



North Carolina Forest Service
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Mission and Responsibilities

The mission of the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) is to protect, manage and promote forest resources for the citizens of North Carolina. There are 18.1 million acres of timberland in North Carolina, most of which is owned by private landowners. The NCFS is responsible for protecting state and privately-owned forestland from wildfires, forest pests and diseases; regulating certain open burning; and, providing forestry services and advice to forestland owners and operators. The NCFS also provides emergency response resources and expertise for all-hazard incidents such as hurricanes, tornadoes, ice and snowstorms and infectious diseases.

History of Division

In 1777, the first North Carolina forest fire protection law was enacted. The Forestry Division was created in 1908 as part of the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey. In 1921, the North Carolina Legislature appropriated the first funds -- less than \$3,000 -- for fire protection. In 1955, North Carolina signed a compact with other southern states for mutual aid in fighting forest fires. Fourteen years later, North Carolina became the first state to receive legislative authority and funding to provide forestation work for landowners. In 2011, the Division was transferred from NCDENR to NCDA&CS.

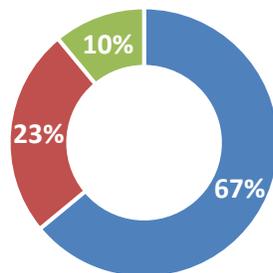
Number of Employees and Assigned Areas

The NCFS has 650 full-time positions and 81 seasonal positions. Approximately 94% of all positions are field positions. Position types include foresters, forest technicians, law enforcement, mechanics, forest fire equipment operators, pilots, radio engineers and administrative. The NCFS is divided into program and geographical areas. Through a cooperative program with county governments, programs are delivered at the local level in all 100 counties.

2021 Accomplishments

- NCFS personnel suppressed 4,762 wildfires across the state, protecting life and property in and around the 13,244 acres burned by these wildfires.
- In FY20-21, more than \$2.02 million in funding was allocated for 544 cost share projects on nearly 42,000 acres across the state. This was made possible through the N.C. Forest Service Forest Development program, North Carolina’s flagship tree-planting initiative.
- The NCFS provided 4,662 woodland management plans to private forest landowners. These management plans cover approximately 227,964 acres across the state.
- Approximately 350 planting projects on 22,210 acres across the state were completed with assistance from the NCFS.
- North Carolina state forests welcomed nearly 1.3 million visitors in FY20-21.
- NCFS personnel participated in more than 700 educational outreach events, programs and meetings involving landowners, civic and school groups, organizations, cooperators and the public.
- NCFS personnel conducted nearly 6,126 forestry inspections and reinspections to protect water quality on 145,882 acres across the state.

FY2020-2021 Sources of Funding



- 1. Appropriations – \$39,948,764**
 - 2. Nonfederal receipts* – \$13,748,809**
 - 3. Federal receipts* – \$5,910,726**
- Total budget: \$59,608,299**

* Nonfederal receipts as of 6/30/2021. The majority are collected through a cooperative program with county governments. Receipts are not collected unless matching appropriations are first spent.
* Federal receipts in expenditures through 6/30/2021.

Contact Information

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