



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Northern Mariana Islands 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$37,873
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$115,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$30,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$70,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$252,873

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

Program Goals

Key Issues

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	69,221	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	163
Acres of Forest Land	60,207	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	0
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	4,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	0
Number of NIPF Landowners	680	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	15
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	50
Number of Rural Fire Departments	8	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	4	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	0
Forest Based Employment	5	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	0
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	2,000
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	158,400		

Program Highlights

"Plant 500 Trees" from October 1, 2020 to February 2021

After the devastation of both Super Typhoon "Soudelor" and "Yutu" in 2017 and 2019 that destroyed a lot of trees and native tree species on the islands, First Lady Dianne Foundation held a competition among the different organizations here in the CNMI that whoever can plant 500 trees from October 2020 to February 2021, every tree planted a dollar will be contributed by her foundation to the organizations of their choice. This sparked a lot of the nonprofit organizations and showed interest and joined the competition. Students from junior high school to high school level also showed interest and joined the

competition. A total of about 30 organizations including students participated during this event and the winners were awarded and the proceeds going to the organizations of their choice. Outplanting was conducted all over the island of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. This again was done as a result of those trees lost during the 2 Super Typhoons that devastated the Marianas.

Forest Health Protection

This program primarily monitors and treats invasive forest pests and invasive plants/trees to maintain and enhance forest health and agroforestry crops. The 2020 focus of the program was on eradicating coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Rota (in cooperation with CNMI Department of Agriculture and Office of Insular Affairs funding) and surveying for and prioritizing invasive plant treatments on Saipan. Unfortunately, in 2020 CRB was found in the Gagani and Talakhaya areas of Rota four miles from the original CRB containment areas, Twerksberry Beach Park and Papau. In addition to finding CRBs, decaying coconut trees and scissor cuts on the palm leaves were also spotted via drone. The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs have been assisting with destroying infested material. The CNMI Governor stated that "we've seen the damage that the CRB and other invasive species have had on agriculture, flora, and fauna on neighbor islands, such as Guam. Timing and rapid response is critical to protect the natural resources critical to these small island economies." Department of Defense also assists with pest surveys while conducting training exercises on the CNMI islands. Education and outreach regarding Forest Health and invasive pests occurred during 2020 but mainly through virtual means due to Covid-19 restrictions. University of Guam personnel provided little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle survey and control training in Feb. Updating the Forest Action Plan with respect to forest health was also a highlight of the 2020 work. Cooperative pest management work occurs with assistance from Northern Marianas College, University of Guam, Agriculture Extension and the CNMI Invasive Species Coordinator.

Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship local program manager continues to avail program benefits to interested landowners interested in improving their private forestland. These types of assistance are made available through consultation and planting materials. Each seedling issued, staff emphasizes to participants the importance of tree planting and what the program offers. The program manager continues to work with landowners, non-profit, and government agencies to implement program delivery or tree planting activities. The program continues to educate and consult on good stewardship and practice while caring for forests and their natural resources. We continue to distribute brochures and pamphlets of approved forest management practices. Landowner's needs are sought through nursery and project site visitation. We will continue strengthening landowner's and cooperators' knowledge by sharing updated information and technology transfers that could be of assistance towards the enhancement of their current forestland parcel. This will be done through different approaches.

Landscape Scale Restoration

We have four private landowners that have agreed to plant trees at their private property as part of collaboration in trying to avoid erosion coming down from their property to the Lao Lao Bay. These tree species are both native trees and other types of tree species. Propagation of varieties of tree species is ongoing at this time in preparation for the start of the out planting next year. We are looking at about 200 to 800 trees to be out planted for this project. Management plan for each landowner is ongoing at this time for each private landowner.

Urban and Community Forestry

The program continues to avail plants and trees to refurbish the loss of trees from typhoon Soudelor, urban beautification projects, and green enhancement projects. These initiated and supported projects continue to emphasize the importance of trees in community settings. These projects also focus on reduction of energy use; improve aesthetic qualities, diversify the urban forest ecosystem and sustain the islands' fragile resources. This includes tree care maintenance on community trees, a survey of the urban landscape for invasive or determinantal species impacting urban trees, re-establishing endangered species on Rota. Due to Super-Typhoon Soudelor and Yutu, many of the intended goals and objectives have shifted to the recovery effort. Particularly with the urban settings. This is because urban trees toppled, impeding access to the park area, hazard due to debris and in some areas, structures were lost. The program continues to deliver tree benefits throughout its diverse ethnic group, volunteers, non-profit organizations, and local government entities. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the new DeltaVariant limited community outreach activities and tree planting events are ongoing at this time.

Contact Information



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