



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

North Carolina 2018



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2017 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$5,062,009
Forest Legacy	\$4,000,000
Forest Stewardship	\$264,966
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$937,165
State Fire Assistance	\$1,439,363
Urban and Community Forestry	\$434,514
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$359,794
Total	\$12,497,811

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 State of North Carolina, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies. Emphasis focuses on timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices.
- The overarching goal is to maintain and improve the health of rural and urban forests and related economies, as well as to protect the forests and citizens of the state. These programs maximize cost effectiveness in program delivery, increase forestland value and sustainability through partnerships, and do so in a voluntary and non-regulatory manner.

Key Issues

- Population growth, land use change, and development patterns continue to complicate land management and natural resource conservation efforts.
- Continued outreach to an urbanizing and growing population about the multiple benefits that forests provide to North Carolina.
- Promotion of the expansion of forest products markets both domestically and internationally. A key component of this effort is timely Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data. This effort should be maintained at current levels or enhanced to provide the most current information. Another key component is the education of landowners to the numerous benefits of forest certification.
- Comprehensive education and planning efforts with communities on the benefits and use of urban forests. Many of the 3,990 communities across the state face wildland/urban interface (WUI) hazards. Efforts to prevent and mitigate hazards and raise awareness are ongoing and need to be continued.
- Providing technical assistance to a changing woodland owner demographic to keep working forests working.
- Continued development and use of technology in the planning, response, and reporting of wildfire risk and the impacts to timber, air, water, and wildlife resources.
- Continued development of ecosystem markets in collaboration with state agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as federal partners such as the Department of Defense.
- The N.C. Forest Service and our military partners have a mutually beneficial relationship. The agency's goals of "keeping working forests working" and forest conservation closely align with efforts to maintain our military's training capacity. To reach those goals, both groups must continue to effectively reach out to private woodland owners.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2017 Accomplishments	Value
Population	9,535,483	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	14,701
Acres of Forest Land	18,814,430	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	13,114
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	13,969,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	16,328
Number of NIPF Landowners	525,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	350
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,900,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	755
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	15,533,859	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	16,777
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,297	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	553	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	157
Forest Based Employment	144,815	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	5,902,545
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	6,642
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	65,802,285		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Firewise continues to be a very strong program in North Carolina with 24 active Firewise communities in the state. N.C. Forest Service personnel provided information at more than 300 outreach opportunities, including attendance at home and garden shows, conferences, and local festivals. Numerous Firewise meetings were also held across North Carolina during FY2017, covering evacuation planning and hazard mitigation projects to homeowner associations and fire departments. In FY2017, three communities received Firewise grants to do mitigation work, totaling \$25,423. Another four communities were awarded \$8,000 each, which they will receive the balance of after the completion of mitigation activities. The Firewise Program is also receiving promotional assistance through four Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) across Western North Carolina, which received a \$128,000 grant through the U.S. Forest Service to promote mitigation activities in North Carolina.

The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists North Carolina fire departments in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. The N.C. Forest Service also administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments that support firefighting resources throughout North Carolina, including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). There are currently 1,670 completed CWPPs at the fire district level in the state. Working with Federal partners, the N.C. Forest Service Fire Environment Program continues to be a leader in fire research, improving the safety of firefighters and the public through science-based applications.

Economic Action

The N.C. Forest Service continues to provide support to North Carolina's \$31.4 billion forest products industry while also increasing efforts to attract new industry to the state. North Carolina's forest products manufacturing industry ranks second in the United States for employment and fifth for value added benefits. International markets play a vital role for the forest products industry as North Carolina benefitted from export activity with 120 nations, representing approximately \$1.3 billion in trade value.

FORCES Program

North Carolina is one of two states nationally participating in the Forest Opportunities for Resource Conservation and Environmental Security Program (FORCES). As a contributor to the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes Partnership (ENCSLP), the FORCES Program recognizes and assists landowners who make a committed investment in their working forests that benefit wildlife and forest health, while preventing land use changes around military bases. This results in the sustainability of the

military's training mission. The core partnership in North Carolina involves the N.C. Forest Service, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, and various installations within the U.S. Department of Defense. The FORCES Program was instrumental in having 17 Forest Stewardship Plans completed on 1,016 acres within two project pilot areas during FY2017.

