



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Mississippi 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$472,893
Forest Legacy	\$7,050,000
Forest Stewardship	\$238,383
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$176,479
State Fire Assistance	\$1,288,435
Urban and Community Forestry	\$392,274
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$321,969
Total	\$9,940,433

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

Program Goals

- The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Mississippi, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies. Emphasis is on forest sustainability and the production of commodity and amenity values such as wildlife, water quality, and environmental services.

Key Issues

- There is a need to develop sustainable urban forestry programs in Mississippi communities and to educate the public on how trees can conserve energy.
- The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is striving to expand its firefighting capacity by providing Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) with grant funding for wildland firefighting equipment. We also provide VFDs with equipment acquired through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program and the Firefighter Property Program (FFP).

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	2,961,279	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	18,354
Acres of Forest Land	19,235,186	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	21,635
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	13,716,775	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	9,542
Number of NIPF Landowners	128,322	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	2,557
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	19,200,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2,250
Number of Rural Fire Departments	755	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	299	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	39
Forest Based Employment	62,000	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	787,798
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	4,287
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	27,238,455		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support firefighting resources throughout Mississippi. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program and the Firefighter Property Program allow us to acquire and place fire equipment in rural communities statewide. In FY23, these programs issued 132 pieces of wildland firefighting equipment, including vehicles, with an estimated value of \$6.7 million. 69 Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, with a total value of \$281,058, were also awarded to Mississippi's Volunteer Fire Departments.

Forest Health Protection

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides forest pest detection, evaluation, and control recommendations on private, urban, and non-federal public forestland in Mississippi. The MFC continued to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to administer a Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, which aimed to teach private forest landowners the benefits of thinning to reduce the risk of southern pine beetle hazards. At the end of FY23, southern pine beetle activity slightly increased from the previous year on National Forest land in Mississippi. While the MFC has active detection and control programs for kudzu and Cogongrass, invasive plants continue to impact Mississippi's forest ecosystems. In FY23, the MFC's Cogongrass program treated 1,021 Cogongrass spots comprised of 300 acres. The MFC's Kudzu Program treated 438 acres of kudzu.

Forest Stewardship

The MFC continues to promote natural resource planning on private forestland. In FY23, 437,167 acres of private forestland were under forest management plans. The total acres include all active Stewardship Plans (402,295 acres) and Practice Plans (34,872 acres).

Landowner Assistance

The Mississippi Forestry Commission offers a variety of services, programs, and resources to private forest landowners. The Forest Resource Development Program distributed \$1.98 million in cost-share funding to private forest landowners and 121,140 acres were regenerated or improved in FY23.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides assistance and training to urban areas in developing community forestry programs. The MFC, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, aids in the development of long-term, self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs through the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. Financial assistance grants provided in FY23 totaled \$10,000.

Contact Information



Mississippi Forestry Commission

Russell Bozeman
State Forester
660 North Street, Suite 300
Jackson, MS 39202
601-359-2841
rbozeman@mfc.ms.gov

US Forest Service Southern Region

Edward Hunter
*Deputy Regional Forester - State, Private, and
Tribal Forestry*
USDA Forest Service
1720 Peachtree Street, Suite 760S
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-660-7391
edward.hunter@usda.gov
