



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## North Dakota 2019



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$108,100
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$143,800
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$857,650
Urban and Community Forestry	\$237,780
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$307,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,654,880</b>

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

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS), USDA Forest Service (USFS), and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of North Dakota's forests and rural economies according to priorities established in North Dakota's "Forest Action Plan" in 2010. Feedback from stakeholders revealed additional priorities in 2015. These priorities will be reevaluated during the Plan update scheduled for 2019-2020. Current issues align with national and state priorities and serve as an implementation focus.

### Program Goals

- Increase cost effectiveness by delivering services through partnerships.
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests.
- Use voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.

### Key Issues

- Mitigating invasive tree pests,
- Reducing forest over-maturity and promoting natural regeneration,
- Increasing species diversity and reducing vulnerability to damaging agents,
- Strengthening educational outreach in all programs and utilize Project Learning Tree for PreK-16 outreach,
- Maintaining historic vegetation type,
- Preventing and responding to wildland fires,
- Enhancing wood utilization opportunities,
- Adapting to climate changes,
- Loss of windbreaks,
- Oil field mitigation / "boom town" forestry needs,
- Riparian forestry restoration, and
- Drought tolerant species for western North Dakota.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	672,591	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,211
Acres of Forest Land	806,345	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	4,562
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	480
Number of NIPF Landowners	24,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	195
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,867,118	State Fire Communities Assisted	220
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,878,661	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	5,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	378	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	357	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	89
Forest Based Employment	3,167	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	458,389
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	13,586
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	7,141,237		

## Program Highlights

### **Conservation Education**

Natural Resource Conservation Education funds are used to raise awareness about natural resource values, support informed decision-making, and foster individual responsibility for forest resources in stewards of all ages. The North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) delivers Project Learning Tree (PLT) professional development, curriculum, resources, and a support network to natural resource educators and teachers of students in grades PreK-16. PLT workshops trained 453 classroom and pre-service educators in 20 credit and noncredit workshops in 2018. PLT workshops and hands-on activities use the Excellence in EE Guidelines established by NAAEE and are used in school and university classrooms, informal settings, and outdoors. A total of 1,252 second-grade students from 68 schools participated in the Smokey Bear Poster Contest and 1,581 fifth-grade students from 88 schools participated in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. Collectively, in 2018 the NDFS staff reached a total of 878 teachers and adults in 35 educational trainings and tours, and 9,022 students in 28 classroom visits, after school programs, camps, festivals, and numerous outdoor events. For the first time, the Cavalier School District requested PLT training for all their teachers. For the second time, all the public universities offer PLT training in their pre-service methods courses, and the USDA Forest Service and NDFS held a joint Public Lands Day event at the Denbigh Experimental Forest for students and the public.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Volunteer Fire Assistance and State Fire Assistance funds provided technical and financial assistance to local fire departments and purchased federal-excess firefighting property. The North Dakota Forest Service provided comprehensive fire training to more than 765 firefighters from 173 communities. Funds were used to maintain five Type 6 wildland fire engines and two initial attack UTVs. These investments were critical for suppressing wildfires across North Dakota and in neighboring states, as well as strengthening interagency cooperation and coordination. This further provided improved fire suppression efficiency and effectiveness. Partnership efforts continue with the North Dakota Firefighter's Association to conduct regional training opportunities focused on wildfire suppression. Cooperative Fire Protection Assistance grants were provided to 20 rural fire departments in 2018 for the purchase of personal protective equipment, fire suppression equipment, and vehicles.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Forest Health Protection provides technical assistance, educational outreach, and training to state and private land managers in collaboration with state, university, federal and other partners. A primary emphasis is the statewide detection and monitoring of forest insect and disease conditions, evaluation of forest pests on private and public lands, and providing technical assistance and training in forest health.

Forest health issues are presented in the annual Forest Health Highlights and the Biennial Forest Health Report. A North Dakota Invasives website presents information about invasive forest pests. An online sick tree assistance form encourages forest pest reporting and expedites forest health diagnoses. The program collaborates with the USDA Forest Service to implement the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. Surveys included an aerial survey of the ponderosa pines, limber pines, and Killdeer Mountains in western North Dakota, and a statewide collaborative survey for emerald ash borer (EAB). EAB outreach and education includes EAB Awareness Week, first detector and response training for natural resource professionals, and EAB management and risk reduction for homeowners and land managers.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Technical forestry assistance includes: (1) providing landowner assistance to implement the \$1.8 million Outdoor Heritage Fund Windbreak Renovation Initiative; (2) providing natural resource planning to increase active management within native forestlands and windbreaks; (3) promoting wildfire protection; (4) promoting tree planting to increase the benefits of trees and forests; (5) assisting with timber harvesting and marketing; (6) creating financial incentives for landowners utilizing Mitigation Tree Planting Partnerships; and (7) engaging in hazardous fuels reduction projects. In 2018 1,211 landowners received a variety of program assistance and educational opportunities that included developing new Forest Stewardship plans. The state's Conservation Forestry Initiative supports all 55 soil conservation districts with additional staffing and training needs to meet the increased technical assistance workload generated by landowner requests.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

More than 75 percent of North Dakota's population resides in cities and benefits significantly from healthy and resilient urban forests. But most cities are small, 95 percent with less than 5,000 people, and have limited resources for tree stewardship, which is generally undertaken by a volunteer tree board without a full-time municipal forester. In addition, North Dakota's fragmented urban forests are dominated by green ash and American elm, making them a target for invasive species. The North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association (NDUCFA) is helping build planning and management capacity of small and midsize North Dakota city tree boards to better protect urban forests. NDUCFA is providing tools, training, and one-on-one assistance to small and midsize North Dakota cities to encourage ethical practices and meet technical standards for arboriculture. They are also connecting experienced North Dakota municipal foresters and certified arborists with small and midsize cities to develop a strong statewide peer network committed to ethical tree stewardship.

### **Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Management**

This program is delivered through the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for the detection, suppression, and control of non-native invasive plants. In 2018, approximately 23,452 acres were surveyed and 1,344 priority acres were treated using herbicides. The goals of the program are to: (a) enhance education, planning, and monitoring efforts to prevent new weed invasions; (b) implement early detection and rapid response to new invaders; (c) control small infestations and contain the spread of existing infestations; (d) promote the use of biological control agents; and (e) to work cooperatively across ownership boundaries. Cooperative Forestry funds contributed to increased weed control, cooperation, and a better public understanding of the need for an integrated weed management program.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The North Dakota Community Forestry Council, an advisory group to the State Forester, provides program guidance and maintains priorities, including: Plant Health Care, Species Diversity, Right Tree-Right Place, Sustainable Forestry, and Promoting Professionalism. In 2018, there were 458,389 people living in communities that received educational, technical, or financial assistance. Nearly 78 percent of North Dakota's population lives in communities with active urban and community forestry initiatives. Communities were awarded \$185,836 for 33 tree planting and program development grants and with community matching funds total costs were \$423,864. The Community Threat Assessment Protocol (CTAP) is a street tree inventory that has been completed in 96 communities across the state. Summaries of CTAP street tree data reveal populations of green ash ranging from 16 to nearly 80 percent, with an average street tree population consisting of 46 percent green ash.

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## Contact Information



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