



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

West Virginia 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$347,137
Forest Legacy	\$1,314,915
Forest Stewardship	\$415,088
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$702,245
Urban and Community Forestry	\$391,286
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$173,820
Total	\$3,344,491

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 and Private 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 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	1,852,994	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	10,168
Acres of Forest Land	12,017,823	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	11,619
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,418,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	9,891
Number of NIPF Landowners	251,000	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	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	432	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	232	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	63
Forest Based Employment	10,198	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	512,914
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	7,719
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	8,007,548		

Program Highlights

Chesapeake Bay Initiative

The West Virginia Division of Forestry worked with the West Virginia Conservation Agency and USDA Farm Service Agency to formalize a riparian buffer outreach strategy for adopting effective buffers on 200 new acres annually. West Virginia continues to address forestry goals that are part of the Chesapeake Bay Program and State Watershed Implementation Plans and worked on a Chesapeake Bay Shared Stewardship Agreement signed by State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service Chief in October 2020.

Cooperative Fire Protection

West Virginia utilized State Fire Assistance funds to maintain wildland fire training standards for Division of Forestry employees, develop three new community wildfire protection plans, deliver 100 fire prevention and wildfire awareness programs to 290 communities, and improve the public's understanding of the use and benefits of prescribed fire. Hazard mitigation and fuels reduction measures are utilized to reduce the risk of burning coals seams causing large scale wildfires. Volunteer Fire Assistance funds supported the training of 400 local firefighters in basic wildfire suppression skills.

Forest Health Protection

Trapping efforts revealed that spotted lanternfly spread from Berkeley County to a new infestation in Mineral County. The newly emerging beech leaf disease was found to be present in Hancock County. New infestations of elongated hemlock scale were found in Fayette and Kanawha Counties.

Forest Stewardship

The West Virginia Forest Stewardship program reported 67 new or revised stewardship plans covering 11,619 acres, of which 9,891 acres were in Important Forest Areas per West Virginia's Strategic Forest Action Plan. In collaboration with other forestry-related partners, 6,789 landowners were provided forestry technical assistance and 3,409 landowners participated in education programs. Forest Stewardship Training Workshops were hosted virtually by the West Virginia Division of Forestry and West Virginia University Extension every month from May to December with an average of 100 attendees including State agency staff, private forestry consultants, and woodland owners.

Urban and Community Forestry

In 2020, West Virginia's Urban and Community Forestry program provided assistance to 67 communities, positively impacting 524,463 West Virginians. The grant program funded four community projects resulting in about \$44,000 in urban forestry investments that include tree planting, maintenance and tree

inventories, and management software for several Tree City USA communities. A total of 14 communities were certified as Tree City USAs. West Virginia University, West Virginia State University, and Shepherd University achieved Tree Campus USA status. Potomac Edison and Mon Power were recognized as a Tree Line USA this year.

Contact Information



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