



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## North Dakota 2021



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$111,700
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$132,200
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$433,729
Urban and Community Forestry	\$368,303
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$390,028
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,435,960</b>

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

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS), USDA Forest Service (USDA FS), and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of North Dakota's forests and rural economies according to priorities established by North Dakota's "Forest Action Plan" in 2010. Feedback from stakeholders revealed additional priorities in 2015. The 2020 Forest Action Plan was submitted for approval to the USDA FS. Current issues align with national and state priorities and serve as an implementation focus.

### Program Goals

- Increase cost effectiveness by delivering services through partnerships.
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests.
- Use voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.

### Key Issues

- Mitigate invasive tree pests
- Reduce forest over-maturity and promote natural regeneration
- Increase species diversity and reduce vulnerability to damaging agents
- Strengthen educational outreach
- Maintain historic vegetation type
- Prevent and respond to wildland fires
- Enhance wood utilization opportunities
- Adapt to climate changes
- Loss of windbreaks
- Oil field mitigation/"boom town" forestry needs
- Riparian forestry restoration
- Drought tolerant species for western North Dakota

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	672,591	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	148
Acres of Forest Land	808,702	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	3,098
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	381
Number of NIPF Landowners	24,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	205
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,867,118	State Fire Communities Assisted	205
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,878,661	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	600
Number of Rural Fire Departments	378	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	357	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	92
Forest Based Employment	3,167	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	461,771
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	11,860
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	7,671,032		

## Program Highlights

### **Conservation Education**

Conservation Education funds were used to raise awareness about natural resource values, support informed decision-making, and foster individual responsibility for forest resources in stewards of all ages. The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) delivered Project Learning Tree (PLT) and Project WILD curriculum, resources, professional development, and a support network to natural resource educators and teachers of students in grades PreK-16. PLT and Project WILD workshops use hands-on activities that adhere to the Excellence in Environmental Education Guidelines established by NAAEE; these are used in school and university classrooms, informal settings, and outdoors. The Outreach and Education program also participated in Envirothon, Eco Eds, Earth Day and Arbor Day events, Marketplace for Kids, fire prevention education, the Keep North Dakota Clean poster contest, and many other programs used to educate youth about becoming stewards of the environment.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

National Fire Capacity (NFC) and Rural Fire Capacity (RFC) funds provided technical and financial assistance to North Dakota fire departments and aided in acquiring and managing the state's federal-excess firefighting property program. Partnership efforts continue with the North Dakota Firefighter's Association (NDFA) to conduct regional training opportunities focused on wildfire suppression. The NDFS and its partners provided comprehensive fire training to more than 800 firefighters statewide. RFC funds were utilized to provide Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance grants to rural fire departments for the purchase of personal protective equipment, fire suppression equipment, communication equipment, and fire suppression vehicles. NFC funds were utilized for training fire staff, maintaining the NDFS fire cache, repositioning of fire staff and equipment during high fire danger events, and suppression assistance requests from fire departments. Funds were also used to secure new equipment to bolster suppression capacity, maintain five Type 6 wildland fire engines, two initial attack UTVs, and two crew carriers. These investments were critical for suppressing wildfires across North Dakota and in neighboring states, as well as strengthening national interagency cooperation and coordination.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Forest Health Protection provided technical assistance, educational outreach, and training to state and private land managers in collaboration with state, university, federal, and other partners. A primary emphasis was the statewide detection and monitoring of forest insect and disease conditions, evaluation of forest pests on private and public lands, and providing technical assistance and training in forest health. Forest health issues were presented in the annual Forest Health Highlights and the Biennial Forest Health Report. The North Dakota Invasives website presented information about invasive forest

pests. An online sick tree assistance form encouraged forest pest reporting. The program collaborated with the USDA Forest Service to implement the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. Statewide surveys included a collaborative survey for emerald ash borer (EAB). Surveillance and technical assistance was provided to the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Good Neighbor Authority area and to adjoining lands to monitor bark beetles and other damaging agents. EAB outreach and education included EAB Awareness Week, intensive EAB detection and response training for natural resource professionals, and EAB management and risk reduction for homeowners and land managers.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Forest Stewardship focused on improving the management of North Dakota's forest resources by educating and assisting non-industrial private landowners on how to better manage, protect, and utilize their native and planted forest resources. This was accomplished through direct technical and financial assistance. In 2020 NDFS provided technical assistance to landowners statewide to create new Forest Stewardship Plans which include recommendations and guidance for managing natural regeneration, increasing forest species diversity and resiliency, controlling invasive tree pests, encouraging re-establishment of historic vegetation types, reducing hazardous vegetative fuels, and utilizing forest products. Direct financial assistance was provided through the ongoing \$1.8 Million Outdoor Heritage Fund Statewide Windbreak Renovation Initiative, which in 2020 resulted in 53 landowners receiving \$269,000 in cost share to renovate deteriorated windbreaks protecting rural residences, roadways, and agricultural landscapes.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

More than 75 percent of North Dakota's population resides in cities and benefits significantly from healthy and resilient urban forests. But most cities are small, 95 percent with less than 5,000 people, and have limited resources for tree stewardship, which is generally undertaken by a volunteer tree board without a full-time municipal forester. In addition, North Dakota's fragmented urban forests are dominated by green ash and American elm, making them a target for invasive species. The North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association (NDUCFA) helped to build planning and management capacity of small and midsize North Dakota city tree boards to better protect urban forests. This was accomplished by providing tools, training, and one-on-one assistance to these cities to encourage ethical practices and meet technical standards for arboriculture.

### **Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Management**

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) coordinates the efforts of county and city weed boards and state and federal land managers to implement integrated weed management programs. County and city weed officers are charged with enforcing the noxious weed law in their respective counties and cities. North Dakota law provides for multiple county assistance programs and NDDA allocated approximately \$1.3 million in cost share payments to county weed boards for the 2019-2021 biennium. NDDA also cooperated with USDA Forest Service for the detection, suppression, and control of non-native invasive plants. In 2020, approximately 1,400 acres were surveyed, and 724 priority acres were treated. The goals of the program are to: (a) enhance education, planning, and monitoring efforts to prevent new weed invasions; (b) implement early detection and rapid response to new invaders; (c) control small infestations and contain the spread of existing infestations; (d) promote the use of biological control agents; and (e) to work cooperatively across ownership boundaries. Cooperative Forestry funds contributed to increased weed control, cooperation, and a better public understanding of the need for an integrated weed management program.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The North Dakota Community Forestry Council, an advisory group to the State Forester, provided program guidance and maintained priorities, including: Plant Health Care, Species Diversity, Right Tree – Right Place, Sustainable Forestry, and Promoting Professionalism. In 2020, there were 461,771 people living in communities that received educational, technical, or financial assistance. More than 77 percent of North Dakota's population lives in communities with active urban and community forestry initiatives. Communities were awarded \$104,502 for 25 tree planting and program development grants. With community matching funds, total costs were \$259,330. The ND TIP (Tree Inventory and Planning) Tool is a web-based resource that has enabled the completion of street tree inventories in 103 communities statewide. Summaries of TIP Tool street tree data reveal populations of green ash ranging from 16 to nearly 80 percent, with an average street tree population consisting of 46 percent green ash.

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## Contact Information



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