



Virginia



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	742,237	537,237
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	15,000	15,000
Forest Land Enhancement	175,000	0
Forest Legacy	260,000	254,000
Forest Stewardship	762,312	705,497
State Fire Assistance	427,445	632,702
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	953,404	705,200
Urban and Community Forestry	453,250	416,903
Volunteer Fire Assistance	92,064	92,512
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	109,928	112,000
Total	3,990,640	3,471,051

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the Commonwealth of Virginia, 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:

- Rapid Urbanization in recent years has greatly increased fire danger in wildland-urban interface areas throughout Virginia. The lack of rain, low humidity, and high winds in 2006 led to one of the worst spring fire seasons in six years.
- Increasing southern pine beetle prevention activities, continuing gypsy moth management and dealing with invasive species issues such as the hemlock wooly adelgid.
- The competition for Forest Legacy funds is high requiring continued improvement in project proposals.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	7,078,515	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	499
Acres of Forest Land	15,765,700	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	61,098
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	12,236,300	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	1,057,419
Number of NIPF Landowners	468,000	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	4,925
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,692,400	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	418
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	13,500,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	244
Number of Rural Fire Departments	601	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	63,944
Number of Cities And Towns	371	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	93
Forest Based Employment	77,700	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	56
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	4,373
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	25,642,796		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

The VDOF successfully implemented a wide variety of forest health programs: southern pine beetle prevention (7,000 acres treated), exotic insect and disease detection surveys (emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, sudden oak death). The DOF also assisted with gypsy moth survey and control (78,960 acres). There were also more than 14,000 acres defoliated by gypsy moth in 2006.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support fire fighting resources throughout Virginia, including the development of 164 Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists Virginia in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, VA Department of Forestry administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments.

Economic Action

Virginia will look to diversify forest-based economic development in the State, including the potential to utilize products from Ailanthus and other invasive species resulting of control efforts.

Forest Legacy

Over 600 acres of family owned forests in Rappahannock County, located along the leading edge of urban fringes in the northern Piedmont were protected with Forest Legacy conservation easements. These lands have active forest management and a long history of good stewardship.

Landowner Assistance

The Virginia Department of Forestry has piloted a state-wide aerial herbicide program that shifts operational aspects of the herbicide application to the private sector, while still retaining the overall coordination of the program. The Virginia Department of Forestry signs up interested landowners for herbicide site preparation and release and then turns the information over to a private contractor who has bid on and won a state administered contract.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Chesapeake Bay Agreement has, for the first time, recognized urban tree canopy goals as a viable forestry strategy to improve water quality. Four communities, out of five needed, have been identified by the Virginia Department of Forestry to commit to urban tree canopy goals by 2010. Two of those communities, Fairfax County and Leesburg, have already made public announcements regarding their commitment to the goals.

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