



# Vermont Forest Resource Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2013

Steven J Sinclair, State Forester

Phone: 802-241-3678

Fax: 802-244-1481

Web: [www.vtfpr.org/index.cfm](http://www.vtfpr.org/index.cfm)

E-mail: [steve.sinclair@state.vt.us](mailto:steve.sinclair@state.vt.us)

## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Cooperative Fire Protection  
 Cooperative Forestry  
 Forest Health Management  
 Forest Legacy  
**Total**

**FY 2012**  
**Final**  
 269,606  
 812,123  
 499,999  
 37,000  
**1,618,728**

*This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.*

## Key Issues

- Conserving Biological Diversity: Conversion of forests to other uses.
- Forest Health and Productivity: Introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Forest Products and Ecosystem Services: Identifying all potential marketing opportunities.
- Land Ethic: Educating all residents on the value and benefits of trees and forests.
- Legal, Institutional and Economic Framework: Stable and equitable tax structure that encourages retention and management of forests.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

### Selected Facts

Population	625,741
Acres of Forest Land	4,591,280
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,612,000
Number of NIPF Landowners	88,000
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	4,700,000
Number of Rural Fire Departments	222
Cities and Towns	46
Forest Based Employment	5,332
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	3,768,904

### Selected FY 2012 Accomplishments

Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	4,348
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	10,444
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	6,508
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	100
State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	19
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	150
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	1,697
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	78
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	401,576
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	19,095

## Program Highlights:

### Cooperative Fire Protection

National Fire Plan funds aided in firefighter training, purchase of wildland fire gear, prescribed burns to reduce hazardous fuels, dry fire hydrants, resource mobilization, and other projects. Forestry Division staff trained 425 firefighters and fire staff. Wildland fire gear went to 44 towns using Volunteer Fire Assistance funds. Forestry Division staff worked on three prescribed burns, treating 66 acres. Vermont fire personnel assisted in the development of two Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

### Forest Health Protection

The state is discouraging long-distance firewood movement, since it can spread diseases and insects. Vermont is part of a multi-state project to slow the spread of hemlock woolly adelgid, and is monitoring for signs of emerald ash borer. None have been found. The Vermont Monitoring Cooperative, a forest ecosystem monitoring and research group, collects and analyses forest-related data. Their forest health study showed several factors in tree declines: the 1998 ice storm, balsam woolly adelgid, beech bark disease, past logging injury, and age. Foresters mapped 52,500 acres of browned hardwoods during a recent aerial survey.

### Forest Legacy

"Two Countries, One Forest," a conservation initiative among several states and Canadian provinces, identified the 936-acre Northern Green Mountain Linkage as an essential "missing link" in the 13,000-acre bi-national wildlife linkage extending from Sutton, Quebec to Jay State Forest in Vermont. The tract is located in the heart of the Northern Green Mountains adjacent to the U.S.-Canadian border.

### Landowner Assistance

The state works closely with the NRCS State Technical Committee to administer the EQIP and WHIP programs for woodland owners, and to advise on stewardship plan development standards and forestry practices. The State is also working with the VT Woodlands Association, VT Coverts for Wildlife, Audubon, the VT Natural Resource Council, the VT Association of Planning Districts and other partners on projects related to mapping, training, and planning for sustainable working forests.

### Urban and Community Forestry

The City of Montpelier has a thriving community forestry program and an active tree board with several SOUL Tree Stewards. Recently, the City targeted several large, unhealthy ash trees for removal. A SOUL Tree Steward saw a chance to inform the public about the threat from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Tree Board members hung ribbons and tags on downtown ash trees to highlight what's at stake should EAB invade. A press conference followed to enlist residents in looking for the pest and to explain the importance of diversifying the forest.

### Wood Education and Resource Center

Montpelier received a Woody Biomass Utilization grant to assist in designing connections for parts of the City not currently connected to its renewable energy district heating system. The WERC Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team evaluated 16 projects that would use about 4,000 tons of woody biomass and replace about 380,000 gallons of fuel oil annually. First year savings would be about \$720,000.



Northeastern Area S&PF, USDA Forest Service

Tony Ferguson, Director

E-mail: [ferguson@fs.fed.us](mailto:ferguson@fs.fed.us) | Phone: 610-557-4103 | FAX: 610-557-4177 | WEB: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us>

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