



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Kansas 2018



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2017 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$168,666
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$145,133
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$600,000
State Fire Assistance	\$637,459
Urban and Community Forestry	\$241,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$427,456
Total	\$2,219,714

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

The Kansas Forest Service through State Statute K.A.76-425, has the responsibility of overseeing the state's 3.8 million acres of forests, woodlands and agroforestry resources. The Kansas Forest Service employs 30 full-time employees, 24 in professional positions and 6 support staff. The Cooperative Programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Kansas, Kansas State University, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Kansas forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis is on timber, forest products, wildlife, water resources, energy conservation, and conservation practices. These programs improve cost-effectiveness by using partnerships in delivery, values through sustained productivity of forests and are voluntary, using non-regulatory approaches.

Program Goals

- Increase and sustain healthy and productive forests providing professional forestry assistance to landowners in important forest resource areas.
- Protect life and property on 46 million acres empowering fire departments to build stronger programs.
- Sustain healthy urban and community forests by building local capacity in cities and towns to care for and manage public trees.
- Strategies may be found in the Kansas Forest Action Plan,
http://www.kansasforests.org/kansas_forest_services/

Key Issues

- Wildfire Risk
- Forest Health Threats (EAB, TCD, Invasives)
- Loss of Forestland
- Sustaining Water Quality and Quantity
- Protecting and Restoring Forest Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat
- Sustaining and Protecting Forest and Agroforestry Ecosystems
- Maintaining and Protecting the Economic Benefits of Woodlands

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2017 Accomplishments	Value
Population	2,853,118	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	5,102
Acres of Forest Land	2,527,087	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	20,945
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,994,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	17,355
Number of NIPF Landowners	103,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	434
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	686
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	46,400,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	80
Number of Rural Fire Departments	620	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	627	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	135
Forest Based Employment	9,000	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,023,459
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	13	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	31,925
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	3,144,770		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

No Action

Conservation Education

Contracted with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) who provided professional development to educators in Project Learning Tree (PLT). KACEE has 452 schools enrolled in the Green Schools program plus 19 school districts representing an additional 200 schools involved in environmental education. Through these programs over 9,600 secondary and early childhood students are impacted. KACEE programs include PLT, Project WILD, WILD Aquatic, Growing Up WILD, and Project WET offering college credits to attendees.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Protection of state and private lands from wildland fire is accomplished by helping build strong, efficient rural fire programs to protect an estimated 1,176,000 people and property valued at over \$4 billion. KFS, in 2017 continued to expand the Equipment Donation Program by facilitating the re-utilization of \$4.2 million in equipment to rural fire departments throughout Kansas. Agreements are in place with 78% of KS' fire departments. KFS maintains an excess property inventory valued at \$36 million through 912 fire fighting vehicles. VFA doubles the purchasing capacity in rural and municipal departments serving the Urban Interface. One hundred percent of VFA funds are allocated to cooperating departments with an emphasis on communication, wildland fire and personnel safety. KS firefighters are becoming increasingly aware of the value of using NWCG as a standard of quality for wildland fire suppression. In 2017, KFS trained 499 fire fighters at or above the entry level positions. The 2017 fire season had one career, one volunteer department and one KFS engine participate in national wildfire response. Seven full-time and 30 temporary employees responded to national emergencies in 14 states. In 2017 KFS was represented on an incident 214 days without interruption, with KFS employees on a fireline or in support roles for 713 days. Twenty-seventeen set a new wildfire record with over 500,000 acres burned, resulting in 7 FEMA Fire Management Assistance grants. For the first time, KFS facilitated ordering one Type 2 IMT, two S.E.A.T.s and 25 federally credentialed engines to these incidents. KFS continues to work with the Fire Marshal, KS Department of Emergency Management, Firefighters and Chiefs associations to improve the quantity and quality of information entered in the NFIRS database. Prescribed fire continues to evolve with the KFS Protection Specialist serving as the director of the Prescribed Fire Council, providing leadership to thirteen Burn Associations.

Economic Action

No Action

Forest Health Protection

In 2017, Kansas expanded the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine to include Doniphan and Shawnee counties, the seventh and eighth counties with confirmed EAB presence, all contiguous in northeastern Kansas. Supported by funding from a 2014 competitive grant, programs are in progress for promoting urban wood utilization, increased tree diversity through community replanting efforts, and stopping the movement of firewood that threatens the already-threatened urban forests in the state. Compensatory value of just the urban ash threatened by EAB in Kansas has been estimated at more than \$1.3 billion. At the close of 2017, Kansas is still free of Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut (TCD). All survey and sampling returned negative results for TCD and the Walnut Twig Beetle associated with this deadly disease. Should TCD be introduced into Kansas, it would represent a potential loss of \$160 million to the Kansas economy. Multiple targeted outreach efforts spread the message that wood movement increases the risk of spreading TCD and other pests and diseases. Invasive Asian Bush Honeysuckle continues to pose a threat to Kansas woodlands, with severe infestations prevalent in and around several major cities. Agency and partner activities supported by a 2012 Redesign grant were completed, with demonstrable success in mitigating invasive plant impacts in several locations in Wichita, Hutchinson, Lenexa and Topeka. Aerial imagery from more than 385,000 acres of urban areas (Manhattan, Lawrence, Topeka, Hutchinson, Wichita) was captured in late 2016, and was processed in 2017 to help municipal partners more efficiently strategize their response to invasive Bush Honeysuckle within their cities. Building upon this foundation, a grant proposal was crafted to address invasive plant issues with multiple partners within Kansas, and implementation has begun.

