



New Hampshire Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2024

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$676,228
Cooperative Forestry	\$433,653
Forest Health Management	\$110,530
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$0
Total	\$1,220,411

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

Key Issues

- Forest ecology.
- Wildfire management.
- Forest health.
- Forest management.
- Climate change.
- Urban and community forests.
- Land conservation.
- Forest based economy.
- Forest policy and institutional framework.
- Education and outreach.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,377,529	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	3,319
Acres of Forest Land	4,708,302	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	10,925
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	2,380,832	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	4,332
Number of NIPF Landowners	33,523	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	150
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	356
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	4,660,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	215	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	1,250
Cities and Towns	235	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	100
Forest Based Employment	6,434	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	997,212
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	6,347
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	2,573,818		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

The aptly named Little Big Forest is a small 40-acre forest with a big impact in the community of Stoddard. Boosted by a \$600,000 Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program grant, the town of Stoddard acquired the forest along the shore of Highland Lake. The forest is one of the last undeveloped shorelines of the lake. The forest will become a great resource for outdoor education for the nearby Faulkner Elementary School, where a student-led Little Big Forest Stewardship committee has been established to provide input to the town for ongoing property stewardship.

Cooperative Fire Protection

The State acquired \$579,562 of Federal Excess Personal Property and \$77,785 of Department of Defense Firefighter Property program funding to assist in wildfire suppression operations. Firefighter training was provided to 1,590 personnel and 50 volunteer fire departments received Volunteer Fire Assistance grants.

Economic Action

In 2023, five New Hampshire projects were selected for over \$2.7 million in Forest Markets funding, including Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Temporary Bridge Crossings. Two Community Wood grants will install combined-heat-and-power systems,

with one installed at a lumber company and the other at an assisted living community, showing the range of applications for wood energy. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services was awarded a Temporary Bridge Crossing grant.

Forest Health Protection

Survey and monitoring continued for many forest pests, including hemlock woolly adelgid, elongate hemlock scale, southern pine beetle, emerald ash borer, spruce budworm, and others. Roughly 400,000 acres of damage were documented from aerial survey in 2023, which is the most damage mapped in the past two decades. The largest damage-causing agent was a frost event in May 2023, with 160,000 acres of damage. Emerald ash borer was the next-most-prevalent damage-causing agent this year, coming in at just over 100,000 impacted acres. Spongy moth infestations continued in 2023, impacting 72,000 acres. Beech leaf disease was discovered in another 23 communities in New Hampshire in 2023 and remains a serious concern in the region.

Forest Legacy

The New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources completed the Dundee Forest Forest Legacy Program (FLP) project with the purchase of conservation easements on four tracts in central New Hampshire using \$2,300,000 of FLP funds. The completion of the Dundee Forest FLP project permanently protects 1,248.5 acres of at-risk forestland located adjacent to or near the White Mountain National Forest.

Forest Stewardship

The New Hampshire Department of Natural Resources operates one State nursery, located in Boscaawen. Through the Forest Stewardship program and National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resource program, the State receives financial assistance to support nursery, genetics, and seed programs.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Forest Stewards Guild

Federal investment: \$236,025 (multistate project)

Project: Sustaining Ash of the Northeast Through Training, Treatment and Outreach

Summary: The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that threatens to functionally eliminate ash from our forests. The loss of ash is ecologically, economically, and culturally devastating, particularly for indigenous peoples for whom ash holds a key role in basketry and other traditions. This project will create a regional response to EAB through educating and engaging land managers in science-based, thoughtful treatment of ash, sharing stories of hope, and encouraging actions that will sustain ash across the landscape. The project will also elevate indigenous voices and priorities to the forestry community.

Grantee: National Association of Conservation Districts

Federal investment: \$600,000 (13-State project)

Project: Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests and Water

Summary: This interagency, multi-partner collaboration advances science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and protects water in 13 States across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The project is also supported by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and includes focus on protecting water supplies for underserved communities and a climate markets work group. Regional collaboration will drive alignment between the forest and water sectors and facilitate greater information sharing. Projects will result in measurable on-the-ground outcomes.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Schoolyard Canopy Enhancement Program, a pilot project implemented in 2023, is one of New Hampshire's many exciting highlights. Its goals were twofold: enhance tree canopy on school campuses by planting additional trees; and engage students and school communities in both the planting and long-term care of the trees. All 11 schools that applied for the pilot received at least 2 trees and associated planting materials at no cost. In exchange for the trees and professional planting assistance, students were required to participate in the planting events and develop a 2-year watering plan to ensure a good start for the newly planted trees. Additionally, Natural Resource Steward volunteers reported 6,347 hours in urban and community forestry. Over 60 communities received urban and community forestry assistance from these volunteers.



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