



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet West Virginia 2023



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2022 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$0
Forest Legacy	\$1,966,316
Forest Stewardship	\$148,341
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$509,944
Urban and Community Forestry	\$275,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$2,899,601

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

State, private, and other non-Federal forests make up 92 percent of the 176 million acres of forests across the 20 states of the Northeast and Midwest. The U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies collaborate with other partners on shared stewardship goals, which also support each State Forest Action Plan. The State, Private, and Tribal Forestry programs promote the health, resilience, and productivity of trees and forests across all ownerships for the benefit of people and wildlife; establish and manage urban and community forests; empower private landowners with information and technical assistance to sustainably manage their forests; and protect critically important rural forests and watersheds.

Program Goals

- Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
- Protect forests from threats.
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

Key Issues

- Competing land uses.
- Communications and education.
- Sustainability of forest resources in West Virginia.
- Water quality.
- Wildfire.
- Sustainability of urban forests.
- Forest health.
- Utilization, marketing, and economic development.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2022 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,793,716	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	5,809
Acres of Forest Land	12,013,467	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	11,266
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	7,878,875	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	6,370
Number of NIPF Landowners	96,965	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	100
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	169
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	900
Number of Rural Fire Departments	432	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	232	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	38
Forest Based Employment	10,198	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	378,443
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	7,813
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	8,007,548		

Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Shared Stewardship Agreement is being implemented and will help West Virginia meet its mandated water quality improvement goals for the Chesapeake Bay through watershed forestry. The Division of Forestry participated in restoring 72 acres of riparian forest buffers and 47 acres of upland tree planting and led the implementation of 15,910 acres of forest harvest best management practices in the most recent reporting cycle, approved in 2022. Other significant watershed forestry activities included Project CommuniTree grants, participating in the Forestry Workgroup, and developing West Virginia's new Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy.

Conservation Education

Underserved Appalachian youth attended a field day hosted by USDA Forest Service entomologists. Students learned about tree function and growth, along with the effects of earthworms in various habitats.

Cooperative Fire Protection

West Virginia had an active year with 890 fires consuming 20,395 acres. State Fire Assistance funds were used to maintain wildland fire training standards for Division of Forestry employees, develop 3 new community wildfire protection plans, deliver 250 fire prevention and wildfire awareness programs to 160 communities, and improve the public's understanding of the use and benefits of prescribed fire. Hazard mitigation and fuels reduction measures are used to reduce the risk of burning coal seams and causing large-scale wildfires. The Division of Forestry conducted its first prescribed burning project in 2021 and plans to continue to expand this program. Volunteer Fire Assistance funds supported the training of 70 local firefighters in basic wildfire suppression skills. The State acquired \$115,340 worth of property to assist with wildfire suppression through the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

Forest Health Protection

West Virginia Department of Agriculture treated 1,704 high-value and high-visibility infested hemlocks on State lands. Spotted lanternfly has spread from Berkeley and Mineral Counties, with new infestations discovered in Jefferson and Hampshire Counties. Beech leaf disease plots were monitored, and no new detections were discovered beyond the only known infection in Hancock County. Elongate hemlock scale was recently detected in five counties: Fayette, Hampshire, Kanawha, Monongalia, and Preston.

Forest Markets & Wood Innovations

In FY 2022, the Eastern Region's Wood Education and Resource Center provided almost \$290,000 in

Federal financial assistance for two projects in West Virginia. One project will organize a symposium focusing on value-added utilization and commercialization of underused eastern soft- and hardwoods for structural and non-structural products. The other project will examine barriers to hardwood cross-laminated timber panel commercialization such as compliance with national building codes and standards.

Forest Stewardship

The West Virginia Stewardship Program reported 69 new or revised stewardship plans covering 11,266 acres, of which 6,370 acres were in Important Forest Areas per West Virginia's Strategic Forest Action Plan. In collaboration with other forestry-related partners, 3,258 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 2,551 landowners participated in education programs. Forest Stewards Training Workshops were hosted monthly via Zoom by the West Virginia University Extension Service in conjunction with the West Virginia Division of Forestry. Attendees included private forestry consultants, woodland owners, and individuals from various State agencies and industry.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources closed Clements Nursery in early 2020. 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.

Urban and Community Forestry

In 2022, West Virginia's Urban Forestry program assisted 48 communities, positively impacting 453,169 West Virginians. Our grant program funded four local projects resulting in a total of \$108,877 in urban forestry investments that include an educational walking trail featuring urban trees, tree planting, and maintenance for three Tree City USA communities, as well as a research project partnership with a Tree Campus USA. A total of 17 communities were certified as Tree Cities USA. Additionally, West Virginia University, West Virginia State University, and Shepherd University achieved Tree Campus USA status and were recognized for these accomplishments. Both Potomac Edison and Monongahela Power, under the First Energy umbrella, were recognized as Tree Lines USA this year.

Contact Information



West Virginia Department of Commerce

Jeremy C Jones
State Forester
Division of Forestry
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0180
304-352-4877
jeremy.c.jones@wv.gov

US Forest Service Eastern Region

Bob Lueckel
Deputy Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
626 E Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4616
414-297-3600
bob.lueckel@usda.gov
