



Alabama



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	1,230,293	980,293
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	9,000	0
Forest Land Enhancement	190,000	0
Forest Legacy	25,000	1,210,000
Forest Stewardship	700,000	645,000
State Fire Assistance	411,806	609,554
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	918,188	679,400
Urban and Community Forestry	414,750	326,437
Volunteer Fire Assistance	98,640	99,120
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	117,780	120,000
Total	4,115,457	4,669,804

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Alabama, the USDA Forest Service, Auburn University, and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis focuses on forest sustainability and the production of commodity and amenity values and benefits such as wildlife, water quality and environmental services.

- The goal is to maintain and improve the health of urban and rural forests and related economies. These programs: Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery; Increase values through sustained productivity of forests; Are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues:

- Alabama continues to recover from the impacts of the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, including drastically increased fuel loads. Rapid urbanization has greatly increased fire danger in wildland-urban interface areas. Forest industry has divested much of its land, reducing firefighting resources.
- A Quality Assurance Inspection showed that all Forest Legacy appraisals are reviewed to federal standards.
- Increasing southern pine beetle prevention activities and cogon grass control efforts.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	4,447,100	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	399
Acres of Forest Land	22,579,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	57,961
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	17,757,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	996,528
Number of NIPF Landowners	440,000	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	687,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	550
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	22,579,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	75
Number of Rural Fire Departments	992	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	7,400
Number of Cities And Towns	494	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	8,328
Forest Based Employment	70,000	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	81
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	1	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	2,234
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	35,199,211		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Southern pine beetle populations diminished slightly in 2006 and remain at moderately low levels. However, Ips bark beetle-associated pine mortality was up considerably due mostly to summer drought conditions and the effects from the 2004-5 hurricanes. Approximately 10,000 acres of pine forest lands was thinned to lower the risk to southern pine beetle.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance provides funding to support fire fighting resources throughout Alabama, including the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program assists Alabama in acquiring and placing fire equipment in rural communities throughout the state. In addition, Alabama Forestry Commission administers Volunteer Fire Assistance Program funds to support the fire prevention and protection efforts of rural community fire departments.

Economic Action

Forest-based economic development targeted opportunities presented by bio-fuels production

and biomass utilization, with a pilot project funded by the Forest Products Lab.

Forest Legacy

Over 8,000 acres were closed in FY2006 eliminating the project backlog. Two areas are the focus of the program, the Mobile Tensaw Delta and the Cumberland Mountains. A Quality Assurance Inspection showed that all Forest Legacy appraisals are reviewed to federal standards.

Landowner Assistance

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) continued effort on recovering and restoring forests damaged by the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. The AFC used FLRP funds to supply over \$4 million in cost share payments to landowners for restoration of stands impacted by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. AFC partnered with the Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee to administer the cost-share program and provide oversight. Over \$11 million in assistance was requested on nearly 80,000 acres. A total 583 landowners were approved for assistance on 43,206 acres and over \$800,000 reimbursed for completing approved practices. The AFC using FLEP funds provided assistance to NIFP forest landowners for fire lanes & prescribed burning, approved 265 landowners with 69,283 acres for burning; hired a BMP forester to inspect harvesting, site preparation, & reforestation sites for compliance with Alabama's Best Management Practices; updated the Alabama's BMP manual and developed a "Pocket Guide" version; & sponsored Auburn University & the Alabama Forest Foundation to develop a book for landowners on Sustainable Forestry

Urban and Community Forestry

Auburn University successfully refocused its U&CF Financial Assistance Program to satisfy recent congressional requirements. One-hundred percent of Alabama's U&CF competitive funds (\$214,750) were awarded to hire professional staffing, complete urban forest management plans, enact tree ordinances and policies, and establish local tree advisory and advocacy groups. The results of this change will increase the U&CF program's impact to Alabama's urban citizens.

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Last Updated: February 8, 2007