



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Washington 2018



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2017 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$358,900
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$325,700
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$600,000
State Fire Assistance	\$2,954,936
Urban and Community Forestry	\$435,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$507,259
Total	\$5,181,795

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 planting and management of their urban trees.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2017 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,724,540	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	7,307
Acres of Forest Land	22,174,177	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	10,193
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,510,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	9,001
Number of NIPF Landowners	215,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	180,756	State Fire Communities Assisted	130
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,194,932	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	675
Number of Rural Fire Departments	558	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	2,405
Cities and Towns	281	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	163
Forest Based Employment	28,970	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4,634,304
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	16,654
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	145,877,000		

Program Highlights

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 FY17, through this assistance, 104 communities received financial or technical assistance to implement community wildfire protection plan actions; 21 new communities achieved Firewise USA recognition; over 3,600 acres of forestland were treated for hazardous fuels resulting in reduced risk and improved fire regime/condition class. 6 functional fire engines, 2 vehicles for conversion to fire engines, and 12 vehicles for conversion to water tenders were placed in volunteer fire districts through the Fire Fighter Property and Federal Excess Personal Property programs; 118 fire districts received funding for acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment; 22 fire districts received grants for fire and communications equipment, training, or vehicle refurbishment. In 2017, there were 22 Type 3 and 13 Type 1 & 2 incidents. Type 3 and 2 incidents were managed by interagency Incident Management Teams (IMT). This year the department successfully suppressed 96% 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, 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 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 forest biomass activities for 2017 included: four wood energy prefeasibility studies for East Whatcom Regional Resource Center, Town of Twisp municipal building, Yale Elementary School and Northport Elementary school; full feasibility studies were completed for East Whatcom, Yale Elementary and Northport Elementary; and a workshop in Mount Vernon, WA to highlight wood energy and biomass utilization opportunities. DNR served on Forterra's CLT/Mass Timber Coalition Leadership Committee. DNR served on the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance Advisory Committee. Last November Forterra hosted a strategizing meeting to continue the momentum in CLT advancements in the construction industry.

Forest Health Protection

DNR Forest Health Protection staff conduct insect and disease evaluations, trainings and technical assistance to forest landowners. Insect and disease aerial surveys were conducted on about 29 million acres of forest lands. Other insect and disease surveys, such as Swiss needle cast, Phytophthora ramorum, and California Fivespined Ips (CFI), are conducted based on hosts and risk. Bark beetle damage levels increased in 2017 for most species, likely due to the 2015 drought and fires. CFI traps were deployed in 8 counties, to date CFI has been found in 9 counties. Bigleaf maple decline continues to be a concern in WA, and DNR partnered on a bigleaf maple research project with the University of Washington. White pine weevil damage in Sitka spruce was assessed at a shading and density demonstration site planted in 2004. DNR cooperated with Oregon Dept. of Forestry on an exotic woodborer survey along the Columbia River. Technical assistance and cost share funds were provided to landowners to improve forest health and reduce stand susceptibility to insect damage in eastern WA. DNR forest health staff continue an aggressive forest health education and technical assistance and site visit program. Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) continued follow-up trapping in areas treated for Asian Gypsy Moth in 2016 and no additional moths were trapped. European Gypsy moths were trapped in two new sites that meet treatment thresholds, and eradication projects will be conducted in 2018. WSDA continues an aggressive biocontrol program, releasing over 178,000 biocontrol agents at 420 sites. New releases included a hawkweed gall wasp and the Canada thistle rust fungus. Early Detection/Rapid Response efforts focus on eradicating introduction of new species including Scotch Thistle and rush skeletonweed.

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, is underway and will add about 7500 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, is on track to close in 2018 and will protect up to 7800 acres in the viewshed of the Mt St Helens National monument, adding to 6800 acres protected in 2010, and preventing fragmentation of an ecologically significant landscape. 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. 2017 marked the twenty-first year of Washington's very successful Forest Owners Field Day program with over 600 landowners attending. These regional events have proven to be an excellent way to attract new landowners to the Forest Stewardship Program with over 14,000 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.

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 master plan" is helping expedite individual landowner plan development, significantly increasing the acreage being sustainably managed under an integrated, multi-resource Forest Stewardship Plan. The project includes an aggressive landowner outreach and education component, including support for a forestry educator and conduct of 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.

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

Tech, financial, & educational assistance provided by UCF Program includes community forestry mgmt planning, tree inventories & assessments, municipal code dev, statewide training for municipal staff & arboriculture consultation for trees on WA State Capitol Campus. UCF staffed WA Community Forestry Council met 3 times. 90 cities & towns met Tree City USA standards – 48% of WA residents live in TCUSA communities; 12 TCUSA received Growth Awards for outstanding prog dev. 10 Utility Companies met Tree Line USA standards & 7 college campuses met Tree Campus USA standards. Grants awarded to communities & orgs = 6 for Mgmt Plans; 2 for Storm Recovery activities - tree pruning/replacement planting; 21 Tree City USA Arbor Day tree planting grants. UCF partnered w/ Spokane Conservation Dist 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 based on current research & industry best mgmt practices. Nature Conservancy was awarded a grant to publish tech brochure titled "Urban Green Infrastructure: Design Principles for Human Health & Wellness." The 2017 seminar series, Cultivating Resilient Communities, was presented in 8 communities statewide. UF outreach included presentations delivered to 5 allied professional organizations. Monthly UCF Program newsletter, Tree Link, was distributed electronically. The UF restoration project, (2014 Western Competitive Grant-funded) continued in 2017. WA Conservation Corps crews implemented UF restoration work in 19 Puget Sound-area communities, county parks, & a school district. Projects include field-based efforts to help restore healthy UF that filter & retain stormwater to improve water quality & aid in salmon recovery. UCF was awarded a Landscape Scale Restoration grant in 2017 & will partner w/ King Conservation District to implement the project over the next several years.

Contact Information



Washington Department of Natural Resources

Julie Sackett
Assistant Division Mgr Forest Health
P.O.Box 47001
Olympia, WA 98504-7001
360-902-1765
Julie.Sackett@dnr.wa.gov

US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region

Debbie A Hollen
Director, State & Private Forestry
USDA Forest Service
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
503-808-2340
dahollen@fs.fed.us
