



# NORTH CAROLINA



## 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	\$200,000	\$350,000	\$2,256,361	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$547,766	\$956,652	\$574,000	\$1,003,800
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$115,836	\$171,948	\$110,200	\$163,000
Forest Stewardship Program	\$721,000	n/a	\$725,000	n/a
Forest Legacy Program	\$1,515,000	\$0	\$1,506,209	n/a
Urban and Community Forestry	\$644,890	\$0	\$690,786	n/a
Economic Action Programs	\$888,700	\$58,300	\$40,000	\$0
Forest Land Enhancement Program	\$801,170	n/a	\$0	n/a
Forest Resource Planning Assistance	\$12,200	n/a	\$0	n/a
Conservation Reserve Program	\$36,215	n/a	\$10,028	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,653,696</b>	<b>\$1,536,900</b>	<b>\$5,983,209</b>	<b>\$1,166,800</b>

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 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:

- 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, conservation easements, and 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	8,049,313	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	430
Acres of Forest Land	18,710,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	55,511
Acres of NonIndustrial Private Forest Land	14,287,340	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	448,892
Number of NIPF Landowners	704,900	Multi-resource practices implemented on NIPF - Acres	108,300
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,900,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted SPF NFP	174 117
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	18,700,000	State Fire – Communities Assisted SPF NFP	27 88
Number of Rural Fire Departments	1,098	Coop Forest Health – Acres Protected SPF NFP	15,557 1,300
Number of Cities and Towns	542	Coop Forest Health – Acres Surveyed SPF NFP	21,700,000 900,000
Forest Based Employment	144,100	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition - Acres	0
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2		
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	n/a	Urban Forestry –Volunteer Assistance Generated-Days	1,637
		EAP-Communitites working under broad-based local strategic plans	11

### Program Highlights:

**Urban and Community:** A U&CF grant funded an American Forest's ecosystem analysis for Mecklenberg County. The analysis provided environmental and economic values of the county's current urban forest for stormwater management, air pollution removal and carbon stored and sequestered. It will assess the effectiveness of the county tree ordinance by inventorying trees on commercial sites and evaluating the impact of those planted on tree cover conditions.

**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 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:** The protracted southern pine beetle outbreak that ravaged the state from 1999 through mid-2002 collapsed in late 2002. Only 120 SPB spots were reported in 2003, mostly in the extreme southwestern tip of the state. In September, Hurricane Isabel swept across 26 eastern counties, producing an estimated \$5.66 million in timber damage on 833,200 acres.

**Forest Legacy Program:** With matching funds obtained from the North Carolina Clean Water Trust Fund, the NC Division of Forest Resources secured a conservation easement on the 841 acre RCM tract, located adjacent to the Cratan National Forest.

**Economic Action Programs:** An effort to reduce flash fuels around subdivisions from pine straw has resulted in a \$4,000,000 pine straw bailing industry in the eastern piedmont area. FY 2004 NFP funds have not been authorized and thus efforts to reduce hazardous fuels around subdivisions have been halted.

### For more information contact:

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