



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Washington 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$183,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$525,000
Forest Legacy	\$7,100,000
Forest Stewardship	\$204,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$500,154
State Fire Assistance	\$3,369,927
Urban and Community Forestry	\$408,988
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$591,288
Total	\$12,882,357

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

Cooperative Forestry programs are implemented through a partnership between the State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of private forest lands, city and community trees and forests, and rural economies. Emphasis is on sustainable forests for timber and other forest products, watersheds, healthy urban and community ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and local economies. The goal is to continue providing economic, environmental, and social values and products.

Program Goals

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery.
- Continue voluntary and non-regulatory approaches with programs.
- Reduce the rate of conversion of working forestlands to non-forest uses.
- Support forest landowners' provision of ecosystem services, including flood control, clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and riparian function.
- Empower landowners, cities, communities, and land managers to be stewards of the land and of their city trees and forests.
- Continue integration of Forest Stewardship, National Fire Plan, and Forest Health Protection to provide a coordinated multi-program, multi-resource education, technical assistance, and cost-share program for family forest landowners.
- Assist cities, communities, and neighborhoods in planning for, planting, and managing their trees for economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Key Issues

- Assisting communities to mitigate the wildland fire problem in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Providing technical assistance and education to landowners to promote active management that addresses forest health concerns (bark beetles, root disease, defoliators) related to tree vigor, density, and species diversity.
- Helping communities pass new or strengthened tree ordinances, develop tree inventories and management plans, train local staff, support tree advisory committees, and develop comprehensive municipal urban forestry programs.
- Administering the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program to effectively support eligible rural fire departments and improve the fire protection district capabilities.
- Monitoring and reporting on activity and impacts of forest insects and diseases.
- Mitigating the effects of forest fragmentation in urbanizing areas and the wildland-urban interface by

helping cities, counties, and landowners maintain forest values as land develops. Staff continues to educate cities and communities on the benefits of trees to mitigate climate change and aid in the cleanup of Puget Sound.

- Continuing cooperative efforts to monitor and eradicate introductions of exotic organisms such as sudden oak death and gypsy moth, and to manage and suppress established invasive plants on state and private lands.
- Supporting long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands.
- Educating cities about the public safety, economic development, environmental quality, and community livability benefits that result from proper planning and management of their urban trees

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,724,540	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	5,622
Acres of Forest Land	22,174,177	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	13,686
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	9,208
Number of NIPF Landowners	215,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	15,553
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	180,756	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,194,932	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	23,825
Number of Rural Fire Departments	558	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	15,153
Cities and Towns	281	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	138
Forest Based Employment	28,970	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4,348,102
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	23,868
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	145,877,000		

Program Highlights

20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan

Washington's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan sets a goal of treating 1.25 million acres over the next 20 years to improve the resilience of forests in eastern Washington.

The first step in meeting this goal was to select which priority watersheds the state will analyze for forest health treatment needs across all lands and focus its forest health investments. DNR identified its priority planning areas based on a data-driven analysis of HUC 6 watersheds in the region, as well as feedback from forest collaboratives, tribes, relevant federal and state agencies, the Forest Health Advisory Committee and other stakeholders. The 2018 forest health planning areas selected by DNR contain over 1 million acres of forestland and the 2020 planning areas contain over 1.65 million acres of forestland. For the 2018 planning areas, DNR conducted landscape evaluations to assess forest health conditions and determine treatment needs across all lands. The purpose of the landscape evaluation and prescription is to set high-level forest health treatment targets for each planning area so that the state, landowners, and stakeholders understand the level of treatment needed to create resilient forest conditions, work together to implement landscape-scale treatments, and provide a benchmark to track progress on achieving treatment goals.

Based on the landscape evaluations and prescriptions for the twelve 2018 planning areas, DNR estimates that 286,220 to 430,120 acres of treatments are needed to move these landscapes into a resilient condition. A combination of mechanical treatments, prescribed fire, and managed wildfire will be needed to accomplish the identified treatment needs.

Washington State invested \$13 million in forest health state funding in the 17-19 biennium to help achieve the goals of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan. Washington will use the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan to update relevant components of the State's Forest Action Plan.

Community Forestry and Open Space

•In 2018, Washington's Nisqually Community Forest in Pierce County was selected through a national competition to receive a \$183,000 Community Forest and Open Space grant. The grant supports acquisition of a 320-acre parcel of riparian area and upland forest in the Busy Wild Creek drainage, completing a 1,920-acre Phase I of the Nisqually Community Forest acquisition. Upon completion of this acquisition, the Community Forest Program will have conserved over 3,600 acres in the State of Washington with an investment of \$2.2 million in Forest Service funds and cost share of more than \$9 million from other federal, state, and private sources.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire funds provide key resources for the DNR fire program to assist in implementation of the State Forest Action Plan. In Federal FY18, through this assistance, 90 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions; 14 new communities achieved Firewise USA® recognition and 139 were maintained in active status; over 7,977 acres of forestland received technical assistance or were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class. 1 structure engine, 7 vehicles for conversion to fire engines, and 6 vehicles for conversion to water tenders were placed in volunteer fire districts through the Fire Fighter Property; 116 fire districts received funding for acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment; 30 fire districts received grants for fire and communications equipment, training, or vehicle refurbishment. In 2018, there were 34 Type 3 and 12 Type 1 & 2 incidents. Type 3 and 2 incidents were managed by interagency Incident Management Teams (IMT). This year the department successfully suppressed 91% of all DNR fires at less than 10 acres.

