



The Year in Forestry

State and Private Forestry in the Northeast and Midwest

Fiscal Year 2009



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
Newtown Square, PA 19073
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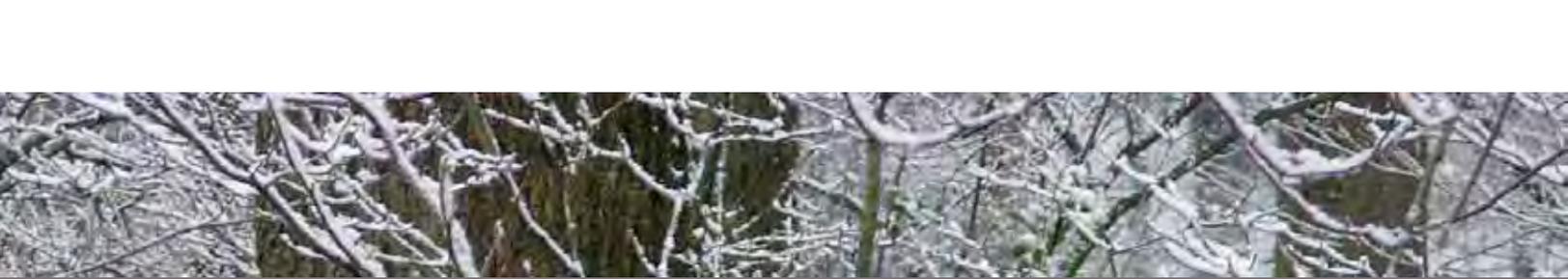


Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
People and the Forest	4
Priority Actions	5
Programs of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry	13
Redesign: A Fresh Approach to Program Delivery	21
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act	23
Program Accomplishments, Fiscal Year 2009	24
Program Investments, Fiscal Years 2007, 2008, 2009	25
Appendix—American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects, Fiscal Year 2009	26



Photo: Terri Lopez



Executive Summary

The 20 Northeast and Midwest States and the District of Columbia are home to 41 percent of the Nation's population and contain 23 percent of the Nation's forests, some 172 million acres. Here, the majority of the forest land—74 percent—is owned by private citizens and corporations.

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NASPF), a unit of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, encourages and supports sustainable management of the region's non-Federal forest land. Programs offer educational, technical, and financial assistance that influence the management of millions of acres in rural forests and communities.

Because millions of landowners, individually and collectively, affect overall forest health and sustainability, a collaborative approach is needed that reaches across landscapes. The NASPF addresses local, State, regional, and national issues in concert with States, national forests, individual landowners, and others.

Several ongoing projects illustrate the benefits of collaboration across ownerships and political jurisdictions:

- To be eligible for Forest Service program funds, States need to complete a statewide assessment of forest resource condition and a long-term statewide forest resource strategy as required by the 2008 Farm Bill. NASPF is providing critical assistance to the States as requested. Multistate collaboration will help ensure that resources are directed to the most pressing issues.
- The Forest Health Protection Program and the Urban and Community Forestry Program are jointly developing a low-cost system for finding and reporting invasive pests in communities. The project links existing State and community tree inventories with a new tool for identifying invasive pests, a new data reporting center, and a fresh focus on citizen monitoring.
- NASPF is developing a *Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change*. Under development with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and the Forest Service's Northern Research Station, the framework will serve as a regional and national model for adapting to climate change and engaging non-Federal landowners.
- The *Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership* focuses on sustainable forestry to support healthy forests, water quality, and migratory bird habitat. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Upper Mississippi Watershed Fund has funded 25 conservation projects totaling more than \$5 million, including nearly \$4 million in matching funds since 2006.
- The Forest Service, States, the Department of the Interior, and The Nature Conservancy are developing a joint Community at Risk Wildfire Assessment. As the first interagency coordinated assessment of fire risk across the 20-state area served by NASPF, it will identify areas prone to wildfire, determine where hazard mitigation would most effectively reduce fire risk, prioritize communities at risk, and focus resources in the areas of greatest need within each State.

Selected Program Accomplishments, Fiscal Year 2009

Program	Results
Forest Legacy Program (acres protected)	133,201
Forest Health Program (acres treated for insects or diseases)	637,299
Cooperative Fire Program (firefighters trained)	17,400
Forest Stewardship Program (acres in new or revised Stewardship Plans)	824,752
Urban and Community Forestry (communities with management plans)	2,534
Chesapeake Bay (miles of buffers restored along rivers and streams)	771
New York City Watershed (acres in Watershed Stewardship Plans)	9,600
Wood Education and Resource Center (projects funded)	20

Summary: Natural Resource Challenges, Activities, and Results, by Program, Fiscal Year 2009

Program investments (dollars, millions)	Challenge or opportunity	Sample activities	Sample results and benefits
Urban and Community Forestry Program			
\$ 8.6 in FY 2009 \$ 10.2 in FY 2008 \$ 10.3 in FY 2007	9 of the 10 most densely populated States are in the Northeast and Midwest ¹ 22.4 million live in communities that are not managing urban trees	74 million people live in communities assisted 778,000 volunteer hours logged 46 new participating communities added	Every Federal \$1 is matched by \$2.80 in State or local money, labor, and supplies Syracuse, NY, trees annually remove 109 tons of air pollutants, sequester 5,420 tons of carbon, and save homeowners \$836,400 in energy costs
Cooperative Fire and National Fire Plan			
\$ 17.1 in FY 2009 \$ 17.9 in FY 2008 \$ 21.1 in FY 2007	62.8 million acres in the wildland-urban interface ² 4,234 communities at high risk of wildfire ³ More than 11,000 wildfires start in a typical year	11,890 firefighters trained 93,158 acres of hazardous fuels treated with prescribed fire \$36 million in excess Federal equipment transferred	Training and equipment improved firefighter response on private lands near 11,400 communities, where more than 90% of wildfires in the Northeast and Midwest start Reduced threat of wildfire to nearly 500 communities in the wildland-urban interface

Program investments (dollars, millions)	Challenge or opportunity	Sample activities	Sample results and benefits
Forest Health Management Program			
\$ 29.3 in FY 2009 \$ 27.9 in FY 2008 \$ 28.0 in FY 2007	234 million forest acres Threats from exotic pests including Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and gypsy moth	234 million acres surveyed for forest pests 420,000 acres treated to slow the spread of gypsy moth Intensive effort to eradicate emerald ash borer in Michigan Don't Move Firewood campaign to discourage spread of damaging insects	Over time, slowed the spread of gypsy moth by 60%, from an average of 13 miles per year to less than 5 miles per year Michigan hemlock woolly adelgid infestation declared eradicated after 3 years of negative surveys New Hampshire survey showed decline in percentage of campers bringing firewood, from 50 percent to 25 percent
Forest Stewardship Program			
\$ 7.6 in FY 2009 \$ 11.4 in FY 2008 \$ 15.1 in FY 2007	Potentially eligible landowners: 5 million ⁴ Potentially eligible acres: 119 million ⁴	9,000 new plans were written covering nearly 825,000 acres 42% of plans were written for lands in priority areas—those most environmentally valuable	At least 90% of stewardship acres are being managed sustainably Priority lands were successfully targeted while serving the landowning public
Forest Legacy Program			
\$ 23.6 in FY 2009 \$ 25.5 in FY 2008 \$ 23.3 in FY 2007	3.8 million forest acres lost to development between 1982 and 1997, with another 12 million acres projected to be lost by 2030	43 tracts protected on 133,200 acres in 9 States 1.3 million acres protected by NASPF; almost 2 million acres protected nationwide since program began	18 tracts of important lands now helping to protect Boston's water 30,400 acres protected in Michigan's Upper Peninsula are especially important to the local wood industry

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder. 2000. <http://factfinder.census.gov/> (Links: Data Sets/Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) 100-Percent Data/ Geographic Comparison Tables/United States—States and Puerto Rico)

² Wildland-urban interface—developed areas in close proximity to wildfire-prone lands

³ National Association of State Foresters. 2009. Communities at risk report, FY 2008. www.stateforesters.org/files/NASF-finalCAR-report-FY08.pdf

⁴ B. J. Butler. 2008. Family forest owners of the United States, 2006. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-27. USDA Forest Service.



