



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Washington 2025



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Community Forests and Open Space	\$400,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$900,223
Forest Legacy	\$14,010,000
Forest Stewardship	\$136,913
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$867,333
State Fire Assistance	\$2,826,168
Urban and Community Forestry	\$618,197
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$750,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,509,589</b>

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), 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 financial assistance program for family/small 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 events in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Providing technical assistance and education to landowners to promote active management addressing 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 capabilities of the fire protection district.
- 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 Lymantria dispar moths, 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 resulting from proper planning and management of their urban trees.

**Forest Facts and Accomplishments**

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2024 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	7,705,281	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	6,409
Acres of Forest Land	22,063,697	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	4,051
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,110,410	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	2,209
Number of NIPF Landowners	51,006	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	110
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	180,756	State Fire Communities Assisted	46
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,194,932	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	3,178
Number of Rural Fire Departments	558	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	281	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	133
Forest Based Employment	28,970	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4,899,313
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	70,918
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	145,877,000		

**Program Highlights**

**Community Forests and Open Space**

\$400,000 was granted to land conservation partners to acquire property for public access, wildlife habitat, and forest health.

**Community Wildfire Defense Grant**

The state has been supporting the implementation of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program by hosting trainings, working with communities, assisting with the application submission process and scoring of projects as well as managing the awards for successful applicants with exception of the Tribal award. Washington State applicants were successful in round one where 10 projects were selected for a total of \$35,949,590.

**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 FY24, more than 120 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement Firewise USA Site Action Plans or local community activities to build individual and community resilience to wildfire. Fifteen new communities achieved FirewiseUSA® recognition and 148 maintained active status.

Twenty-one vehicles were acquired through the Fire Fighter Property Program. These vehicles were converted into fire engines, water tenders, and/or command vehicles. These units have been placed within Volunteer Fire Districts throughout Washington State. In addition, thirteen excess USFS wildland engines were placed in Volunteer Fire Districts through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program. A

total of 81 Washington State Fire Districts/Departments also received grant funding for purchasing or replacing outdated wildland fire equipment, communication equipment and/or to assist with vehicle refurbishments.

In 2024, according to Northwest Interagency Coordination Center's (NWCC) reporting, there were 41 large fires in Washington State. Of those fires, 11 were managed as Type 4/5 incidents, 24 were managed as Type 3 incidents, and 6 were managed as complex incidents. This year, the department successfully suppressed 94% of all DNR fires at 10 acres or less. State Fire Assistance was used to support 324 students and instructors for refresher courses, leadership opportunities, and basic and advanced firefighter courses.

### **Forest Health Protection**

DNR Forest Health Protection staff continue to offer forest health education, technical assistance, and site-visits for state and private landowners. Staff also provide expertise to all-lands forest health planning including implementing the 2020 Forest Action Plan and the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington. For the 2025-27 biennium, DNR intends to define and build a related strategic plan for western Washington. The agency has continued to distribute Washington State House Bill 1168 funds (2023) to increase pace and scale of forest and watershed health treatments on private, state, and federal forest lands. Project investments are tracked using the DNR's Forest Health Tracker to observe implementation status across all-lands.

Aerial detection surveys, in cooperation with USFS, were conducted in 2024 over approx. 22 million acres of forest land. This included a special aerial survey for Swiss needle cast damage in Douglas-fir covering approx. 2.1 million acres in coastal counties, supported by 60 ground monitoring plots. The total area affected by major bark beetle species decreased from 2023 levels and were close to the ten-year average. New outbreaks of western spruce budworm developed in the northern Cascade Range. Tree mortality related to drought and heat and other changing conditions are monitoring priorities. Monitoring of western redcedar dieback expanded in 2024 with additional mapping of damage by collaborators in Idaho. DNR continues to monitor for *Phytophthora ramorum* (the pathogen that causes Sudden oak death) in waterways. DNR initiated development of an emerald ash borer (EAB) response plan and conducted outreach activities to report status and best management practices for EAB and the non-native Mediterranean oak borer.

Evaluation of out-planted five-needle pines for white pine blister rust resistance at 16 Washington sites is ongoing. DNR published an annual Forest Health Highlights Report.

### **Forest Health Protection - FY24 Special Initiatives**

In 2024, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) treated 1,100 acres with 242 biocontrol releases including a new agent for gorse and a second-year psyllid release for Japanese knotweed. They conducted biocontrol releases for four Tribes and continued releases for infestations stimulated following wildfire.

