Texas

State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	1,788,747	797,747
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	569,750	50,000
Forest Land Enhancement	175,000	0
Forest Legacy	25,000	2,070,000
Forest Stewardship	834,285	677,285
State Fire Assistance	661,985	547,827
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	825,512	610,600
Urban and Community Forestry	972,163	871,437
Volunteer Fire Assistance	314,004	315,532
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	374,933	382,000
Total	**6,541,379**	**6,322,428**

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Texas, 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 by implementing voluntary and non-regulatory partnerships to deliver programs that increase values through the sustained productivity of forests.

Key Issues:

- Texas continues to recover from the worst drought in 50 years and a record level fire season. The number of fires and acres burned last year resulted in 19 deaths and the loss of 734 homes and 1300 other structures.
- New and traditional markets, economic development and ecosystem services all factor into keeping Texas forests in forests.
- • Increasing southern pine beetle prevention activities, continued oak wilt suppression and dealing with invasive species are key issues within forest health.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	20,851,820	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	340
Acres of Forest Land	29,000,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	50,584
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	26,600,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	878,568
Number of NIPF Landowners	250,000	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	6,407
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	363
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	156,000,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,800	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	18,830
Number of Cities And Towns	1,510	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	0
Forest Based Employment	79,500	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	82
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	6	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	1,535
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

The complete absence of southern pine beetle in east Texas for the 8th straight year is becoming historic. Ips bark beetle-associated pine mortality, however, increased to high levels due to summer drought conditions and the lingering effects of Hurricane Rita. Oak wilt continues to kill thousands of oaks in Central Texas while the Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Project is operating for a 19th year with federal funding assistance. Southern pine beetle prevention thinnings were carried out on about 17,000 acres of private lands in 2006.

Cooperative Fire Protection

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

Economic Action

The Texas Forest Service, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and Forest Trends, is evaluating ecological services and its viability as an alternative source of income and potential incentive for additional forestry investments.

Forest Legacy

The first Forest Legacy conservation easement is being negotiated and will set the standard for the program in Texas. Funding is anticipated for phase I of Turkey Creek at Big Thicket in FY2007.

Landowner Assistance

In partnership with the Southern Group of State Foresters and the Texas A&M University Spatial Sciences Laboratory, the Texas Forest Service will conduct a regional forest lands assessment. This assessment will identify areas of high, moderate and low forest management potential, facilitating the effective and efficient use of public funds to ensure forest sustainability and the availability of environmental, economic, and social services, values and benefits.

Urban and Community Forestry

Through the Community Forestry Assistance Program the loss and damage assessment to city trees in Hurricane Rita affected areas has been completed. Efforts are underway with affected communities and businesses to repair and replant the urban forest in Southeast Texas. Additional research has been conducted which assists in quantifying leaf biomass in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex in support of air quality modeling efforts for the region. The Texas Tree Planting Guide, first statewide web-based tool for homeowners, was launched in 2006. http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/

Hurricane Supplement

One-time additional funds were allocated to Texas in FY06 for recovery, reforestation, and to provide supplemental fire response capabilities following Hurricane Rita. Funds are being utilized for both urban and rural projects to assist landowners and communities within the affected areas.

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