



ARKANSAS



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Programs	FY 2003 Final SPF	FY 2003 Final NFP	FY 2004 Estimate SPF	FY 2004 Estimate NFP
Coop Forest Health Management	\$455,000	\$0	\$183,544	\$250,000
State Fire Assistance	\$507,465	\$763,814	\$558,300	\$725,700
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$82,740	\$122,820	\$91,100	\$116,700
Forest Stewardship Program	\$564,000	n/a	\$520,000	n/a
Forest Legacy Program	\$0	n/a	\$0	n/a
Urban and Community Forestry	\$421,000	n/a	\$434,925	n/a
Economic Action Programs	\$6,700	\$58,300	\$40,000	\$0
Forest Land Enhancement Program	\$539,059	n/a	\$0	n/a
Forest Resource Planning Assistance	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a
Natural Resources Conservation Education	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a
Conservation Reserve Program	\$39,369	n/a	\$28,333	n/a
TOTAL	\$2,615,333	\$944,934	\$1,856,202	\$1,092,400

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Arkansas, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis focuses on timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices. The goal is to maintain and improve the health of urban and rural forests and related economies. These programs:

- **Increase cost effectiveness** through the use of partnerships in delivery,
- **Increase values** through sustained productivity of forests, and
- **Are voluntary**, and use non-regulatory approaches.

KEY ISSUES:

Key issues which State and federal programs will address together in the next few years include:

- Mixed landownership patterns, population growth and urban expansion will pose considerable challenges to sustaining forest resource productivity in the South.

Forest Facts and 2003 Accomplishments

SELECTED FACTS		FY 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
Population	2,692,090	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	309
Acres of Forest Land	19,097,948	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	44,350
Acres of NonIndustrial Private Forest Land	10,950,396	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	470,731
Number of NIPF Landowners	289,500	Multi-resource practices implemented on NIPF - Acres	61,062
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,257,718	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted SPF NFP	83 123
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	18,790,000	State Fire – Communities Assisted SPF NFP	249 369
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,000	Coop Forest Health – Acres Protected SPF NFP	15,840,229 0
Number of Cities and Towns	415	Coop Forest Health – Acres Surveyed SPF NFP	5,451,480 0
Forest Based Employment	43,000	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition - Acres	n/a
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2 nd	Urban Forestry-Participating communities	333
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	\$21,008,160		1,624
		Urban Forestry –Volunteer Assistance Generated-Days	51
		EAP-Communitis working under broad-based local strategic plans	309

Program Highlights:

Urban and Community: An urban ecosystem analysis was conducted for the communities surrounding the NW Arkansas Regional Airport to assess land use changes due to rapid growth in the area. GIS technology and land start imagery were used to assess tree cover changes over the last 15 years and create a green data layer for land use planning. The analysis can be used as a tool doing the planning process to help address issues such as watershed protection and greenspace for wildlife and recreational programs.

Cooperative Fire Protection: Includes Federal Excess Personal Property, State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance. These programs are designed to enhance the State’s fire protection and fire prevention capability. During 2003, Arkansas experienced 1,620 fires which burned over 23,279 acres. During 2003, Arkansas experienced 1,620 fires which burned over 23,279 acres.

Landowner Assistance: The EQIP Program has provided NIPFLO’s with over \$800,000 in much needed cost share assistance for forestry practices in 2003. Most of Arkansas’ FLEP allocation was directed toward cost shares to private landowners. FLEP funding for 2004 appears nonexistent. Over \$800,000 in requests for FLEP were on file for 2004.

Forest Health Protection: The oak decline/red oak borer problem in northern Arkansas continued although mortality levels have abated somewhat with the return of more normal rainfall patterns in 2002 and 2003. However, red oak borer populations remain high and mortality and degrade to lumber continue to cause problems. Southern pine beetle populations were undetectable in 2003.

Economic Action Programs: The Ozark Woodland Owners Association has identified possible industrial facilities needed to serve landowners in marketing forest resource products from their lands. They are also measuring the results of an ongoing forest landowner education program being conducted. FY 2004 National Fire Plan funds have not been authorized and fuels reduction activity has been halted.

For more information contact:

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