



Delaware Forest Resource Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2012

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Cooperative Fire Protection
 Cooperative Forestry
 Forest Health Management
 Forest Legacy
Total

FY 2011
Final
 256,987
 327,400
 134,500
 25,000
743,887

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

Key Issues

- Permanent loss of forestland combined with forest fragmentation and parcelization
- Maintaining a sufficient forest base to sustain the forest products industry, wildlife habitat, water protection, etc
- Public awareness/understanding of forests and forest management
- Improving the management of rural and urban forests
- The increasing threat to forest health from exotic and invasive species

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts

Population	897,934
Acres of Forest Land	340,568
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	325,000
Number of NIPF Landowners	55,000
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	557,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	54
Cities and Towns	57
Forest Based Employment	1,852
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	7
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,629,300

Selected FY 2011 Accomplishments

Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	955
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	2,907
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	2,528
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	40
State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	37
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	377
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	63
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	562,085
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	2,748

Program Highlights:

Cooperative Fire Protection

National Fire Plan funds aided in six community hazard mitigation projects and 15 prescribed burns, reducing fuels on 220 acres of state and private lands and lowering wildfire risk to high risk communities. More than 100 fire prevention programs reached nearly 9,000 first graders. Wildland fire-related training reached 233 firefighters, while 16 volunteer fire departments received equipment and training funds.

Forest Health Protection

Again in 2011, Hypoxylon canker caused tree deaths throughout the State. Several hot, dry summers in a row led to more widespread disease, since the pathogen only causes disease when trees are stressed. While many species were affected, oaks suffered the most damage. Service foresters reported Hypoxylon canker as the single most common damaging agent of oaks inspected in 2011. Delaware had another cool, wet spring in 2011, ideal for anthracnose disease, while the summer brought drought for the fifth year out of the last six. Weather extremes are likely to cause more stress-related pest issues in coming years. Emerald ash borer monitoring continued with biosurveillance.

Forest Legacy

Another 377-acre phase of the Green Horizon project was completed. The Delaware Forest Service will continue managing these loblolly pine forestlands for timber production in an effort to support a struggling forest industry on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Landowner Assistance

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) held a series of landowner workshops, followed by a direct-mailed survey to 3,000 forest owners in Kent and Sussex Counties. More than 750 surveys were completed and returned. The information will be used to more effectively address landowner needs and advance strategies to ensure a sustainable forestland base.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Delaware Forest Service (DFS) has a new TREE-riffic program, designed to educate children on the benefits of trees and natural resources. Schools can apply for membership if they have: an Arbor Day celebration, a tree based curriculum, a schoolyard canopy goal, and a maintenance plan for existing trees. Blades Elementary in the town of Blades, which lies in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and is targeted for DFS's urban tree canopy study, is the first TREE-riffic school. DFS, the town, and the school are sponsoring an event where children will plant thirty trees on school grounds.



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