People and the Forest

Whether canoeing the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, enjoying a riot of fall color in New England, or stepping onto a tree-studded avenue in a New York City borough, residents and visitors to Northeast and Midwest States are connected to forests. Trees do much more than simply improve the view. Community trees and rural forests help cleanse stormwater on a busy street. They help protect the pristine waters of our most cherished landscapes, not to mention the water we drink and use for bathing. Forests provide jobs and wood products, offer respite from summer heat in heavily populated cities, and support outdoor recreation and the rural communities that benefit economically.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 9 of the Nation's 10 most densely populated States are located in the 20-state region served by Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NASPF), a unit of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. This region, which is comprised of the Northeast and Midwest States and the District of Columbia, is home to 41 percent of the Nation's population. It also contains 23 percent of the Nation's forests, or roughly 172 million acres. The majority of its forest land—74 percent—is privately owned. Cohesive land stewardship across ownership boundaries is necessary to effectively address forest health threats, such as climate change, fire, pests, and changing land use.

The NASPF works in partnership with States and other entities to ensure that landowners and communities have the tools they need to sustainably manage their forest resources—access to sound information about sustainable management; local policies that encourage forest stewardship, community health, clean and abundant water, and retention of open space; and affordable taxes. NASPF headquarters are located in Newtown Square, PA, with field offices in Durham, NH; Morgantown, WV; and St. Paul, MN. Additional staff is strategically located across the region.

This annual report highlights the efforts of NASPF to help sustain the forest resources within the region it serves, in Fiscal Year 2009.



Partners discuss a restoration project for the White River, VT. (Photo: USDA Forest Service staff)

Roughly 600,000 jobs in the Northeast and Midwest are forest related. The growth potential is immense; in addition to traditional forest products, now renewable energy, recycling, and high-tech wood applications offer exciting new opportunities.



Priority Actions

“However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.”

— Winston Churchill

A key question for the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NASPF) is “Which programs and activities will produce the most positive outcomes in a given situation?” The most critical need in one place might be to protect important forests threatened by development; in another, it might be restoring streamside buffers to improve water quality.

NASPF has a multifaceted strategic plan that establishes overall goals and objectives. An accompanying business plan sets priority actions for achieving them.

This section addresses NASPF’s priority actions, organized by its strategic goals and objectives.

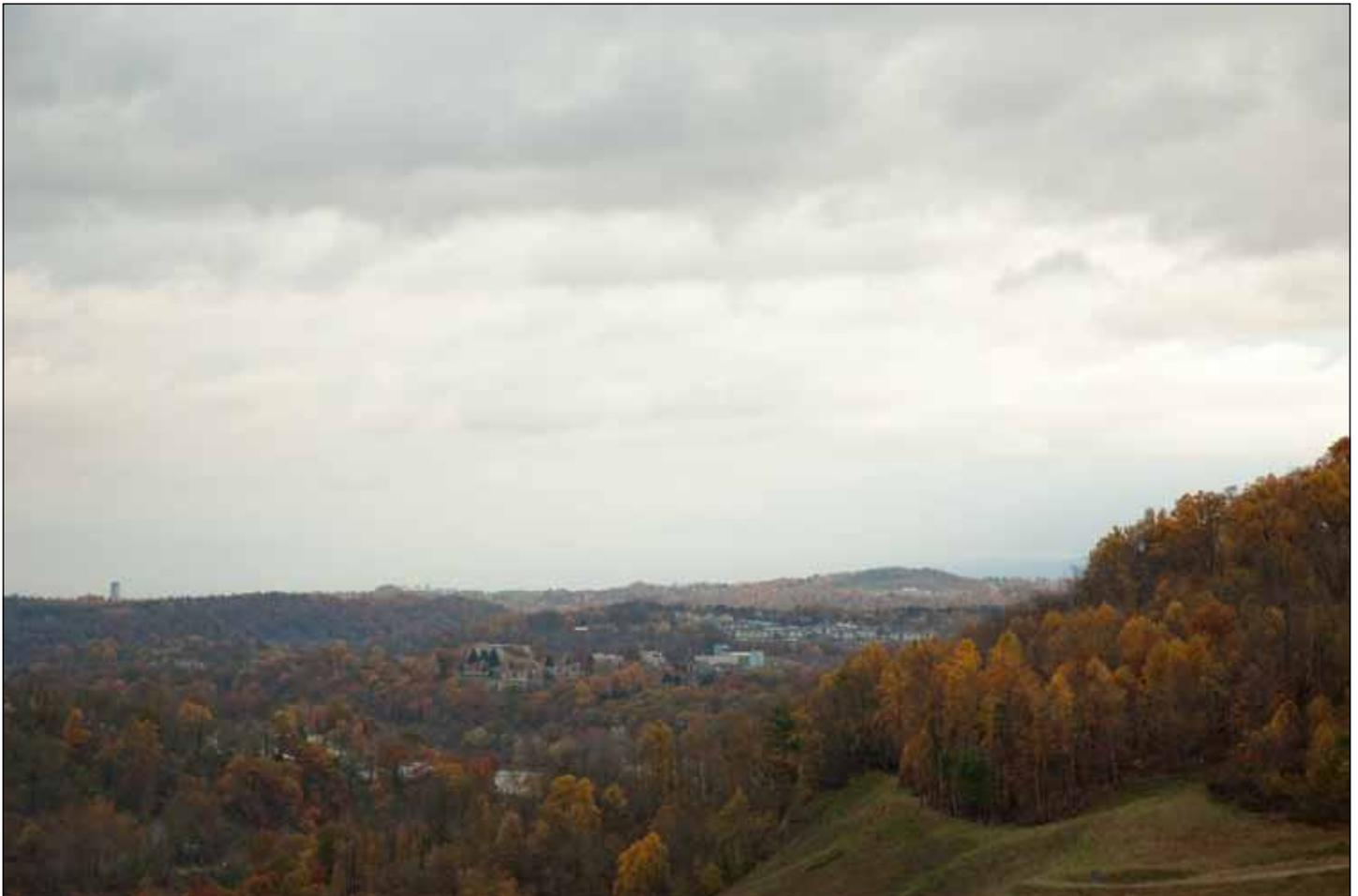
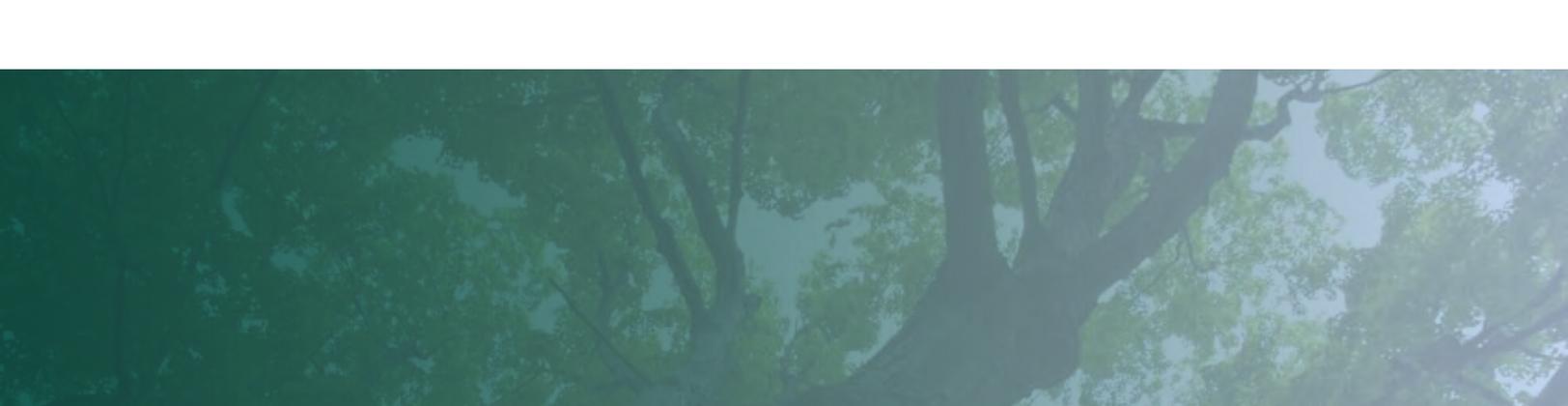


