



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Kentucky 2018



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2017 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$199,776
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$270,130
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$392,100
State Fire Assistance	\$1,024,946
Urban and Community Forestry	\$208,320
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$278,412
Total	\$2,373,684

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

Program Goals

- The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies. The overarching goal is to maintain and improve the health of urban and rural forests and related economies as well as to protect the forests and citizens of the Commonwealth.

Key Issues

- Forests are being fragmented and landowner objectives are changing. There are 473,000 non-industrial private forest landowners in Kentucky. There are 467,000 families, individuals, trusts, estates, family partnerships, and other unincorporated groups of individuals that own forestland with 65% owning less than 10 acres while 35% are absentee landowners.
- Ninety-one percent of wildland fires in Kentucky are caused by humans. Arson accounts for sixty-two percent of the wildland fire causes.
- Urban development and other land use changes are affecting Kentucky's natural resource sustainability. Economic growth, population demographics, and infrastructure expansion in rural and urban areas drive these issues. The development of self-sustaining community forestry programs that include advocacy groups, public education components, urban forestry staff, and properly maintained urban trees and forests remain an issue in Kentucky.
- The emerald ash borer has now been found in 85 counties and will eventually impact ash resources across the entire state as the infestation spreads into western Kentucky. The emerald ash borer will continue to have an extensive impact in urban communities and has already had a significant impact on Kentucky's forest industry.
- Kentucky has identified woody biomass as a desirable and potential part of its energy future in both the governor's energy policy statement and the recommendations of the Governor's Executive Task Force on Biomass and Biofuels Development.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2017 Accomplishments	Value
Population	4,339,367	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	5,578
Acres of Forest Land	12,461,532	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	54,861
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,398,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	71,624
Number of NIPF Landowners	473,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	100
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	53
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	17,100,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	301
Number of Rural Fire Departments	775	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	421	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	73
Forest Based Employment	60,977	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,699,342
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	2,101
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	14,426,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support firefighting resources throughout Kentucky. In fiscal year 2017, the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) suppressed 1,060 fires that burned 67,288 acres. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program and the Federal Firefighter Program assist in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. The division administers the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments. The division provided VFA grant funding of \$247,644 to 76 fire departments and also awarded \$114,341 in Firewise cost-share grants to 10 communities. Kentucky communities have completed 56 Community Wildfire Protection Plans, with 8 more in progress. Of those communities, 5 hold recognition as a Firewise USA Community. Currently, 5 more communities are working on their certification for recognition. Mitigation funds have been used to pay for law enforcement assistance from the Kentucky Department for Fish and Wildlife Resources. This partnership has already shown to be effective. In the extreme fall 2017 fire season, arson caused wildfires remained low even as burned acreage numbers climbed to well above normal levels.

Forest Health Protection

EAB infestations have been confirmed in 85 counties in Kentucky. In April of 2014, the state regulated county quarantine system was rescinded and the entire state was added to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) list of regulated areas. This federal order directly affects the wood and nursery industries because it regulates the interstate movement of ash nursery stock, green lumber, waste, compost, and chips of ash species to areas outside the federal quarantine. EAB continues to move throughout Kentucky and infestations in neighboring states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Tennessee suggest that the pest will be confirmed in the remaining Kentucky counties in the coming years.

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is another exotic pest that is impacting Kentucky's forests. HWA infestations occur broadly across 31 counties in eastern Kentucky. The Division has a dedicated field crew tasked with chemically treating hemlock trees on public lands in order to prevent the total loss of hemlocks from our forests. Since the program began in 2011, the Division has treated over 131,000 hemlock trees. The Division also monitors for potential pests/diseases that could impact our forests in the future, such as thousand cankers disease. Ten counties were surveyed for declining walnut trees in 2017 and seven traps were placed at public sites to monitor for the insect vector carrying the disease.

Forest Legacy

Administrative funds were used to monitor existing Legacy projects. There are 10,220 acres protected to

date through 9 acquisitions.

Forest Stewardship

KDF foresters developed 433 forest stewardship/forest management plans covering 71,624 acres. The division completed 339 forest improvement plans covering 5,658 acres of activities including tree planting, timber stand improvement, and many other forest enhancement practices through USDA Farm Bill programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Accomplishments completed on-the-ground include 1,342 timber stand improvement acres. Three new tree farm and forest stewards were added. The division partnered with the University of Kentucky to conduct three woodland owner short courses. These courses were conducted in a two-tiered approach with one for new forest landowners and one for experienced landowners.

Landowner Assistance

The KDF continues to expand its efforts to involve woodland owners in sound management practices. The division, in cooperation with UK Extension, hosted over 50 forestry field days, woodland owner short courses, forestry webinars, and other landowner and school children training opportunities across the state. This effort involved partnering with our sister agencies (i.e. fish and wildlife, nature preserves, conservation organizations, NRCS, USFS, etc.), and several forestry-related organizations, such as the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, the Kentucky Arborists Association, the Kentucky Forest Industries Association, and the Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters. The division continues to co-sponsor the annual small, limited resource, minority landowner conference with Kentucky State University. The division co-produced the Tri-State Woodland and Wildlife Workshop with state forestry agencies in Indiana and Ohio. The division partnered with the Arbor Day Foundation and their Community Tree Recovery Program which was created out of the increased demand for trees in the wake of natural disasters. The Division co-sponsored the annual Kentucky Wood Expo which serves as an introduction for the general public to the state's wood industries through educational seminars, craft demonstrations, and logger games.

Urban and Community Forestry

In 2017, Kentucky had their 121th anniversary of celebrating Arbor Day. The Kentucky Division of Forestry participated in a total of 120 Arbor Day events that included tree plantings and giveaways of 116,183 trees. A total of thirty eight communities were designated as a Tree City USA community, including six communities who also received a Growth Award for significantly expanding their urban forestry program. Kentucky had one new Growth Award recipient this year. Over 35% of Kentuckians live in a Tree City USA community, and these communities spent \$6.7 million dollars on urban forestry management – an average of \$4.29 per capita. Eleven universities and colleges received designations of Tree Campus USA and three utility companies were designated as Tree Campus USA, both programs in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation. Three annual urban reforestation events were offered this spring, in partnership with the Division, which resulted in planting over 8,700 seedlings with 1,377 volunteers. A FY14 LSR grant project entitled "Restoring Environmental Quality and Economic Vitality in Appalachian Communities" began in 2015 and work was closed out this year with the final work being completed in the communities of Olive Hill, Prestonsburg and Albany. Pass through funds from FY15 were utilized to allow the University of Kentucky to provide urban forestry programming outreach to four central Kentucky communities. Funds from FY14 were utilized to provide a series of six two day workshops throughout Kentucky to nontraditional areas, providing continuing education to 151 participants.

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