



Rhode Island



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	81,500	67,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	0	0
Forest Land Enhancement	12,971	0
Forest Legacy	630,000	40,000
Forest Stewardship	118,100	91,100
State Fire Assistance	49,960	47,132
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	57,696	56,133
Urban and Community Forestry	202,050	195,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	16,000	16,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	24,318	14,318
Total	1,192,595	526,683

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Rhode Island, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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:

- Forest fragmentation and parcelization
- Forestland taxation: implementing recently developed current use values
- Forest Legacy: a steady funding source to encourage landowners to permanently protect and steward their forestlands
- Share the State Urban Forestry Guide Plan and Comprehensive Forest Resources Management Plan with communities
- Forest Health Surveys: Sudden Oak Death and other exotic pests

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	1,048,319	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	3
Acres of Forest Land	385,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	61
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	290,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	18,349
Number of NIPF Landowners	26,700	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	1,534
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	55
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	433,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	65
Number of Rural Fire Departments	70	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	0
Number of Cities And Towns	27	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	232
Forest Based Employment	4,177	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	29
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	1,115
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,750,000		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Forest tent caterpillar and orange-striped oakworm are two of the major hardwood defoliators; some trees are beginning to die after repeatedly losing their leaves to the voracious pests. Hemlock woolly adelgid remains the most common forest insect reported in forests and ornamental landscapes, one that could cause major damage to the state's hemlocks if not controlled.

Cooperative Fire Protection

With National Fire Plan funds, the Rhode Island Division of Forestry used prescribed fire and mechanical means to treat more than 100 acres of hazardous fuels on state lands, significantly reducing the threat of wildfire to 2 adjacent high risk wildland interface communities. A total of 55 volunteer fire departments across the state received grants to help with equipment and training needs.

Forest Legacy

Rhode Island completed a conservation easement on 68 acres along the shore of Yawgoo Pond in the southern part of the State. Yawgoo Pond's alkaline water can easily be affected

by runoff saturated with fertilizers and pesticides. Forests help filter the runoff.

Urban and Community Forestry

When a natural disaster such as a wind or ice storm strikes, downed trees can damage property and shred power lines, creating a public safety nightmare. The state's Department of Environmental Management and the RI Tree Council hosted a "Storms over the Urban Forest" workshop to help communities prepare for natural disasters, respond appropriately when a disaster occurs, and help the urban forest recover from damage. Topics included administration, planning, and preventive tree care. Over 60 municipal employees, arborists, tree wardens, and volunteer group leaders from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts attended.

Conservation Education

Rhode Island's Division of Forest Environment celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2006. Centennial events included a major kickoff with the State's many partners, followed by events and outreach throughout the year. The centennial reminded the public about the importance of forests and forestry.

Forest Stewardship

With support from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, the Rhode Island Natural History Survey is developing an invasive plant demonstration area to showcase effective techniques for controlling invasive woodland plants. Invasive plants have become a major problem in Rhode Island, affecting biodiversity and forest regeneration.

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