



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Minnesota 2021



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

| Program                                      | FY 2020 Final      |
|--|--------------------|
| Community Forestry and Open Space            | \$0                |
| Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management | \$379,070          |
| Forest Legacy                                | \$40,000           |
| Forest Stewardship                           | \$197,700          |
| Landscape Scale Restoration                  | \$316,500          |
| State Fire Assistance                        | \$1,530,280        |
| Urban and Community Forestry                 | \$451,809          |
| Volunteer Fire Assistance                    | \$335,597          |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>\$3,250,956</b> |

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 and Private 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

- 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

| <b>Selected Facts</b>                             | <b>Value</b> | <b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>   | <b>Value</b> |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Population  | 5,303,925    | Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance                             | 4,916        |
| Acres of Forest Land                              | 17,675,446   | Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans                             | 141,260      |
| Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land        | 6,467,000    | Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 100,087      |
| Number of NIPF Landowners                         | 202,000      | Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted  | 140          |
| Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0            | State Fire Communities Assisted  | 80           |
| Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 45,037,000   | Coop Forest Health Acres Protected   | 1,650        |
| Number of Rural Fire Departments                  | 748          | Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions   | 0            |
| Cities and Towns                                  | 854          | Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance                               | 224          |
| Forest Based Employment                           | 39,867       | Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance          | 3,755,101    |
| Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)             | 4            | Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance  | 69,626       |
| State Forestry Budget (All Sources)               | 39,000,000   |  |              |

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Minnesota conducted training for over 1,000 firefighters in rural fire departments and supported a successful prevention program, including the development of videos. Wildfire Risk Reduction grants allowed for the development of a distance learning platform for Firewise. The State acquired \$3,538,966 in property from the Department of Defense Fire Fighter Program (FFP) and \$86,075 in property from the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. The FEPP and FFP programs benefitted 212 communities and 3 state agencies. Finally, the Volunteer Fire Assistance program awarded 177 grants to rural fire departments throughout Minnesota.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Spruce budworm continues to outbreak in parts of northeast Minnesota, with dead and dying balsam fir covering extensive areas. Ongoing tamarack mortality, concentrated mostly in northwest Minnesota, also continues due to a prolonged outbreak of eastern larch beetle. Emerald ash borer (EAB) populations continue to spread outside of the core infestations in southeast Minnesota and the Twin Cities area. The potential for spread of oak wilt disease into the north central part of the state is an ongoing concern. Both oak wilt and EAB can be moved in firewood. Gypsy moth continues to threaten eastern Minnesota from well-established populations in Wisconsin.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Requests for private land assistance are up this year, likely due to COVID impacts. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry continues to offer a State-funded cost-share program for family forest landowners. 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. The Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) continues to drive landowner interest in seeking Woodland Stewardship Plans, and enrollment in the program is increasing.

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**

The Nature Conservancy's project Restoring Riparian Forests along Lake Superior's North Shore was selected for \$200,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funding through the USDA Forest Service's 2020 competitive process. Building on a broad partnership effort, the work will enhance an estimated 10 miles of riparian habitat over 600 acres, protecting tributary streams by establishing healthy forests resilient to climate change.

**Urban and Community Forestry**

Technical assistance to communities was provided throughout Minnesota to 211 communities and delivered in a variety of ways including assistance with: conducting tree surveys, managing ash for emerald ash borer, and developing tree preservation ordinances. Community engagement was encouraged through community-based volunteer programs such as Citizen Pruner and Tree Steward. Over 1,000 professionals were educated through the Tree Inspector program and in partnership with the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture.

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