



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

North Dakota 2018



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2017 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$179,100
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$134,200
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$141,920
State Fire Assistance	\$844,760
Urban and Community Forestry	\$232,800
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$295,173
Total	\$1,827,953

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), US 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." Feedback from stakeholders revealed the emerging priorities below have materialized since the launch of the "Forest Action Plan" in 2010. These priorities will be integrated into the Plan update scheduled for 2020. The emerging issues align with national and state priorities and will serve as an implementation focus for the next five years.

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

- Restoration of Riparian Forests – Nearly one fifth of North Dakota's forests occur within 200 meters of a stream or lake. The majority of these forests are comprised of ash, elm, and cottonwood. The health and sustainability of these plant communities have important implications for water quality, flood control, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities.
- Loss of Windbreaks – New farming technology, grain markets, and larger equipment have prompted many farmers to remove windbreaks. The loss of these resources has serious consequences for soil conservation and wildlife habitat.
- Education of Decision Makers Regarding the Importance of Green Infrastructure – Educating decision makers about the importance of trees, the ecological and social services they provide, and the benefits to communities remains an important issue to ensure policies incorporate the best available science.
- Oil Field Reclamation / 'Boom town' Urban Forestry Needs – Population growth in western North Dakota associated with oil and gas extraction has created community forestry needs for western North Dakota. Additionally, North Dakota has experienced some direct loss of forests due to oil and gas impacts (roads, well pads, pipelines etc.).
- Drought Tolerant Species for Western North Dakota – Western North Dakota receives less moisture than the eastern half of the state. The evaluation of hardy, drought-tolerant trees species is still a priority for western North Dakota.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2017 Accomplishments	Value
Population	672,591	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	270
Acres of Forest Land	806,345	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	3,586
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	345
Number of NIPF Landowners	24,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	184
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,867,118	State Fire Communities Assisted	154
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	110
Forest Based Employment	3,167	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	467,449
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	13,678
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) actively promotes Project Learning Tree (PLT) opportunities for PreK-12 students and teachers, and trained 381 teachers in 21 PLT workshops in 2017. A total of 977 second-grade students from 77 schools participated in the Smokey Bear Poster Contest and 1,531 fifth-grade students from 115 schools participated in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. All NDFS staff reached a total of 860 teachers in 27 events and 9,650 PreK-12 students in 16 educational events this year. This is the first year PLT was at the ND Home School Conference and Rural School Conference. All public universities are offering PLT in their pre-service science methods courses for the first time! North Dakota's first "joint" Public Lands event was held at the Denbigh Experimental Forest with the US Forest Service and students participated in PLT activities.

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 750 firefighters from 170 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 31 rural fire departments in 2017 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 private landowners, and collaborates with state, university, and federal personnel to deliver program services. A primary emphasis is the statewide monitoring of forest insects and disease conditions, diagnoses and assessment of forest pests on private and public lands, and training in the identification of insect and disease pests. A North Dakota Invasives website is maintained to ensure the most current information is accessible. A web-based sick tree assistance form allows staff to quickly diagnose many tree health problems from across the state without the need for a site visit. The program collaborates with the USDA Forest Service to implement the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

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 2017, 270 landowners received a variety of program assistance 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 2017, approximately 4,200 acres were surveyed and 2,440 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 2017, there were 467,449 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 \$191,027 for 29 tree planting and program development grants and with community matching funds total costs were \$498,851. The Community Threat Assessment Protocol (CTAP) is a street tree inventory that has been completed in 88 communities across the state. These inventories provide detailed assessments of the environmental and economic impacts of selected invasive pests on these communities. Emerald ash borer is one of the primary potential threats facing all North Dakota's forest resources. 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.

Contact Information



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