



Arkansas



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	1,203,544	953,544
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	50,000	0
Forest Land Enhancement	125,000	0
Forest Legacy	25,000	25,000
Forest Stewardship	545,000	560,000
State Fire Assistance	370,105	547,827
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	825,512	610,600
Urban and Community Forestry	351,435	277,570
Volunteer Fire Assistance	98,640	99,120
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	117,780	120,000
Total	3,712,016	3,193,661

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Arkansas, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis focuses on forest sustainability and the production of commodity and amenity values and benefits such as wildlife, water quality and environmental services.

- The goal is to maintain and improve the health of urban and rural forests and related economies. These programs: Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery; Increase values through sustained productivity of forests; Are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues:

- In 2006, Arkansas had a significant drought, straining forest vegetation and resources. Also, the state saw a significant increase in the number of acres prescribe burned.
- Because of the competitive nature of the Forest Legacy Program, the first project proposal submitted for FY2007 funding did not rank as high as 30 others. We estimate that 24 proposals will be funded.
- Increasing southern pine beetle prevention activities.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	2,673,400	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	226
Acres of Forest Land	18,829,900	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	39,218
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,934,400	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	600,399
Number of NIPF Landowners	289,500	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	4,660
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,257,718	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	205
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	19,419,017	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	889
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	7,000
Number of Cities And Towns	519	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	0
Forest Based Employment	37,291	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	76
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	5,504
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	22,089,348		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Oak mortality from oak decline and the red oak borer has substantially diminished, although conditions conducive to decline are still in place. Bark beetle activity was extremely low in 2006 with southern pine beetles remaining absent. Southern pine beetle prevention thinning was carried out on 9,000 acres.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Arkansas Forestry Commission received a 2006 Regional Firewise Award recognizing their outstanding efforts in promoting a cooperative approach to reducing the loss of lives, property and resources in wildland-urban interface. Arkansas leads the nation in number of Firewise Communities (54), and more than 150 Firewise boards have been established in 42 counties. State Fire Assistance provides funding to support fire fighting resources throughout Arkansas, including the development of 26 Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists Arkansas in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, Arkansas Forestry Commission administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire

prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments.

Economic Action

Arkansas continues to provide information and technical assistance regarding forest-based economic development, including bio-fuel production and biomass utilization.

Landowner Assistance

Arkansas Forestry Commission technical assistance efforts are increasingly focused on facilitating landowners' on-the-ground accomplishments, implementation of forest management plan recommendations and ensuring forest sustainability. Arkansas is a significant contributor to the nation's hardwood restoration initiatives.

Urban and Community Forestry

As a result of an Urban and Community grant awarded to the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association a mapping system was developed to help identify green spaces in and around the city that are key to providing multiple benefits such as water quality protection and recreational opportunities. This was accomplished through a partnership with the Nature Conservancy whom set up the system as well as holding town hall meetings where input from the community was collected. Posters were printed by the Audubon Society so the sites can be easily identified for future use.

For more information contact:



Arkansas Forestry Commission

John T. Shannon
3821 West Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72204-6396
Ph: 501-296-1941
Fax: 501-296-1949
Email: john.shannon@mail.state.ar.us

Southern Region

Ken Arney
USDA Forest Service
1720 Peachtree Street, Suite 760S
Atlanta, GA 30309
Ph: 404-347-4178
Fax: 404-347-4821
Email: karney@fs.fed.us

United
States
Department
of
Agriculture

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