Forest Biomass

Forest Biomass refers to by-products of forest management activities or forest health treatments prescribed under the State's forest health law. Using forest biomass reduces the risk of forest fires, energy costs, carbon emissions that result from forest fires, dependence on foreign oil, and the loss of forest resources to pest and diseases. DNR's goal is to increase forest biomass utilization to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks. Washington's forests have an abundant renewable supply of woody biomass. Using some of this material for liquid transportation fuel, heating, cogeneration of heat and electrical power and innovative forest products such as cross-laminated timber will play an important role in the State's emerging green economy and help address climate change. DNR convened the Washington State Forest Biomass Coordination Group to promote development of the State's forest biomass sector. DNR received a State Wood Energy Team (SWET) Grant from the USFS in 2014, which focuses on providing outreach and technical assistance to facilities to study converting from fossil fuels to wood energy systems, such as wood chip or pellet boilers. DNR/SWET forest biomass activities for 2018 included coordinating three meetings of the Forest Biomass Coordination Group. In October 2018, the first institutional wood pellet boiler system in Washington State was installed at Northport School in Northport, WA. The Northport School pellet boiler was funded by Washington state capital budget funds administered by the Wash State Dept. of Commerce, the Washington State University (WSU) Extension Energy Program provided technical assistance to the project and DNR developed a press release on the project and participated in National Bioenergy Day. WSU Extension Energy Program conducted a wood energy prefeasibility study for the Larch Correction Center in Yacolt, WA. DNR continued to serve on Forterra's CLT/Mass Timber Coalition Leadership Committee.

Forest Health Protection

DNR Forest Health Protection staff conducts insect and disease evaluations and provides training and technical assistance to state and private landowners. Insect and disease aerial detection surveys, in cooperation with the Forest Service, were conducted on 25 million acres of forest land. Swiss needle cast damage decreased from 2016. Ground surveys, such as Phytophthora ramorum, bigleaf maple decline, and California fivespined Ips (CFI), are also conducted. Bark beetle mortality and western spruce budworm defoliation continue to be of concern, but affected area decreased. Douglas-fir tussock moth defoliation was recorded in a central Cascades. Northern spruce engraver was detected for the first time in eastern WA. Drought has led to increased conifer mortality and secondary bark beetle activity in many tree species. DNR partnered with the UW on a research project for Bigleaf Maple Decline, which found correlations between damage and hotter summer droughts. Mortality and range expansion related to drought and climate change are a priority for DNR monitoring work. DNR continues to monitor invasive pathogens, such as P. ramorum, which has been detected in one waterway, but is not established in

native vegetation. The progeny test site network for the White Pine Blister Rust Resistance Program was expanded. Hazard tree identification in campgrounds resulted in tree removal and improved safety. DNR staff continue an effective forest health education, technical assistance, and site visit program. Cost share funding for eastern WA landowners through the FS Western Bark Beetle Prevention grant is available. Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) implements an EDRR program for invasive plants, including a biocontrol program which is est. to treat 46,000 ac/yr and saves an est. \$84,000 in herbicide costs. WSDA treated 1300 ac for gypsy moth (GM) eradication in 2018; several new GM finds, and one Asian GM detection will result in additional eradication efforts in 2019.

Forest Legacy

Due to strong collaboration between DNR and land trusts, Washington has seen considerable recent success with the Forest Legacy Program. The South Puget Sound Coastal Forest Phase 2, funded in 2017, closed in 2018 and added 7400 acres to the 6,900 acres already protected in 2016. This project preserves jobs in a timber-dependent county and protects water quality in Puget Sound in an area facing intense pressure to convert forest land to housing. Mt St Helens Phase 2, received in FY2016, also closed in 2018 and protects 7800 acres in the view shed of the Mt St Helens National monument, adding to 6800 acres protected in 2010, and preventing fragmentation of an ecologically significant landscape. Two grants received in 2018, Dewatto Headwaters and South Puget Sound Coastal Forest Phase 3, are in process and expected to close in 2019. These projects will perpetually conserve working forestland, contribute to local economies and provide ecosystem benefits. Columbia Land Trust and Trust for Public Land are major contributors to these projects. The Forest Legacy Program is a component of the statewide strategy to protect working forests.

Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program provides forest management advice and supports educational programs to encourage long-term retention and sustainable management of family forest lands. A cornerstone of the program continues to be the highly popular Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Shortcourses. This eight-week course enables landowners to learn about all aspects of sustainable forest management and to prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan customized their specific objectives and property conditions. Since participants have "ownership" in developing their plan, the result is a very high rate of subsequent on-the-ground implementation. This year, 172 landowners created or revised their Forest Stewardship plans covering almost 13,000 acres. 2018 marked the twenty-second year of Washington's very successful Forest Owners Field Day program.. These regional events have proven to be an excellent way to attract new landowners to the Forest Stewardship Program with over 15,000 participating since the program's inception. Washington continues to implement an extensive cost-share program, jointly supported by state and federal funds, to incentivize landowners to implement practices to improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The program targets priority areas identified in the State Forest Action Plan.

There are currently three Stewardship & Technical Assistance Foresters and one Stewardship Fish & Wildlife Biologist who are funded through the Forest Stewardship Program. On average, each Forester conducts approximately 80 site visits per year to help landowners manage their lands to improve their forest health, create or maintain wildlife habitat and meet any other specific management objectives they may have. Collectively, the Stewardship & Technical Assistance Foresters receive over 800 landowner assistance requests each year. These requests are via email, phone call, or office visits.

Landowner Assistance

In Federal FY18, through this assistance, 90 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions; 14 new communities achieved Firewise USA® recognition and 139 were maintained in active status; over 7,977 acres of forestland received technical assistance or were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Funded by a 2016 Landscape Scale Restoration competitive grant, a landscape-scale Forest Stewardship Plan was completed in 2017 for the Chehalis River Watershed in Southwest Washington. This "landscape-scale master plan" is helping expedite individual landowner plan development, significantly increasing the acreage being sustainably managed under an integrated, multi-resource Forest Stewardship Plan. To date, over 20 individual Forest Stewardship Plans have been created covering

almost 1,000 acres within the watershed. The project also includes an aggressive landowner outreach and education component, including support for a forestry educator to conduct at least 3 Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Shortcourses and 3 regional Forest Owners Field Day education events. The project targets the highest priority landscape for the Forest Stewardship Program as identified in the State Forest Action Plan.

UCF was awarded 2 LSR grants in 2018 for multi-year projects: the City of Tacoma will implement a green stormwater infrastructure project in an underserved neighborhood, and the Nature Conservancy will facilitate a region-wide tree canopy assessment and tree planting plan for three highly-populated Puget Sound counties. Work continued on the 2017 Landscape Scale Restoration grant in partnership with King Conservation District to align iTree Hydro for use in the PNW.

Tree Improvement/Genetic Resources

Under the Forest Stewardship umbrella, the Tree Improvement program provides high-quality, genetically appropriate tree seed for family forest owners. This is typically delivered in the form of seedlings made available for purchase at forest nurseries. The core program has historically focused on Douglas-fir, the most economically important species in the region. However, with concerns about large wildfires and climate change, we have begun to establish more orchard capacity in eastern Washington to provide seed to help to recover from large-scale disturbance. With funding support from the State and Private Forestry, we have begun to establish seed orchards in several areas of eastern Washington with orchards for western larch, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine. This work supports the current Washington Statewide Forest Action Plan and the following national S&PF priorities: conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses, protect forests from harm, and enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

Urban and Community Forestry

Technical, financial, & educational assistance provided by Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) includes community forestry management planning, tree inventories & assessments, municipal code development, training for municipal staff statewide & arboriculture consultation for trees on the WA State Capitol Campus. UCF-staffed WA Community Forestry Council met four times with three site based meetings and one conference call. 92 cities & towns met Tree City USA standards - 48% of WA residents live in TCUSA communities; 9 TCUSA communities received Growth Awards for outstanding program activities, 10 Utility Companies met Tree Line USA standards, & 9 college & university campuses met Tree Campus USA standards. Grants awarded to communities & orgs include 3 small community forestry grants for inventory/assessment and management plans and 1 for a fire-adapted tree arboretum, and 17 Tree City USA Arbor Day tree planting grants. UCF partnered w/ Spokane Conservation District to provide tech assistance to communities in eastern WA. Grant funded work continues w/ WA State University Extension to develop online UF learning modules for master gardeners & others. The 2018 seminar series, Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities, was presented in 8 communities statewide. UCF outreach included presentations delivered to 10 allied professional organizations, communities, and DNR regions. The monthly UCF Program newsletter, Tree Link, was distributed electronically. The UCF restoration project, (2014 Western Competitive Grant-funded) continued in 2018 with WA Conservation Corps crews implementing projects in 4 E. WA communities. Projects include structural tree pruning, establishment of mulch rings for tree health and protection, and projects for community fire-resiliency.

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