WSDA completed two eradication projects with aerial applications of Btk in the spring 2024, Thurston County (1,385 acres) and Skagit County (923 acres), in response to over 100 spongy moths trapped in 2023. The treatment involved three aerial applications of B.t.k. USFS Forest Health Protection provided \$307,000 in support of these treatments and this was matched by WSDA funding. Due to the eradication efforts, spongy moth detections saw a significant decline in 2024 with only 32 moths trapped statewide. Detection sites will be closely monitored in 2025 with high density trapping. An eradication project for spongy moth will not take place in 2025.

Washington State University received BIL funding to support forest health extension efforts through the creation of Forest Health Watch. In 2024, researchers conducted outreach and education events throughout the state that were focused on western redcedar dieback, sooty bark disease, EAB, and Mediterranean oak borer.

Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office is implementing a boot brush station campaign to protect shrub steppe habitats from invasive plants. Thirty of fifty stations were distributed in 2024. The University of Washington and Washington State University are collaborating with USFS to test resistance of seven true fir tree species to the non-native balsam woolly adelgid.

### **Forest Legacy**

Washington state received funding for Mt Adams Forest Phase 2 project in FY24 funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This 13,850-acre project is located on the east slopes of the Cascade Mountain Range in southern Washington within ceded territory of the Yakama Nation. It ties together a forested landscape between the adjacent Gifford Pinchot National Forest and state-owned timberlands

and natural areas, and it protects the source water for Trout Lake's municipal water system. Washington received FY24 Federal funding for 4 projects. The Green Mountain West project will permanently conserve 360 acres of productive working forestland and important salmon habitat adjacent to federal, state, and local forestland in Kitsap County. The tract is one of the last and most highly threatened unprotected blocks within a contiguous 70,000-acre forest landscape. Culminating 20 years of conservation, the Cle Elum Ridge Project would protect the land from development. The Cle Elum Ridge 9,700 acres of dry forests, including old growth and habitat for endangered and threatened species. The Cle Elum Ridge supports the Yakima River Basin, one of Washington's most vulnerable watersheds to future drought and wildfire. Stimson Timberland Legacy aims to conserve 87,754 acres of working forestlands in Spokane, Stevens, and Pend Orielle counties to support essential rural economies, sequestering carbon, and providing recreational access in eastern Washington. The North Kitsap Community Forest Project is a Strategic Small Project that will emplace a conservation easement on 452 acres of productive working forestland in Kitsap County. The project is the last threatened tract within a critical open space and wildlife corridor stretching across the Kitsap Peninsula. It is also the last unprotected tract of the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project, championed for more than a decade by more than 30 private and public organizations and the Port Gamble S'Klallam and Suquamish Tribes.

### **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, 42 landowners created or revised their Forest Stewardship plans covering over 2,200 acres. 2024 also saw the continuation 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 tens of thousands participating since the program's inception. Over 1,000 landowners - representing over 23,000 acres - were supported through 19 educational events.

Washington continues to implement an extensive financial assistance 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. There is currently one Stewardship Biologist fully funded through the Forest Stewardship Program. The biologist supports our team of 35 Service Foresters and specialists who conduct thousands of 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. The Service Forestry Program assisted over 4,238 landowners during 2024.

\*Data above includes portion of work completed in the state that was partially or fully funded by federal dollars.

### **Landowner Assistance**

In Federal FY24, through this assistance, more than 472 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions and over 9,000 acres of forestland received technical assistance or were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class.

In 2025, through Federal funding, DNR was awarded \$5 million, \$4.2 million of which will go directly to landowners to support the popular State landowner cost share program which provides about \$5.5 million each year for landowner cost share. This funding will help expand this robust program to increase fire mitigation and ecosystem resilience practices in eastern Washington.

Other partners with landowner assistance funding in Washington in 2025 include: Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF): \$2 million; Snoqualmie Tribe: \$2 million; Tulalip Tribe: \$2 million; and Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM): \$2 million.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

Urban and Community Forestry has closed out an LSR grant. The Nature Conservancy was brought on as a new partner to work with staff from the Highline School District, city staff from Burien, Seatac, and Des Moines to identify and coordinate maintenance activities on and along walking routes to K-12

schools.

The San Juan Ecosystem Restoration Project is active. Acres have been treated for the following: 5 acres for hazardous fuels. Project partners have also been increasing the burning skillsets, with many partner staff taking part in the state's Certified Burner Program fall 2024.

Riparian Restoration for Watershed Resilience, Salmon, and Forest Health in the Middle Snohomish has begun. At the Meadowbrook Slough site, the restoration of a riparian buffer along the Snoqualmie River has begun. Approx. 6.3 acres have been treated. At the Former Snoqualmie River RV Park, invasive species work has occurred across 6.2 acres. Work is underway in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie site, with 0.6 acres of critical riparian buffer work completed.

