



## Support the Forest Health Management Program on Cooperative Lands

Right now, more than 80 million acres of forests in United States are at risk of damage from insects and disease; and without remediation, about 25% of trees greater than one inch in diameter will die by 2027 due to these threats.

Because forest pests and disease know no boundaries, forest health initiatives must take an all-lands approach to be successful. The Forest Health Management Program on Cooperative Lands does just that. With support from the Forest Health Program/Protection (FHP), state forestry agencies prevent, detect, and control diseases and invasive species that are harmful to forests. This work helps boost and maintain forest health and resilience on state and private lands, and in turn, curb tree mortality and minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire on *all* forests.

**In FY 2024, the nation's 59 state foresters ask that \$39.43 million be allocated to the Forest Health Management Program on Cooperative Lands to fight the spread of tree-killing insects and pathogens.**

In **Arizona**, the Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) is using FHP funding to reduce bark beetle-related tree mortality and wildfire risk throughout the state by successfully implementing a first-of-its-kind direct suppression project, which starting in 2019, partnered with the AZ Community Tree Council and local tree removal services to provide a 50/50 cost share program for private landowners. When a homeowner suspects bark beetle activity on their property, DFFM foresters provide a free assessment and mark any trees that are actively infested. The homeowner then contracts with a tree removal service and the program pays for half of the total cost. In just two assessment seasons, the program has helped to remove over 1,200 infested trees, reducing bark beetle population growth and providing DFFM forester support to over 600 private landowners.

In **South Carolina**, FHP funds support the annual placement and monitoring of southern pine beetle traps at 96 locations in 32 counties. The trapping data collected helps the South Carolina Forestry Commission focus its survey efforts across the state and anticipate and respond to outbreaks. FHP funds are also used to defray the costs of implementing forestry practices that curb southern pine beetle infestations. Between 2017 and 2022, these practices—which include planting at reduced densities, planting long leaf pine, and conducting pre-commercial thinnings—were implemented on 11,426 acres across the state.

In **Pennsylvania**, invasive forest pests and climate change have impacted millions of trees. To combat hemlock woolly adelgid and elongate hemlock scale, the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry is using FHP funding to treat high value hemlocks in critical habitat with insecticides and predatory beetles. FHP support is also used to facilitate collaborative research to find hemlock resistant trees; host forest health trainings for over 1,500 government and industry employees, municipalities, and the public each year; and conduct annual surveys on over 17 million acres for spongy moth, emerald ash borer, oak wilt, beech leaf disease, hemlock pests, southern pine beetle, and drought.



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