Forest Legacy

Kansas' approach to Forest Legacy is to expand the boundaries of already protected forest lands. Through this process the Kansas Forest Service, in 2016, was able to double the size of the University of Kansas' Forestry Field Station in the Baldwin Woods section of Douglas County, KS. The Forest Legacy tract, a 254 acre tract, was purchased through fee simple ownership processes with The Conservation Fund and owner donations providing the required match. Follow-up work in the area has an adjoining landowner working to donate a 10 acre parcel to the area. Additional outreach efforts are focusing on a 14 acres tract and a 5 acre tract. Longer term boundary work is in progress through a sub-grant to the University of Kansas's Biological Survey staff.

Forest Stewardship

29 million acres have high Forest Stewardship potential in Kansas. There are 476 active Forest Stewardship Management plans providing professional forestry recommendations on 136,702 acres. 413 of those plans occur in important forest resource areas covering 110,289 acres. Fourteen Landscape Forest Stewardship Plans have been prepared for 15,984 acres on state wildlife areas and adjacent private lands. Six-hundred seventy-six forestry practice plans have led to the implementation of tree planting, windbreak establishment and renovation and forest stand improvement on 16,615 acres. Continued participation in the state initiative to reduce sedimentation of federal reservoirs and loss of water supply by protecting and establishing riparian forests. A \$13 million dollar Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant awarded to the Kansas Forest Service to address the issue in targeted watersheds through EQIP is in its fourth year of implementation. This enabled the hiring of 3 additional foresters. Continued to spatially assess size, condition and location of windbreaks and riparian forests to target landowner participation in EQIP, RCPP and other conservation programs. Hosted the annual Walnut Council meeting, Fall Forestry Field Day, Agroforestry Workshop and presented Agroforestry and Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year awards and the Kansas Wildlife Federation Forest Conservationist of the Year award. The Program is currently implementing 499 EQIP forestry contracts to renovate windbreaks and improve forest health.

Landowner Assistance

Provided technical assists to 843 landowners. Prepared 92 Forest Stewardship Management Plans for 20,945 acres, and 676 practice plans for 16,615 acres for private landowners that provide recommendations on timber harvest, timber stand improvement, tree planting, water quality, wildlife, soil conservation, and recreation. Provided forestry education at 110 events to 4,259 adults at workshops/field days and to 4,348 youth.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Landscape scale restoration projects 1)assess the condition of shelterbelts and streamside forests in priority areas and target restoration to improve water quality, reduce wind-blown soil while increasing crop yields; 2)target threats to Kansas forests through education, monitoring and control of invasive bush honeysuckle, emerald ash borer and thousand cankers disease of black walnut; 3)inventory valuable forestlands in the Kansas City Metro area and I-70 corridor placing eco-system services values on green infrastructure to influence wise development policy and reduce loss of forestland to development; 4)develop landscape forest stewardship planning across private and public lands to increase the economic, environmental and wildlife values of Kansas farms and public lands; 5)develop target marketing tools and messaging to engage Kansas farmers in the active protection and management of their woodlands and related natural resources; 6) bringing Landscape Forest Stewardship to Tribal lands in Kansas; and promoting both the development of new wood industries and secondary processing industries in Kansas; 7) complete Community Threat Assessment Protocol inventories in communities statewide with emphasis on current and impending forest threats; 8) to select, trial and promote environmentally adapted tree species to continue to build diverse and sustainable landscapes; 9) to collect and assess canopy data of the Wichita metro area and to promote the benefits and ecosystems services provided by green infrastructure; 10) Restoring the Arkansas River corridor through the removal of invasive phyreatophytes like tamarisk and Russian olive and establishment of native grass, willow and cottonwood communities; 11) Establishment of a Water Quality Advocate Network (WQAN) to increase capacity and outreach through peer-to-peer learning.All of which is directed in priority landscapes identified in the Kansas Forest Action Plan (<http://www.kansasforests.org/about/about.shtml>).

Urban and Community Forestry

Provided assistance to communities in developing sustained local efforts to manage public trees, with an emphasis on capacity building by providing program organization, tree inventories, management,tree planting plans and training for tree boards, residents, city employees and arborists. The 92 communities certified as Tree City USA's spent over \$17.8 million and involved over 1,706 volunteers spending 31,925 hours helping improve and protect the local community forest resource. Provided 62 outreach and training sessions for 3,995 participants. Community Foresters provided 190 technical assists. To promote and build sustainable community forestry programs we have partnered with the Kansas Arborist Association for 44 years hosting the Arborist Training Course. This is a week long course and is the first step in becoming a Kansas Certified Arborist. During the 44 years, there have been over 1,800 attendees and there are currently 258 Kansas Certified Arborists.

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