Photo: Juliette Watts



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Strategic Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1 – PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Objectives:

- A** Conserve the biological diversity of important forest land at risk of conversion and fragmentation
- B** Sustain the productive capacity of privately owned forest land
- C** Maintain the health and vitality of forest ecosystems at risk from potentially damaging agents
- D** Protect and enhance the health of watersheds

GOAL 2 – ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF FORESTS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFITS

Objectives:

- A** Promote and encourage the viability of forest-based industries in the region served by Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
- B** Help the Northeast and Midwest to meet their needs for renewable energy, to reduce greenhouse gases through the sustainable utilization of woody biomass, and to conserve energy
- C** Help communities at risk from wildland fire protect lives, property, and natural resources
- D** Maintain and enhance the benefits communities within metropolitan areas derive from their forests and trees

GOAL 1 – PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Objective A: *Conserve the biological diversity of important forest land at risk of conversion and fragmentation*

Strategic Business Plan Priority: “Establish guidance and provide support to States during development of their statewide forest resource assessments and strategies, and in coordination with their competitive resource allocation process of State and Private Forestry Redesign.”

The project has several components:

- State Foresters will identify forest-related threats, benefits, opportunities, and priority landscape areas (where protection and management activities are most critical), followed by a State Strategy to address them.
- State Foresters will consider and respond to U.S. Forest Service national priorities.
- State Foresters will coordinate with the State Forest Stewardship committee, State wildlife agency, State technical committee, applicable Federal land management agencies, and other key stakeholders.
- NASPF reviews the State Assessments and Strategies, and forwards them to the U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry for final approval on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Cooperative Forest Assistance Act (CFAA), requiring States to complete a “Statewide assessment of forest resource condition” and a “long-term statewide forest resource strategy.” To be eligible for CFAA funding, States were required to complete these products by June 2010, and then to update them every 5 years.

NASPF is assisting States as requested; examples include working with State planners and others to develop regional guidance, providing one-on-one assistance, compiling and sharing GIS data and methodology, and helping States to identify multistate priorities. National Forests and the Northern Research Station are also providing support as Federal land managers and key stakeholders when the States request it.

Three States within NASPF were selected for special mention in a National Association of State Foresters and U.S. Forest Service Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report:

- New Hampshire for seamlessly integrating its Assessment and Strategy with longstanding statewide forest resources planning initiatives.
- Missouri for extensively involving the public and natural resources organizations when developing its Assessment and Strategy.
- West Virginia for using a regional context to identify and analyze State issues and opportunities.

“We must dramatically accelerate the scale and pace of forest stewardship...on both public and private lands.”

—Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 2009

Objective B: *Sustain the productive capacity of privately owned forest land*

Strategic Business Plan Priority: “Develop and implement the Stewardship Project to reform stewardship delivery in coordination with partners and cooperators.”

The Forest Stewardship Program has traditionally been one of NASPF’s principal tools for promoting sustainable forest management. Over the past 10 years, the program has influenced the management of about 7.5 million acres, or about 8 percent, of all the privately owned forest land in the Northeast and Midwest.

While improving the management of these lands has benefited forests, landowners, and surrounding communities, a dramatically different approach to Forest Stewardship is needed to obtain meaningful results in time to address the threats facing privately owned forests.

The Forest Stewardship Project, launched jointly by the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) and NASPF in 2008, is developing strategies and tools to dramatically expand the reach and effectiveness of the program over a 10-year period.

The objectives of the Forest Stewardship Project include these:

- Landscape-scale stewardship by all landowners and communities.
- Effective, seamless government support to landowners from the U.S. Forest Service and other Federal agencies, States, and others.
- Public-private partnerships to improve the financial viability of forest management.
- Greater public understanding and appreciation of the benefits of sustainably managed, privately owned forest land.

A Project Steering Committee has been established representing national, NASPF, and State interests. A collaborative course of action has been developed.

State Assessments and priority landscapes described under Objective A will provide important information for developing landscape-level stewardship projects. Full implementation of the reformed program is expected to take about 2 years.

Objective C: *Maintain the health and vitality of forest ecosystems at risk from potentially damaging agents*

Strategic Business Plan Priority: “Implement a comprehensive integrated program strategy to guide investments and actions that help reduce the adverse effects from emerald ash borer.”

The emerald ash borer (EAB), an Asian insect, is the most destructive pest to be introduced into North America since chestnut blight. It has already killed tens of millions of trees across the United States and Canada. None of North America’s 16 ash species, which are common in forests, riparian areas, and urban settings, is known to be resistant to EAB.

EAB was found in the Detroit area in July 2002 and shortly thereafter in Windsor, Ontario. People have unintentionally shipped infested nursery stock, logs, and firewood, spreading the insect to other locations. EAB has been confirmed in 13 States and 2 Canadian Provinces. Detection surveys continue, and it is likely that the insect will be found in more locations. Removing infested and dead trees, and planting replacements could cost local governments and homeowners \$10.7 billion over the next 20 years, according to a recently completed economic analysis.

The Forest Service is playing a major role by supporting the efforts of the lead Federal and State plant pest regulatory agencies, developing tools and technology needed to detect and control the insect, and helping communities and landowners deal with the loss of their ash trees.

Slowing Ash Mortality (SLAM) is a multiagency pilot project to develop and evaluate an integrated management strategy to reduce EAB populations and slow their spread. The Forest Service secured American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to expand the pilot project to two sites in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Other emerald ash borer –related activities include these:

- Drafted a comprehensive strategy.
- Continued critical evaluations of rate of spread and dispersal, chemical and biological controls, survival in wood chips and firewood, and survey techniques.
- Developed and published insecticide treatment guidelines.
- Established an ash gene conservation plan and developed seed collection protocols that mesh with those of the Agricultural Research Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Developed and distributed information and outreach products.
- Supported the Web site (www.emeraldashborer.info) with Michigan State University.
- Continued collaborating with State partners to evaluate and field test the solitary wasp as a biosurveillance tool.
- Provided financial assistance to restore and replant communities and other areas affected by the emerald ash borer.

Strategic Business Plan Priority: “Establish and implement a sustainable Urban Forest Health Monitoring effort that links urban forest inventory and pest detection and provides the ability to characterize urban forest resources and urban forest health issues at multiple scales.”

Pest detection programs have traditionally focused on rural forests. With the increase in global travel and trade, accidental imports of dangerous pests are on the rise. Infestations typically spread from shipping ports, which are usually in urban areas. Early detection and rapid response are critical to containing these potentially devastating pests.

The Forest Health Protection Program and the Urban and Community Forestry Program are jointly developing a low-cost system for finding and reporting invasive pests in communities. The project—the Urban Pest Detection and Tree Inventory Initiative—links existing State and community tree inventories with a new tool for identifying invasive pests, a new data reporting center, and a fresh focus on citizen monitoring.

