



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet New Hampshire 2023



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2022 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$600,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$129,309
Forest Legacy	\$1,700,919
Forest Stewardship	\$132,261
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$221,673
State Fire Assistance	\$608,404
Urban and Community Forestry	\$247,606
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$121,404
Total	\$3,761,576

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

State, private, and other non-Federal forests make up 92 percent of the 176 million acres of forests across the 20 states of the Northeast and Midwest. The U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies collaborate with other partners on shared stewardship goals, which also support each State Forest Action Plan. The State, Private, and Tribal Forestry programs promote the health, resilience, and productivity of trees and forests across all ownerships for the benefit of people and wildlife; establish and manage urban and community forests; empower private landowners with information and technical assistance to sustainably manage their forests; and protect critically important rural forests and watersheds.

Program Goals

- Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
- Protect forests from threats.
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

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 2022 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,377,529	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	6,328
Acres of Forest Land	4,708,302	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	12,515
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	2,380,832	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	6,587
Number of NIPF Landowners	33,523	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	150
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	256
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	6,395
Cities and Towns	235	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	71
Forest Based Employment	6,434	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	891,467
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	7,482
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	2,573,818		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

In the town of Conway, the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust purchased a 135-acre tract of forest that expands the existing 460-acres Pine Hill Community Forest. This expansion provides additional recreational benefits with the opportunity for a network of trails and enhances educational benefits as the forest is immediately adjacent to the regional high school that serves 800 students from nine towns. The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust used \$190,000 from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program in the purchase.

Conservation Education

Over 1,600 students learned about soils with the Soil Tent Program, a partnership with The GLOBE Program, University of New Hampshire, Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, and the USDA Forest Service. The tent holds murals depicting soil profiles from three soil types (wetland, forest, field) along with flora and fauna. The murals were co-created with students and an artist-in-residence. The program also has associated GLOBE activities and materials to engage students.

Cooperative Fire Protection

New Hampshire's cooperative fire program secured funding to staff fire towers every weekend through the season. This comes on the heels of \$2.3 million in funding for fire tower repairs through 2024. New Hampshire mobilized firefighters out of State 12 times this past year. The State increased its weather reporting station network and sent firefighters to leadership training. The State was awarded a \$138,696 Wildfire Risk Reduction grant to provide a wide array of firefighter training, using the property for prescribed fire operations. The State's master agreement and operating plan with the USDA Forest Service and Department of Interior partners were revised this year. These documents allow the State to continue active participation in interstate mobilizations as well as collaborating with the White Mountain National Forest. The State acquired \$515,234 of Federal Excess Personal Property and \$414,229 of Department of Defense Firefighter Property program funding to assist in wildfire suppression operations.

Forest Health Protection

Survey and monitoring continued for many forest pests, including hemlock woolly adelgid, elongate hemlock scale, southern pine beetle, emerald ash borer, and spruce budworm. Roughly 58,680 acres of damage were documented from aerial survey in 2022, which is the most damage mapped in the past decade. The largest damage-causing agent was spongy moth with 52,532 acres of damage. Hemlock looper (2,450 acres) and balsam woolly adelgid (1,826 acres) were also notable. Emerald ash borer was

detected in 23 new towns in 2022, with most of these new detections located in the northern and western portions of the State. Biological control efforts continued, with over 13,000 individual parasitic wasps of three different species released across three locations. There was a noticeable increase in reports of hemlock woolly adelgid in 2022, but most infestations were in previously established regions. Beech leaf disease was discovered in six communities in 2022 and remains a serious concern in the region.

Forest Legacy

The New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources continued to protect important forests in central New Hampshire through the Forest Legacy Program with the purchase of conservation easements on the two tracts comprising the Beebe River Uplands project. Using \$2,157,210 of Forest Legacy Program funds, the completion of the Beebe River Uplands project protects 6,395 acres of newly conserved forestland along the southern border of the White Mountain National Forest.

Forest Stewardship

The New Hampshire Forest Stewardship Program reported 73 new or revised forest stewardship plans covering 12,515 acres, of which 6,587 acres were in Important Forest Areas per New Hampshire's Forest Action Plan. Additionally, 5,234 landowners attended educational programs and 1,090 landowners received technical assistance. The Forest Stewardship Program supported landscape scale restoration projects including "Emergency Best Management Practices" to minimize water quality degradation; "Dirt to Trees to Wildlife" to facilitate exploration of the relationships between soils, forests, and wildlife; and "Northeast Silviculture Institute" to provide graduate-level professional development for foresters. New Hampshire has an active State nursery in Boscaawen that sells to multiple States and has genetic resources.

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: University System of New Hampshire

- Federal investment: \$221,673

- Non-federal match: \$221,673

- Project Title: Women & Woodlands: Increasing Stewardship of Women-owned Forestland in New Hampshire

- Project Description: Women landowners play a significant role in managing New Hampshire's forests, but often lack the skills and confidence to make stewardship decisions and effectively manage their forestland. This project will use a needs-based approach to develop and provide skills-based training and assistance for stewardship planning to a network of women forestland owners across New Hampshire, and will increase their capacity to protect, manage and enhance New Hampshire's valuable forest resources.

Grantee: Connecticut River Conservancy

- Federal investment: \$163,217

- Non-federal match: \$171,500

- Project Title: Restoring Riparian and Floodplain Forests in the Connecticut River Watershed

- Project Description: Restore forested riparian buffers on 12 acres along 1.5 miles of rivers and streams and apply an innovative floodplain forest restoration technique on 10 acres of conserved land in the New Hampshire part of the Connecticut River watershed, a priority landscape in the New Hampshire State Forest Action Plan. This project will restore and reconnect forests in strategic locations to protect and improve forest ecosystem health, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and watershed function.

Urban and Community Forestry

New Hampshire reported highlights on resuming training and outreach programs after COVID shutdowns at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, Shieling Forest, and throughout the State in volunteer programs. Accomplishments and success stories were many, including a new park for Exeter; a pilot project launched to maintain some of the New Hampshire Big Tree Program trees; a BioBlitz with fifth and sixth graders in Stafford; ash management in Lebanon; a tree inventory in Somersworth; and participation in the Granite State Gardening podcast. Additionally, the program was able to fill their community forester position, which will assume the responsibilities of the urban forestry coordinator. The Community Forestry

Advisory Council met in person for the first time since March of 2020, and volunteers provided nearly 7,500 hours!

Urban Connections

In FY 2022, \$76,251 of Forest Service funding supported three Urban Connections projects in New Hampshire with a partner match of \$37,362. This included partnerships with Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, University of New Hampshire GLOBE, and Chill Foundation. In addition, \$190,088 of Forest Service funding went to five Urban Connections projects that supported the greater Eastern Region with a partner match of about \$99,361. This included partnerships with Go Find Outdoors Natural Inquirer, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, Outdoor Afro, Outdoors Empowered Network, and the Bus for Outdoor Access and Teaching.

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