North Carolina

State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	3,617,795	1,681,361
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	50,000	0
Forest Land Enhancement	190,000	0
Forest Legacy	25,000	25,000
Forest Stewardship	725,000	690,000
State Fire Assistance	453,508	671,281
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,011,464	748,200
Urban and Community Forestry	478,920	374,915
Volunteer Fire Assistance	138,096	138,768
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	164,892	168,000
Total	**6,854,675**	**4,497,525**

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of North Carolina, 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 timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices.

- 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:

- North Carolina ranks first in the country with the most land area in wildland-urban interface, increasing the potential and complexity of wildland fires.
- Addressing invasive species such as the hemlock wooly adelgid and sudden oak death; increasing southern pine beetle activities.
- Forest Legacy funding will continue to be highly competitive requiring well written project proposals demonstrating strategic land conservation.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	8,049,313	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	259
Acres of Forest Land	18,268,700	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	37,015
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	13,834,400	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	568,473
Number of NIPF Landowners	704,900	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	21,443
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,900,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	293
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	15,337,100	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	120
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,315	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	63,990
Number of Cities And Towns	655	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	0
Forest Based Employment	144,100	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	122
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	3,392
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	65,512,763		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Pest populations were generally low in 2006. The NCDFR successfully implemented a wide variety of forest health programs: SPB prevention (35,000 acres treated), invasive plant surveys and control programs, and exotic insect and disease detection surveys (emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, sudden oak death, etc.). Hemlock woolly adelgid has now infested most of the western counties.

Cooperative Fire Protection

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

Economic Action

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources teamed with NC State University to host a statewide conference and forum exploring wood energy issues and opportunities in March 2006. The Division remains engaged on multiple fronts in the dialogue to shape policies and open markets that will utilize wood from low-quality and overstocked stands in an effort to enhance rural economies, improve forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk.

Forest Legacy

Over $8 million in projects have been funded and completed in North Carolina since the state became active in the program in 2000.

Landowner Assistance

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources co-sponsored, along with twenty-four other partners, six working forest summits across the State. Resource professionals presented information on income, estate and property taxes; conserving forest ownership through entrepeneurial enterprises; managing forests for wildlife enjoyment and profit; using forest herbicides to enhance both timber and wildlife; and woody biomass opportunities.

Urban and Community Forestry

Union County, which is adjacent to North Carolina's largest metropolitan area of Charlotte, hired a county-wide urban forester to assist communities with creating or updating their tree ordinances, completing street tree inventories, generating policies for new development, and educating city planners on urban forest management practices.

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