



Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Aeronautics

Our Role

To support internal and external partners in fire detection and suppression, natural resources management, and public safety by safely and effectively using aircraft and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in concert with leading-edge hardware and software.

Focus

*Fire Detection and Suppression
Aviation Program Support*

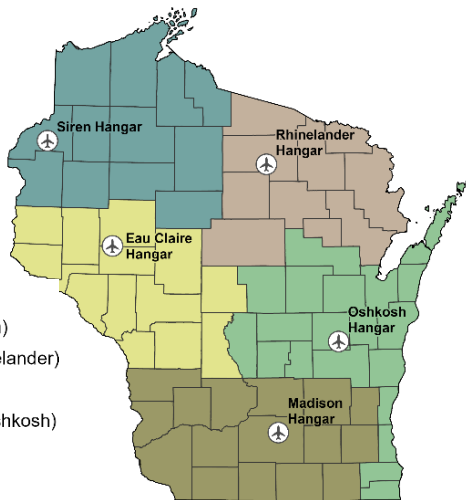
Forestry Facts

Hangars

5

Hangars across
the state

-  DNR Hangars
-  NOR - West (Siren)
-  NOR - East (Rhinelander)
-  WCR (Eau Claire)
-  NER and SER (Oshkosh)
-  SCR (Madison)



Equipment



11 aircraft operated by 9 full-time pilots and 1 supervisor, allowing operations of all fire routes, including 1 aircraft out for maintenance

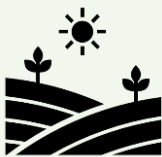


9 drones, including 2 with specialized NDVI cameras.



GPS, radios, infrared, telemetry equipment and other specialized gear (Elk with telemetry collar)

Conservation, Research & Communications Missions



Ecological monitoring using cameras and telemetry for wildlife surveys such as waterfowl, deer, elk and wolf



Tracking changes in forest composition, health and monitoring disease spread, including oak wilt using advanced mapping software



Invasive plant delineation and mapping to help control, suppress, and restore native plants and grasses using drones and hyperspectral camera



Monitoring compliance with state regulations including wetland destruction, illegal deer baiting, and timber thefts

Safety And Efficiency Mission



Aerial first response to storm damage, providing assessments and mapping for blowdowns, tornadoes and floods



Aircraft, radios, GPS and cameras are used for forest fire detection and suppression



Search and rescue operations in partnership with Wisconsin Emergency Management using aircraft and infrared cameras



Providing field crews aerial views and data on otherwise unattainable remote resource management areas



Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Review Highlights: Aeronautics

Major Accomplishments



We have acquired six “new” 182 aircraft and are on track to update the fleet with new planes.



We are currently working with internal partners to help create a long term and sustainable plan to monitor Wisconsin’s Elk population using telemetry and airplanes in partnership.



We have acquired a SkyIMD camera to help support fire mapping, pinpoint and quantify the damage caused by natural disasters, and better support forest health assessments. We have also acquired ten new TDFM 9100 radios for the aircraft fleet.

Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome

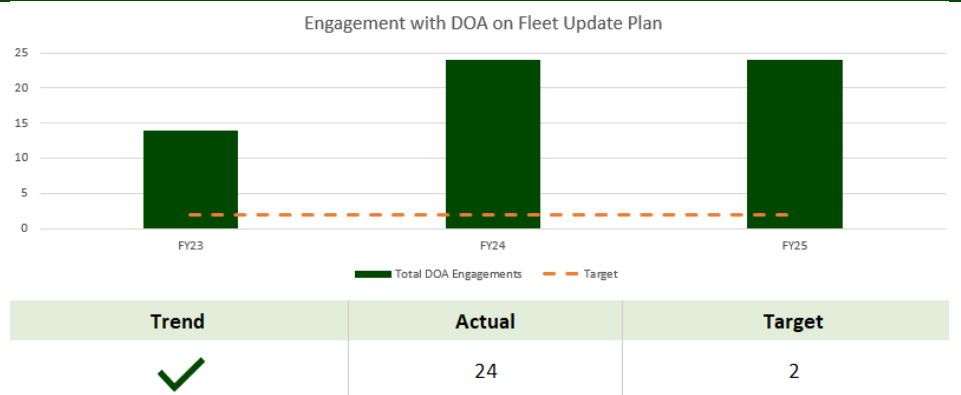
Across the state, all detection and suppression requests are met, and pilots provide safe and consistent aerial fire services and phraseology to ground personnel through division-endorsed standardized pilot fire training. (AE-1a; AE-1b)

The aeronautics program serves a growing and diverse customer base inside and outside the DNR with an updated fleet of Cessna 182s, modern drones and a cost-effective flight rate structure. (AE-2b)

FY25 Results



100% of flight requests at a staffing level of 4 or higher were filled.





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Budgets And Grants

Our Role

To provide a wide array of technical financial support to internal and external division customers on forestry financial topics and ensure compliance with the state statutes and laws governing our operations.

Focus

*Grant Management
Budget Management
Timber Sale Financial Expertise*

Forestry Facts

Budget Management

MORE THAN
\$60 Million

Managed across
16 operational appropriations.

MORE THAN
\$5.2 Million

Financially managed in
68 capital projects.

Federal Grant Portfolio

OVER 40 AWARDS
\$20 Million

To the DNR and partners



Protect forests from
wildfire and disease.



Support urban and
community forests



Reach forest
landowners



Strengthen
partnerships

State Grant Portfolio

98 Awards
\$1.5 Million

To partners to enhance and protect
Wisconsin's urban forests

Annual Aid Payments

\$2.2 Million

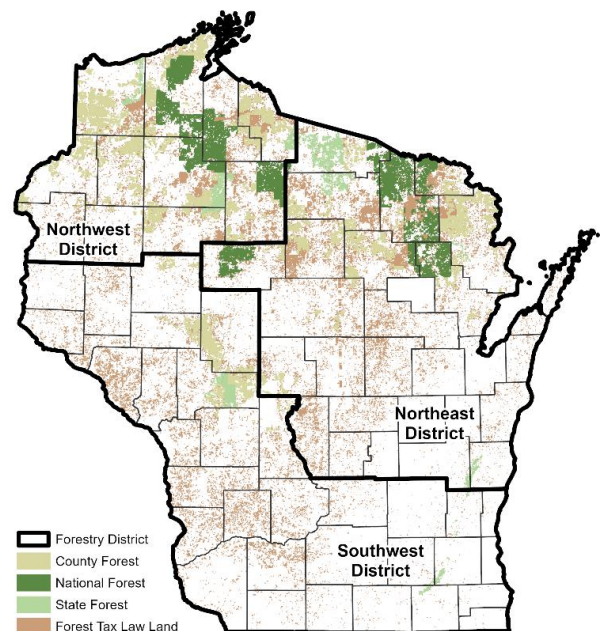
In acreage payments for local units of government with
forest tax law or county forest lands

\$1.2 Million

For counties with over
40,000 acres enrolled in
managed forest law

\$1.5 Million

For school districts with
national forest acreage





Division of Forestry Facts and Accomplishments: Division Effectiveness

Our Role

To ensure alignment between our management, operations, strategy and culture. We achieve this by promoting an inclusive workplace and an engaged, skilled and accountable workforce. We advance the division's purpose through planning, training, leadership team support, partner outreach, education and communications.

Focus

Communication, Education and Outreach
Forestry Planning
Training
Workforce Development

Forestry Facts

Recruitment, Hiring and Training

Division of Forestry Careers



The division successfully filled all approved vacant **fire riders, foresters, and technicians** this past fiscal year.

Career Pathways

The Division's DEI Specialist Team is working to engage diverse communities and promote forestry careers throughout the state of Wisconsin.

25

Career Outreach Events in FY25, nearly double the previous year!

Internal Training (Annual Offerings)



764 hours
Fire, Law Enforcement and Heavy Equipment training



232 hours
Forestry Professional Core Series Training



40 hours
Professional development and leadership training

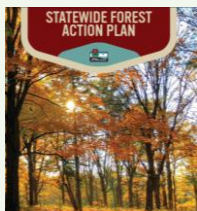
Hands-on Experiences

For the third year in row, Forestry hosted two highly passionate and ambitious 2025 Urban Forestry interns through the state SWSDIP program.

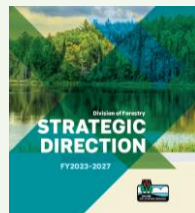
The training office completed the third year of our leadership program to 12 staff throughout the Forestry Division.



Planning for WI Forestry



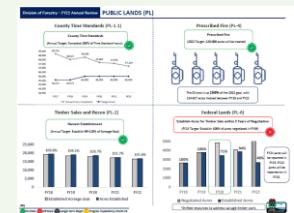
10-year Forest Action Plan brings in **\$3-5 million/year** in federal funding to the state & partners.



The division's Strategic Direction guides the division's work and priorities.



The division conducts fiscal year work planning for foresters and technicians.



Annual performance measure reviews help us monitor progress and adapt.

Learning about Wisconsin Forestry



The LEAF program developed **lesson plans** based on the Forest Products episodes of the Into the Outdoors tv show and interacted with over **660 educators**.



255 WI School Forests provide outdoor learning opportunities with 5 newly registered in 2025.



NHAL's Centennial celebration brought together over 200 visitors, local partners, and over 20 external exhibitors to recognize 100 yrs of sustainable management & partnership.



