



Rhode Island Forest Resource Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2012

Cathy Sparks, Acting State Forester

Phone: 401-647-3367

Fax: 401-647-3590

Web: www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnates/forest/index.htm

E-mail: catherine.sparks@dem.ri.gov

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Cooperative Fire Protection
 Cooperative Forestry
 Forest Health Management
 Forest Legacy
Total

FY 2011
Final
 172,706
 288,100
 103,000
 40,000
603,806

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

Key Issues

- The impact of development pressure and a growing rate of inter-generational transfers of forestland ownership on water quality, wildlife habitat, and availability of local forest products.
- Funding to support the management, protection and expansion of urban tree canopy.
- Funding to support effective public land management, environmental education, and provide sufficient outreach to forest landowners.
- Impacts to sustainable forest management and forest ecosystem health from exotic invasive species.
- Insufficient resources to adequately prepare for or cope with large scale damaging events including weather, wildfires, or invasive species.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts

Population	1,052,567
Acres of Forest Land	351,982
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	303,000
Number of NIPF Landowners	38,000
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	433,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	70
Cities and Towns	8
Forest Based Employment	3,877
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	5
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	1,750,000

Selected FY 2011 Accomplishments

Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	173
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	1,094
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,094
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	20
State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	21
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	117
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	39
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	1,052,567
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	6,842

Program Highlights:

Cooperative Fire Protection

Ten volunteer fire departments received \$30,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance grants for equipment acquisition and training, serving over 20 communities. The Smokey Bear program delivered fire prevention messages at 300 wildfire prevention programs. Prescribed fire was used to treat 50 acres of public and private lands, reducing wildfire threats to communities at risk. 320 firefighters received training in ICS and wildland firefighting skills.

Forest Health Protection

Winter moth and the orange striped oakworm are continuing to cause significant defoliation. Rhode Island is actively surveying for two serious foreign pests, Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer, focusing on the movement of firewood (which can spread pests to new locations), monitoring, and trap trees, with no positive detections.

Forest Legacy

Rhode Island completed a 117-acre Forest Legacy project that has been managed by the same family for more than 200 years. It is adjacent to a 471-acre tract previously protected by the Program.

Landowner Assistance

Rhode Island's Stewardship Program continued working with private sector partners, our local woodland owners association (RIFCO), and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Through a combined effort of the Forest Stewardship Program and partners, a wetlands workshop was held this past fall, wrapping up with a field visit to a private forest stewardship property. The workshop focused on state regulations, BMPs, and understanding the requirement to leave some trees when harvesting in a regulated wetland.

Urban and Community Forestry

The City of Providence completed its ongoing "Urban Tree Canopy Tool Development and Assessment, Goal Setting and Implementation Grant" (UTC grant). The City's "Trees 2020" initiative, which set a goal of planting 40,000 trees in the city by the year 2020, grew out of the UTC grant project. The project's progress, as well as more information about ongoing works, can be found at www.trees2020.org.



Northeastern Area S&PF, USDA Forest Service

Tony Ferguson, Director

E-mail: ferguson@fs.fed.us | Phone: 610-557-4103 | FAX: 610-557-4177 | WEB: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us>

Last Updated: February 6, 2012