



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Louisiana 2024



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forests and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$180,904
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$135,966
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$120,000
State Fire Assistance	\$837,724
Urban and Community Forestry	\$377,272
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$356,575
Total	\$2,008,441

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

The primary responsibilities of the office of Forestry are to: suppress timberland wildfires; promote sound forest management practices; disseminate information and enforce timber-related laws; investigate timber theft. The Office of Forestry also operates and maintains the Alexander State Forest located in central Louisiana.

With adequate protection, followed by appropriate and accepted forest management techniques, Louisiana's forests are available to serve our state, both rural and urban, not only on a sustained basis, but at an increased level productivity. Recognizing the various interests and needs of so many owners, efforts to encourage and promote sound forestry practices on such a vast area requires a balanced, educational process.

Program Goals

- The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry is committed to protecting and sustaining the state's forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principles and education. LDAF, OOF, utilized cooperative programs that are administered and implemented through a partnership between LDAF, the USDA, The Forest Service, LSU AgCenter and many others. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural economies.

Key Issues

- LDAF keys issues are also addressed in the 2020 Forest Action Plan. Lack of Active Management of Private Lands, which includes logging and mill related challenges. Challenges to Forest Health, which includes insects, disease, and invasive species. Challenges Facing Wildland Fire Management, which includes smoke management and urbanization related challenges facing wildland firefighting and prescribed burning.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Population	4,657,757	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	9,169
Acres of Forest Land	14,944,790	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	5,763
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	7,966,019	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,109
Number of NIPF Landowners	51,069	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	130
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	18,931,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	554	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	550
Cities and Towns	304	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	40
Forest Based Employment	19,969	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,699,808
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	4,940
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	14,945,406		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support firefighting resources throughout Louisiana, including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Property Program assists Louisiana in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, the Louisiana Office of Forestry administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments. Louisiana experienced significant wildfire activity in late summer / fall of 2023. Triple-digit heat, excessive drought, and fire weather conditions led to one of Louisiana's worst fire seasons in recent history. Resources from across the nation were called in to assist in wildfire suppression efforts throughout the state.

Economic Action

Louisiana continues to focus on diversifying local economies to include consideration of forest resource-based development opportunities.

Forest Health Protection

Southern pine beetle (SPB) trapping continued this year. SPB infestations were observed aerially, and confirmed on the ground, in East and West Feliciana Parishes during the regular trapping season. Due to numerous hurricanes in Louisiana in 2020 and 2021, additional trapping will be performed this Spring. Trapping to monitor gypsy moth and emerald ash borer (EAB) introductions continues with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF). Several parishes are still under quarantine due to EAB confirmation. Annual defoliation by the bald cypress leaf roller and forest tent caterpillar in the forested wetlands of southeast Louisiana continues to be monitored by aerial survey.

Forest Legacy

An Assessment of Need (AON) was completed in November 2010. Louisiana added two additional project areas to the Legacy program. With the 2012 finalization of a land purchase, 182 acres are now enrolled under Louisiana's Legacy program. LDAF utilized a contract writer for one Legacy proposal. LDAF is currently in the process of an acquisition for one project in the Florida Parishes. The project in the Florida Parishes is in the assessment stage. Another project has been suggested.

Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program assists private landowners with managing their forests and related resources. This assistance helps keep these lands in a productive and healthy condition for present and

future owners and increases the social, economic, and environmental benefits of these lands.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Louisiana is working in partnership with our neighboring states on two LSR projects.

Contact Information



Louisiana Office of Forestry

Wade Dubea
State Forester
5825 Florida Blvd, Suite 6000
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
225-925-4500
wdubea@ldaf.state.la.us

US Forest Service Southern Region

Edward Hunter
*Deputy Regional Forester - State, Private, and
Tribal Forestry*
USDA Forest Service
1720 Peachtree Street, Suite 760S
Atlanta, GA 30309
404-660-7391
edward.hunter@usda.gov