Division of Forestry Facts and Accomplishments: Equipment Research & Development

Our Role

To support the safety and effectiveness of DNR staff and external partners by developing, maintaining and providing exceptional quality forestry equipment and supplies, and administering the DNR's statewide radio communication network and user devices.

Focus

*Equipment Research and Development
Radio Communications*

Forestry Facts

Forestry Equipment R&D Center



Purchases, designs, prototypes, researches, develops, fabricates and maintains wildland fire equipment



Provides services and support to field stations and cooperating fire departments through our on-site stockroom and warehouse

15,000 FT²

Facility includes machine shop with latest machining capability, fully equipped fabrication area, and automotive repair shop

4

Field mechanics maintain, support and repair the equipment located throughout the state

Statewide Equipment



61 Type 7x Engines



54 Type 6x Engines



81 Type 4x Engines with
Tilt Bed Trailers



77 Type 5 Tractor plows



5 Low Ground Units



2 Type 2 Heavy Dozers



Semi Transport
and Field Repair Trucks



12 UTVs with fire control units

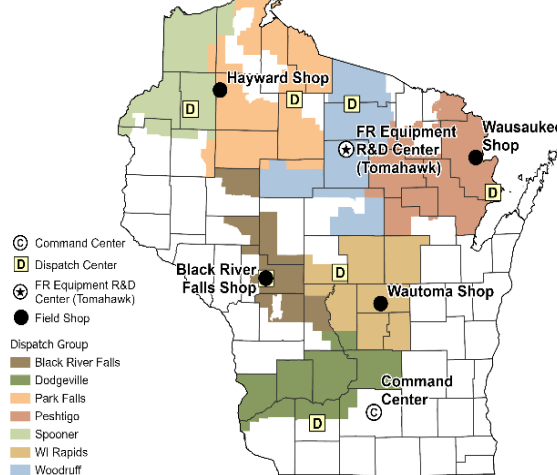
Radio Communications



DNR Forestry owns and maintains

- **44 communication towers** across the state used by the entire DNR
- **3,500+ mobile and portable radios** for critical communications during fire and emergencies
- **170 radio repeaters** used to ensure radio signal strength statewide
- **80 Incident Command Posts equipment** ensures consistent radio communications
- **16 radio consoles at 7 dispatch centers and 1 command center**

Equipment Repair Facilities & Dispatch Locations



Other Services

- Manage and maintain small quantity of **site preparation equipment** for reforestation projects on state & county lands
- Function as a **disposal collection site** for state equipment



Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Review Highlights: Equipment Research & Development

Major Accomplishments



The Radio team facilitated tower construction at the Minong Ranger Station to serve as an incident command post. In addition, large scale tower remediation projects completed at several DNR towers including Clear Lake, Scandanavia, Pembine, Brule and Lampson.



Stockroom continues to provide excellent service to our bureau through part procurement of 3036 parts in FY25 to supply new builds at LeMay and service of equipment and stations across the state.



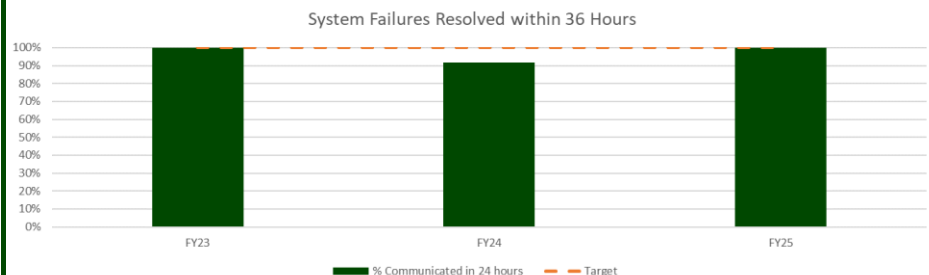
The equipment R&D group completed outfitting of 6 new Caterpillar D2 dozers for fire duty, also 18 one-ton trucks were outfitted as Type 7 engines in 2024 and 2025. Also 4, F550 trucks were partially outfitted by the R&D group for use by the area mechanics for field repairs of equipment.

Performance Measures Highlights

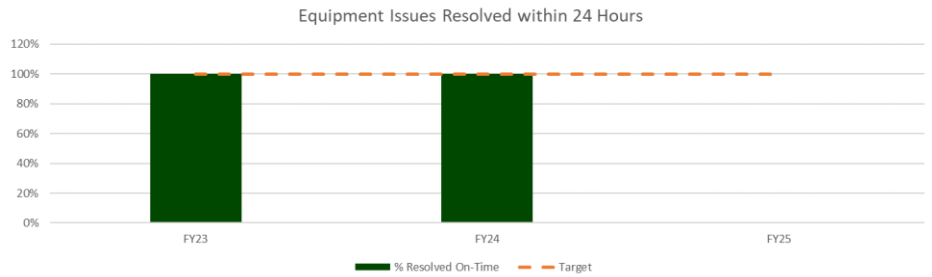
Outcome

The division and partners benefit from a reliable communication system and dedicated customer service as needs arise. (ERD-1c)

FY25 Results



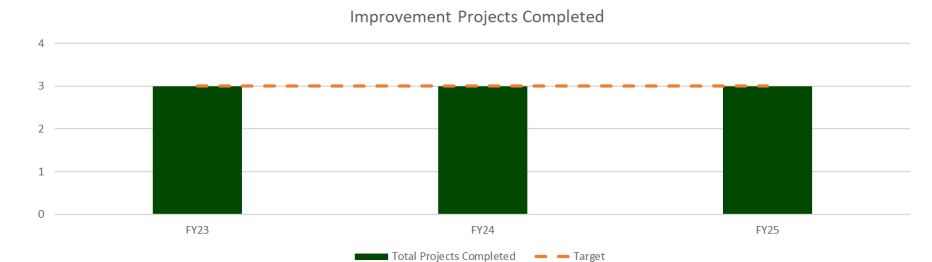
The division and other department programs have access to highly capable, certified, well maintained and reliable wildland fire fighting vehicles and support equipment to meet division priorities. (ERD-2b)



The division's stockroom provides specialized and standardized wildfire and forestry equipment catered to the needs of department staff and partners. (ERD-3c)



The LeMay equipment center continually improves by researching, designing, testing and incorporating new technologies into all supplied wildfire fighting equipment. (ERD-5a)





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Forest Economics & Ecology

Our Role

To inform and support the sustainable management of Wisconsin's urban and rural forest resources by providing technical expertise and performing applied research across the field of forestry in collaboration with internal and external partners.

Focus

*Forest Science and Research
Informed Forest Management
Partnerships and Outreach*

Forestry Facts

Best Management Practices (BMPs) For Water Quality

Wisconsin's [Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Manual](#) provides simple and cost-effective methods for protecting water quality in lakes, streams and wetlands during forest management activities.

1028

Timber sales have been evaluated for BMP application and effectiveness since 1995

Genetics

The Wisconsin Forest Genetics program is dedicated to improving forest resilience, forest health, and tree improvement through the development of genetics-based field trials, progeny tests, and seed orchards in collaboration with internal and external partners.

MORE THAN

10

Genetics projects are ongoing or complete since 2023

Silviculture

DNR silviculturists consult with internal and external partners, lead statewide silvicultural guidance and policy development, provide training and outreach, and coordinate silviculture trials and research.

13

Current trials completed
or ongoing in FY25

57

Internal and external trainings
conducted in FY25

SilviCast is a podcast devoted to silviculture, helping foresters translate current research into reality. Produced by UW-Stevens Point and hosted by DNR's silviculturists.



Downloaded over 80,000 times in its first six seasons!

Working with the **Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT)**, comprised of **14 external partners and DNR staff**, the Silviculture Program leads the review and update of the **27 chapters** of the [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#). The WSG is the primary technical resource for Wisconsin foresters and resource managers to assist with developing forest management plans and stand-level silviculture prescriptions.

Forestry Research

Forest research staff members work collaboratively across the entire field of forestry to help solve problems in a structured framework. Examples of current projects include:

- The **Northern Pine Management Initiative**, developing new silviculture methods for pine forests to add greater spatial complexity and reduce fire hazard.
- Development of a remote sensing model that identifies and measures individual trees and classifies them by leaf type and genus.
- The **Managed Old-growth Study (MOSS)**, a 50-year study comparing methods for accelerating the development of old-growth characteristics while still allowing commercial timber harvests.

MORE THAN

45

Projects are ongoing or
have been completed since
2020

Climate Change

The Division of Forestry has an internal Climate Change Team that represents the broad array of concerns in the forestry world (such as urban, fire and silviculture). Forestry staff members collaborate with external partners to work on climate change-related projects.

Two examples are:



Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change

A partnership with Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin that tests forest management activities designed to move the forest to be resistant to, resilient to or transition from climate change impacts.



DREAM

The Desired Regeneration through Assisted Migration (DREAM) study

A partnership with the USDA Forest Service that tests assisted migration practices to help create more resilient forests by diversifying species and seed sources.



Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Review Highlights: Forest Economics & Ecology

Major Accomplishments

A major area of focus for Forest Economics and Ecology is disseminating the best available scientific information about forest management. In FY25 we:

- Conducted outreach and training in various ways to reach more audiences.
- Produced webinars, podcasts, newsletter articles, peer-reviewed publications, interviews, conference presentations and internal and external training on many topics.



