantity.
- Improve air quality and conserve energy.
- Increase environmental services by creating and maintaining healthy urban and community forests.
- Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests.
- Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat.
- Connect people to trees and forests, and engage in environmental stewardship activities.
- Manage trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to global climate change.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	5,706,494	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	13,894
Acres of Forest Land	17,675,446	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	84,294
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,725,066	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	58,162
Number of NIPF Landowners	102,780	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	115
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	102
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	45,037,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	158,432
Number of Rural Fire Departments	748	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	996
Cities and Towns	853	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	209
Forest Based Employment	39,867	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4,043,887
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	47,766
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	39,000,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Capacity grants allowed Minnesota to conduct training courses for over 1,200 firefighters in rural fire departments and supported a successful prevention program. A \$100,000 Wildfire Risk Reduction grant to update the Great Lakes Fire and Fuels website was awarded through the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact. The state acquired \$3,469,958 in property from the Department of Defense Firefighter Property program and \$17,769 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property program. The Volunteer Fire Capacity program awarded 115 grants to rural fire departments throughout the state.

Economic Action

In 2024, four Minnesota projects received \$873,279 in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations and Temporary Bridge Crossings Funding. Project work includes mass timber expansion, a campus biomass restoration project, wood pellet production expansion, and temporary bridge crossings.

Forest Health Protection

Spruce budworm affected more acres in Minnesota in 2024 than it has since 1961. In just the last four years, this insect impacted over 2,000 square miles (1,330,000 acres), primarily in northeast Minnesota. The resulting fir and spruce death are causing major concerns with wildfire potential and the inability to efficiently manage the forest. A wide variety of people are working on this issue, but limited staffing, market demand, diverse forest ownership, and the sheer extent of the outbreak are challenges. Another long-term outbreak by a native insect, eastern larch beetle, continued in 2024. Since the beginning of the outbreak in 2001, almost 1,800 square miles (1,140,000 acres) have been severely damaged. Several things, among them a shorter winter season, have promoted this outbreak. Research by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and University of Minnesota have shown that some damaged forests are naturally recovering. Several isolated oak wilt discoveries were controlled in 2024, thanks in part to a federal grant, helping to slow this plague. EAB was confirmed in five new counties in 2024, now present in 61 percent of Minnesota counties. Lastly, Minnesota welcomed above-normal precipitation in the growing season for the first time in five years, assuaging oak decline.

Forest Legacy

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources completed the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Forest Legacy Program (FLP) project in central Minnesota with the purchase of conservation easements encumbering five separate tracts. The conservation easements acquired through this project protect a total of 997 acres of forestland and utilized a total of \$814,699 in FLP funds.

Forest Stewardship

Demand for private forest landowner assistance and accomplishments in 2024 was similar to the previous two years. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry continues to offer a State funded cost-share program for family forest landowners. This year additional cost-share funds became available to replace seedling plantings that died as result of drought. A major collaborative statewide landscape effort between Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources is underway that is linking private forest management and water quality. These landscape projects are being used to seek additional funding and provide structure to collaboratively serve more woodland owners. Efforts are underway to prepare for large scale tree plantings for carbon sequestration.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources operates one State nursery, Badoura State Tree Nursery, located in Akeley. The facility is also used to clean and process seed. 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. Funds helped to build a new cooler to increase seedling storage capacity at their state nursery.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In 2024, three projects in Minnesota received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the USDA Forest Service's competitive Cooperative Weed Management and Forest Restoration grant programs. \$100,000 in new funding went to detecting, managing, and preventing invasive plant spread. The project proposes surveying 500 acres and treating 100 acres in Lake County and plans to work with numerous partners, including the Superior National Forest and Tribal partners. The other two projects received a combined total of nearly \$400,000 in funding to implement forest restoration in Lake Superior watersheds to address impacts from the emerald ash borer, the spruce budworm, and invasive plants that are impacting key forest and riparian areas. Between the two projects, 62,600 trees are expected to be planted as part of restoring over 700 acres.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Federal Investment: \$295,000

Project: Protecting Working Forestlands in the Driftless Area for Multiple Benefits: Trout, Turkey, and Timber

Summary: This project implements science-based strategies in Minnesota's Forest Action Plan through the protection and management of private forestlands in the Driftless Area of Southeast Minnesota. It will help secure and strategically invest funding for forestland protection and management through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, One Watershed One Plan program, and state Legacy funds. Landscape Scale Restoration funds will be the catalyst to directing state and local funds to expand technical assistance to private land.

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Federal Investment: \$512,095 (Minnesota and Wisconsin)

Project: Collaborative Forest Restoration on Priority Minnesota and Wisconsin Landscapes

Summary: This project builds on achievements of a current (FY21) LSR Project, to implement science-based restoration actions on state, private, and Tribal forests in Minnesota and Wisconsin. These actions will reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires, improve wildlife habitat, mitigate invasive species, and improve important forest ecosystems. Actions will be taken in collaboration with multiple partners and focus on priority forested regions to address threats and strategies outlined in the Minnesota and Wisconsin State Forest Action Plans.



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