



South Carolina



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	1,548,666	897,666
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	0	30,000
Forest Land Enhancement	125,000	0
Forest Legacy	25,000	5,025,000
Forest Stewardship	585,000	540,000
State Fire Assistance	427,445	632,702
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	953,304	705,200
Urban and Community Forestry	373,700	267,050
Volunteer Fire Assistance	88,776	89,208
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	106,002	108,000
Total	4,232,893	8,294,826

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of South 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; Are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues:

- Urbanization has greatly increased fire danger in interface areas. Forest industry has divested much of its land, resulting in reduced firefighting resources. Increasing SPB prevention activities and invasive species issues such as redbay mortality. An update of the South Carolina AON should be completed in FY2007. Funding for Forest Legacy projects is highly competitive and South Carolina continues to submit quality proposals that emphasize strategic landscape level conservation.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	4,012,012	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	145
Acres of Forest Land	12,745,894	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	34,246
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	9,705,173	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	934,252
Number of NIPF Landowners	363,000	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	500
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	926,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	650
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,731,033	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	142
Number of Rural Fire Departments	900	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	7,000
Number of Cities And Towns	368	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	0
Forest Based Employment	40,566	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	57
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	780
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	24,559,000		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Forest pest populations were generally low in 2006. The Forestry Commission successfully implemented a wide variety of forest health programs: southern pine beetle prevention (10,000 acres treated), invasive plant survey and control programs, and non-native insect and disease surveys (sudden oak death, hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and non-native bark beetles). Mortality of redbay is occurring in the coastal area of the state due to a newly introduced bark beetle and associated fungus. The Commission is conducting surveys and investigating management alternatives. .

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support fire fighting resources throughout South Carolina, including the development of 97 Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists South Carolina in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, SC Forestry Commission administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments. In an effort to promote FIREWISE, SC Forestry Commission has conducted FIREWISE-related workshops for community

leaders and homeowners, attended landscape conferences to promote FIREWISE landscaping, and promoted defensible space within fire prevention team.

Economic Action

In partnership with several Federal and state agencies, such as the University of South Carolina, and private sector interests, the South Carolina Forestry Commission continues efforts at diversifying rural economies and including consideration of forest resource based development opportunities.

Forest Legacy

Partnerships between federal and state agencies leverage multiple funding sources making initiatives such as the Cooper River Corridor possible. Other non profit partners are working with South Carolina these river basin focus areas.

Landowner Assistance

In partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Georgia Forestry Commission, the South Carolina Forestry Commission is delivering a semi-annual newsletter to all landowners participating in the forest stewardship program. Using content provided by the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the newsletter is printed by the NWTF and inserted into their Get In The Game Magazine and mailed to a list of landowners provided by the South Carolina Forestry Commission.

Urban and Community Forestry

Trees are often an afterthought in the planning process. Therefore, it is important that communities make assertive and intentional plans to include them into their green infrastructure. Through the state Grant Assistance Program, the Strom Thurmond Institute developed an informative and resource-oriented CD for municipal and county planners. The CD, Planning for the Community Forest in SC, focuses on and provides a process for the integration of the tree resource into the comprehensive planning process.

Conservation Education

The Forestry Commission continues to focus its Conservation Education effort on forestry education, specifically the benefits of trees and forests to society and the value of the forest industry to South Carolina's economy. A week-long Wood Magic Forest Fair for fourth graders is held in three regions of the state every year. A two week Teachers Tour in June allows SC teachers to earn 3 graduate education credits through classroom, lecture and field trip exposure to forestry practices and the forest industry. The Forestry Commission's Education Coordinator, a former science teacher, organizes PLT workshops for teachers statewide, and is a leader in promoting the program regionally and nationally. In the last seven years South Carolina has had six teachers recognized as National Outstanding PLT Educators of the Year.

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