We will continue to focus on increasing the transfer of information in new ways in the next fiscal year.

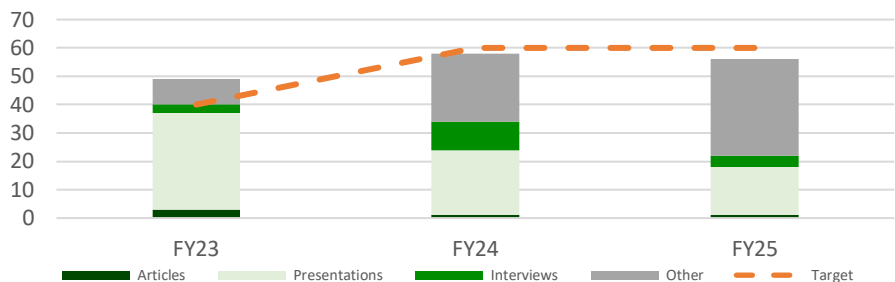
Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome

Science-based silviculture and forest ecology information is provided to staff and partners effectively and efficiently through various methods. (FEE-1a)

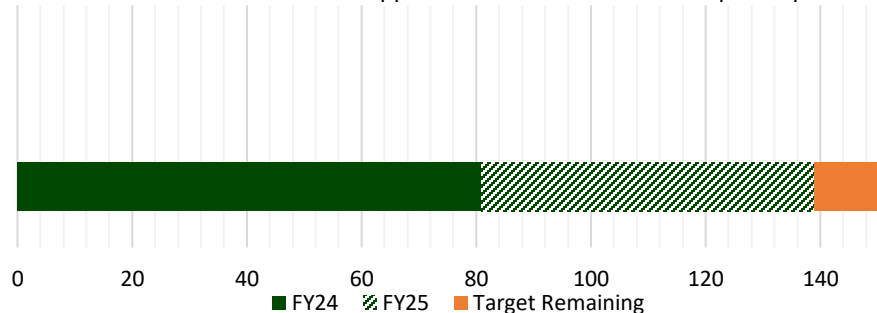
FY25 Results

Silviculture outreach efforts

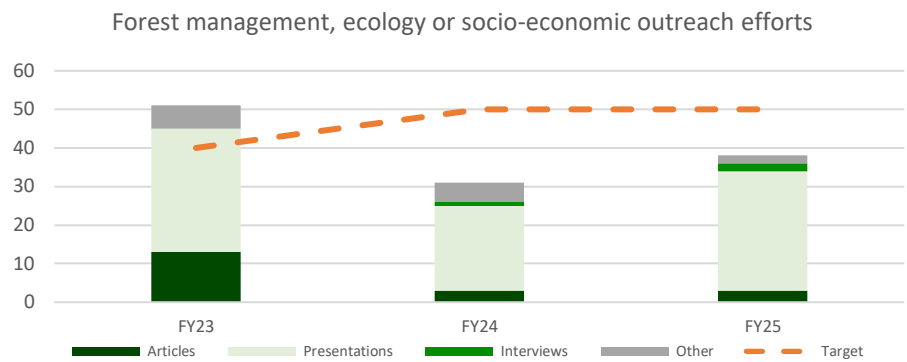


Ensure Sustainable Forestry continues to protect water quality through the proper implementation of BMPs. This will be achieved by providing guidance, information, teachings, manuals, monitoring, field visits, and regulations that facilitate and reward the use of BMPs. (FEE-2c)

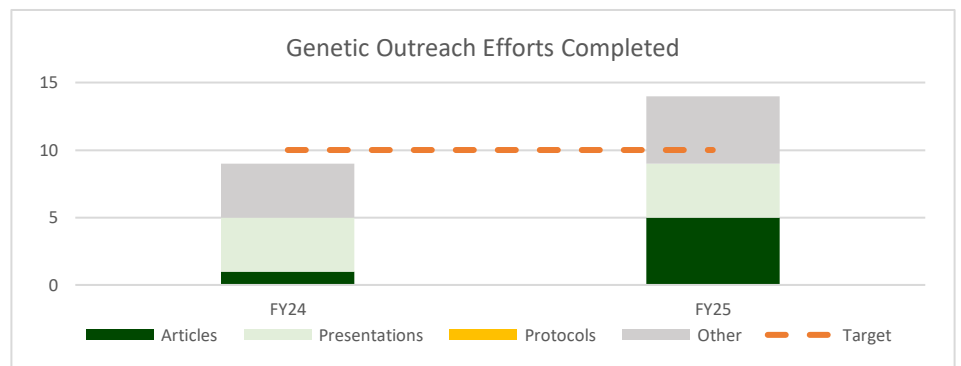
Sites Monitored for BMP Applications Across All Ownership Groups



Research is being conducted, compiled and communicated in various ways to inform effective policy and management decision-making. ^(FEE-3a)



The Wisconsin forest genetics program is reinvigorated with internal investments and external partnerships, with the relationship of genetics and forest resilience, forest health, tree improvement, silviculture and ecology being the main areas of focus. ^(FEE-4b)





Division Of Forestry Facts and Accomplishments: Forest Protection

Our Role

Wisconsin DNR Division of Forestry fire officials use a variety of strategies to protect human life, property, and natural resources from wildfire. Methods include prevention and safety programs, extensive training in fire suppression, and partnerships with other agencies and local governments to enhance rapid initial attacks of initiating forest fires.

Focus

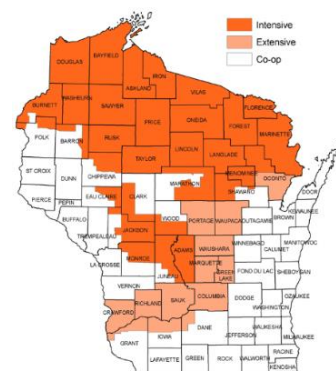
*Fire Suppression
Prescribed Fire
Law Enforcement
Prevention and
Mitigation
Cooperative
Partnerships
Wildland Fire Training*

Forest Fire Protection Areas

Intensive forest fire protection areas involve significant commitments of DNR forestry staff and suppression equipment in traditionally heavily forested state regions. DNR burn permits are required anytime the ground is not snow-covered.

Extensive forest fire protection areas involve DNR forestry staff and equipment over the state's larger, less forested areas. DNR burn permits are required from Jan. 1 through May 31 anytime the ground is not snow-covered.

Cooperative forest fire protection areas rely on town boards and local fire departments to provide forest fire protection. DNR does not regulate burning.



Forestry Facts

DNR Protection Areas - Wildfire Statistics (10-Year Average) & Trends

901

Wildfires suppressed



On average, WI experiences 2 fatalities and 10 injuries annually (indirectly related)

1963

Acres burned



Great Lakes states differ from the western US in vegetation type, density, weather patterns and topography

14 min

Response time to wildfires

440

Structures saved (91%)



Fire scar research in WI provides insight into historical fire frequency and severity

Fire Occurrence

Most Wisconsin wildfires occur in spring after snowmelt and prior to vegetation green-up.

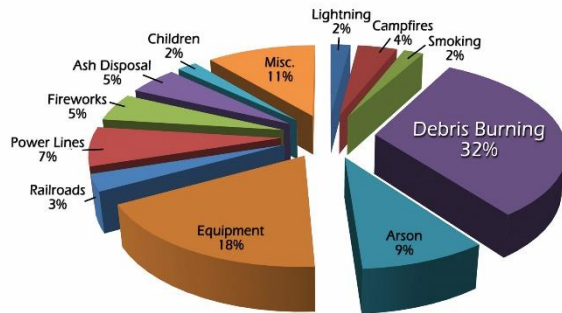


'Fire Facts' | DNR Forestry:

- Primarily fights fire from the ground using **190 engines**, **77 dozers** (tractor plows) and **5 low-ground units**
- Uses **11 detection aircraft** and citizens to report fires
- Manages real-time wildfire and prescribed burn 'Fire Management Dashboard' maps for public education.
- Spends around **\$620,000** annually in suppression costs.
- Mobilizes about **60** personnel out-of-state annually to support other agencies; value-added experience, training, mentorship and different perspectives.

Fire Prevention and Mitigation

Wisconsin wildfire causes



214

547

\$300,000

Only 2% of wildfires in Wisconsin are caused by lightning.

People or human-made objects cause the other 98%.

Smokey Bear fire danger signs and the WisBURN app alert the public of changing fire conditions.

Communities at risk. DNR partners with homeowner associations, fire depts, and municipalities to reduce risk on the ground.

Federal grant funds are allocated annually to reduce wildfire risks through planning, fuel reduction and education.

Law Enforcement

All wildland fires are investigated to determine the cause, origin and responsible party. The DNR issues citations and/or warnings and recoups suppression costs through billing.

Large Incident Response

Forestry can quickly mobilize up to three highly trained Incident Management Teams for large project fires or hazards such as floods, tornadoes and search/rescue.