A new electronic pest detection module (IPEd) will allow local tree inventory workers to more quickly identify and report pests. The program will also compile community data for broad-scale analysis, making it available to the National Plant Diagnostic Network and others. Specialists are also identifying and replicating effective citizen pest monitoring projects that are critical to multi-agency efforts to inform and engage residents in finding and reporting invasive pests.

Objective D: *Protect and enhance the health of watersheds*

Strategic Business Plan Priority: “Develop a comprehensive watershed strategy for the Northeastern Area that is partnership based, identifies priority watersheds, and provides integrated State and Private Forestry program solutions to critical conservation issues within these watersheds.”

More than 52 million people across the Northeast and Midwest consume water from forested watersheds. About 76 percent of the region’s watersheds are on private lands. Of the region’s waters, 75 percent fall short of at least some water quality or fisheries goals. Water providers, landowners, and the public are often unaware of the connection between healthy forests and water quality in both rural and urban settings.

NASPF's Watershed Forestry Program, in cooperation with States and the U.S. Forest Service's National Forest System and Northern Research Station, completed a comprehensive strategy in Fiscal Year 2009, with the following goals:

1. Conserve and restore forests in critical watersheds.
2. Facilitate watershed-based partnerships.
3. Protect and enhance urban and community watersheds.
4. Coordinate with Research to provide technology transfer of the latest research findings in watershed forestry.
5. Provide direction, tools, and programs necessary for restoring forests in impaired watersheds.

Key actions include these:

- Promote the maintenance and restoration of forest cover in high-priority watersheds and on landscapes that have high stewardship potential through the Forest Service's Stewardship and Forest Legacy Programs, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP).
- Continue and expand existing efforts with the Trust for Public Land, Center for Watershed Protection, and Source Water Collaborative, to identify and protect source water in municipal watersheds.
- Expand ecosystem services bank programs outside the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes to create markets for ecosystem services to help keep forests as forests and protect watershed health.

GOAL 2 – ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF FORESTS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFITS

Objective B: *Help the Northeast and Midwest to meet their needs for renewable energy, to reduce greenhouse gases through the sustainable utilization of woody biomass, and to conserve energy*

Strategic Business Plan Priority: "Advance NASPF's role in responding to climate change through urban forestry, ecosystem services and markets, coalition building, and distribution of educational materials."

Trees and forests store, or "sequester," carbon in the soil and in their biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and roots) through the process of photosynthesis. A forest accumulates carbon as it grows. Conversely, forests lose carbon either through natural processes when they are disturbed or when they are converted to nonforest use.

Besides sequestering carbon, forests provide *ecosystem services*—natural benefits that include clean water and air, timber, and recreation—that are vital to human health and economies. Yet, the future health of forests—and whether they can continue to deliver critical ecosystem services—is in jeopardy due to multiple stressors, many related to or magnified by climate change. Markets or payments for some ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, could make private forest land ownership and sustainable management more financially viable, helping to ensure that the land remains forested, well-managed, and able to provide natural benefits.

NASPF is developing a *Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change* to address these new challenges to forest ecosystem management. Activities include these:

- Hosted a *Climate Change Continuing Education* series of Webinars (archived at www.na.fs.fed.us/ecosystems/services/carbon/index.shtm) that explored forest management and adaptation in the face of climate change, and demonstrated practical modeling tools and carbon economic valuation tools.
- Collaborating with other Forest Service units—the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and the Northern Research Station—to create a climate change response framework that will serve as a regional and national model for adapting to climate change. The framework presents a new way to

engage private and non-Federal landowners across all lands.

- Hosting climate change workshops with the Department of the Interior to provide forest managers with the latest science and practical management tools for modeling, mitigating, and adapting to climate change across land ownerships and political jurisdictions.
- Working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin County Forest Association, and several Wisconsin county forests on a carbon market scientific inventory and feasibility analysis to determine the potential for forest carbon payments to replace or substitute for timber revenues under a variety of scenarios.
- Distributing an ecosystem services newsletter to provide the latest science, policy, and ecosystem market-related developments to stakeholders and partners. The NASPF Web site also provides tools and information for managing forests in a changing climate (www.na.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/carbon/update_archive.shtm).

Objective C: *Help communities at risk from wildland fire protect lives, property, and natural resources*

Strategic Business Plan Priority: “Integrate Community Wildfire Protection Plans with Forest Stewardship Plan development, urban forest planning, and Urban Forest Health Monitoring.” Development of a Northeast Wildfire Risk Assessment, which is a geospatial assessment of fire risk, is an important part of this strategic priority.

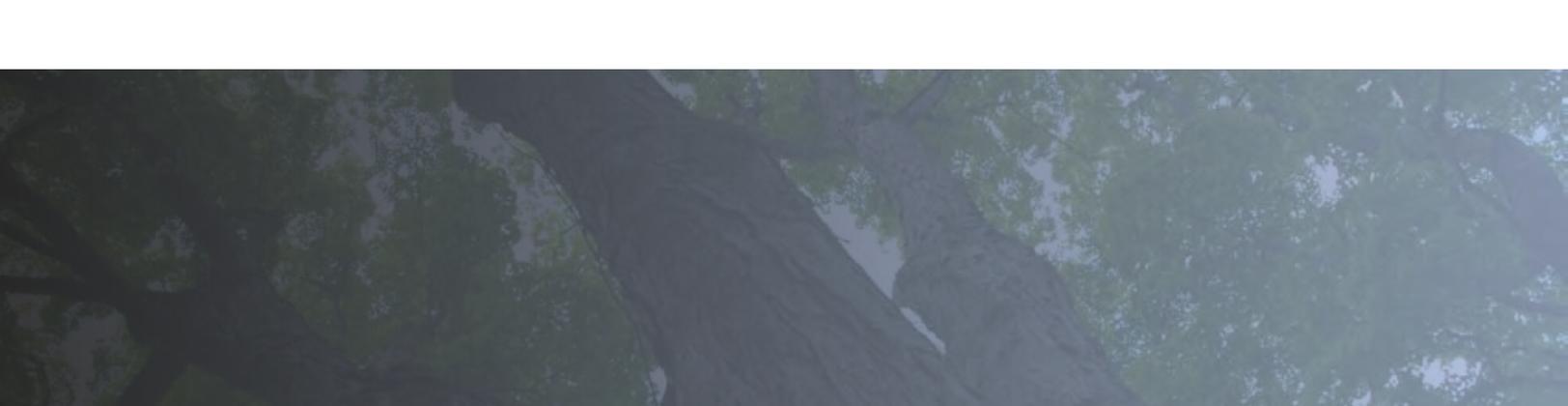
Projected increases in population, land-use change, climate change, and declining State budgets will require more complex fire suppression strategies. Fire management programs must continue to operate strategically and efficiently to meet these new realities. Part of the answer is to develop a baseline geospatial assessment to more easily identify areas at high risk of wildfire.

In the Northeast and Midwest, 174 community wildfire protection plans completed in Fiscal Year 2009 identify ways to reduce wildfire risks for 465 communities. An additional 172 risk assessments or equivalent plans were completed in 2009. As an outgrowth of State Resource Assessments, these plans are being integrated into other State and Private Forestry Program planning and implementation efforts. The objectives of the Northeast Wildfire Risk Assessment are to ...

- Identify areas in the Northeast and Midwest that are prone to wildfire.
- Determine where hazard mitigation would most effectively reduce fire risk within each State.
- Locate and prioritize communities at risk of damage or destruction from wildfire. A community is considered at risk from wildland fire if it lies within the wildland-urban interface as defined in the Federal Register.
- Focus resources in the areas of greatest need within each State.

