

Forest Management

The Division of Forestry:

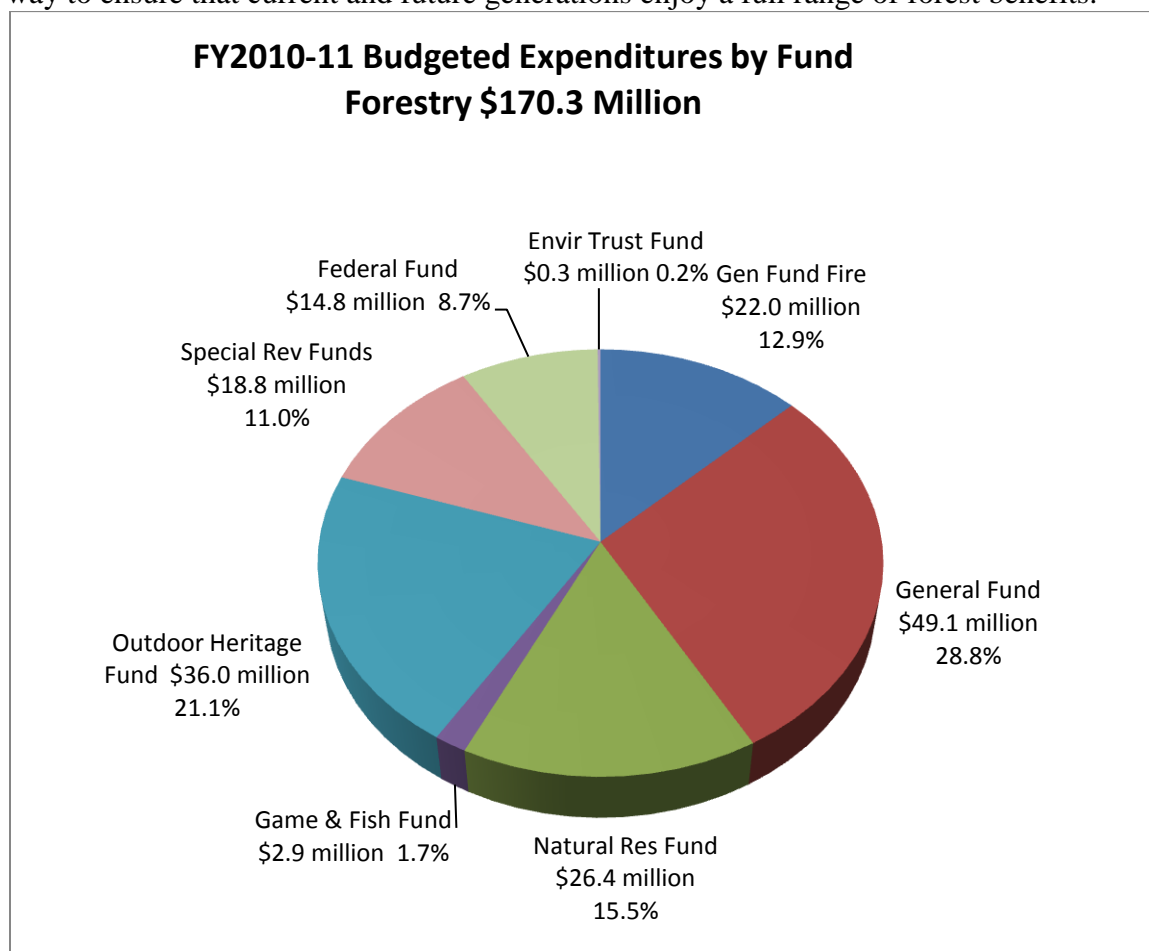
- **Fire Management:** Protects citizens, property, and natural resources from wildfires;
- **State Land Asset Management:** Manages state administered forestlands for multiple forest values, including quality timber, wildlife habitat, recreation, and aesthetics, over the long term;
- **Cooperative Forest Management:** Supports the efforts of private landowners and communities to maintain and enhance their forest resources; and
- **Core Program Support:** Supports our own activities, those of other units in the Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies, and other stakeholders.