Partnerships

Fire departments play a critical role in managing wildfires, particularly in their ability to protect structures. To enhance their capacity, the DNR:

- Has a Memorandum of Understanding with nearly all fire departments in WI to ensure partner availability and response for initial and extended attacks on forest fires.
- Annually awards approximately **\$1M** to fire departments for forest fire suppression gear, training, equipment, vehicles, etc.
- Conducts Wildland Fire Training annually for roughly **500** local fire departments statewide.
- Assists local fire departments in acquiring free government equipment to help fight forest fires.



Other Partnerships

Cooperators help promote effective prevention, pre-suppression and control of forest fires through information, technology and resource-sharing (mutual aid) activities or agreements:

- Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (Minnesota, Michigan, Ontario, and Manitoba)
- USDA Forest Service, DOI (USFW, NPS, BIA)
- Michigan and Minnesota border agreements
- National Weather Service
- Army National Guard (access to Blackhawks)
- Wisconsin Emergency Management

Prescribed Fire

DNR staff and contractors conduct approximately 278 burns annually on 25,000 acres of state lands.

Prescribed fire use allows for:



Revitalized growth of native plants and wildflowers



Reduction of invasive plants



Regeneration of fire-dependent species

- Habitat managers prioritize needs on a fiscal basis.
- Upward trends in treatment areas focus on prairie, wetlands, and pine or oak barrens/savannas.

Partnerships

Collaborative efforts with WI Prescribed Fire Council and The Nature Conservancy promote, educate and increase the amount of safe and effective private land burning.



Fiscal Year 2024 Review Highlights: Forest Protection

Major Accomplishments

Annual Summary **1,102** Wildfires
2168 Acres burned
99.7% of fires are controlled in the first 12 hrs
94% of fires were kept under 5 acres
89% threatened structures saved (739/827)
\$1.4 million in fire suppression costs

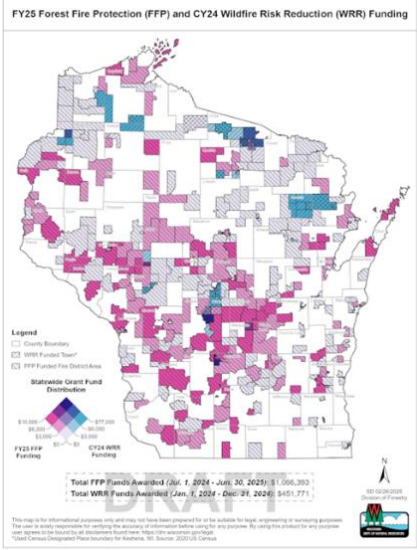


Incident Management Teams were activated and worked on the Pallet and Smith Bridge project forest fires.

Pallet Fire: On July 10, 2023 the fire burned 714 acres in Waushara County; 86 personnel from DNR; 33 fire departments; 133 structures threatened but saved with suppression efforts; 3 private residences destroyed; 16 private outbuildings destroyed; suppression costs totaled over \$275,000

Smith Bridge: On April 4, 2024 the fire burned 191 acres in Washburn County; 80 personnel from DNR; 7 fire departments; 21 structures threatened but saved with suppression efforts; 5 private residences destroyed; suppression costs totaled over \$120,000

Performance Measures Highlights

Targets	Accomplishments
85% of fire departments have an MOU with the DNR.	93% DNR has an MOU with 768 of the 826 fire departments in WI to ensure partner availability and response for attacks on forest fires.
30% of fire departments with an MOU receive a Forest Fire Protection grant. 	• \$1.13M in Forest Fire Protection grant funding was awarded to 303 fire departments for personal protective equipment, fire prevention supplies, training, and fire suppression and communications equipment. • \$459,000 in Wildfire Risk Reduction grant funding was awarded to partners for wildfire education, planning, and vegetation management projects. 
The average response time to fires will be less than 30 minutes.	16 Minutes = the average response time to wildfires in FY25
The prescribed burn program goal is to conduct 275 burns on 25,000 acres of state lands.	268 Prescribed Fires 34,807 Acres of State Lands Seasonal distribution of burns: 83% spring (March-May), 1% summer (June-Aug), 13% fall (Sept-Nov), 4% winter (Dec-Feb)

Provide timely fire danger and burn restriction info through the WisBURN mapping application.	 1.3MM visits to the DNR's WisBURN mapping application
Train and maintain wildland firefighting qualifications for estimated 600 DNR staff.	Fire, law enforcement and heavy equipment training: • Delivered 30 courses • Instructed 479 students • Coordinated 642 course hours
DNR mobilizes about 60 personnel out-of-state every year to support other agencies.	Coordinated movement of 67 staff and 13 state-affiliated firefighters to assist eight other states' forest fire suppression efforts. Employees gain a wealth of knowledge while volunteering for these assignments nationwide with 18 staff obtaining certification towards in-state target qualifications.



Division Of Forestry Facts and Accomplishments: Forest Products Services

Our Role

To foster the growth of Wisconsin's forest-based industries while enhancing the management of Wisconsin's urban and rural forest resources by providing technical assistance in wood utilization, market development, forest economics, and rural forest inventory and analysis.

Focus

*Utilization & Marketing
Forest Inventory Analysis
Forest Economics*

Forestry Facts

Economic Impact

Forestry ranks among Wisconsin's top 10 industries by output and value-added and is the No. 1 employer in five counties: Marathon, Price, Rusk, Taylor and Trempealeau.



WI is the
#1 paper-
producing
state

**\$1.4
Billion**

Foreign
Exports

**\$18.7
Billion**

Domestic
Exports

Direct Economic Impacts			
	Employment	Output	Value Added
Forestry and Logging	3,789 jobs	\$265.75 million	\$250.83 million
Pulp and Paper	26,420 jobs	\$18.67 billion	\$5.79 billion
Wood and furniture products	25,803 jobs	\$8.05 billion	\$2.27 billion
Total	56,013 jobs	\$26.98 billion	\$8.31 billion

- Every 100 jobs in forestry supports 122 additional jobs in the state
- Every \$1 million of output from forestry creates \$534,000 in other sectors
- Forestry is 1.9% of state GDP or 1 out of every \$52 produced

A Steady Wood Supply

WI forests continue to add a **net 2.2 billion board feet of sawlog wood volume annually**, of which approximately one third is from softwoods species typically used to make dimensional lumber. This annual growth of softwood timber could sustainably make enough lumber product to frame about 60,000 single family homes. The DNR's cooperative efforts with county, state and private landowners ensure a predictable wood flow to industry.

Forest Inventory And Analysis

- The FPS program partners with the USDA Forest Service to implement WI's Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) survey to assess forest acreage, volume, growth and harvest trends.
- The Wisconsin Continuous Forest Inventory (WisCFI) collects and reports on the condition of **Wisconsin's 11 state forests**.
- The Forest Regeneration Monitoring program monitors the status and progression of naturally regenerating forests to address regeneration challenges. To date, **more than 6,800 stands have been sampled**.

Forest Products Business Shape The Economy

**More than
1,000**

WI has more than 1,000 companies in primary and secondary forest products businesses and the forest products industry.



New And Emerging Markets



Resilient, healthy forests depend on diversified forest markets. The DNR reached over 170 partners with **technical assistance requests and outreach opportunities** per year on forest resource availability, wood processing, market development and training.



The DNR administers the Wisconsin Local-Use Dimension Lumber (WLUDL) certification, which **enables small businesses to affordably mill and sell Wisconsin lumber** for residential construction, creating markets for underutilized wood species.



The Wisconsin forest industry locator, urban wood user directory and biomass supplier listing facilitate market growth by **connecting forest product buyers and suppliers**.



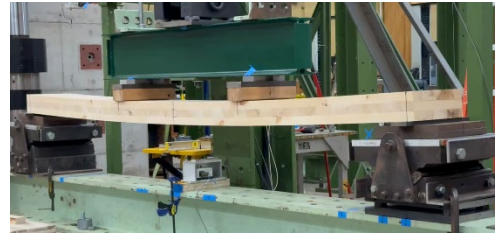
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Review Highlights: Forest Product Services

Major Accomplishments



Recent lumber grading short course at DNR Fitchburg Service Center.

The FPS Team hosted six courses providing Wisconsin Local Use Dimensional Lumber Certification to over 76 students in FY25.



White Pine CLT Panel going through structural testing at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison WI.

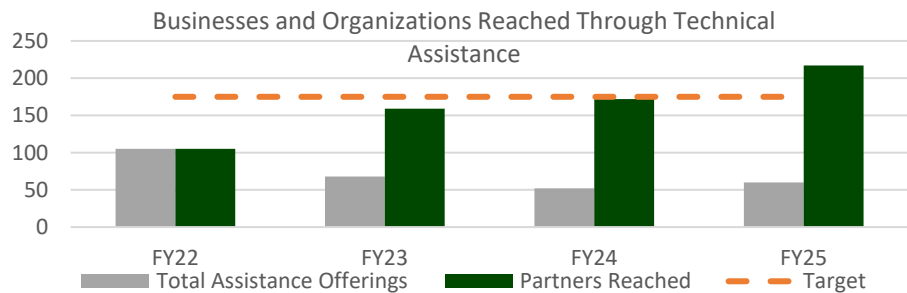
The FPS Team is researching the potential of the use of White Pine in CLT panels. The panels were built up at Michigan Technological University and then went through further structural testing at the Forest Products Lab.

Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome

The division provides professional technical assistance to expand understanding of forest products markets, processing and supply chains. (FPS-1a)

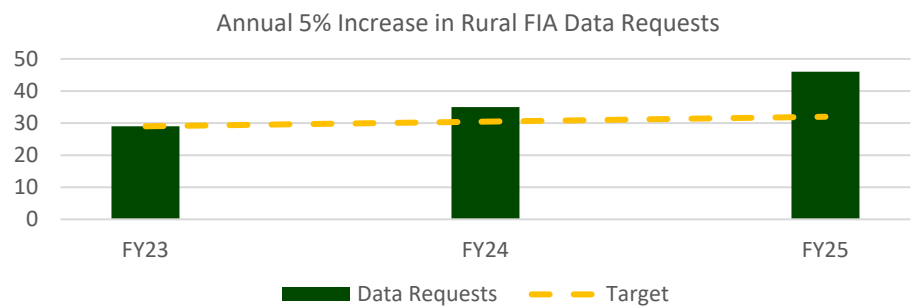
FY25 Results



The division supports new and existing businesses by providing information on emerging markets. (FPS-2b)

Mass Timber Feasibility – Completed	Secondary Industry Survey
White Pine Mass Timber – In progress	Wood Symposium – In Progress
Sawmill Clinic – On Hold	NMSFA U&M Publication – In Progress
Biochar Facility Siting Study – On Hold	TPO Survey – In Progress
Mexico Market Development – Completed	

The division makes rural and urban inventory data and trends available so the public and private sectors can use this information to make informed decisions. (FPS-3a)





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Forest Health

Our Role

To help Wisconsin's forestry community maintain healthy and resilient forests by providing financial assistance, technical expertise, and information in the prevention, detection, assessment, management and monitoring of insects, diseases, and invasive plants.

Focus

*Applied Management
Prevention, Detection and Monitoring
Partnerships and Outreach*

Forestry Facts

Applied Management

Forest Health partners with foresters and researchers to bring innovative and cost-reducing management options to the field. Traditional management practices often combine with new technology to prevent tree loss on production and recreational properties.

4

Active studies in 2024 with partners from county, state, and federal agencies

928

Acres treated by aerial spray in 2024 for spongy moth combined with innovative ground-based individual tree treatments

Prevention

Forest Health partners with external stakeholders to develop and update guidelines to prevent the spread of [oak wilt](#) and [Heterobasidion root disease](#) on DNR-managed lands. The **advisory committees blend science and implementation logistics to protect our forest resources and provide flexibility where appropriate.** Examples of flexibilities include adjustments based on the following:



Daily weather patterns



Future goals of the timber stand



Distance to known diseased stands



Salvage harvests

Forest Health Lab

The DNR's Forest Health Lab is unique to the region. Results inform management recommendations and preventative guidelines.

>250

Samples from public and private lands processed each year

3,000

State nursery seedlings are processed each growing season for quality assurance



Monitoring

Forest Health staff conduct aerial and ground surveys to monitor and track insect, disease and abiotic damage levels.

Emerald Ash Borer



Flooding Damage



Spongy Moth



Oak Wilt



Outreach And Education

Forest Health leverages resources through the education of partners and the general public. Education results in earlier detection of forest health concerns across the state, increasing management options and reducing control costs.

In 2024:

7,130

Forest Health newsletter subscribers, a **21% increase**

7,124

Attendees of Forest Health presentations and trainings

3.49 Million

Impressions from 47 Forest Health social media posts

244,618

People reached through 11 press releases



Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Review Highlights: Forest Health

Major Accomplishments



Tested and implemented a molecular method to detect HRD in addition to a culture test, which speeds up results in the lab.

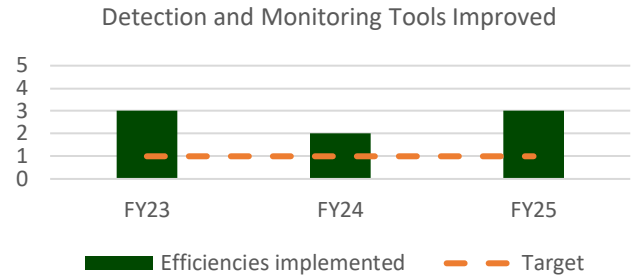


Developed and delivered a Forest Health field day for DNR foresters and techs based on focus group results.

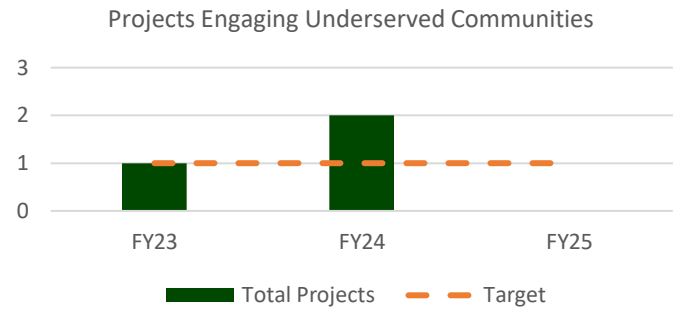
Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome	FY25 Results																
New forest health management tools are explored, developed with researchers and shared with forest managers to increase forest health management options. ^(FH-1a)	Management Tool Projects <table><tr><th>Fiscal Year</th><th>Applied Research Projects Completed</th><th>Applied Research Projects In Progress</th><th>Target</th></tr><tr><td>FY23</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>FY24</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>FY25</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	Fiscal Year	Applied Research Projects Completed	Applied Research Projects In Progress	Target	FY23	3	5	3	FY24	2	2	3	FY25	0	4	3
Fiscal Year	Applied Research Projects Completed	Applied Research Projects In Progress	Target														
FY23	3	5	3														
FY24	2	2	3														
FY25	0	4	3														
Management and preventative recommendations and techniques are available and being used by landowners and land managers. ^(FH-2b)	\$ Augmented some BIL-SFAP funds to WMA applicants  Waiting to kick off NR47 rule revision																

The division has increased involvement in developing and utilizing technology with partners to detect and monitor forest health issues. ^(FH-3a)



The division has increased engagement with K-12 and underserved communities on forest health issues. ^(FH-5b)





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Private Forestry

Our Role

To encourage private landowners to manage their forests sustainably by providing technical and financial assistance and information on various issues affecting land management decisions and connecting landowners to consulting foresters, natural resource professionals and the forest industry.

Focus

*Technical Forestry Assistance
Financial Assistance
Conservation Easements
Partnerships*

Private Forestry Facts

Ownership

57% of Wisconsin's forests, or **9.7 million acres**, are owned by families and other private landowners. (FIA, 2017)



Management Plans

Roughly 34% of Wisconsin's family forest landowners have a management plan; this is higher than the 24% national average but points to opportunities to help family forest landowners increase engagement and stewardship.

Reasons for Owning Land

The top five reasons for owning forest land are:



Wildlife
Habitat
(80%)



Beauty
(78%)



Hunting
(73%)



Nature
(71%)



Privacy
(67%)

(Butler et al., 2018)

Technical Assistance

DNR integrated service foresters are in nearly every state county and provide professional planning and technical advice to Wisconsin's landowners. In fiscal year 2025 DNR foresters and partners contributed to:



Over **1,122** property visits on nearly **40,000** acres were conducted by DNR foresters.



Nearly **15,000** landowners became aware of property visits or local workshops and events through outreach.



Over **1,400** new landowners are taking action in their woods by implementing their forester's recommendations!

Landowner Incentive Programs

The Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP) is a cost-share program designed to assist woodland owners in protecting and enhancing their woodlands. This program reimburses woodland owners up to 50% of the cost of eligible practices.

Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP) in FY2025:

\$1.8 Mil.

Awarded
(Supplemented
with Federal
USDA Grant)

466

Applications
Funded

236

First Time
Recipients



Cooperating Forester Program

The Cooperating Forester program is a cooperative effort between the DNR and private-sector consulting foresters to encourage sustainable forestry on private forestlands in Wisconsin.

200

Participating Businesses

290

Individual Cooperating
Foresters

dnr.wi.gov/fal/

Conservation Easements

Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program (FLP) protects environmentally significant lands threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and keeps working forests working, providing the highest conservation value and public benefit. Since 2000, Wisconsin's FLP has protected nearly **360,000 acres**.

Partnerships

Local, statewide, and national landowner organizations, governmental agencies and private forest industries offer landowners unique services. By leveraging our strengths, we can assist private forest landowners by raising awareness, inspiring learning and dialogue, encouraging property visits, and supporting on-the-ground action across Wisconsin!



Fiscal Year 2025 Review Highlights: Private Forestry

Major Accomplishments

Wisconsin Stewardship Plan Project

With roughly 34% of family landowners in Wisconsin having a Forest Stewardship Plan (Either MFL or non-MFL), efforts in Private Forestry are focused on increasing that number over time. A federal grant supports the Wisconsin Stewardship Plan Project, which supports the development of a Forest Stewardship Plan at no cost to the landowner. Since 2022 over 100 plans have been completed by participating Cooperating Foresters, adding over 4200 acres in Wisconsin with an active plan!

My Woodland Resource Compass

My Wisconsin Woods, a partnership between WI DNR and Aldo Leopold Foundation, now hosts a new tool for landowners developed in 2025 called the My Woodland Resource Compass. This tool asks landowners a series of questions in a quiz-like survey and provides resources tailored to their specific interests or questions. Two outreach campaigns were conducted to landowners who had taken an initial walk-through with DNR Foresters over the last 5 years offering this new interactive tool!