Forest Health Protection

The N.C. Forest Service is responsible for providing assistance to forest landowners in the detection and control of destructive forest insects and diseases. Services are provided to landowners through district and county organizations with forest health staff providing training and professional/technical expertise in identification, biology, and control of destructive insect and disease epidemics. The program has been increasingly challenged with prevention, monitoring, and control of non-native invasive species of insects and diseases that threaten our forests. Existing non-native invasive pests in North Carolina that damage forests include: balsam and hemlock woolly adelgids, beech bark disease, dogwood anthracnose, butternut canker, Phytophthora root rot, and gypsy moth. More recently, emerald ash borer, redbay ambrosia beetle/laurel wilt, and thousand cankers disease have been detected in the state and are having an impact on ash, bay, and walnut species. Several non-native invasive pests found elsewhere in the U.S. are also capable of impacting our forests in the future. These include Asian longhorn beetle, Sirex woodwasp, and sudden oak death. Forest Health staff, in collaboration with agencies and universities, monitor the movement of these pests through trappings and surveys. Staff then alert and train N.C. Forest Service personnel, forestry, agricultural, and environmental interests, as well as landowners to recognize and deal with these pests. In FY2017, approximately 12.2 million acres were surveyed for insects, diseases, and storm damage by N.C. Forest Service personnel.

Forest Legacy

A total of 16 tracts are in the North Carolina Forest Legacy Program either as conservation easements or owned in fee simple. Since the state became active in the Forest Legacy Program in 2000, North Carolina has purchased eight Forest Legacy Conservation Easements, utilizing \$9 million in Forest Legacy Program funds, and accepted one donated conservation easement. Additionally, seven Forest Legacy Tracts are owned in fee simple, four of which were purchased with over \$9 million in Forest Legacy Program funds, and three were acquired as a match with private and state funding. More than \$19 million in Federal Forest Legacy Program funds were used in the acquisitions of the sixteen tracts, which have a combined appraised value exceeding \$41 million. Due diligence continues to close on a 1,000-acre fee simple purchase, which will finalize the acquisition of Phase IV of the Headwaters Forest Legacy tract – East Fork of French Broad Headwaters. This project has involved acquiring more than 4,000 acres over a 5-year period.

Forest Stewardship

There are 232,276 acres of North Carolina forestland currently covered by the North Carolina Forest Stewardship Program. Of these, 177,311 acres are in priority forest resource areas as identified by the N.C. Forest Action Plan. Surveys indicate that these Forest Stewardship Plans are being implemented on at least 115,071 acres.

In FY2017, the North Carolina Forest Stewardship Program produced 102 new and revised Stewardship Plans, addressing multiple resource management objectives on 13,114 acres. Of this figure, management plans addressed more than 7,252 acres that are considered priority forest resource areas based on the state's Forest Action Plan. Additionally, Forest Stewardship was also instrumental in 7,586 landowner assists, and Forest Educational and Landowner Workshops in which 7,115 landowners participated.

Partnerships remain an integral part of the Forest Stewardship Program. The Tar River Land Conservancy received a grant to have Forest Stewardship Plans written on land they manage, resulting in 12 Forest Stewardship Plans written for 11 landowners in six counties.

In October 2016, a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was also signed between the N.C. Forest Service, North Carolina Tree Farm Program, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (North Carolina office) that continues to foster cooperation and streamlined service to North Carolina landowners by improving management plan delivery and inter-organizational efforts to work together. Implementation is underway to more closely align the states Forest Stewardship Program with the Tree Farm Program. This will ideally make Tree Farm's third-party forest certification available to Forest Stewardship Program participants, as well as result in the leveraging of each program's strengths related

to landowner assistance and outreach.

Landowner Assistance

The N.C. Forest Service Information, Education and Outreach Program participated in more than 26,000 outreach events reaching close to a million farmers, forest landowners, and the public. These events include landowner workshops, natural resource conferences, newspaper and magazine articles, and a variety of advertising opportunities. Through this program, N.C. Forest Service rangers and foresters statewide have provided valuable information to forest landowners and the public related to N.C. Forest Service programs, services, and forestry-related issues.