A steering committee representing States within areas served by a Forest Fire Protection Compact, the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and The Nature Conservancy collaborated to develop the project. The group agreed on objectives, scope, and assessment methods, and completed a needs assessment for the state-level map of communities at risk. The committee decided on a two-tiered assessment: one to describe fire risk for all 20 States and one to describe state-level risk. The assessment for the combined 20 States served by NASPF has been completed.

This is the first interagency coordinated agreement on an assessment of fire risk across the Northeast and Midwest. The project used state-of-the-art technology to develop the assessment. It is a critical part of the State Resource Assessments, providing a strategic tool for managing forests across land ownership boundaries.



Lead Cooperative Programs for Addressing the Strategic Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 – Promote sustainable forest management

Forest Legacy Program:

Objective A: Conserve the biological diversity of important forest land at risk of conversion and fragmentation

Landowner Assistance Programs:

Objective B: Maintain the productive capacity of private forestland

Forest Health Protection:

Objective C: Maintain the health and vitality of forest ecosystems at risk from potentially damaging agents

Watershed Forestry:

Objective D: Protect and enhance the health of watersheds

Goal 2 – Enhance the capacity of forests to provide public benefits

Wood Education and Resource Center:

Objective A: Promote and encourage the viability of forest-based industries in the region served by Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Objective B: Help the Northeast and Midwest to meet their needs for renewable energy, to reduce greenhouse gases through the sustainable utilization of woody biomass, and to conserve energy

Fire and Aviation Program:

Objective C: Help communities at risk from wildland fire protect lives, property, and natural resources

Urban and Community Forestry:

Objective D: Maintain and enhance the benefits communities within metropolitan areas derive from their forests and trees

Programs of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

***Goals and objectives are road maps, guiding us toward achieving our mission.
Programs provide the fuel needed to reach our destination.***

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NASPF) and its State partners provide technical assistance and financial support using voluntary programs that include urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, forest health, forest legacy, watershed restoration, conservation education, wildfire prevention and protection, bioenergy, and wood products. In Fiscal Year 2009, these programs positively influenced the management of millions of acres, both rural and urban.

This section describes the programs and provides a sampling of their accomplishments. The facing page shows the lead programs for addressing the specific strategic goals and objectives.

Our Mission

Lead and help to support sustainable forest management and use across the landscape to provide benefits for the people of the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States and the District of Columbia.

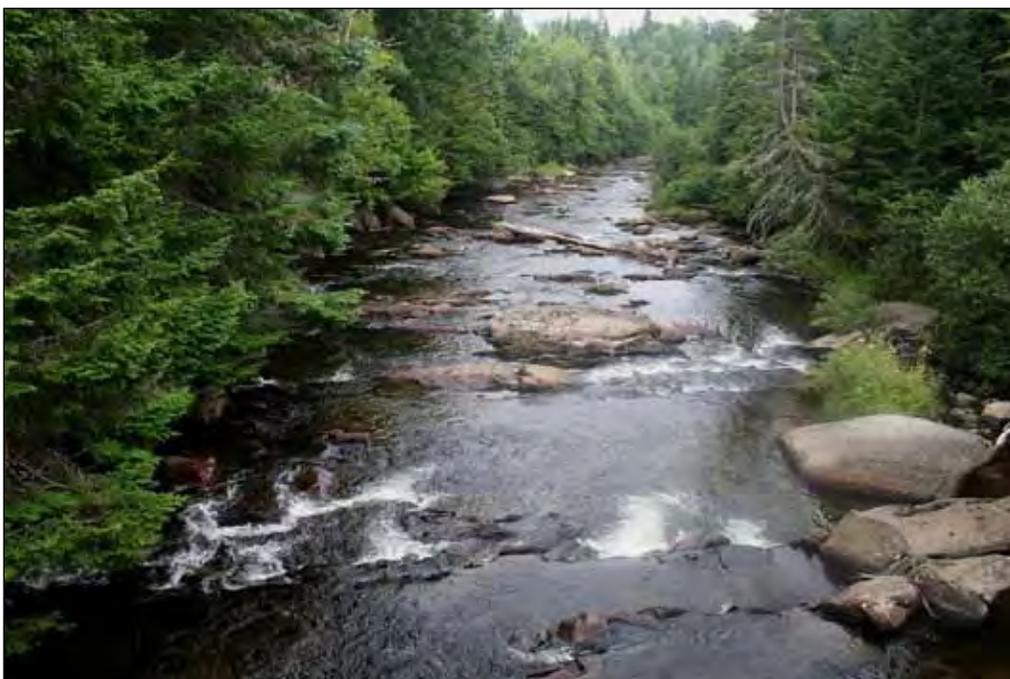


Photo: Glenn Rosenholm

Urban and Community Forestry Program

Besides its people, a community's most valuable asset may well be its natural resources.

Every year, natural disasters strike dozens of communities. Falling limbs and downed trees interrupt power and clog roadways, posing major safety hazards. Most communities cannot quickly assess and manage tree damage.

NASPF has introduced the Urban Forest Strike Team concept, developed by the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Research Station, as part of a pilot project with the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association. Foresters, arborists, Federal Emergency Management Agency officials, and State Emergency Management staff from 10 States attended training, learning to evaluate trees for pruning or removal. The use of strike teams will allow users to improve public safety, deploy tree crews effectively, estimate the dollar value of losses, and reduce the number of trees removed unnecessarily in the early phases of disaster response.

Much as in rural areas, urban ecosystems filter rainwater, produce oxygen, and shelter wildlife. How *well* they perform these and other functions is influenced by the intensity of land use, and by how skillfully a community plans for and manages its natural resources.

An investment in community trees goes well beyond esthetics, producing direct benefits to the economy. Increasingly, trees are a vital design feature in stormwater management plans and an important buffer between waterways and the inevitable pollution that builds up on roadways and parking lots. Trees cost much less than treatment systems, and look better too!

Research studies show what many people know instinctively: people need "green." Views of trees and green spaces are important stress relievers. Community greening projects have been shown to reduce crime, increase business, and raise property values. Community greening volunteers often feel a sense of togetherness and community pride.

NASPF's Urban and Community Forestry Program has several goals:

- Support States, communities, and partners in improving tree and forest management in community settings.
- Facilitate setting of urban tree canopy goals and monitor implementation.
- Promote effective integration of green space with built infrastructure.
- Protect and enhance water quality through broad landscape-scale initiatives that include urban areas.
- Enhance human connections with the land through management, education, and environmental justice activities.

- Implement monitoring and management practices that contribute to urban forest health.

Technical and financial assistance help support urban forest inventories, assessments, planning and policy development, education, public awareness, volunteer projects, and tree planting and maintenance.

More than 74 million people live in communities that received Urban and Community Forestry Program assistance in Fiscal Year 2009. Program investment totaled an average of just \$0.07 per capita in communities that received assistance.



Photo: Juliette Watts

Forest Legacy Program

Investments made now to keep critical forests intact and sustainably managed will pay environmental, economic, and social dividends well into the future.

The Forest Legacy Program permanently protects important forests threatened by development. It offers assistance and funds to participating States, local governments, nonprofit groups, and willing landowners. Most lands are protected with conservation easements: landowners sell their development rights, but continue to own, use, and pay taxes on their land. A management plan is required.

In Fiscal Year 2009, conservation easements or fee acquisitions were completed on 26 tracts in nine States at a Federal cost of just under \$13 million, well below the required 75 percent maximum for the Federal share of total project costs, which were about \$30 million. Almost 2 million acres have been protected nationwide since the program began, and over 1.3 million acres have been protected in the Northeast and Midwest.

Protecting a Long-Term Legacy

As the number of forested acres protected by the Forest Legacy Program nears the 2-million-acre mark nationwide, attention has turned to making sure that the properties are permanently maintained under the terms of the agreements. Since most of the protected forest land stays in private ownership, conserved lands will change hands over time.