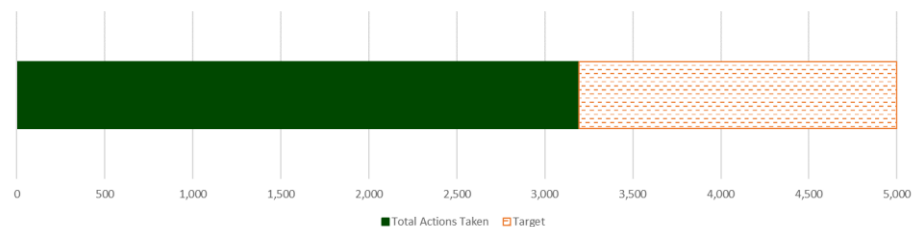
Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome

An increase in the number of landowners guided by a plan, connected to resource professionals and actively engaged in making informed decisions about woodland management. (PF-2a)

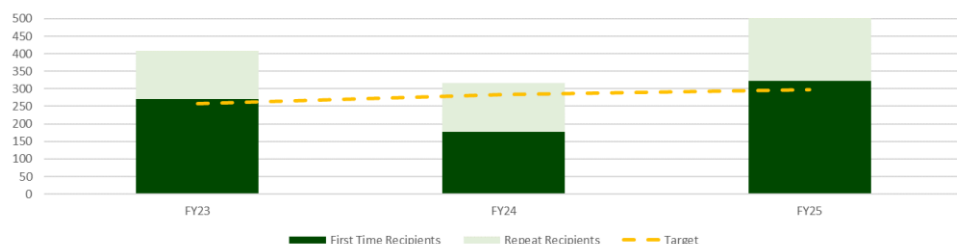
FY25 Results

Landowners Implementing Sustainable Forestry



For the first time, more landowners are receiving financial assistance to implement forest management activities on their properties. (PF-3a)

5% Increase in 1st Time WFLGP Recipients





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Public Lands

Our Role

To work in partnership to ensure that public forested lands are sustainably managed, balancing the economic, ecological and social benefits of forests through active management.

Focus

County Forests
State Lands
Good Neighbor Authority
Certification

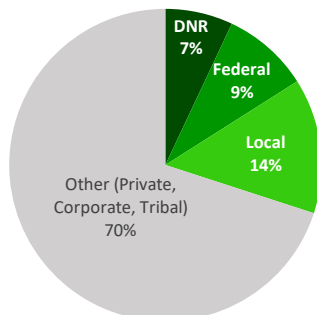
Forestry Facts

Ownership

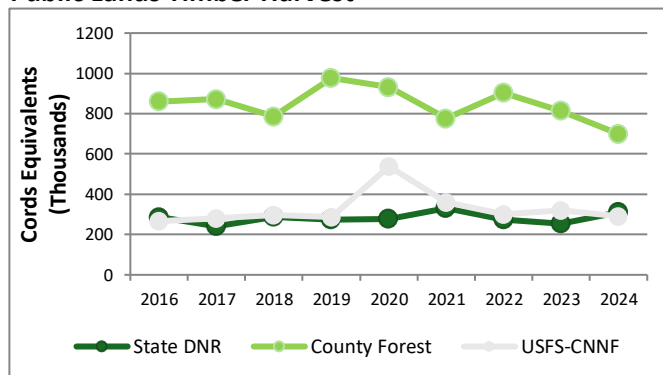
30% of Wisconsin's 17.1 million acres of forest land is publicly owned by federal, state and local governments.

Major Forest Land Ownership

DNR: 1.5 million acres
National Forest: 1.6 million acres
County Forests: 2.4 million acres



Public Lands Timber Harvest



Forest Certification

The County Forest and State Lands programs are verified under third-party forest certification standards. Almost 4 million acres of DNR and County Forest lands are either dual or singularly certified under Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) or Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) standards.

State Lands

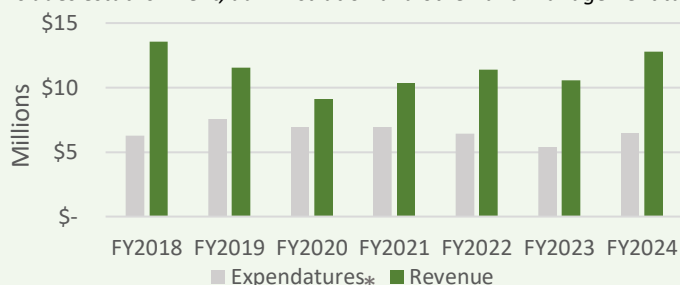
Timber Sale Establishment

Approximately 70% of DNR-owned forested acres are actively managed, with 686,000 of the 980,500 scheduled for management.

*Includes establishment, administration and other land management tasks

17,567 Acres

of timber sales established
annually
(5-year average)



Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

The USDA Forest Service and the DNR have three GNA Agreements on the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). Proceeds from GNA timber sales are used to reimburse timber expenditures, then surplus revenue is reinvested into restoration projects across CNNF.



GNA sales have an estimated market value of **\$21.6 million** across **34,000 acres** of GNA timber on **210** sales containing **566,600 cords**.



Over **\$4.4 million** in surplus revenue has been used to fund restoration projects such as: timber stand exams, silviculture prescriptions, culvert projects, wildlife surveys, wetland mapping and more.

County Forest Program

The DNR-County Forest partnership has a long and rich history of managing county forests for **timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat and other public benefits**, dating back to the first county forest, the Langlade County Forest, in 1928. Adams County was the most recent to join the program in 2020.

30

County Forests

Currently enrolled in the County Forest Program (s.s. 28.11)

2.41 Million

Acres of Public Land

\$8 Million

46,000+ Hours

Invested annually by the DNR in direct financial and technical assistance



Fiscal Year 2025 Review Highlights: Public Lands

Major Accomplishments



Annually, DNR foresters evaluate publicly-owned forested areas identified for management, then either establish timber sales for harvest or determine that harvesting is not currently viable and management is deferred to a later date. **In FY25, 14,271 acres were established for harvest and 2,618 acres were evaluated and management was deferred.**

Total acres for annual evaluation goals vary from year to year. **For the past three years, DNR foresters have reached acreage goals in all areas across the state.**



In 2025, WI DNR & Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest celebrated **10 years** of collaboration with an ongoing commitment through 2035. **Wisconsin ranks #2 nationally for GNA contributions**, accounting for 14% of GNA timber volume nationwide and 25% of CNNF's annual establishment.

To date, the program has **supported management on more than 35,000 acres of national forest, including 26,000 acres harvested, 900 acres planted, and 27,000 acres of other treatments.**

GNA connects federal, state, county and private foresters professionals to advance sustainable forest management in Wisconsin, enhances forest health, and helps maintain a stable flow of timber that supports local industries and communities.

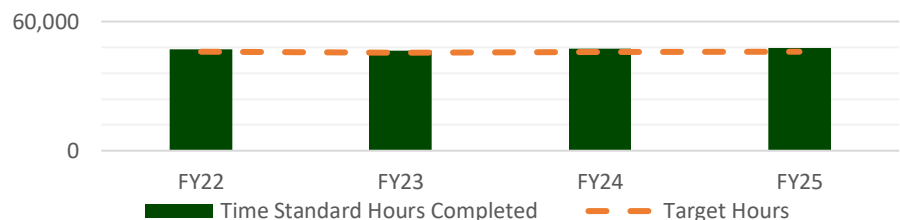
Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome

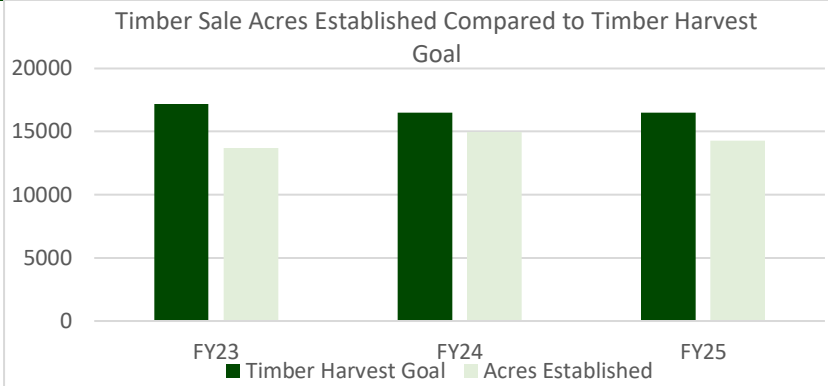
The division provides resources to strategically meet the needs of county forests. (PL-1a)

FY25 Results

County Forest Time Standard Hour Completion



Long-term annual average allowable
harvest goals on DNR-managed lands are
met. (PL-3a)





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Reforestation

Our Role

To encourage afforestation and reforestation in Wisconsin by facilitating the availability of an adequate supply of high quality, genetically diverse and highly adaptable seeds and seedlings of appropriate species and stock types at an economical price from public and private sources and by providing solutions that improve the success of afforestation and reforestation efforts.

