Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2022 Final</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$935,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$290,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$624,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$2,869,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$1,560,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$942,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,268,379</strong></td>
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NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Texas is a large state that has a diverse landscape with a diverse set of challenges. Challenges such as forest markets, water quality and quantity, fragmentation and changing demographics have an affect on the natural resources across the state. Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) provides statewide leadership in the management of Texas' vast natural resources and works to protect and restore them from natural disasters, weather extremes, wildfire and invasive pests.

Program Goals

- To maintain and improve the health of rural and urban forests and to protect the forests and citizens of Texas. These programs maximize cost effectiveness through the use of program delivery partnerships and increase forestland sustainability and value in a non-regulatory, voluntary manner.
- The cooperative programs, implemented through partnerships between Texas, USDA Forest Service, and other entities, emphasize forest sustainability and the production of amenity and commodity values.

Key Issues

- Ensuring environmental equity and accessibility to conservation assistance programs and ensuring equal access to all programs
- Addressing landscape scale issues, including climate mitigation and developing incentive-based programs that increase water quality and forest health.
- Enhancing awareness and application of the role that urban trees and forests play in human health through the Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives initiative
- Protecting the health and value of trees for wildlife and water where woodlands are not traditionally harvested commercially.
- Invasive plants, insects, diseases, and drought-related impacts are key issues within forest health.
Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Facts</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>29,145,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Forest Land</td>
<td>59,938,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land</td>
<td>53,881,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of NIPF Landowners</td>
<td>285,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>157,658,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Rural Fire Departments</td>
<td>1,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cities and Towns</td>
<td>1,223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Based Employment</td>
<td>68,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forestry Budget (All Sources)</td>
<td>67,101,544</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2022 Accomplishments</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance</td>
<td>91,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>104,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>99,359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted</td>
<td>288</td>
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<td>State Fire Communities Assisted</td>
<td>276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coop Forest Health Acres Protected</td>
<td>4,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>15,592,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance</td>
<td>4,292</td>
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Program Highlights

Conservation Education
Texas A&M Forest Service during FY 22 established a Spanish committee to provide programming to Spanish speaking audiences and converting online resources into Spanish as well. This is the fastest growing demographic in Texas. The agency also continued to expand its Conservation Education program by employing a full time coordinator. During FY 22 the Conservation Education program was able to accomplish: 1) hosted 126 co-ed events reaching more than 3,600 school children, 3,400 families, and almost 500 school teachers, 2) developed a new Forest Literacy curriculum for Early Childhood-Healthy Trees/Healthy Lives, 3) hosted and guided two forest and nature therapy sessions, 4) collaborated with Texas Forestry Association to develop a forestry perspective to be included in the Deep in the Heart Nature Documentary, and 5) developed a static display and exhibit for the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum entitled "The Value of Conservation and Forest Products Laboratory Research".

Cooperative Fire Protection
Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) continued to work with counties, communities, and homeowners to mitigate wildfire risk using the Ready Set Go program. During FY 22 TAMFS provided 856 community protection programs (RSG, Firewise and fire prevention workshops/presentations) educating 53,638 Texans on mitigating wildfire risk. VFA funds were allocated to award training tuition grants for 201 firefighters and personal protection equipment grants to 45 communities. State and local firefighters responded to 12,411 wildfires burning 650,712 acres in 2022. State Fire Assistance provided funding to support fire protection and training activities across Texas. The federal excess property programs (FEPP and FFP) provided 64 assists in and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, TAMFS administered Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support firefighter safety and the training efforts of rural community fire departments.

Economic Action
During 2022 Texas A&M Forest Service led efforts to increase the awareness and adoption of mass timber in new building designs. The agency has partnered with several large scale projects across Texas which demonstrate firsthand the viability of using mass timber versus steel in large scale construction projects. Along with mass timber portion, the agency continues to monitor economically viable sources of biomass and promote traditional and forest products, biomass energy, and new emerging markets such as ecosystem service credits. TAMFS staff are continually expanding the capabilities of www.texasforestinfo.com, a web-based portal that provides all Texans and others information on Texas' forest resources. The "Timber Supply Analysis" web application allows current and potential wood using
industries in Texas and across the south quantify the wood resource available in a given area. This aids in the development of new wood using markets and the expansion of traditional markets. TAMFS continues to support the development of "ecosystem value" markets and routinely updates estimated values contained within the "Forest Ecosystem Values" application on www.texasforestinfo.com. During FY 2022 TAMFS published a comprehensive report demonstrating the value of "Urban Ecosystem Values" through which the value urban forests and trees provide to human health, flood mitigation, and quality of life. TAMFS Water Resources Coordinator continues to partner with USFS, SGSF and water utility districts to promote and incentivize sustainable forest management techniques within Texas watersheds. This effort is part of the regional Forest and Drinking Water Campaign funded project from USFS in which Texas along with other southern states are working to develop incentives supported by water utility districts to assist landowners in maintaining and managing forest watersheds.

