



Rhode Island Forest Resource Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2004

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Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005 President's Budget	Difference between FY 2005 - 2004 + or (-)
Forest Health Management	\$71,450	\$84,000	\$54,219	(\$29,781)
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$144,040	\$172,531	\$82,090	(\$90,441)
Cooperative Forestry	\$411,140	\$509,460	\$286,386	(\$223,074)
Forest Legacy Program	\$535,000	\$364,000	\$534,909	\$170,909
	\$1,161,630	\$1,129,991	\$957,604	(\$172,387)

Key Issues

- Forest fragmentation and parcelization
- Forestland taxation: implementing recently developed current use values
- Forest Legacy -- a steady source to encourage landowners to permanently protect and steward their forestlands
- Community Outreach: sharing information with communities on the newly completed State Urban Forestry Guide Plan
- Support partnerships

Forest Facts and 2003 Accomplishments

Selected Facts

Population (2000 Census)	1,069,725
Acres of Forest Land	385,000
Acres of Non-Industrial Private Forest Land	290,000
Number of NIPF Landowners (Birch 1996)	26,700
Total Acres of Land Under State Fire Protection	433,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	61
Number of Cities and Towns (Population > 1000)	51
Forest Based Employment (1998)	4,582
Forest Based Earnings (1998)	\$167,448,000
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	6
State Forestry Budget	\$1,750,000

Selected Accomplishments

Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	10
Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	957
Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	16,503
Technical Assists to Private Landowners	120
Rural Fire Departments Assisted	80
Communities Assisted - State Fire Assistance	45
Acres Surveyed for Forest Health	702,000
Acres Protected from Insect and Disease Damage	
Cities and Urban Areas Assisted	40
Economic Action Grants to Rural Areas	7
Acres Protected by Legacy (all years)	1,458

Program Highlights

Urban and Community Forestry

Project Freedom Trees is a living tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and to those who now sacrifice for freedom. Through the efforts of hundreds of tree stewards and garden club members, simultaneous noon Arbor Day plantings were made at 71 sites throughout the State.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance helped support training for 200 wildland firefighters, personal protection and suppression equipment, 5 dry hydrants, 20 fire prevention/fire planning projects, and upgrades and maintain for fire weather equipment. Volunteer Fire Departments were loaned more than \$4,500 in Federal Excess Property. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants went to 80 communities.

Forest Stewardship

Model sites that demonstrate the economic potential of alternative forest products give private citizens the knowledge and economic power to meet their land use goals using sustainable forest management and long-term conservation.

Forest Health Management

Outreach to the State's foresters and arborists helps inform the public on forest health concerns. Information campaigns focused on various defoliators such as the orange-striped oakworm, and exotic pests such as the hemlock woolly adelgid, which has killed trees throughout the State.

Economic Action

Rhode Island is a partner in the Southern New England Forest Consortium to promote the importance of the region's forests. Workshops on Costs of Community Services, Fostering Forest Conservation in Southern New England Communities, and See the Forest demonstrated the positive net financial contribution of open space and forests.

Forest Legacy Program

Protected 544 acres on two conservation easements, one bordering a public regional bike path and the other linking protected lands in two States.



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