



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Oklahoma 2021



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$198,853
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$185,884
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$50,000
State Fire Assistance	\$868,875
Urban and Community Forestry	\$274,942
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$296,249
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,874,803</b>

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

Oklahoma Forestry Services mission is to protect, enhance and conserve the state's forests and natural resources for present and future generations. Oklahoma's cooperative forestry programs are administered by and implemented through a partnership between the State Forester, the USDA Forest Service, and many private, non-profit, and governmental entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of the state's forestlands and other natural resources to improved rural economies.

## Program Goals

- Reduce the risk and impact from wildfire to Oklahoma through prevention, improved detection and suppression, hazard mitigation, and increased capacity.
- Increase Oklahoma lands under active conservation management.
- Improve the overall health and diversity of urban forest resources through improved public education and collaboration with Oklahoma's communities.

## Key Issues

- Wildfire prevention and hazard mitigation is an increased priority for Oklahoma Forestry Services. The last several years have shown large increases in both wildfire occurrence and acres burned. Extreme risk from wildfire is ever present due to the severe droughts over the last decade that increased tree mortality while periodic wet spring seasons have added to the tremendous wildland fuel loading already present.
- Oklahoma landowners utilize active land management to promote long term protection, conservation, and utilization of forest land and resources. Current estimates reveal that Oklahoma has approximately 2.35 million forested acres under active management. By 2022, the goal is to increase lands under active management to 2.65 million acres.
- Prescribed burning is one of the management tools used to increase health and resilience of Oklahoma's landscape. Careful application of prescribed fire where practicable is used for hazardous fuels mitigation, increased resource benefits, and reduced wildfire impacts to natural resources and values-at-risk. Oklahoma Forestry Services conducts prescribed burns on public lands and provides technical expertise and training to promote prescribed burning in Oklahoma.
- Tree City USA is a community forest program designed to encourage healthy trees and forests within the boundaries of communities across Oklahoma. Currently, Oklahoma's Tree City USA communities serve 42% of Oklahoma's population. OFS will continue to invest in this program in order to increase the percent of population living in a Tree City USA.
- Eastern redcedar is encroaching on plant communities, degrading forest ecosystems (especially in the Cross Timbers region) and increasing wildfire risk. Reduced land management and increased cost for redcedar removal are primary reasons for this encroachment. Solutions to this problem

includes promoting active conservation management and developing markets to increase redcedar utilization.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	3,751,351	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	763
Acres of Forest Land	11,839,462	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	10,833
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	5,952,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	8,376
Number of NIPF Landowners	71,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	500
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	926,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	13
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	5,340,376	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	250
Number of Rural Fire Departments	859	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	597	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	32
Forest Based Employment	6,770	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,805,510
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	10,403
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	15,782,614		

## Program Highlights

### **Conservation Education**

Oklahoma Forestry Services continues to offer outdoor classrooms and PLT training for teachers in schools. These programs educate children of all ages about conservation and the important role trees play to protect our natural resources.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Oklahoma Forestry Services (OFS) continues to offer wildfire response to protect people, property and resources. We also work with landowners, communities and State and Federal agencies with Wildfire Protection Plans as well as any mitigation efforts needed to protect resources. Throughout the year, OFS hosts wildfire training classes to State and Federal employees as well as other community fire fighters.

### **Economic Action**

Oklahoma Forestry Services has been working with and will continue to assist companies and groups to promote economic growth and benefits of wood products for Oklahoma. We provide information from Forest Inventory and Analysis data and technical assistance for economic development.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Each year, Oklahoma forestry Services flies over areas of concentrated pine and checks for signs of damage caused by southern pine beetles. OFS also watches for other diseases and insect problems throughout the State and when we identify a potential problem we take appropriate steps to control the problem.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Oklahoma Forestry Services continues to promote good Forest Stewardship to all land managers. We feel, these landowners can achieve their management goals while protecting all their natural resources

### **Landowner Assistance**

Oklahoma Forestry Services primary task is to offer landowner assistance to help with any forest management need they may have.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Urban and Community Forestry has several programs on going. All of these programs promote trees and forests in communities. We initiated a "healthy trees, healthy lives" program, a program to plant trees on playgrounds, and another project to show how we can use Urban wood to reduce costs to manage trees within our communities.

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### **Contact Information**



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