Focus

Nursery and Seed Production
Landowner Support
Tree Improvement
Regeneration Monitoring

Nurseries

♦ Hayward ♦ Griffith ♦ Wilson ♦

Forestry Facts

Growing Trees For Wisconsin

4.6 Million

Trees distributed by the DNR in 2025

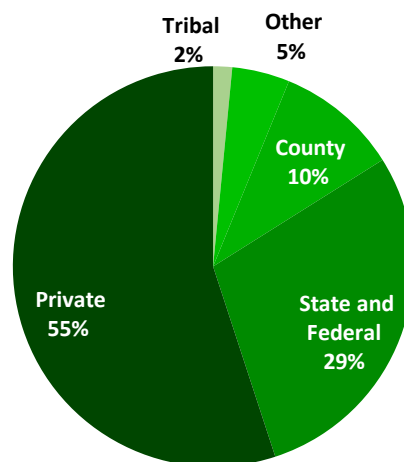
1.6 Billion

Trees distributed since 1911

4.5 to 6 Million

Projected annual demand for the next five years

Nursery operations are revenue-neutral.



Regeneration Monitoring

From 2012-2017, artificial regeneration plantings across public and private lands:

63%

Successful

Sites were considered free to grow and well-stocked

20%
↑
More likely

Sites that had management plans were more successful

The main reasons for plantation failure included:



Invasive and native weed competition



Deer browse and rodent girdling



Improper care or planting

Seed Collection And Need For Seed



Recent reduction in the number of seed collectors



22 seed orchards/trials across 146 acres provide a known supply



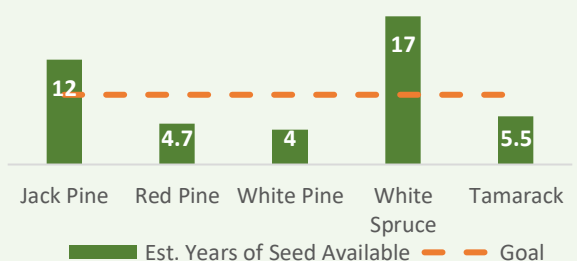
DNR pays seed collectors for seed



Dependant on seed collectors to provide seed

HARDWOOD GOAL: Harvested annually and not able to be stored

CONIFER GOAL: 8 years of seed supply for each conifer species



URBAN TREE PLANTING

Goal: 1 million trees

Accomplishment through 2024: 300,204 trees



RURAL TREE PLANTING

Goal: 99 million trees

Accomplishment through 2024: 42,494,000 trees



FOREST CONSERVATION

Goal: 125,000 acres

Accomplishment through 2024: 76,681 acres



■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ Remaining

Trillion Tree Initiative

In collaboration with public, private and non-governmental partners, Wisconsin pledged to conserve **125,000 acres of forestland and plant 100 million trees by the end of 2030**. This will sequester **28.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over the next 50 years**.

TOTAL TREES PLANTED: 42,794,204

White Oak Initiative

A diverse coalition of partners committed to the long-term sustainability of America's white oak forests and the economic, social and environmental benefits they provide.

Wisconsin has established two test plantings as part of this initiative!



Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Review Highlights: Reforestation

Major Accomplishments



Awarded an additional \$250,000 in federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funding to expand tree improvement capacity at the Hayward State Nursery and extending the funding for the Forestry Tech Adv project position at the Hayward State Nursery to 3 years.



Through a division wide effort and public outreach, expanded our seed collection network to over 100 collectors.



Partnered with the US Army Corp of Engineers and the USFS to establish an American elm screening trial for Dutch Elm Disease.



Completed significant cone collections in the improved white spruce and jack pine seed orchards allowing the distribution of genetically improved white spruce and jack pine seedlings for the next seven+ years.

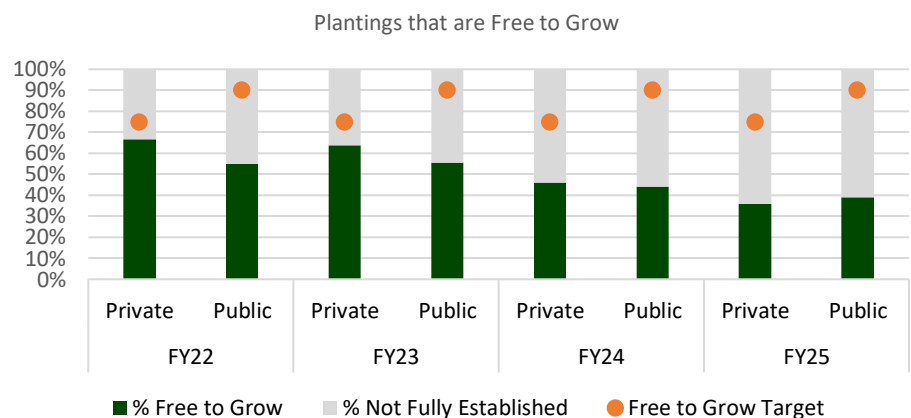
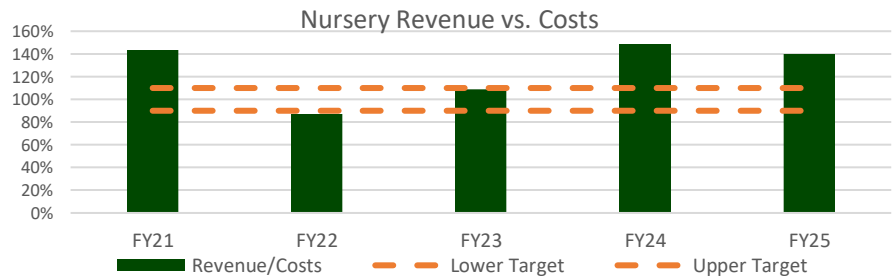
Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome

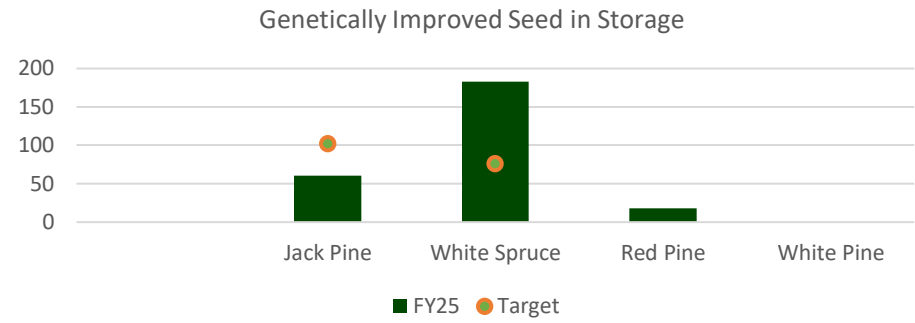
State nursery facilities scale production of high quality, genetically-diverse stock of known seed sources for conservation purposes in relation to private sector capacity and changing seedling demand, balancing flexibility with the cost of production. (RF-1a)

Tree plantings and natural regeneration efforts are fully stocked with established seedlings free to grow according to the planting plan or silvicultural prescription. (RF-2a)

FY25 Results



When economically feasible, the division maximizes the use of existing orchards and nursery production. (RF-4a)





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Forest Tax Law

Our Role

To ensure sound forestry practices and public benefits, including public hunting, fishing and recreation, on lands enrolled in Wisconsin's Forest Tax Law programs (Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law) through program administration, certification and management of Certified Plan Writer credentials and facilitation of technical assistance to landowners through referrals.

Focus

Management
Administration
Certified Plan Writers

77.80 Wis. Stats

The purpose of Managed Forest Law is to encourage the management of private forest lands for the production of future forest crops for commercial use through sound forestry practices, recognizing the objectives of individual property owners, compatible recreational services, watershed protection, development of wildlife habitat and accessibility of private property to the public for recreational purposes.

Forestry Facts

Enrollment

The Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law programs are landowner incentive programs that encourage sustainable forestry on private woodlands. MFL continues to increase enrollment, leading to more acreage managed sustainably.

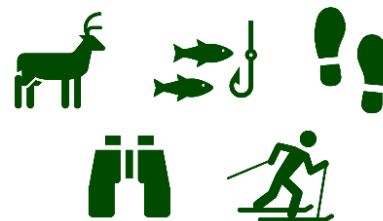
MFL Enrollments

3.52 Million Acres **50,000+ Plans**

Enrollment in FCL ended in 1985; however entries remain in the FCL program, comprising 31,121 acres.

Public Access

27% (937,000+ acres) are open to public access.



All lands in FCL are open to public hunting and fishing.

Forest Certification

The MFL Certified Group is dual certified under the **Forest Stewardship Council®** and **American Tree Farm System®** and is the nation's largest group certification.

83% (2.37 million acres) of eligible MFL participate in the MFL Certified Group.

Large account MFL is not qualified but may be certified independently.

Sustained Timber Supply

With over 60% of Wisconsin's forests owned by private landowners, Wisconsin's forest tax laws facilitate a consistent flow of raw forest products to market and maintain healthy forests for the future.

3,980 practices

Sustainable commercial forest management practices were completed on MFL lands in 2024.

1,051,129 Cords

5-year average of cord equivalents harvested on MFL lands

Annual Acres Actively Managed

57,795 Acres

5-year average of acres actively managed on MFL lands.

Certified Plan Writers (CPWs)

197



DNR Cooperating Foresters are certified to write MFL plans.



