



Wisconsin Forest Resource Fact Sheet 2025

Heather Berklund, State Forester
 Phone: 608-598-9068

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestry.html>
 Email: heather.berklund@wisconsin.gov



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$0
Cooperative Forestry	\$468,289
Forest Health Management	\$353,500
Forest Legacy and Community Forestry	\$300,000
Total	\$1,121,789

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

Key Issues

- Forest resources and ecosystems.
- Climate change.
- Forest socioeconomics.
- Forest ownership.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	5,893,718	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	9,717
Acres of Forest Land	16,943,219	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	109,037
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,524,298	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	23,604
Number of NIPF Landowners	154,454	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	303
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	332
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,299,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	19,519
Number of Rural Fire Departments	947	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	54,898
Cities and Towns	1,850	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	231
Forest Based Employment	74,548	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	3,640,983
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,960
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	29,004,400		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Capacity grants allowed Wisconsin to provide wildland firefighting training for 690 firefighters. Hazardous fuels reduction of 28,000 acres was funded. A Wildfire Risk Reduction grant was awarded for \$300,000 to implement fuels reduction, planning, and fire prevention projects. The Volunteer Fire Capacity program awarded 303 grants to rural fire departments.

Economic Action

In 2024, five Wisconsin projects received over \$1.2 million in Forest Markets grant funding, including Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance Funding and Wood Education Resource Center. Project work includes producing T.V. episodes that highlight sustainable forest products and practices from cradle to grave, installing sash gang reciprocating saws, supporting continuing education courses, and aiding forest management on Tribal lands.

Forest Health Protection

Emerald ash borer was confirmed in the 72nd and final county in Wisconsin. The spongy moth outbreak crashed after a wet spring and 100% mortality from fungus and virus was reported in some areas. Over 334,000 acres of spongy moth defoliation were still recorded despite the population crash. Oak mortality increased with the combination of spongy moth defoliation, the 2023 drought and two-lined chestnut borer. Elm zigzag sawfly was confirmed in Wisconsin for the first time and subsequently reported in a total of 21 counties. High beech scale populations outside of Door County were reported for the first time since the scale detection in 2009, and spruce budworm caused significant defoliation for the 12th consecutive year in many northern areas of the state.

Forest Legacy

As part of the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed the Pelican River Forest

project with the purchase of a conservation easement that permanently protects 54,898 acres of forestland in northern Wisconsin. The purchase of the Pelican River Forest conservation easement used \$10,689,750 in FLP funds.

Forest Stewardship

The Wisconsin Stewardship Plan Project (WSPP) is collaboration between the University of Wisconsin Extension Forestry and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry that helps landowners get a free stewardship plan written for their property. The project is grant funded through the USDA Forest Service. Accomplishments include 76 management plans completed covering 3,143 acres of private forest land. 29 Cooperating Foresters have signed-up with the project as service providers to landowners requesting a stewardship plan. With 2024 being a pilot year, we are expecting a higher total number of plans for 2025. With the funding, the target is 250 plans, funding should be available until 2027.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources operates one State nursery, Wilson State Nursery, located in Boscobel. 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. Funds helped to improve the seed plant at the nursery in Hayward.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In 2024, nine projects in Wisconsin received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the USDA Forest Service's competitive Cooperative Weed Management Area and Forest Restoration grant programs. Over \$1 million in new funding will build on past efforts to mitigate tree canopy loss due to emerald ash borer and improve the health and resilience of Wisconsin's coastal and riparian forests and their connecting uplands. Projects will also manage invasive plants and plant trees to reduce stormwater runoff. Collectively, the projects propose to plant more than 4,000 trees and shrubs, which will contribute to treating or restoring nearly 600 acres. Additional community benefits include planting weather-adapted trees, engaging programs such as the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, and engaging or working in communities with additional needs. At least one project plans to engage Tribal partners.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Federal Investment: \$512,095 (Minnesota and Wisconsin)

Project: Collaborative Forest Restoration on Priority Minnesota and Wisconsin Landscapes

Summary: This project builds on achievements of a current (FY21) LSR Project, to implement science-based restoration actions on state, private, and Tribal forests in Minnesota and Wisconsin. These actions will reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires, improve wildlife habitat, mitigate invasive species, and improve important forest ecosystems. Actions will be taken in collaboration with multiple partners and focus on priority forested regions to address threats and strategies outlined in the Minnesota and Wisconsin State Forest Action Plans.



Bob Lueckel, Deputy Regional Forester

Phone: 414-297-3600

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r9/home>

Email: bob.lueckel@usda.gov
