Washington

State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in Washington's Cooperative Programs:

Programs	FY2003 Final State & Private Forestry	FY2003 Final National Fire Plan	FY2004 Estimate State & Private Forestry	FY2004 Estimate National Fire Plan
Coop Forest Health Management	115,000	360,000	452,000	565,000
State Fire Assistance	656,500	1,881,895	776,500	901,950
Volunteer Fire Assistance	82,500	321,500	83,000	319,500
Forest Stewardship Program[1]	480,000	-	424,000	-
Forest Land Enhancement Program	323,680	-	0	-
Forest Legacy Program	944,000	-	2,495,000	-
Urban and Community Forestry	480,400	-	463,500	-
Economic Action Programs	3,949,114[2]	575,339	0	0
PNW Assistance Program	0	-	0	-
Large Scale Watershed Projects	120,000[3]	-	To be determined	-
TOTAL	**7,151,194**	**3,138,734**	**4,694,000**	**1,786,450**

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Washington, the USDA Forest Service, and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Washington's forestlands, cities and communities, and urban and rural economies. Emphasis is on timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, urban and rural economies, city and community forests, and conservation practices. The goal is to maintain and improve the health of Washington's urban and rural forests and related economies. These programs:

- **Increase cost effectiveness** through the use of partnerships in delivery
- **Are voluntary,** and use non-regulatory approaches
- **Empower landowners** to be stewards of the land
- **Increase an array of economic, social, and ecological values** through sustained productivity of forests

Key issues which the State will address in implementation of the 2004 budget include:

- Improving forest health by reducing susceptibility to forest insects and pathogens through cost-share programs with landowners.
- Continue to work together to monitor for, and eradicate, introduced organisms such as gypsy moth and sudden oak death, and to cooperate in management and suppression of invasive plants on state and private lands.
- Assisting communities to mitigate the wildland fire problem in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- Continued integration of Forest Stewardship, National Fire Plan, and Forest Health Programs with the newly established Forest Land Enhancement Program to provide a coordinated multi-program, multi-resource education, technical assistance, and cost-share program for family forest landowners.
- Impacts of the Endangered Species Act on cities and communities, along with growth management and urban-rural interface challenges. These challenges are multiplied by reduced funding for municipal services.
- How to continue providing technical and financial assistance to rural communities while increasing their community capacity in the face of declining federal and state programs dedicated to helping rural Washington.
- How to develop and expand markets for biomass and small-diameter material removed during hazardous fuels reduction and forest health activities in the absence of funds available through the National Fire Plan's Community Assistance Program.

---

[1] Includes Regeneration, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources
[2] Includes $1,788,181 of FY2002 Economic Assistance funding used for fire transfer and repaid as Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative funding.
[3] Includes funding from Forest Land Enhancement Program, Forest Stewardship Program, and Stewardship Incentive Program.

Forest Facts and 2003 Accomplishments

SELECTED FACTS		FY 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS		
Population	6,068,996	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)		357
Acres of Forest Land	20,892,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)		32,624
Acres of NonIndustrial Private Forest Land	4,347,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)		331,108
Number of NIPF Landowners	91,400	Multi-resource practices implemented on NIPF		1,198 ac.
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	248,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	SPF	16
			NFP	60
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	12,708,557	State Fire – Communities Assisted	SPF	1
			NFP	4
Number of Rural Fire Departments	562	Coop Forest Health – Acres Protected	SPF	469
			NFP	500
Number of Cities and Towns	353	Coop Forest Health – Acres Surveyed	SPF	26,625,000
			NFP	0
Forest Based Employment (# employees)	49,478	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition - Acres		9,495
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5	Urban Forestry – Participating communities		255
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	109,000,000	Urban Forestry – Volunteer Assistance Generated-Days		1,819
		EAP/NFP – Communities working under broad-based local strategic plans		55

Program Highlights:

Urban and Community Forestry: Thirty-one communities and two non-profits received grants from the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service in four categories: local program development, tree planting, education, and tree maintenance. Training was conducted with municipal employees to provide the background and resources needed to make good decisions for city, community, and neighborhood trees.

Cooperative Fire Protection: Assisted five communities to reduce hazardous fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Landowner Assistance: The state continues to aggressively promote the program, recruiting new landowners. A newsletter is sent twice a year to over 20,000 landowners. The Coached Forest Stewardship Planning Shortcourses continue to be a popular and effective means of helping forest landowners develop Forest Stewardship Plans with 400+ graduates annually. The state is actively coordinating National Fire Plan efforts with the Forest Stewardship Program to cost-share Forest Stewardship Plans and Wildfire Hazard Risk Reduction Practices. The Backyard Forest Stewardship/Wildfire Safety Program continues to reach thousands of woodland homeowners in the wildland interface each year. The state has twice been named "Forest Stewardship State of the Year" by the National Woodland Owners Association. The Department of Natural Resources successfully launched the Forest Land Enhancement Program in Fiscal 2003, including the Dungeness River Watershed, a special emphasis project for salmon habitat restoration.

Forest Legacy: The Washington State Forest Legacy Program purchased the Issaquah Creek Headwaters Conservation Easement, which encompasses 1,590 acres of working forest. This acquisition protects more than one mile of critical Chinook salmon and Bull Trout habitat, and is a keystone to create landscape connections between State Trust Lands, King County lands, and the Seattle Watershed. Washington State also used Forest Legacy Program funds to purchase a conservation easement on 7,905 acres of commercial forestland through the Skykomish River Landscape Phase I and II acquisition. Protection of this property will preserve the view corridor along Highway 2, one of the state's most scenic drives, while also protecting critical habitat for endangered Chinook salmon.

Forest Health Protection: The survey and technical assistance program continues to offer insect and disease evaluation and technical assistance to large and small landowners, State land managers, pesticide applicators, teachers and students. Aerial detection surveys of forestlands and more specific forest health monitoring surveys are conducted annually. The western bark beetle initiative has provided cost-share funding for landowners to improve forest health conditions and reduce stand susceptibility to bark beetles in northeastern Washington in 2003. These activities will continue at an increased level in 2004 and will be expanded to include landowners in south central Washington including Yakima and Klickitat counties. Noxious weed management using biological controls continue to be a focus for Colville area counties. Potential introductions of Sudden Oak Death, an exotic pathogen, continue to be a concern as a potential threat and surveys are conducted to monitor for this organism.

Economic Action Programs: These programs, which facilitate and foster sustainable community development by linking rural community assistance and natural resource management, might be seriously reduced or eliminated. This would jeopardize the Forest Service's ability to both help natural resource communities diversify their economies while achieving the goals of the National Fire Plan, Stewardship Contracting, Ecosystem Management, and Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF Natural Resources

Pat McElroy, State Forester
Olympia, Washington
Telephone 360-902-1603
Fax 360-902-1775/1776
Email: pat.mcelroy@wadnr.gov

Charles F. Krebs, Director Cooperative Programs
Portland, Oregon
Telephone 503-808-2340
Fax 503-808-5339
Email: ckrebs@fs.fed.us