



Missouri Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

Michael Bill, State Forester
 Phone: 573-522-4115 ext. 3116

<http://mdc.mo.gov/>
 Email: michael.bill@mdc.mo.gov



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$0
Cooperative Forestry	\$235,000
Forest Health Management	\$0
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
Total	\$235,000

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

Key Issues

- Species and natural systems health and conservation.
- Pollution prevention, control, and mitigation.
- Private lands.
- Missouri's public lands managed for the greatest public good.
- Climate change.
- Improving and maintaining high-quality soil and water resources.
- The role of fire: historic, wild, and prescribed.
- Missouri's growth, harvest, and consumption of forest products.
- Recreation, human health, and relevance of nature.
- Logistical framework for improvement and sustainability.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,154,913	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	15,890
Acres of Forest Land	15,425,911	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	17,036
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	11,398,415	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	15,332
Number of NIPF Landowners	179,606	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	130
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	68
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	42,350,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	860	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	948	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	80
Forest Based Employment	27,117	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,374,044
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	19,342
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	16,300,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

The state helped support 130 volunteer fire departments with Volunteer Fire Capacity funding. Missouri's Rural Forest Fire Equipment Center acquired \$1,973,847 of Department of Defense Firefighter Property program equipment for rural fire protection. Missouri Department of Conservation provided state suppression resources and wildland fire training for 495 personnel and funded 10,000 acres of hazardous fuels reduction.

Economic Action

In 2024, one Missouri project received \$648,450 through the Forest Markets' Community Wood Funding. Project work involves biochar production.

Forest Health Protection

In 2024, most of Missouri received average or above average levels of rainfall. However, this rainfall mostly occurred in late spring and summer, causing much of the state to experience abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions from winter to mid-spring and again in the fall. Several storms produced hail that caused localized forest damage detectable by remote sensing. Periodical cicadas from Brood 19 emerged across much of the state, and distribution of these 13-year species was patchy across both wild and urban

landscapes. Female cicadas used many species of trees as oviposition sites, causing small-diameter branch flagging and breakage through summer and fall. Oak health continues to be threatened by drought, advanced age of trees, and multiple stressors (classified as oak decline). Emerald ash borer was detected in one additional county for a total of 111 (out of 114) infested counties in Missouri. The statewide survey for spongy moth resulted in the capture of only one male moth. There is no evidence of reproducing spongy moth populations in Missouri. Surveys were also conducted for laurel wilt disease, Asian longhorned beetle, and spotted lanternfly, which resulted in no positive detections. Invasive plant management and mapping efforts continue across the state.

Forest Stewardship

Missouri continued to leverage our highly successful Call Before You Cut Program to deliver timely, high quality technical assistance to forest landowners. In 2024, the program received inquiries from 359 landowners who control over 48,642 acres. Additionally, Missouri Department of Conservation Community and Private Land Conservation (CPLC) field staff provided technical assistance to 10,921 landowners and conducted 5,900 site visits, with a total impact of 285,109 acres. CPLC staff wrote 2,599 practice plans and 206 Forest Management/Stewardship Plans for private landowners, totaling 130,262 acres.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources operates one State nursery, George O. White State Tree Nursery, located in Licking. 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.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Missouri Department of Conservation

Federal Investment: \$235,000

Project: Restoring Glades and Woodlands Through Fuel Reductions to Minimize Catastrophic Wildfires

Summary: This project will use management strategies to reduce fuels and use prescribed burning to restore glade and woodland ecosystems. This will be done across 14 counties in the Missouri Ozarks, which are encompassed in their Priority Forest Landscape on both public and private lands. This project removes any barrier of cost to landowners for reducing fuels on their property in these rural counties.



Bob Lueckel, Deputy Regional Forester

Phone: 414-297-3600

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r9/home>

Email: bob.lueckel@usda.gov