The U.S. Forest Service will support annual monitoring by State forestry professionals. In addition to ensuring that the property remains in compliance, foresters will also provide forestry advice to landowners.

Cooperative Fire Protection Program

Minimizing damage from wildfires begins long before the first spark ignites.

An effective wildfire strategy does the following:

- Includes a plan for managing the forest sustainably, including reducing excess vegetation.
- Stresses prevention by educating landowners and communities about ways to create a protective buffer around structures.
- Encourages people living in high-risk areas to plan ahead for water sources and access for firefighting equipment.

NASPF's Fire Protection Program is designed to ...

- Boost wildland firefighting capacity.
- Reduce hazardous fuels, especially in high-risk communities and other areas.
- Assist rural fire departments with acquiring fire and safety equipment.
- Train firefighters.
- Organize new rural fire departments in under-protected communities.
- Support multistate/Canadian province Forest Fire Compacts, which pledge mutual aid during a catastrophic wildfire.

Program components include State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Federal Excess Personal Property, Firefighter Equipment, Aviation Management, and the National Fire Plan.

In 2009, 174 Community Wildfire Protection Plans and 172 risk assessments were completed to protect a total of 551 at-risk communities.



National Fire Plan hazard mitigation funds were used to support a 3-day event during which brush fuels were cleared from around 121 homes and along 5 miles of right-of-way. (Photo: USDA Forest Service staff)

Reducing the Risk of Devastating Wildfires

Protecting people, communities, and natural resources from wildfires begins with prevention. With funding from the State Fire Assistance Program and the National Fire Plan, States conducted hazardous fuels reduction projects while restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

Prescribed fires were used to treat more than 93,000 acres of hazardous fuels near at-risk communities. Fire was not a viable option on another 2,050 acres, so hazardous fuels were reduced mechanically.

Forest Health Program

Safeguarding the health of forests and trees is the most basic step toward realizing their economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Forests can be buffeted by pests, extreme weather, wildfires, and pollution. Some are natural events, while others are caused or worsened by human activities. While stressors cannot always be prevented, swift action can limit their impact.

Regular monitoring is critical to protecting forest health, but it is not practical to examine each of the millions of acres that stretch across the region. The key lies in scientifically based surveys and judicious action when necessary, accomplished through coordinated action at the Federal, State, and local level.

The Forest Health Program provides expert assistance for forest health monitoring and assessments. Some cost-share funds are available if treatment is needed. The staff serves national forests and other Federal lands, Tribal governments, and States. Private lands are served via partnerships with State and local governments.

Federal and State staff survey 234 million acres for forest health problems every year, which includes specialized tactics for several exotic insects that kill trees: hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, and gypsy moth. Slow-the-spread activities have reduced the rate of gypsy moth spread by 60 percent.



Framed by a skyline of Manhattan and tethered by a climbing rope, smokejumper Josh Mathiason straddles the limbs of a tree in Central Park, as he looks for signs of Asian longhorned beetle. (Photo: Judy Antipin)

The Battle for New England's Forests

In 2008, the largest known U.S. infestation of the Asian longhorned beetle, a tree-killing insect, was discovered near Worcester, MA. If it is not contained, the infestation will probably spread across New England with serious environmental and economic consequences. Nearly 17,000 infested trees had been removed and chipped at the end of FY 2009.

The U.S. Forest Service has been a key leader in the initial surveys and developing a restoration plan. With the help of an NASPF grant, Massachusetts is replanting trees. NASPF also secured \$4.25 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to hire skilled tree climbers from smokejumper bases in the Western United States. Using tree climbers is critical for early detection of this devastating insect and to reduce its impact. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a key cooperater, has been working with NASPF and the State on public outreach.

Watershed Forestry

Clean water, provided so readily by nature, is a necessity. Once lost, the cost to recover it is immense.

Forests and trees are nature's most efficient and cost-effective producers of clean water, capturing and filtering precipitation on its journey from sky to sea. But human activities such as poor forestry and agricultural practices in the past, uncontrolled development, and excessive pavement interfere with this process. The frequent result—erosion, sedimentation, pollution, and flooding—can mean billions in treatment and mitigation costs for consumers.

The multidisciplinary Watershed Forestry Program spans political boundaries to reach landowners and communities who collectively impact watershed health. The program is involved in several major initiatives:

The ***Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership*** recently updated its Action Plan, focusing on sustainable forestry to support healthy forests, water quality, and migratory bird habitat. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Upper Mississippi Watershed Fund has funded 25 conservation projects totaling more than \$5 million, including nearly \$4 million in matching funds since 2006.

The ***Chesapeake Bay Program***, including the Potomac and Susquehanna Rivers, is a pact among Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia to restore the Bay and its watershed. In 2009, partners restored almost 775 miles of riparian forest buffers (land along waterways), the highest annual total in 6 years. The Program has restored over 6,900 miles of riparian forest buffers since 1996, more than 2½ times the distance of a round trip between Washington, DC, and Los Angeles.

The ***Potomac Watershed Partnership***, now in its 10th year, is a premier community based watershed partnership started by the U.S. Forest Service. Its *Growing Native* program engages thousands of volunteers in forestry related projects, including the collection of several tons of native seeds.



The amount of forest in a watershed, especially forest bordering streams and shorelines, is often the most critical factor in water quality and aquatic ecosystem health. (Photo: Juliette Watts)

The *New York City Watershed Program* makes a difference: in Fiscal Year 2009, more than 180 loggers and foresters attended workshops about safety, forest management, forest ecology, and water quality. More than 2,000 loggers and foresters have attended training since the program began.

The *Best Management Practices Implementation Program* has worked with loggers, landowners, and foresters to stabilize more than 40 miles of forest access trails, reducing the amount of sediment that reaches bodies of water.

Not Just a Pretty Place...

The 2,000 square miles of predominately forested watersheds in Upstate New York, studded by 19 reservoirs and 3 controlled lakes, supply more than a billion gallons of naturally filtered water per day to New York City's 9 million consumers.



Besides supplying clean water, forested watersheds also provide other benefits including wildlife habitat, recreation, scenic beauty, and products for a strong forest-based economy. (Photo: Gail Michaels)

Wood Education and Resource Center

An ancient source of energy and building material, wood is still a practical, earth-friendly energy option for the 21st century.

The Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, WV, facilitates interaction with and provides information to forest industries in 35 hardwood-producing States to foster efficiency, sustainable operations, and adoption of new technology. The Center houses a production facility, currently leased by Accurate Millworks, Inc., which employs 20 workers. Besides jobs, the company generates economic activity and offers American-made products.

WERC funded 20 competitive projects totaling \$1.4 million in 2009. Project topics ranged from increasing economic competitiveness to using urban wood, woody biomass, and emerald ash borer-killed trees.

In cooperation with industry partners, WERC held 6 workshops for the local wood industry and sponsored more than 25 workshops and training sessions at remote locations or on the Web during 2009. Topics included marketing, business and financial management, new technology, employee ownership plans, biomass boilers and air quality, green building, and competitiveness issues.

Expanding the Use of Woody Biomass

The Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters is working with Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and other branches of the U.S. Forest Service on several biomass projects to diversify the Nation's energy supply, reduce wildfire risk, and improve forest health.

In 2009, close to \$19 million in Federal funds, including \$17 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, went to projects in 11 States, matched by \$1.2 million. The Wood Education and Resource Center helped design a wood chip-fired system and solar panels to heat the Harvard Forest campus. Wood fuel will come from Harvard's own research forest. The new system, 34 percent more efficient than the old one, will replace 7,000 gallons of fuel oil and 1,100 gallons of propane annually.

Landowner Assistance

Forest landowners who commit to sustainable management contribute to society's economic, environmental, and social health. Moreover, they bequeath these benefits to future generations.

