



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Mississippi 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

| Program | FY 2020 Final |
|--|--------------------|
| Community Forestry and Open Space | \$0 |
| Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management | \$451,373 |
| Forest Legacy | \$25,000 |
| Forest Stewardship | \$234,446 |
| Landscape Scale Restoration | \$85,000 |
| State Fire Assistance | \$1,355,249 |
| Urban and Community Forestry | \$225,000 |
| Volunteer Fire Assistance | \$296,330 |
| Total | \$2,672,398 |

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 2020 Accomplishments | Value |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Population | 2,967,297 | Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance | 40,960 |
| Acres of Forest Land | 19,204,328 | Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans | 21,022 |
| Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land | 15,340,000 | Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 8,312 |
| Number of NIPF Landowners | 370,000 | Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted | 100 |
| Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0 | State Fire Communities Assisted | 30 |
| Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 19,200,000 | Coop Forest Health Acres Protected | 4,357 |
| Number of Rural Fire Departments | 755 | Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions | 1,994 |
| Cities and Towns | 298 | Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 38 |
| Forest Based Employment | 69,445 | Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 830,920 |
| Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank) | 2 | Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance | 1,924 |
| State Forestry Budget (All Sources) | 29,244,251 | | |

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 FY20, these programs issued 31 vehicles and 20 other pieces of wildland firefighting equipment, with an estimated value of \$3.21 million. Fifty Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, with a total value of \$204,980, were also awarded to Mississippi's Volunteer Fire Departments.

Forest Health Protection

The MFC 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 FY19, southern pine beetle activity decreased 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 FY20, the MFC treated 377 acres for cogongrass.

Forest Stewardship

The MFC continues to promote natural resource planning on private forestland. In FY20, 108,476 acres were under forest management plans.

Landowner Assistance

The Mississippi Forestry Commission offers a variety of services, programs, and resources to private forest landowners. The Forest Resource Development Program distributed \$1.93 million in cost-share funding to private forest landowners and 82,815 acres were regenerated or improved in FY20.

Urban and Community Forestry

The MFC provides assistance and training to urban areas in developing community forestry programs. The MFC, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, is able to aid in the development of long-term, self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs through the Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program. Financial assistance grants provided in FY20 totaled \$30,775.

Contact Information



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