



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Wisconsin 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$514,845
Forest Legacy	\$11,000,000
Forest Stewardship	\$465,037
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$276,357
State Fire Assistance	\$957,131
Urban and Community Forestry	\$844,239
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$471,079
Total	\$14,528,688

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

State, private, and other non-Federal forests make up 92 percent of the 176 million acres of forests across the 20 states of the Northeast and Midwest. The U.S. Forest Service and state forestry agencies collaborate with other partners on shared stewardship goals, which also support each State Forest Action Plan. The State, Private, and Tribal Forestry programs promote the health, resilience, and productivity of trees and forests across all ownerships for the benefit of people and wildlife; establish and manage urban and community forests; empower private landowners with information and technical assistance to sustainably manage their forests; and protect critically important rural forests and watersheds.

Program Goals

- Conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses.
- Protect forests from threats.
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

Key Issues

- Forest resources and ecosystems.
- Climate change.
- Forest socioeconomics.
- Forest ownership.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	5,893,718	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	10,121
Acres of Forest Land	16,943,219	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	108,647
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,524,298	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	21,778
Number of NIPF Landowners	154,454	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	247
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	302
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	31,299,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	55,302
Number of Rural Fire Departments	947	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	1,850	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	235
Forest Based Employment	74,548	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	3,712,515
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	4,242
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	29,004,400		

Program Highlights

Community Forestry and Open Space

A diverse, heavily forested 195-acre property in far northern Vilas County near the border with the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was acquired by the Northwoods Alliance, Inc., who used a \$200,000 grant from the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program to create the Headwaters Cedar Community Forest. This forest contributes to a valuable corridor of habitat hosting rare flora and fauna and offers easy public access for most dispersed recreational activities all while continuing to provide watershed protection in the headwaters of the Ontonagon River, a Lake Superior tributary.

Through an incredible partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a community forest was created in Bayfield County using \$320,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding. With the GLRI funds, Bayfield County acquired 2,017 acres of forest inholdings to add to the Bayfield County Forest. The land was acquired through the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program and will be managed as the Sand River Headwaters Community Forest. Keeping the forest in its natural state will maintain habitat for ruffed grouse, turkey, bear, white-tailed deer, gray wolf, woodcock, and other wildlife, as well as fish including brook, rainbow, and brown trout.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance grants allowed Wisconsin to provide wildland firefighting training for 714 firefighters. Hazardous fuels reduction of 29,550 acres was accomplished. A \$300,000 Cross-Boundary hazardous fuels reduction grant was awarded to assist partners within the wildland urban interface. Two Wildfire Risk Reduction grants were awarded for \$419,161 to implement fuels reduction, planning, and fire prevention projects. The Volunteer Fire Assistance program awarded 247 grants to rural fire departments. The towns of Conover and Washington received Community Wildfire Defense Grants totaling \$716,939.

Economic Action

In 2023, six projects in Wisconsin were selected for funding for a total of \$1,791,945. Two of these projects, to research sustainably managed maple to substitute imported eucalyptus pulp and for a mass timber project, were funded through the Wood Innovations grant program for a combined value of \$400,000. Wisconsin is the only state in the USDA Forest Service Eastern Region to receive a Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance grant for a total of \$952,000 with Menominee Tribal Enterprises. Additionally, two Tribal Nations--the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi Community--received Temporary Bridge Crossing grants. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also received a Temporary Bridge Crossing grant.

Forest Health Protection

Emerald ash borer continued to spread in Wisconsin and has now been confirmed in all except three counties. Current actions in heavily affected southern parts of the State include introduction of biocontrol agents, removal of hazard trees, and planting of replacement trees. Spongy moth increased for a fourth consecutive year and defoliated over 374,000 acres, which is a State record. Oak mortality increased with the combination of spongy moth defoliation, drought, and twolined chestnut borer.

Forest Stewardship

The Department of Natural Resource's 5-year initiative, connecting with 20,000 Landowners, has showcased the value of collective effort, partnership, and our niche to the greater forestry community. Rooted in social science, our collective outreach efforts have resulted in over 21,000 landowners taking the first tangible step along the landowner journey toward action. We are now focused on guiding these landowners to take their next step toward sustainable forest management.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In 2023, 11 projects from local governments and nongovernmental organizations in Wisconsin received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding through the USDA Forest Service's competitive grant program. Over \$1 million in new funding will build on past efforts to mitigate tree canopy loss due to emerald ash borer and improve the health and resilience of Wisconsin's coastal and riparian forests. Projects will also manage invasive plants and plant trees to reduce stormwater runoff. Collectively, the projects propose to plant more than 1,800 trees and shrubs, which will contribute to treating or restoring over 1,800 acres. Additional community benefits include planting climate-adapted trees, engaging youth training programs such as WisCorps, and engaging or working in underserved communities.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Grantee: Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D)

Federal investment: \$300,000

Project: Protecting Northeastern Wisconsin Forests from the Cascading Effects of Emerald Ash Borer and Phragmites Invasion

Summary: This project addresses the effects of emerald ash borer, which has destabilized vast expanses of ash-dominated forests in northeast Wisconsin. Following canopy die-off, these forests are highly vulnerable to phragmites invasion, which, if uncontrolled, has devastating consequences to forested ecosystems. They will leverage education, community outreach, and strong community conservation networks to apply targeted invasive management and climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to promote resilient, diverse ecosystems for wildlife and human enjoyment into the future. This project will benefit underserved communities in 10 counties, including disadvantaged communities identified by the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Grantee: Golden Sands RC&D

Federal investment: \$311,502

Project: Conservation Collaboration in Central Wisconsin

Summary: Golden Sands RC&D, in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin County Forest Association, County Land Conservation Departments, the Central and Northeastern Wisconsin Invasives Partnerships, the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership, County Land & Water Conservation Departments, volunteers, and private landowners, will collaboratively restore and enhance priority forest landscapes in central Wisconsin with boots-on-the-ground efforts, volunteer engagement, and public education. The project is focused across 14 counties, including 2 counties with moderate to high Social Vulnerability Index and 10 disadvantaged communities identified by the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assisted 245 communities, reaching over 3.7 million Wisconsinites. The DNR awarded \$145,000 of Federal grant funds to local communities and nonprofits that matched these funds 1 to 1. These monies supplemented the State Urban Forestry Grant Program and funded 6 additional projects for a total of 65 grant awards. Across the various Arbor Day Foundation Recognition Programs, 217 Wisconsin entities participated, including 193 communities achieving Tree City USA status.

Contact Information



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