



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Washington 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$600,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$440,731
Forest Legacy	\$7,320,000
Forest Stewardship	\$217,817
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$300,000
State Fire Assistance	\$2,783,427
Urban and Community Forestry	\$542,094
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$621,483
Total	\$12,825,552

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

Cooperative Forestry programs are implemented through a partnership between the State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of private forest lands, city and community trees and forests, and rural economies. Emphasis is on sustainable forests for timber and other forest products, watersheds, healthy urban and community ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and local economies. The goal is to continue providing economic, environmental, and social values and products to all Washington residents.

Program Goals

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery.
- Continue voluntary and non-regulatory approaches with programs.
- Reduce the rate of conversion of working forestlands to non-forest uses.
- Support forest landowners' provision of ecosystem services, including flood control, clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and riparian function.
- Empower landowners, cities, communities, and land managers to be stewards of the land and of their city trees and forests.
- Continue integration of Forest Stewardship, National Fire Plan, and Forest Health Protection to provide a coordinated multi-program, multi-resource education, technical assistance, and cost-share program for family forest landowners.
- Assist cities, communities, and neighborhoods in planning for, planting, and managing their trees for economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Key Issues

- Assisting communities to mitigate the wildland fire problem in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Providing technical assistance and education to landowners to promote active management that addresses forest health concerns (bark beetles, root disease, defoliators) related to tree vigor, density, and species diversity.
- Helping communities pass new or strengthened tree ordinances, develop tree inventories and management plans, train local staff, support tree advisory committees, and develop comprehensive municipal urban forestry programs.
- Administering the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program to effectively support eligible rural fire departments and improve the fire protection district capabilities.
- Monitoring and reporting on activity and impacts of forest insects and diseases.

- Mitigating the effects of forest fragmentation in urbanizing areas and the wildland-urban interface by helping cities, counties, and landowners maintain forest values as land develops. Staff continues to educate cities and communities on the benefits of trees to mitigate climate change and aid in the cleanup of Puget Sound.
- Continuing cooperative efforts to monitor and eradicate introductions of exotic organisms such as sudden oak death and gypsy moth, and to manage and suppress established invasive plants on state and private lands.
- Supporting long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands.
- Educating cities about the public safety, economic development, environmental quality, human health and community livability benefits that result from proper planning and management of their urban trees.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,724,540	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	4,630
Acres of Forest Land	22,063,697	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	12,092
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	198
Number of NIPF Landowners	215,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	282
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	180,756	State Fire Communities Assisted	130
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,194,932	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2,295
Number of Rural Fire Departments	558	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	281	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	153
Forest Based Employment	28,970	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4,531,688
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	73,000
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	145,877,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire funds provide key resources for the DNR fire program to assist in implementation of the State Forest Action Plan. In Federal FY19, through this assistance, 100 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions; 11 new communities achieved Firewise USA® recognition and 135 were maintained in active status; over 7,500 acres of forestland received technical assistance or were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class. 14 vehicles for conversion to fire engines and water tenders, and 1 command vehicle were placed in volunteer fire districts through the Fire Fighter Property; 6 excess USFS wildland engines were placed in volunteer fire districts through the Federal Excess Personal Property program; 147 fire districts received funding for acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment; and 37 fire districts received grants for fire equipment, communications equipment, or vehicle refurbishment. In 2020, according to Northwest Coordination Center's reporting, there were 24 Type 3 and 11 Type 2 incidents in Washington state. This year the department successfully suppressed 92.5% of all DNR fires at 10 acres or less. SFA was used to support 235 students and instructors for refresher courses, leadership opportunities, and basic and advanced firefighter courses.

Forest Health Protection

DNR Forest Health Protection staff continue an effective forest health education, technical assistance and site visit program for state and private landowners. They also provide expertise to All-Lands forest health planning, including implementing the Forest Action Plan and the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, and to the development of the 2020 Forest Action Plan. For the 2019-21 biennium, DNR received a \$14.2

million forest health capital budget appropriation from the WA State Legislature. Funds are being used to increase pace and scale of forest health and watershed health restoration treatments on private, state, and federal forest lands, including through cross-boundary partnerships. Due to 2020 Covid-19 restrictions, aerial detection surveys, in cooperation with the Forest Service, were conducted in limited priority areas using remote sensing, pan & sketch, and ground-based methods. Douglas-fir tussock moth and spruce aphid defoliation declined. Mortality and forest pest range expansion related to drought and climate change are a priority for DNR monitoring work. DNR, in cooperation with the Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry, initiated a western redcedar decline Evaluation Monitoring project. DNR continues to monitor for *Phytophthora ramorum* (the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death) in waterways. Cost share funding for eastern WA landowners through the USFS Western Bark Beetle Prevention grant is available. DNR publishes an annual Forest Health Highlights report covering statewide forest health conditions and monitoring activities. WSDA treated 1,300 ac for Asian gypsy moth (AGM) eradication in two areas of Snohomish County in 2020; treatment in one area include the first ever detection in the US of Hokkaido GM. Several new GM finds, including AGM in Cowlitz County will result in additional eradication efforts in 2021. Covid did not affect WSDA efforts to treat 500 ac of new noxious weed infestations & do biocontrol releases on 46,000 ac.

