



New Jersey 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
 1,311,030
 886,569
 593,113
 36,160
2,826,872

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

Key Issues

- Wildfire protection in the wildland/urban interface and maintaining defensible space.
- Conveying the message that urban and rural trees are critical to air and water quality.
- Forest fragmentation and forestland conversion to non-forest uses.
- Environmental regulation and restricted use designations that limit sound forestry practices.
- Public awareness about forestry and forestry practices that improve forest health.
- Inadequate funding to address emerging and recurring forest health issues.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts

Population	8,791,894
Acres of Forest Land	1,962,013
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,322,000
Number of NIPF Landowners	122,000
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,250,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	353
Cities and Towns	324
Forest Based Employment	24,283
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	7
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	6,363,938

Selected FY 2011 Accomplishments

Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	293
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	9,762
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	3,386
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	200
State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	170
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	0
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	400
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	7,534,069
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	43,559

Program Highlights:

Cooperative Fire Protection

National Fire Plan funds aided in treating hazardous fuels on 6,000 acres, reducing wildfire threats to 20 high risk communities. 750 firefighters received wildland fire-related training. Thirty-five volunteer departments received equipment and training grants of \$150,000. Fire departments were loaned \$2 million in equipment by the Federal Excess Personal Property Program. 150 wildfire prevention programs were delivered across the state.

Forest Health Protection

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is a continuing threat to pine dominated forests on 440,000 acres in southern New Jersey. SPB has attacked 32,789 acres since 2001, 14,000 acres in 2010 alone. Most of the SPB activity is located in Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland counties. Weekly updates are available at: www.southernpinebeetle.nj.gov. NJ Forest Service grant programs are in place for landowner assistance, community assistance, and wildfire fuels management. Nearly all the state's hemlock, about 25,000 acres, is infested with Hemlock woolly adelgid. Treatments began in 2011 amid ongoing assessment of the resource. 104 trees were treated in several state parks.

Forest Legacy

New Jersey is moving towards a larger proportion of conservation easements as a protection tool. The state is negotiating conservation easements in a currently open project and has promoted conservation easements for future projects.

Landowner Assistance

The State's new Stewardship Bill qualifies owners of at least five acres for reduced property tax assessments if they actively manage their woodlands. It also establishes a cost share incentive program if funds are appropriated. The current Stewardship Committee and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection are working on rules and regulations, policies, guidelines and best management practices, and also on standards and requirements for persons authorized to prepare forest stewardship plans for landowners.

Urban and Community Forestry

With the ongoing support of Federal Urban and Community Forestry funds, more than half of the state's communities either have or are working on a Community Forestry Management Plan. Despite the current economic stress, the program grew by more than 10 percent, while 98 percent of participating communities remained in the program. Growing participation in the program has helped the New Jersey Community Forestry Council market the program to the legislature and to non-participating towns and cities.



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Last Updated: February 2, 2012