States within Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry are home to more than 5 million private forest landowners. Under the Forest Stewardship Program, landowners set management objectives and write a Forest Stewardship Plan with the help of a professional forester. The program supports ethical, sustainable forestry to conserve, protect, and enhance private forest land and to improve forest health and productivity.

Nearly 55,000 landowners participated in educational programs in Fiscal Year 2009, while State foresters completed more than 9,000 new Forest Stewardship management plans covering nearly 825,000 acres. Almost 42 percent of the new acres were deemed high priority.

The Landowner Assistance Program generates financial benefits that reach beyond the landowner. For example, State forestry staff made 11,000 referrals to private consultants to oversee timber sales, generating about \$16.5 million (\$1,500 per referral) in income—and ensuring sustainable practices.



Landowners harvest various wood products, such as poles and boards, from their properties. (Photo: USDA Forest Service staff)

Do landowners follow through on their Stewardship Plans?

States monitor stewardship sites to find the answer. Results show that more than 90 percent of the acres under current Stewardship Plans are being managed sustainably.

A recent study also showed that forest lands involved in the program are more likely to remain forested. Why? Their owners recognize the values and services from their lands, they may receive financial assistance for management activities, they are more aware of markets, and they often qualify for reduced property assessments.

Redesign: A Fresh Approach to Program Delivery

Focus + Priority = Outcome



At a time when America's forests face threats from wildfires, climate change, introduced insects, land conversion, and economic pressure, the demand for technical and financial assistance to landowners and communities has never been greater.

Yet shrinking budgets require that we find ways to do more with less.

Federal-State cooperation is a proven model that achieves conservation goals and attracts additional resources to stretch taxpayer dollars. Building on this success, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) launched a "Redesign" strategy to deliver State and Private Forestry programs in 2008. This strategy will gradually shift more resources from the traditional "first-come, first-served" model to one that targets priority lands where investments will make the greatest difference on the ground.

Redesign is based on three simple ideas:

1. Set **priorities** based on current conditions and trends
2. **Focus** on key national priorities:
 - a. Conserve working forest landscapes
 - b. Protect forests from harm
 - c. Enhance public benefits from trees and forests

3. Create meaningful **outcomes** and demonstrate accomplishments

The Redesign Program has five components:

- **Resource Assessments** facilitate priority setting by allowing users to identify and understand forest conditions, trends, and opportunities.
- **Statewide Forest Resource Assessments** are being developed by State forestry agencies in coordination with local and Federal partners and stakeholders to identify high-priority landscapes and needs.
- **Statewide Forest Resource Response Strategies** focus on key priorities identified in the Assessments, with each State outlining strategies for achieving priority outcomes with Federal dollars and other resources.
- **Competitive Grants** are critical to the Redesign concept, directing a greater portion of funds to critical needs.
- **Measuring Results** is critical to managing change. Annual National Report Cards document outcomes with visual products, such as maps and charts, and success stories.

NASPF is an active participant in the Redesign process and awarded grants under the new program in Fiscal Year 2009.

Redesign Projects: A Sampler

Foresters for the Birds

The woods are growing quieter as populations of many bird species continue to decline. Although the causes are not fully understood, loss of habitat is suspected as a key factor. Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources and Audubon Vermont are targeting blocks of privately owned, high-value habitat, helping forest professionals integrate timber management with migratory bird habitat. The project created a pocket-sized field guide to birds and provided workshops for 40 foresters. Audubon biologists have collaborated with 25 foresters in the field, completing habitat assessments on 59 private properties totaling 38,000 acres.

Wood Energy for Maryland

Without swift action, electric utility managers warn that the State will face mandatory usage restrictions, such as rolling blackouts, by 2012. A partial answer: 800,000 tons of urban wood debris generated each year.

A University of Maryland energy audit and analysis of needs identified wood energy as the top solution. Specialists are currently working on strategies to ensure a long-term wood supply. Several communities and institutions are interested in an evaluation.

Conservation Easements on Priority Landscapes

While Missouri's tax laws act as incentives for private landowners to donate conservation easements, land trusts need funds to establish and hold the easements long term. In concert with the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program, a State conservation easement project is protecting high-priority private forest land through a competitive process. Land trusts receive funds for stewardship fees and closing costs for tracts approved by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The Ozark Regional Land Trust, National Wild Turkey Federation, and The Nature Conservancy are among the participating land trusts. Seven projects totaling 7,262 acres have been tentatively approved, more than double the target of 3,500 acres. Cooperators matched \$190,000 in U.S. Forest Service funds with \$320,000.



Photo: Juliette Watts



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama in an effort to jumpstart the economy, create or save jobs, and address the country's infrastructure and other needs.

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NASPF) is actively participating in ARRA, and as of December 2009, had allocated nearly \$44.9 million to 25 projects. Many of the jobs saved or new jobs created involve hazardous fuels reduction to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires and to control invasive species of plants, insects, or diseases that threaten forest health.

Projects and brief descriptions are listed in the appendix.



Photo: Juliette Watts

Fuels for Public Buildings

In Maine, an ARRA project is supporting the conversion of heating systems to wood/dual-fuel for roughly 15 public buildings, resulting in greater fuel efficiency and use of a renewable energy source.

Turning Back an Invasive Insect in Michigan

A multiagency project among the U.S. Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and several State agencies and universities is deploying and evaluating treatments aimed at slowing the expansion of ash mortality in three locations: (1) the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where emerald ash borer has been detected; (2) Mackinac, Delta, and Schoolcraft Counties; and (3) Houghton County.

Program Accomplishments, Fiscal Year 2009

Program	Result ¹
Forest Legacy Program	
Tracts protected	43
Acres protected	133,201
Acres protected by Forest Legacy Program, all years, NASPF	1,313,696
Acres protected by Forest Legacy Program, all years, nationwide	1,898,872
Forest Health Program	
Acres treated for insects or diseases	637,299
Acres surveyed and/or monitored (millions)	234
Cooperative Fire Program	
National Fire Plan	
– Hazardous acres treated, prescribed fire	93,158
– Hazardous acres treated mechanically	2,050
– Community Protection Plans	174
Firefighters trained	17,400
Volunteer assistance grants to small communities	3,613
Community education programs	7,888
People attending community programs	500,000
Forest Stewardship Program	
Technical assists to landowners	47,447
Landowners who participated in educational programs	54,634
Acres under Stewardship Plans (all years)	10,055,743
Acres in new or revised Stewardship Plans	824,752
New acres on priority lands	345,849
New or revised Stewardship Plans	9,397
Urban and Community Forestry	
Communities with management plans	2,534
People living in communities assisted (millions)	74
Annual Urban Forestry Program cost per capita in communities assisted (dollars)	0.07
Volunteer hours contributed (thousands)	778
Watershed Forestry	
Chesapeake Bay: riparian buffers restored (miles)	771.4
New York City watershed: watershed Stewardship Plans (acres)	9,600
Wood Education and Resource Center	
Projects funded	20
Value of funded projects (dollars, millions)	1.4

¹ All results are either from program staff or National Information Center databases.

Program Investments, Fiscal Years 2007, 2008, 2009

Program	2007	2008 ¹	2009
	Dollars, millions		

Forest Health Management			
Federal lands	9.3	10.3	11.5
Cooperative Lands	18.7	17.6	17.8
Subtotal Forest Health	28.0	27.9	29.3

Cooperative Fire Protection			
State Fire Assistance	7.4	7.0	7.2
Volunteer Fire Assistance	2.3	2.3	2.3
National Fire Plan – State Fire Assistance	11.4	8.6	7.6
Subtotal Fire	21.1	17.9	17.1

Cooperative Forestry			
Forest Stewardship	15.1	11.4	7.6
Urban and Community Forestry	10.3	10.2	8.6
Forest Legacy	23.3	25.5	23.6
Economic Action Programs	0.2	2.2	3.2
Subtotal Cooperative Forestry	48.9	49.3	43.0

Other			
Grey Towers	1.9	1.9	.2
Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team	1.0	1.0	1.2
Reimbursables	2.1	2.4	.9
Subtotal Other	5.0	5.3	2.3

Total all programs	103.0	100.4	91.7
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¹ In FY 2008 \$6.1 million from allocations was transferred to Fire.