Longleaf Pine Initiative

The N.C. Forest Service's Longleaf Pine Initiative continues to expand the use of targeted outreach for landowners and natural resource professionals to promote longleaf pine conservation in North Carolina. In 2017, the N.C. Forest Service hosted three longleaf workshops reaching 71 private landowners and 97 natural resource professionals. Personnel supported three additional trainings presenting on priority topics, including stressors from pine straw harvesting and ecological management considerations, reaching 194 attendees. The Longleaf Initiative also participated in seven exhibits and education events. To support these efforts, staff developed new outreach materials including promotional mailers, display signs, interactive educational games, and a longleaf management booklet, while updating existing handouts and online resources. Longleaf management areas spatial database for private landowners is still under development, with anticipated completion in 2018. Partnering with the N.C. Longleaf Coalition and The Nature Conservancy, a new program, "North Carolina Longleaf Honor Roll," recognizes longleaf landowners who are actively managing their longleaf forests. This program aims to increase landowner engagement by identifying peer mentors and highlighting priority management actions. As part of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative annual reporting, N.C. Forest Service staff compiled North Carolina's 2017 longleaf accomplishments; on private lands: over 8500* acres of longleaf were established in 2017 and over 22,500* acres of longleaf acres were burned (*estimates due to data still pending).

Renewable Energy

North Carolina is heavily engaged in utility-scale wood pellet production with operations based in the Eastern portion of our state. Three facilities are currently producing wood pellets for electricity generation by Western European power companies. Construction on a fourth pellet plant located in the Sandhills region of North Carolina began in 2017. A deep-water marine terminal at the Port of Wilmington was also recently completed to facilitate wood pellet transport to European ports. Additionally, numerous combined heat and power (CHP) projects using woody biomass as a primary feedstock source are currently in operation across North Carolina.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program continues management of its grant program, and is also focused on urban and interface issues. Continuing with a commitment to change views about urban wood waste, the program hosted an urban wood workshop to promote the use of urban-sourced wood and received an LSR grant to develop an urban wood certification process that could be adopted by national programs and organizations. A multi-state Landscape Scale Restoration grant stormwater project is nearing completion for two pilot communities, and we are looking for additional opportunities to promote trees for stormwater mitigation. U&CF is also working to adapt an inventory program to offer a low-cost urban inventory option to communities. The program has 20 field staff certified as arborists by the International Society of Arboriculture and three as Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ). Staff presented four Technical Foundations workshops, five grant writing workshops and participated in other workshops including two ISA pre-exam workshops, N.C. Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers, TRAQ, and Sustainable Forestry Teacher's Experience.

Water Resources

In FY2017, the Water Resources Branch completed analysis and reporting of the findings from a statewide assessment of 200+ logging jobs to evaluate water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs). The findings will be included in a southern regional report to be prepared by the Southern Group of State Foresters in 2018. The branch also hosted a symposium on bottomland swamp forest silviculture, with 150+ attendees, including many from across the southern region; symposium presentations are available

online: <http://go.ncsu.edu/bottomland-symposium>. Water Resources Branch staff instructed 155 ProLoggers, 23 college students, 27 Boy Scouts, and 97 high school students on various aspects of forestry, water quality, and BMPs. They presented seven "Forestry & Water Quality 101: Back to Basics" refresher workshops around the state in 2017, reaching approximately 280 attendees. For this past state fiscal year, the agency conducted 3,247 water quality compliance inspections. We continued to provide portable steel bridgemats to loggers for establishing and protecting stream or ditch crossings on their harvesting operations. During this past year, agency bridgemats were used on 33 logging jobs, protecting 45 crossings, and provided access to an estimated 1,875 acres. Planning, design and permitting is underway for the Linville River restoration project that should break ground in 2018 to enhance an active trout fishery habitat and improve overall habitat function. Water resources program personnel are funded by a combination of state appropriations and annual allocations from the USEPA NonPoint Source 319-Grant Program, with occasional contribution from S&PF Consolidated Grant funds.

Contact Information



North Carolina Forest Service

Scott Bissette
Assistant Commissioner
1616 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1616
919-857-4801
Scott.Bissette@ncagr.gov

US Forest Service Southern Region

Ken Arney
Deputy Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
1720 Peachtree Street, Suite 760S
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-347-4178
karney@fs.fed.us