Fiscal Year 2025 Review Highlights: Forest Tax Law

Major Accomplishments

9 CPWs certified	165 Additions to existing MFL orders	2,628 Cutting notices processed
1,415 New enrollments	531 Withdrawals ^(Voluntary, involuntary and exempt)	3,660 Cutting reports processed
2,462 Transfers of enrolled MFL land		

- ♦ Launched new MFL plan template in WisFIRS
- ♦ Dispute Resolution Process updated to remove third party administrator

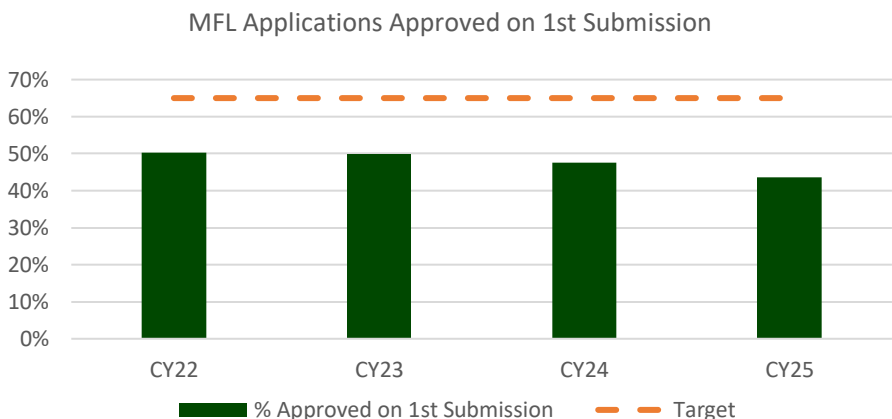
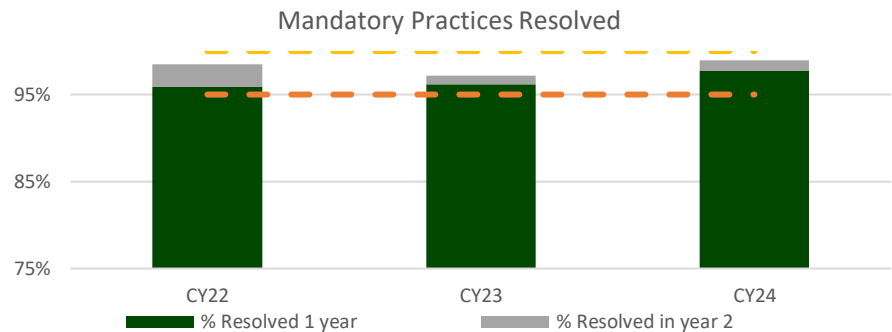
Performance Measures Highlights

Outcome

Sound forest management and adherence to program requirements are ensured through the facilitation of landowner engagement, enhanced partnerships, staff expertise and collaboration. ^(TL-1a)

The division supports building program expertise across Tax Law Specialists and Certified Plan Writers with a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities. ^(TL-2a)

FY25 Results





Division Of Forestry Facts And Accomplishments: Urban Forestry

Our Role

To maximize public benefits from urban and community forests by building the capacity of existing and new partners through direct assistance and encouraging and supporting partners in accomplishing their goals.

Focus

*Financial Assistance
Technical Assistance*

Forestry Facts

Supporting Local Governments And Economies

In fiscal year 2025, the DNR awarded over \$641,000 of state and federal funds to local governments and non-profits for urban forestry activities. These monies leveraged over \$774,000 of local matching funds for a combined spending of more than \$1.4 million for critical efforts, including emerald ash borer response, tree planting, management planning and outreach.

+ \$63

FOR EVERY \$100

Every \$100 generated in urban forestry contributed an additional \$63 to the state's economy

+ 34 JOBS

FOR EVERY 100 JOBS

Every 100 jobs in urban forestry in Wisconsin resulted in another 34 jobs in other sectors of our economy

Urban Forestry In 2025

Impact	Number	% of Total
Communities Assisted	241	35%
Community Population Affected	3,698,653	78.7%

Learning About Your Urban Forest

The **Urban Forestry program** maintains data collection and analysis projects to help people understand what trees are growing where in our communities and why they are essential. Results from long-term field plots in Milwaukee and Madison were published and can be accessed in factsheets, an interactive map (My City's Trees) and as a searchable database (Urban Forest Stats). Results from other long-term plots in the state will be available in 2026.

1,300

Field plots established across Wisconsin urban areas

29%

Average municipal area covered by tree canopy

The Wisconsin Community Tree Map

(WCTM) is a compilation of tree inventories from around the state. Users can learn about trees in their neighborhoods, including their benefits to the community.



Over 235 organizations have tree inventories

1,191,000

Trees mapped in the WCTM

Urban Forestry Partnerships

Advancing urban forestry across the nation is based on partnerships:

- The DNR provides technical assistance to local partners for tree-planting initiatives
- The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council provides guidance
- Collaboration occurs with statewide professional organizations such as the WI Arborist Association and the Urban Wood Network-WI Chapter and with counterparts from states across the country and the USDA Forest Service

Success Story in Partnerships



Every February, the program partners with the Wisconsin Arborist Association to host an annual conference. In 2025 there were 946 attendees!

Looking Forward In WI Urban Forestry



Financial and technical support for partners



Greening K-12 schools



Increased DNR capacity to implement and administer funds

In FY25 the Urban Forestry program awarded \$4 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding to seven local units of government, two tribes, three non-profits and a county government. Agreements were signed and executed in September 2024 and grantees have until December 2027 to complete their projects. Work has started on these multi-year projects' accomplishments. When completed, approximately 5000 trees will be planted, 700 dangerous trees will be removed, and 500 trees will be injected to protect ash from emerald ash borer. Other work will include forming a tree board, urban tree inventories and tree care industry workforce development.



Fiscal Year 2025 Review Highlights: Urban Forestry

Major Accomplishments



The urban forestry team provided technical support for the NFL Draft Week tree planting event in April. Staff partnered with NFL Green, Verizon, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, the Governor's Office, Oneida Nation, and Brown County Parks.

Speakers at the event included Governor Tony Evers and Oneida Nation Chairman Tehassi Hill. Ninety landscape-sized trees were planted in total.



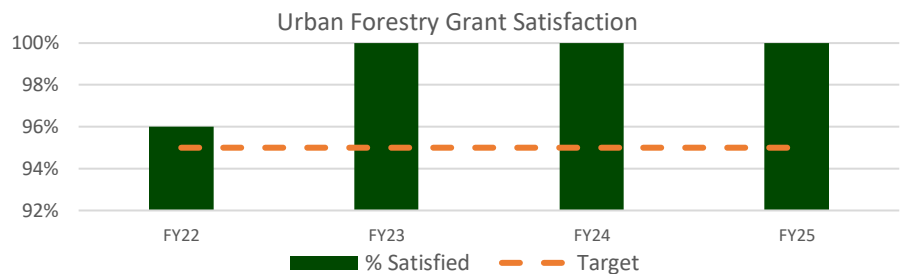
Two interns joined the Urban Forestry team this summer through the State of Wisconsin Student Diversity Internship Program. In addition to gaining exposure to many parts of the forestry and urban forestry industries, they worked on data collection and analysis projects, particularly a tree inventory of cemeteries in southeast Wisconsin.

Performance Measures Highlights

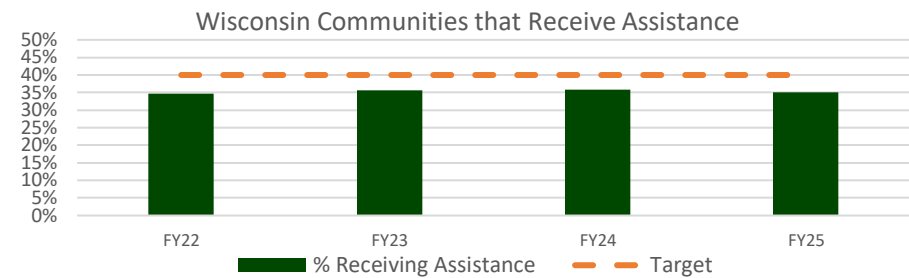
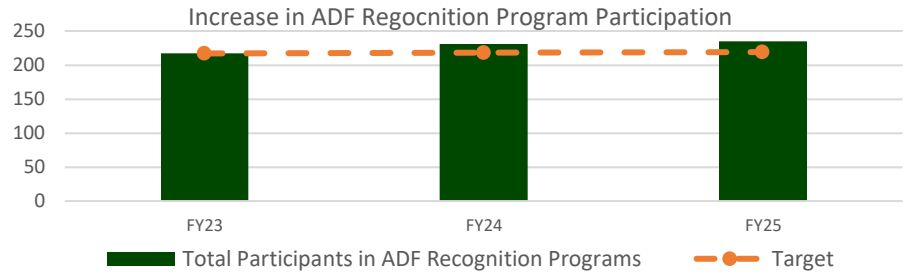
Outcome

Urban forestry staff provide grant recipients with high-quality customer service. (UF-1a)

FY25 Results



The Urban Forestry Team provides partners with resources, education and tools to increase their capacity to best manage their resources. (UF-2a; UF-2b)



The division makes rural and urban inventory data and trends available so the public and private sector can use this information to make informed decisions. (UF-3a)