Forest Legacy

Washington closed two grants in October 2020: Dewatto Headwaters Phase 1 and South Puget Sound Coastal Forest Phase 3, which together protect 8276 acres in a landscape that connects to Puget Sound. Maintaining upland forests helps improve the health of this significant waterway by reducing pollution from residential development, aiding in the protection of marine and forest habitats, and contributing to local timber and shellfish industries. The Dewatto project is notable for its partnership between the State and the US Navy, in which the Navy provided REPI funds as project cost share, a first for Forest Legacy in Washington. Two new 2020 projects are in process: Dewatto Phase 2 will protect an additional 5000 acres near Puget Sound, and Yacolt Phase 1 will protect approximately 3000 adjacent to Gifford Pinchot National Forest in southwest Washington. The Forest Legacy Program is a component of the statewide strategy to protect working forests.

Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program provides forest management advice and supports educational programs to encourage long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands. A cornerstone of the program continues to be the highly popular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses. This 8-week course enables landowners to learn about all aspects of sustainable forest management and to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) customized to their specific objectives and property conditions. Since participants have "ownership" in developing their plan, the result is a very high rate of subsequent on-the-ground implementation. This year, 146 landowners created or revised their Forest Stewardship plans covering over 12,000 acres. 2020 marked the 24th year of Washington's very successful Family Forest Owners Field Day program. These regional events have proven to be an excellent way to attract new landowners to the Forest Stewardship Program with over 20,000 participating since the program's inception and though there were no in-person events, over 400 attendees participated in online sessions. Washington continues to implement an extensive cost-share program, jointly supported by state and federal funds, to incentivize landowners to implement practices to improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The program targets priority areas identified in the State Forest Action Plan. There are currently two Stewardship Foresters and one Stewardship Fish & Wildlife Biologist funded through the Forest Stewardship Program. On average, each Forester conducts approximately 60 site visits per year to help landowners manage their lands to improve their forest health, create or maintain wildlife habitat and meet any other specific management objectives they may have. Collectively, the Stewardship Foresters receive over 800 landowner assistance requests each year. These requests are via email, phone call, or office visits.

Landowner Assistance

In Federal FY20, through this assistance, 100 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions; 12 new communities achieved Firewise USA® recognition and 143 were maintained in active status; over 2,700 acres of forestland received technical assistance or were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Over 75 FSP were written on 8,700 acres in the Chehalis River Watershed (2016 LSR). The project includes landowner outreach/education with support for a forestry educator who conducted 6 Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses and regional Family Forest Owners Field Day events in the project area. This project targets the highest priority landscape for the Forest Stewardship Program as identified in the FAP. A landscape-scale FSP will be completed for the Colville-Little Spokane River watersheds in NE WA (2018 LSR). The master plan will expedite individual FSP development, significantly increasing the acreage being sustainably managed. The project will include landowner outreach/ education with support for a forester to conduct minimum of 3 regional Family Forest Owners Field Days and prepare for FSP development and implementation; conduct at least 6 8-week Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Courses to help landowners develop FSP with instruction and coaching from natural resource professionals; and conduct at least 6 forest health and wildfire hazard reduction workshops to help landowners identify problems and provide treatment options to mitigate risks. Cost-share programs for FSPs prepared by foresters and to incentivize treatment implementation will also be started. The UCF restoration project, 2014 funded, completed in 2019 with WA Conservation Corps crews doing projects in 3 communities. Projects included structural tree pruning, invasive plant removal, and community safety and stormwater mitigation. UCF was awarded 2 LSR grants in 2019 for multi-year projects in SeaTac, Des Moines, and Burien among the most economically and racially diverse cities in the nation and in the lower Green-Duwamish Watershed -one of the most degraded in the nation due to industrial use. Partners will develop and implement urban forestry projects in the Highline School District.

Urban and Community Forestry

Technical, financial, & educational assistance provided by Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) includes community forestry management planning, tree inventories & assessments, municipal code development, training for municipal staff statewide & arboriculture consultation for trees on the WA State Capitol Campus. UCF seeks to develop statewide partnerships to raise awareness of the program and implement projects on behalf of Washington urban forest managers. UCF-staffed WA Community Forestry Council met four times using an on-line virtual meeting software platform. 94 cities & towns met Tree City USA standards - 48% of WA residents live in TCUSA communities; 8 TCUSA communities received Growth Awards for outstanding program activities, 13 Utility Companies met Tree Line USA standards, & 13 college & university campuses met Tree Campus USA – Higher education standards. Grants awarded to communities & organizations include six community forestry grants: three for tree inventories and management plan development; one for implementation of management plan goals (tree planting)) and one community outreach and education project. The sixth project was canceled due to COVID and those grant dollars were never reimbursed. The program also awarded two UCF environmental justice grants: One to engage an underserved community to tree planting to increase canopy, another co-benefits of trees across their neighborhood; and, a second to build urban forestry curriculum and site-based, experiential education activities for students from an underserved neighborhood. The program also awarded 6 Tree City USA Arbor Day tree planting grants. Grant projects continue from 2019 including a fire-adapted community tree arboretum and a city inventory update and management plan. UCF partnered with the Spokane Conservation District and the Cascadia Conservation District to provide tech assistance to communities in eastern WA.

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