



Mississippi



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	225,231	710,231
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	50,000	100,000
Forest Land Enhancement	150,000	0
Forest Legacy	50,000	25,000
Forest Stewardship	580,000	580,000
State Fire Assistance	427,445	632,702
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	891,504	705,200
Urban and Community Forestry	300,640	240,279
Volunteer Fire Assistance	96,966	97,468
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	115,817	118,000
Total	2,887,603	3,208,880

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Mississippi, 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 forest sustainability and the production of commodity and amenity values such as wildlife, water quality and environmental services.

- 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; Are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues:

- Mississippi continues to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Katrina, including increased fuel loads across the state. Due to the additional fuels, fires are burning more intensely and control efforts are greatly hampered. The fire situation requires larger and heavier dozers than those normally used by the state and also a greater reliance on aviation assets. Addressing hurricane damage, increasing southern pine beetle prevention activities, and cogongrass control efforts.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	2,844,658	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	344
Acres of Forest Land	19,500,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	18,444
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	13,878,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	317,516
Number of NIPF Landowners	313,000	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	2,015
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	207
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	18,500,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	517
Number of Rural Fire Departments	764	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	3,800
Number of Cities And Towns	329	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	0
Forest Based Employment	120,000	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	41
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	1,720
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	30,200,000		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Southern pine beetle populations declined in 2006 and are now extremely low. However, Ips bark beetle-associated pine mortality increased greatly due to summer drought and the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Southern pine beetle prevention treatments were carried out on about 3,000 acres.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support fire fighting resources throughout Mississippi, including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists Mississippi in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, Mississippi Forestry Commission administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments.

Economic Action

The Mississippi Forestry Commission continues efforts that at promoting forest-based economic development, including bio-fuels production and biomass utilization.

Forest Legacy

The State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee completed the Assessment of Need identifying environmentally important forest lands threatened to conservation to non forest use. We anticipate the first funded project to occur in FY2009.

Landowner Assistance

Increased funding in the Forest Lands Enhancement Program (FLEP) and Stewardship has resulted in a significant increase in the number of acres under management and the number of landowners receiving technical assistance.

Urban and Community Forestry

Through the USDA Forest Service funding that the MFC received, a financial assistance program was developed to help communities assess and recover their "green infrastructure" that was lost through the hurricane. They are focusing on four main areas: urban tree replacement on public spaces; tree risk remediation (conducting assessments to identify hazardous trees and allow their removal); information and education on better tree care, risk assessment, identification, and mitigation measures along with developing storm preparedness; and, conducting tree inventories of the remaining trees and allowing pruning and removals based on the their condition.

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