Investment in State’s Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2022 Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$385,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$104,387</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$857,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$269,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$318,798</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,201,888</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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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
---|---
Population | 2,961,279
Acres of Forest Land | 19,235,186
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land | 13,716,775
Number of NIPF Landowners | 128,322
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 19,200,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments | 755
Cities and Towns | 299
Forest Based Employment | 69,445
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank) | 3
State Forestry Budget (All Sources) | 27,239,223

FY 2022 Accomplishments | Value
---|---
Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance | 144,828
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans | 23,854
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 9,723
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted | 175
State Fire Communities Assisted | 0
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected | 1,771
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions | 0
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 38
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance | 823,287
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance | 4,647

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 FY22, these programs issued 148 pieces of wildland firefighting equipment, including vehicles, with an estimated value of $6.27 million. 65 Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, with a total value of $283,873, 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 FY22, 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 FY22, the MFC's Cogongrass program treated 1,686 Cogongrass spots comprised of 418.61 acres. The MFC's Kudzu Program treated 401 acres of kudzu.

**Forest Stewardship**

The MFC continues to promote natural resource planning on private forestland. In FY22, 666,008 acres of private forestland were under forest management plans. The total acres include all active Stewardship Plans (403,780 acres) and Practice Plans (262,228 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 $2 million in cost-share funding to private forest landowners and 138,278 acres were regenerated or improved in FY22.

**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 FY22 totaled $12,375.
Contact Information

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