**Forest Health Protection**
Texas A&M Forest Service continued to coordinate public outreach and technical assistance to Texans regarding a variety of forest and tree pests in 2022. Forest Health staff provide oversight and comment to policy regarding pest regulation to ensure those policies are pragmatic and have achievable outcome-based results. During FY 2022 TAMFS continued to monitor for new and existing pests such as emerald ash borer, redbay ambrosia beetle, spongy moth, spotted lanternfly, Asian longhorned beetle, and a variety of native bark beetles, all of which are impacting or have the potential to impact Texas trees and forests. TAMFS continues providing financial assistance to landowners to assist in minimizing the threat of southern pine beetle establishment in East Texas and slowing the spread of oak wilt in Central and North Texas. To date, in cooperation with USFS-FHP, TAMFS has provided almost $6.8 million to more than 1,900 landowners in East Texas to thin more than 128,000 acres of overly dense pine stands improving stand health and vigor while minimizing the threat of SPB attacks. Also, to slow the spread of oak wilt in Central and North Texas, TAMFS to date has provided over $2.8 million in funding to assist landowners install more than 783 miles of trenching. During FY 2022 TAMFS staff provided 3,099 forest health technical assists, hosted 21 landowner workshops, provided forest health training to over 1,700 individuals, and deployed more than 1,000 detection traps across Texas for identifying new or existing forest pests both native and non-native. The agency also continues to expand the use of the TreeMD web application which is an online diagnostic tool for identifying common tree pests in Texas.

**Forest Legacy**
The agency continues to promote the Forest Legacy program and currently has a total of 7 funded projects protecting more than 30,000 acres of forestland within high priority areas. The State Stewardship Coordinating Committee Forest Legacy Program Subcommittee continues to develop new partners.

**Forest Stewardship**
Through the Forest Stewardship Program, TAMFS emphasizes the management and sustainability of resource priority areas throughout the state as identified by the Texas Forest Action Plan. Using this plan as a guide, TAMFS directs educational and technical resources to these identified priority areas. Program delivery is tailored to address the known resource concerns and threats as well as assist Texans in maintaining healthy forests, trees, and woodlands. A variety of tools are used to help educate Texans on stewardship and how they can become better stewards of their forests and trees. These tools include quarterly newsletters, social media posts, mobile and web applications and most importantly one on one assistance from TAMFS staff. During FY 2022 TAMFS staff aided almost more than 70,000 landowners, educated more than 20,000 landowners and developed 1,149 forest management plans on over 184,000 acres of which 95% were located within identified priority areas. The TAMFS Tree Improvement Program and Idalou Nursery, a component of the FSP in Texas, produced over 50,000 seedlings for a variety of conservation plantings across Texas. Working in cooperation with Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University and US Endowment for Forestry, TAMFS is helping to deliver the Sustainable Forestry & African American Land Retention Program. Through this effort TAMFS and partners will provide forestry assistance, education and resources to African American landowners in East Texas. Lastly, The Texas A&M Forest Service Leadership Institute graduated 18 participants in its second cohort and the third cohort began in fall of 2022 including 22 members. The institute will rally existing and emerging leaders within the fields of natural resources and increase their capacity and ability to enact meaningful change throughout the state of Texas.

