



Georgia



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	2,470,486	1,739,486
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	80,000	50,000
Forest Land Enhancement	211,215	0
Forest Legacy	2,292,000	2,275,000
Forest Stewardship	905,000	736,000
State Fire Assistance	514,358	702,144
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,058,152	782,600
Urban and Community Forestry	484,170	536,047
Volunteer Fire Assistance	116,724	117,292
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	139,373	142,000
Total	8,271,478	7,080,569

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Georgia, 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 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:

- Population growth and urbanization pose challenges to forest resources.
- Rapid urbanization has increased fire danger in interface.
- Forest industry has sold much of its land, resulting in reduced firefighting resources.
- Georgia is working on a comp. land conservation strategy using the So. Critical Forestland Assessment to update the Forest Legacy AON.
- Increasing SPB prevention activities and dealing with invasive issues such as redbay mortality, sudden oak death and hemlock wooly adelgid.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	8,186,453	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	364
Acres of Forest Land	24,800,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	93,233
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	18,550,400	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	1,261,080
Number of NIPF Landowners	601,300	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	31,847
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,400,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	150
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	27,300,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	2,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,024	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	32,010
Number of Cities And Towns	596	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	10,894
Forest Based Employment	177,000	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	213
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	10,094
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	50,981,430		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Pest populations were generally low in 2006. The GFC successfully implemented a wide variety of forest health programs: southern pine beetle prevention (32,000 acres treated), invasive weed surveys and control programs, and exotic insect and disease detection surveys (emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, sudden oak death). Mortality of redbay is occurring in the coastal area of the state due to a newly introduced bark beetle and associated fungus. The GFC is conducting surveys and investigating management alternatives.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support fire fighting resources throughout Georgia, including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists Georgia in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, Georgia Forestry Commission administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments.

Economic Action

Georgia's forest-based economic development focuses on bio-fuels production and utilization of woody biomass to provide energy as well as promote forest health and enhance wildlife habitat.

Forest Legacy

The Georgia Forestry Commission has closed on 6 tracts since being designated and approved as the state lead agency in 2002. Forest Legacy land acquisition dollars in Georgia have leveraged 3 times the non federal cost share required by the program through donations and state investment.

Landowner Assistance

The Georgia Forestry Commission, in partnership with numerous federal, state and private sector interests continues efforts to spatially locate key forest resources in order to focus delivery of programs and benefits to those areas of highest public value.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Georgia Forestry Commission administered the Sustainable Community Forestry Program (SCFP). It combines urban forestry and wildland-urban interface services with the purpose of educating local leaders and residents on maximizing the benefits that healthy community forests provide. The SCFP also established partnerships with corporations.

For more information contact:



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