The Collaborative Landscape and Community Resilience in the Cle Elum Priority Landscape is active. The Kittitas County Conservation District created, printed and mailed 5,000 wildfire emergency preparedness and evacuation route awareness mailers to residents in the project area and is actively engaged in the implementation of 10 acres of fuels treatments. The City of Roslyn prepped 90 acres for prescribed fire, burned 30 acres, and conducted 4 prescribed fire training courses.

The Klickitat Forest Health and Wildfire Risk Reduction Project is active. The Columbia Land Trust will conduct forest health thinning on at least 275 acres in the DNR Klickitat Priority Planning Area on land trust property to address the heavy accumulation of ladder fuels in the area and implement oak release from encroaching conifers.

In 2024, DNR received funding for the Spokane and Trail (Sxwuytn) LSR projects. Implementation will begin in 2025.

### **Reforestation Infrastructure**

USFS SPTF continues to invest in Webster Nursery through BIL and Disaster Response funding in 2023-24 including nursery capacity expansion and modernization of equipment. Total investment thus far is \$320,000 of Federal funding and \$1 million in Disaster funds. The outcome will be increasing annual seedling production by millions of trees to better respond to post wildfire recovery need across the State. Additional funds are slated for Nursery investment in 2025.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Technical, financial, & educational assistance provided by Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) includes community forestry management planning, tree inventories, canopy assessments, municipal code development, training for municipal staff across the state, and arboriculture consultation for trees on the Washington State Capitol Campus. UCF seeks to develop partnerships to raise awareness of the program and implement projects on behalf of Washington urban forest managers. The UCF-staffed Washington Community Forestry Council met remotely 5 times. 94 cities & towns met Tree City USA (TCUSA) standards - 51% of WA residents live in TCUSA communities; 12 TCUSA communities received Growth Awards for outstanding program activities, 10 Utility Companies met Tree Line USA standards, & 11 college & university campuses met Tree Campus USA – Higher education standards. 45 communities and organizations received competitive grant awards between \$10,000 and \$350,000. Project investments span the breadth of urban forestry activities including tree planting, maintenance and restoration including invasive weed removal; development of urban forestry plans, policies and ordinances; community outreach and engagement; training and workforce development; canopy analyses; and tree inventories. Many of these investments ensure that all Washingtonians have access to the benefits of trees, focusing on where we apply dollars to have the greatest impact. The program also awarded 16 TCUSA Arbor Day tree planting grants valued at \$500.00 each. Most notably, the USFS awarded \$6,000,000 of Federal funding to UCF. The Washington State Legislature awarded an additional \$6,000,000 from the state's new Natural Climate Solutions account to support UCF projects across the state--these dollars will be distributed in 2025 through a combination of competitive grant awards, direct investments with local communities, and contractual agreements with private firms to accomplish urban forestry work.

### **Urban and Community Forestry FY24 Investments**

Project implementation is underway from new investments to 12 grantees. Project partners include ELSO, Lynnwood, Oak Harbor, Northwest Youth Corps, Partner in Employment, Seattle, Snohomish

Conservation District, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Spokane, Spokane Conservation District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Washington State University. Projects range from tree planting and maintenance, workforce development, and urban forestry planning. All new UCF IRA projects are now underway and helping to build capacity across Washington State.

### **Washington State Biomass Utilization Partnership**

DNR staff reviewed all USDA Wood Innovation Grant proposals and all Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance proposals. DNR staff submitted written feedback, scores, and ranking information to the Forest Service. DNR also participated in a grant committee meeting to review all proposals and finalize the rankings for submission to the Regional Forester and Washington, D.C., Office. DNR established an internal biomass team to coordinate activities related to biomass utilization across the agency. DNR staff participated in multiple meetings focused on engaging with external stakeholders, providing feedback on potential biomass utilization opportunities, and coordinating DNR engagement with other relevant agency staff.

DNR provided technical assistance to numerous community and business partners in Washington state interested in establishing or expanding biomass utilization projects, including high priority opportunities in Skamania, Klickitat, and Chelan Counties. DNR staff met with individual community members and businesses, sharing relevant insights, connections, and grant resources.

### **Wood Innovations**

In addition to increasing the available award amounts for the existing Wood Innovations and Community Wood grants nationally, additional programs were launched in 2023 with Federal funding. The Wood Innovations Grants program invested in 8 projects, totaling \$2,028,326 in awards to stimulate expand, and support U.S. wood products markets and wood energy markets, including mass timber, and traditional wood products to support the long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands and support rural communities.

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