



West Virginia Forest Resource Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2004

Betty B. Carver Commissioner of Commerce

PHONE: (304) 558-3446

FAX: (304) 558-0143

EMAIL: RDye@gwmail.state.wv.us

C. Randall Dye, State Forester

WEB: www.wvforestry.com/

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005 President's Budget	Difference between FY 2005 - 2004 + or (-)
Forest Health Management	\$541,310	\$719,360	\$406,821	(\$312,539)
Cooperative Fire Protection	\$404,491	\$688,912	\$327,784	(\$361,128)
Cooperative Forestry	\$755,060	\$983,500	\$697,402	(\$286,098)
Forest Legacy Program	\$10,000	\$534,000	\$29,631	(\$504,369)
	\$1,710,861	\$2,925,772	\$1,461,638	(\$1,464,134)

Key Issues

- Reduce acreage of forestland burned due to arson and mine break fires
- Educate the general public and especially NIPF landowners about forestry and conservation issues
- Develop a better understanding of the relationship between forest practices and water quality
- Inability to recruit professional foresters for higher management positions

Forest Facts and 2003 Accomplishments

Selected Facts

Population (2000 Census)	1,801,873
Acres of Forest Land	12,108,000
Acres of Non-Industrial Private Forest Land	9,701,000
Number of NIPF Landowners (Birch 1996)	260,000
Total Acres of Land Under State Fire Protection	12,000,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	427
Number of Cities and Towns (Population > 1000)	172
Forest Based Employment (1998)	11,389
Forest Based Earnings (1998)	\$329,729,000
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3
State Forestry Budget	\$8,007,548

Selected Accomplishments

Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	135
Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	7,388
Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	584,032
Technical Assists to Private Landowners	2,426
Rural Fire Departments Assisted	45
Communities Assisted - State Fire Assistance	689
Acres Surveyed for Forest Health	13,948,265
Acres Protected from Insect and Disease Damage	122,731
Cities and Urban Areas Assisted	53
Economic Action Grants to Rural Areas	51
Acres Protected by Legacy (all years)	0

Program Highlights

Urban and Community Forestry

Volunteers from U.S. Cellular's Seeking Action and Volunteerism for the Environment Program (SAVE), cooperating with the Division of Forestry, Division of Highways, and National Tree Trust, planted 26 trees at a major rest area along I-79 near Bridgeport. The trees will afford much needed shade and aesthetic enhancements to this high-profile site.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance funds provided training for 150 firefighters, 650 fire prevention activities, personal protection, communications, and suppression equipment, Firewise programs, hazardous fuels reduction, and 21 community mitigation / fire planning projects and management plans. Volunteer Fire Departments have \$5.7 million in Federal Excess Property on loan. Volunteer Fire Assistance funds provided training and lightweight Personal Protective Equipment to 45 VFD's.

Forest Stewardship

More than 7,300 new Stewardship Program acres were identified and qualified for cost-share practices with the startup of the new Forest Land Enhancement Program.

Forest Health Management

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture treated more than 4,000 acres to suppress gypsy moths. Populations are down throughout the State. Emerald ash borer and Sudden Oak Death special surveys were conducted and fortunately neither of these potentially devastating pests was discovered.

Economic Action

The Appalachian Hardwood Center measured logging residues in 14 southern West Virginia counties as a possible source of raw material for three engineered wood product facilities. Estimates showed nearly 333,000 tons of logging residues worth \$6.7 million are left in southern West Virginia forests each year, enough to run one facility for about 167 days.

Forest Legacy Program

The state completed the Assessment of Need for the Program, establishing four Forest Legacy Areas.



Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service

Kathryn P. Maloney, Director kmaloney@fs.fed.us

(610) 557-4103

FAX: (610) 557-4177

www.na.fs.fed.us

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