**Landowner Assistance**
Texas A&M Forest Service assists landowners across the state through a number of activities through
support of USFS State and Private Forestry programs. Through these programs TAMFS staff are able to
provide Texans assistance regarding a wide range of natural resource issues. In addition to Forest
Stewardship activities, landowners receive help with land, timber and tree management issues and
needs. Landowners and homeowners receive expert advice on things such as reforestation, tax valuation,
ecosystem restoration as well as forest and tree health threats. TAMFS strives to meet the needs of all
Texans throughout the diverse state. This includes windbreak needs in the High Plains, insect and
disease issues for rural and urban trees, brush control issues in Central and West Texas, water related
issues across the state, forestland habitat fragmentation, and protection and sustainability of the
commercial forests of East Texas. TAMFS annually provides more than 100,000 assists across the state
through both on-site and off-site assistance. During FY 22 TAMFS staff made almost 3,100 on the ground
assists to landowners on more than 220,000 acres of privately owned forests and woodlands. TAMFS,
provided more than 200 education events with over 5,400 Texans receiving formal education on natural
resource related topics. TAMFS staff developed more than 1,570 forest management plans on almost
184,000 acres. Lastly, through the Texas Forest Information portal, an additional 27,000 landowners and
natural resource managers were assisted though our online resources such as Map My Property, Plan My
Land Operation, TreeMD, Timber Supply Analysis, and others.

Landscape Scale Restoration
Texas A&M Forest Service continues to collaborate with federal, state, and NGO partners to identify and
develop landscape initiatives to address forest and woodland health, improve water quality, and identify
barriers to landowners in managing forests and woodlands across the state. Agency staff serve integral
roles on various restoration teams including the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team, Northeast Texas
Conservation Delivery Network, and the State Technical Advisory Committee hosted by NRCS. TAMFS
continues to support the restoration of longleaf pine, shortleaf pine, ponderosa pine and native grass
restoration as part of restoring historical ecosystem types in Texas. During FY 22 TAMFS continued
efforts to restore ponderosa pine in the Davis Mountain region, identify deteriorated windbreaks in the
High Plains for restoration purposes, and continue grow native grass for restoration projects. Also,
TAMFS continued to grow the Texas Forests and Drinking Water campaign which works to develop a
connection between water utilities and forest landowners in hopes of providing monetary support for
managing priority watersheds. Through the Good Neighbor Authority TAMFS is assisting Texas National
Forests in addressing forest health issues and mitigating hazards to both the local ecosystem and general
public. Lastly, during FY 22 TAMFS continued to expand its role with National Forest System in Texas
through the Good Neighbor Authority by completing and managing several large timber sales conducted
on National Forest lands in Texas.

Urban and Community Forestry
The Urban and Community Forestry Program continues to provide educational and technical assistance
to communities and residents across the state, focusing on arboriculture principles and practices,
ordinances, inventories, urban planning, and strategic management plans for greenspaces and trees.
Staff work with six regional urban forestry councils and numerous NGOs to educate citizens about the
benefit and value of trees in the landscape, developing a variety of formats to meet the needs of the
diverse Texas population, including traditional, virtual live and self-directed, and Spanish language. Over
19,000 seat hours of formal education and training were delivered to Texans. Additionally, program staff
promote the Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives initiative, facilitating on-the-ground place-making to increase
environmental equity and accessibility; expand selection and reach of climate ready, urban hardy trees
from the Urban Tree Improvement Program; coordinate the Texas Tree Conference, providing
scholarships to over 50 municipal employees; and develop innovative applications to aid communities in
the management of their trees, including My Tree ID, Trees Count inventory app, and the Tree Risk
mobile app.

Water Resources
The Texas A&M Forest Service Water Resources program continues to focus on innovative technology
and strategic partnerships to enhance water resources throughout the state. Texas Forestry BMPs, a
highly popular native smartphone application for the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices
handbook, has been updated to include a pictorial. The web-based Plan My Land Operation application
averages 300 sessions per month, providing users with site specific BMP recommendations to support
operation planning and layout. Computer models (iTree Hydro) are also being used to quantify and build
support for utilizing urban forests in storm water management programs and watershed protection plans.
Under the direction of a newly hired coordinator, the Texas Forests and Drinking Water Partnership
continues to grow and connecting forest managers, owners and water utility districts to advance source water protection initiatives. The agency Green Futures program engages corporate funding for planting project within priority watersheds. The agency is also delivering post-wildfire rehabilitation and recovery workshops including Best Management Practices for reducing erosion, leveraging the extremely successful logger training model in East Texas.

Contact Information

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