



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

South Dakota 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$183,600
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$106,875
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$2,612,822
Urban and Community Forestry	\$200,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$323,856
Total	\$3,427,153

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

Program Goals

- Lead a safe, efficient, and effective fire management program.
- Recruit, develop, and retain a diverse, highly effective, and motivated workforce.
- Reduce wildland fire threats to communities' infrastructure.
- Initiate and maintain strong interdisciplinary and interagency partnerships.
- Coordinate with federal and local land management partners in landscape scale fuels and forest management.
- Focus forestry assistance on areas of need that maximize program effectiveness and delivery.
- Improve the management and function of forests, woodlands, agroforests, and community forests.
- Expand outreach through partnerships with other federal, state, and private organizations.

Key Issues

- Rapid urbanization and subdivision development.
- Age & drought have caused decline in windbreak health throughout the Great Plains.
- Insufficient funding for fire training for the hand crews whose regular duties are to perform hazardous fuels reduction projects.
- Insufficient funding to establish a Fire Prevention Program.
- Underutilization of small diameter wood from forests and trees outside of forests.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	814,180	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	641
Acres of Forest Land	1,961,268	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	4,009
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	492,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	3,552
Number of NIPF Landowners	12,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	200
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	314,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	32
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	48,611,840	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	226
Number of Rural Fire Departments	365	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	311	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	37
Forest Based Employment	3,544	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	438,015
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	28,170
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	6,600,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

The Wildland Fire Division (WF) is committed to providing direct wildland fire protection services on state and private lands within the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District and cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies to support wildland fire management activities on a statewide, regional, and national basis. Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) program was fully functional this past summer with both Nebraska and South Dakota sharing aviation resources in their respective states on fires threatening USFS lands.

We have continued the academy training sessions with East River Fire Departments, the Pennington County Fire Chiefs Association and the Wildland Fire Academy in Fort Pierre. This has proven to be cost effective and gives enough variety and opportunity for local, state, and federal firefighters to attend training and move forward in qualifications. The Academy concept has been supported by local firefighters whom have a set time each year to attend training events. Between the three academies and other courses held to supplement them we hosted 46 classroom sessions, 23 RT-130's, and trained 1038 students (including those in RT-130's). Plans are to continue the Academy trainings and to start incorporating 300 level classes as needed.

The division has worked with Fire Departments statewide to ensure they have current Cooperative Fire Suppression Agreements, for in and out-of-state mobilization purposes. An Inter-Agency Type II incident Management Team composed of state, local, and federal firefighters provided essential inter-agency cooperation assisting on regional and national incidents.

Economic Action

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Resource Conservation and Forestry Division (RCF) maintains a Log Finder website and is continuing to assist networking between people that have trees they want to sell or have removed, and people looking for trees to make value added wood products. RCF participates in the Council of Western State Foresters, Forest Utilization Network. The Forest Utilization Network will be looking for opportunities to promote and expand wood utilization throughout the western United States and Pacific Islands. Service foresters continue to promote utilization of all wood products with their assistance to landowners.

Forest Health Protection

Forest Health management in South Dakota encompasses a wide array of growing conditions, management practices, and host species. Strategies used to address identified threats include educational materials and presentations, pest surveys and trapping, and preventative pest management. The results of diagnoses on current pest problems were communicated to a national audience of

approximately 1,750 individuals associated with federal, state, and local governments, and the general public through the weekly Pest Update located on the division's website. Approximately 1,600 posters informing the public about the potential threat of insects from firewood transported into the state were prepared and distributed. Efforts to mitigate the mountain pine beetle (MPB) in the Black Hills included the use of an anti-aggregation pheromone to protect the relic stand of limber pine, and the preventative spraying of over 1,500 trees near cabins, campgrounds, and resorts in Custer State Park. The division completed 927 technical assists regarding insect and disease diagnoses on trees and woody plants. In FY2018 forest health closed out weed and pest grants totaling over \$16,000 to two county weed and pest agencies. Emerald ash borer was confirmed in South Dakota in May of 2018 in the State's largest community, Sioux Falls. Over 250 trees were identified as infested during the delimiting survey. The division organized and participated in five EAB workshops in Sioux Falls following the insect's discovery and confirmation. Each of these five workshops attracted over 100 people, with standing room only at the Outdoor Campus at Sioux Falls. The division also assisted the community of Sioux Falls in developing a response plan.

Forest Legacy

The South Dakota Forest Legacy Coordinator attended the National Forest Legacy Coordinators meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The meeting focused on the phases of projects, how states are implementing the program, and how should the program move forward with a backlog of unspent funds for projects that have not closed.

Foresters are working on a Forest Stewardship plan for an additional 1.23 acres. Foresters are also working on revising the tree planting plan for original tract due to continuous flooding of the current site. Discussions for this new site are taking place with SD GF&P so that we can move forward with a sound plan.

Forest Stewardship

In 2018, RCF prepared or approved 15 new forest stewardship plans for private landowners covering 1,594 acres. Seven forest stewardship plans were updated covering 7,943 acres. Each year, a random sample of the current forest stewardship plans are monitored to determine if landowners are implementing practices as recommended in their plans. This activity satisfies the monitoring requirements of the Forest Stewardship Program, and helps accomplish monitoring needs identified in the state's Forest Action Plan. The 2018 monitoring sample showed a 100% plan implementation rate. RCF foresters prepared written prescriptions for 28 non-commercial projects that resulted in the improvement of 454 acres of pine and hardwood stands. EQIP funding supported 21 of the projects covering 355 acres, 6 were funded by Conservation Commission grants covering 53 acres, and 1 project covering 53 acres received no cost share assistance.

Hazardous Fuels - Competitive Projects

Fuel reduction and thinning within private forests in the Black Hills to reduce dangerous fuel loading has resulted in 93 projects on 444.35 acres of high priority treatment. Projects emphasize responsible forest management and biomass utilization which are identified to directly protect homes. In addition 3,461 burning permits were issued in 2018 for slash pile burning to residents of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District.

Landowner Assistance

Resource Conservation and Forestry provided 317 forest health, 204 forest management, and 160 prairie forestry technical assists in 2017 (not including assists related to mountain pine beetle) to private landowners, conservation districts, state parks, and cooperative extension personnel. These technical assists are targeted at threats identified in the South Dakota Forest Action Plan.

Landscape Scale Restoration

The Windbreak Condition Project expanded with the remaining funding. RCF moved forward with the selection of eight additional high priority counties that adjoined the initial project area. A tree canopy cover layer was made for these counties using eCognition software following the protocols for the Great Plains Initiative 2 project. Field data was collected on an additional 225 windbreaks. A final report was generated with all data.

Urban and Community Forestry

The division provided 255 technical assists to community governments, volunteer/service groups and organizations, and private citizens in 32 communities. Communities and non-profit organizations were awarded grant funds totaling \$ \$13,100 that were matched by funds totaling \$13,046.08. The community forestry team conducted 39 presentations about Arbor Day, Tree City USA, Smokey Bear and fire prevention, and other community forestry subjects that were attended by schools and civic groups. The division conducted 7 workshops pertaining to proper tree planting, tree care, and forest health.

Volunteer Fire Assistance

In 2018, \$245,911 in VFA grants were awarded to 82 fire departments for a total project cost of \$702,859. Through these grants, departments were able to increase their capabilities and interoperability.

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