Appendix

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects

Fiscal Year 2009

Projects are listed in alphabetical order by name.

Project name and number	Location(s)	Description
Ballanger Creek Enhancement WFM-4200-16HFE	New Jersey	Located on non-Federal land in New Jersey, this project will create engineering and construction plans to enhance wildlife habitat and scrub-shrub habitat, restore wetland buffers, remove invasive species, and improve forest health.
BUNDLE - 0920-01 (3) and 0920-01 Partnerships with NASPF, State of New York, and State of Vermont - Surveys and Forest Health Protection WFM-0920-2FHC	New York Vermont	Project will occur on non-Federal lands and the Green Mountain National Forest. A "Trees and Leaves Corps" will be created and trained to assist with forest health surveys. Pre-kindergarten to eighth-grade teachers and educators will work with students to help them understand forest health and how it impacts plants, animals, and their community.
Create an Invasive Species Job Corps WFM-4200-10FHC	Ohio	The Ohio Woodlands Job Corps Program will train and employ workers in invasive species control, timber stand improvement, and wildland firefighting. Workers will receive Master Logger and Commercial Pesticide Applicator certifications, and a chance to qualify as a wildland firefighter.
Delaware Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Ecosystem Improvement Projects WFM-4200-10HFE	Delaware	The Delaware Forest Service will (1) complete fire management plans for high-risk areas, (2) reduce fuel loads and install fire breaks around at-risk communities, and (3) conduct ecosystem improvement projects on State lands to improve forest health and reduce wildfire hazard.
Eradication of Oak Wilt and Giant Hogweed WFM-4200-25FHC	New York	Project will create or maintain jobs over 2 years; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will employ workers to detect, identify, and eradicate a noxious weed in its known locations, and detect, identify, and eradicate oak wilt disease.
Forest Regeneration Center Enhancement and Position Retention WFM-4200-05HFE	Iowa	Make improvements to the Iowa Forest Regeneration Center, hire temporary employees for lifting and shipping seedlings, and retain current positions at the facility. Funds will also be used to help improve and maintain forest health by providing native plants for reforestation and other plantings.
Forestry Sustainability Project WFM-4200-34FHC	Rhode Island	Workers will be trained and employed for a variety of tree work in communities, workshops, and to prepare landscape and community forestry management documents. RITree will create a five-member Green Team of high school and college graduates and laid-off green industry workers for street tree, exotic pest, and storm damage surveys.

Continued

Project name and number	Location(s)	Description
Fuels for Public Buildings WFM-4200-03WTE	Maine	The project will support the conversion of an estimated 15 public buildings to wood and dual-fuel heating systems, resulting in greater fuel efficiency and use of a renewable energy source.
Green Infrastructure Jobs in Urban Industrial Areas WFM-4200-12HFE	Indiana	This project will employ furloughed steel and manufacturing employees in green infrastructure activities such as stormwater retention, hazardous fuels reduction, and ecosystem restoration.
Grey Towers Roads WFM-4251-01B	Pennsylvania	The project will improve the transportation infrastructure at the site and reduce annual maintenance costs.
Grey Towers Restoration CIM-4251-01F	Pennsylvania	This project will eliminate backlogged facility maintenance, helping to ensure that this historic site is maintained in a sustainable manner.
Hazard Tree Assessment and Removal Project WFM-4200-28FHC	New Jersey	Assessment and removal of hazard trees (dead or dying) located in selected State forests and parks. Usable wood from these tree removals will be marketed for firewood, pulpwood, and/or logs.
Implementation of Mitigation Strategies based on the Slowing Ash Mortality (SLAM) effort in the Upper Peninsula WFM-4200-14FHC	Michigan	Implement and evaluate treatment strategies targeted at slowing the expansion of ash tree mortality at three locations: (1) the Upper Peninsula where emerald ash borer has been detected; (2) Mackinac, Delta, and Schoolcraft Counties; and (3) Houghton County.
Invasive Species Control WFM-4200-02FHC	Michigan	This project will hire people to survey for and eradicate invasive forest plant species, such as garlic mustard and glossy buckthorn, on State forest lands.
Invasive Vegetation Survey and Eradication WFM-4200-23FHC	Rhode Island	This project will train and employ people to survey for invasive plant species in forests and conduct treatments for their removal and eradication. Restoration activities such as planting and remediation will follow removal of invasive species.
Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Area Watershed Health and Ecological Enhancement WFM-4200-09FHC	Massachusetts	Project will restore the forest canopy of communities affected by the large-scale removal of trees due to the Asian longhorned beetle eradication program. Focused on tree planting primarily within the removal zones of the eradication program.
Massachusetts Native Species (Invasive) Ecological Restoration WFM-4200-33FHC	Massachusetts	Project will provide wildland firefighting training for wildland and municipal firefighters. Firefighters will be employed to conduct treatments, such as fire-risk planning and prescribed burns, in the Pine Barrens of southeast Massachusetts.

Continued

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects (Continued)

Project name and number	Location(s)	Description
Missouri Fuel for Schools Program Partnership NOTE: Partnership with Mark Twain National Forest WFM-4200-01WTE	Missouri	This project will build wood energy facilities in six schools in southern Missouri.
New Jersey Community Stewardship Incentive Program - Small Business WFM-4200-24FHC	New Jersey	Project will conduct urban and community forestry activities and practices on lands owned or controlled by cities and towns statewide, to achieve healthy sustainable urban and community forests.
Northern Delaware Forestry Stimulus Project WFM-4200-06HFE	Delaware	The Delaware Center plans to provide jobs over a 24-month period, coinciding with tree planting seasons. Forest health, street tree inventory, tree planting, and hazard fuel reduction management activities will take place on public (non-Federal) land and public rights-of-way to support forest health in the cities of Wilmington and New Castle.
Public Community and Forestry Program WFM-4200-18FHC	Illinois	Funding will be used to hire and retain employees who have been laid off or are in jeopardy of being laid off due to current economic conditions. Funds will allow the city of Elgin to detect, monitor, and evaluate forest health conditions on its public lands.
Southeastern Massachusetts Hazardous Fuels Mitigation and Ecosystem Restoration WFM-4200-04HFE	Massachusetts	Project will provide wildfire planning in high-risk areas, assistance to communities in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, fuels reduction and community defensibility, and State planning of hazard mitigation projects.
The Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps, Tree Section WFM-4200-37FHC	District of Columbia	Green Summer, one of the largest green-collar job programs in the Nation, serves 800 youth and 120 seasonal staff as well as year-round staff at the District Department of the Environment. Throughout the summer, youth will engage in environmental education, community outreach, hands-on field experience, and green job skill development.
Tree Seedling Survival Project WFM-4200-18HFE	New Jersey	Project addresses critical reforestation projects: (1) Atlantic white-cedar restoration, (2) seedling survival in reforestation activities, (3) mortality in tree and shrub seedling plantings in watershed enhancement projects, and (4) production of native tree and shrub species for use in wetland habitat restoration projects.
Washington Parks and People District of Columbia Green Corps WFM-4200-03FHC	District of Columbia	The District of Columbia Green Corps will work primarily in the Watts Branch of the Anacostia River, with additional work and training in the Oxon Run and Rock Creek subwatersheds of the Potomac. The program will recruit secondary school youth and others that have employment challenges, such as people with disabilities and former criminals. It will also provide a gateway to accessing green career tracks in community forest-based restoration in Washington, DC.

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