



GEORGIA



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	\$344,920	\$724,000	\$239,486	\$800,000
State Fire Assistance	\$650,413	\$976,340	\$715,500	\$927,600
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$97,909	\$145,337	\$107,700	\$138,100
Forest Stewardship Program	\$836,000	n/a	\$830,000	n/a
Forest Legacy Program	\$4,098,000	n/a	\$1,506,209	n/a
Urban and Community Forestry	\$754,641	n/a	\$694,960	n/a
Economic Action Programs	\$6,700	\$80,300	\$40,000	\$0
Forest Land Enhancement Program	\$830,843	n/a	\$0	n/a
Forest Resource Planning Assistance	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Natural Resources Conservation Education	\$12,500	\$0	n/a	n/a
Conservation Reserve Program	\$0	n/a	\$0	n/a
TOTAL	\$7,631,926	\$1,925,977	\$4,133,855	\$1,865,700

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Georgia, 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 regional issues which State and federal programs will address together in the next few years include:

- As the national budget for the Forest Legacy Program increases we will see more interest from Congressional Appropriators concerning individual projects funding in their Districts. Congressional direction and Forest Service oversight will continue to increase in regards to appraisals, purchase of lands, conservation easements, and in the management of Forest Legacy tracts.
- 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	8,186,453	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	317
Acres of Forest Land	24,412,600	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	81,829
Acres of NonIndustrial Private Forest Land	17,154,500	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	1,027,359
Number of NIPF Landowners	601,300	Multi-resource practices implemented on NIPF - Acres	543,300
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,400,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted SPF NFP	62 128
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	27,300,000	State Fire – Communities Assisted SPF NFP	120 56
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,024	Coop Forest Health – Acres Protected SPF NFP	1,500 0
Number of Cities and Towns	753	Coop Forest Health – Acres Surveyed SPF NFP	16,000,000 0
Forest Based Employment	177,000	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition - Acres	0
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry-Participating communities	449
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	n/a		
		Urban Forestry –Volunteer Assistance Generated-Days	15,654
		EAP-Communitis working under broad-based local strategic plans	22

Program Highlights:

Urban and Community: : Operation GA Urban Tree Safety provided information to help people feel safe and reduce the risk of damage from storm fallen trees in the community. It created a website that offers Georgia Forestry Commission contact information, technical and professional resources. The Georgia Emergency Management Assoc. offered a facility; Georgia-Pacific Corp. donated paper to print “The Homeowner’s Role in Maintaining the Urban Forest”; Home Depot created & distributed “The Homeowner’s Role in Maintaining the Urban Forest”; Channel 11, WXIA, reported and posted a website link

Cooperative Fire Protection: State Fire Assistance provides funding to support fire fighting resources throughout the state. Volunteer Fire Assistance provides funds to Volunteer Fire Departments through the State Forester’s Office. The Federal Excess Personal Property program assists States in acquiring and placing fire equipment in Rural Communities throughout the State.

Landowner Assistance: Uncertain future of Forest Lands Enhancement Program funding compromises landowner ability to implement multi-resource conservation practices.

Forest Health Protection: Southern pine beetle decreased dramatically in Georgia from 2002. In Northeast Georgia, foresters reported the disturbing news that the hemlock woolly adelgid is now widespread.

Forest Legacy Program: Georgia completed the Assessment of Need in 2002 and is about to complete the first transaction on the Broxton Rocks tract in Coffee county. The State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee is a model of partnership and the site visits taken to each top priority tract ensure nationally competitive tracts with quality resources. The ongoing forest management and restoration work being done on these tracts is exemplary.

Economic Action Programs: FY 2004 National Fire Plan funds have not been authorized and planning for “at risk” communities has been halted.

For more information contact:

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