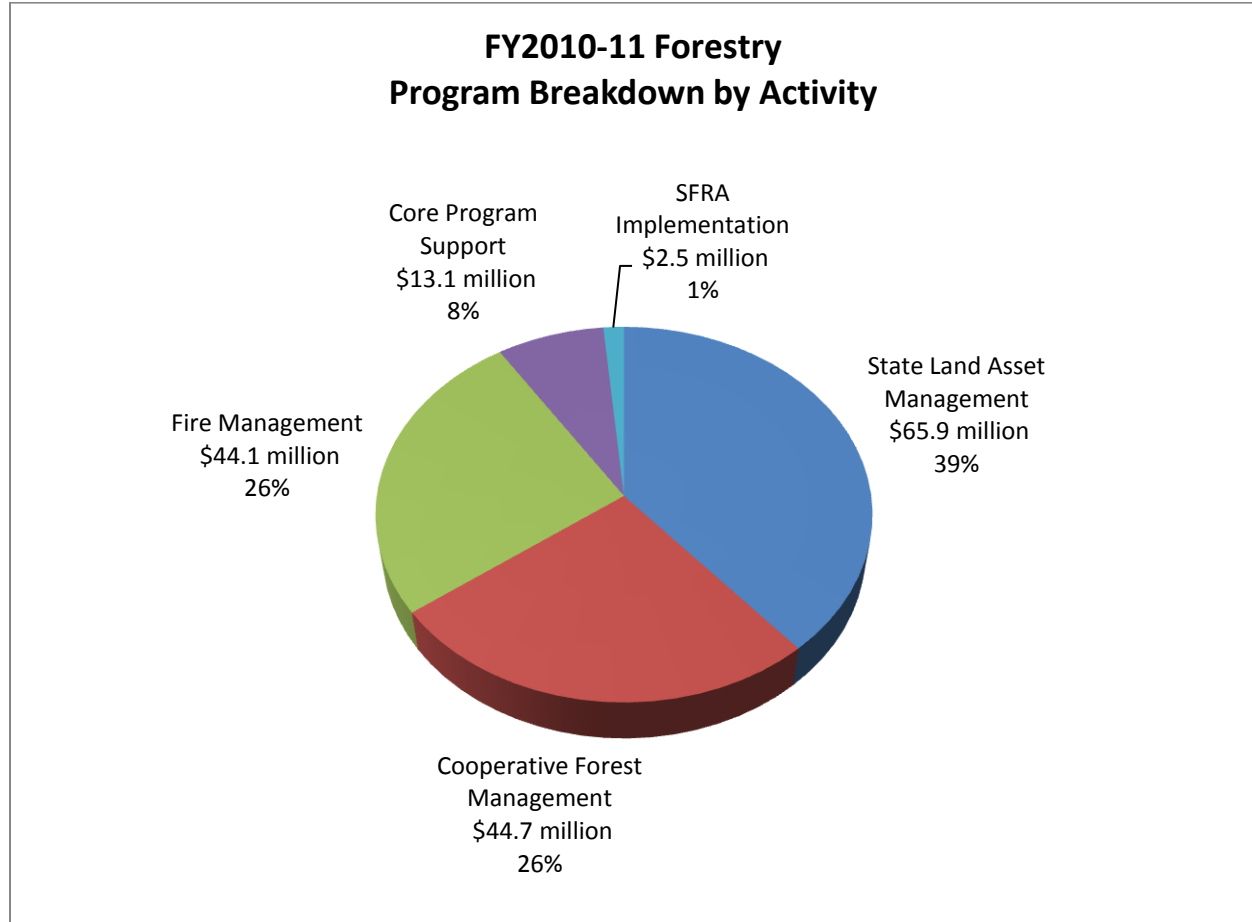
For more information on the DNR Division of Forestry please visit:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/index.html>.

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) brings together the state's varied forest resource interests to develop and implement programs that promote sustainable site and landscape-based forest management practices (**Implementing the Sustainable Forest Resources Act**). For more information on the MFRC please visit: <http://www.frc.state.mn.us/>.

Sustaining Minnesota's forest ecosystems in a healthy, resilient, and productive state is the best way to ensure that current and future generations enjoy a full range of forest benefits.





State Land Asset Management: The Division of Forestry manages state-administered lands by sustaining and enhancing forest ecosystems, ensuring a sustainable supply of high quality forest products and recreational opportunities, and providing revenue to the permanent school trust fund.

Managing 4.2 million acres of state-owned forestlands includes:

- planning for and managing forest vegetation;
- providing opportunities to harvest forest products, including biomass;
- reforesting harvested areas and improving timber stands;
- conserving old growth, critical ecosystems and habitats, and riparian areas;
- maintaining more than 2,000 miles of state forest roads for public recreational uses and access to state lands;
- supporting outdoor recreation, including motorized and non-motorized activities;
- enforcing state forest rules and regulations; and
- maintaining forest health and minimizing the negative effects of invasive species.

Cooperative Forest Management: The Division of Forestry provides technical and cost-share assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners and Minnesota communities with urban forests. We acquire and monitor permanent conservation easements to ensure that working forests continue to provide Minnesotans with recreational opportunities, forest products, and ecosystem services.

Fire Management: The Division of Forestry provides wildfire protection to avoid loss of life and minimize the loss of property and natural resources. We respond to fires and natural disaster emergencies in Minnesota and other states, and support the effective use of prescribed fire as a natural resource management tool.

Protecting against wildfire includes:

- training firefighters and support personnel, making heavy ground-based and aerial firefighting equipment available, and maintaining emergency communications networks and mobilization plans;
- locating wildfires using aerial patrols, public reports, and lookout towers and controlling the spread of wildfires and the damage they cause;
- training and supporting homeowners, developers, and communities in practices that reduce the risk of wildfire educating children and adults about wildfire;
- regulating open burning and enforcing state wildfire laws;
- assisting other state and federal agencies in fighting fires;
- conducting prescribed burns safely to accomplish many natural resource goals; and
- assisting local fire departments with training and equipment.

Core Program Support: We produce and sell tree and shrub seedlings for conservation planting on public and private lands. We monitor the health, growth, and composition of Minnesota' forests and check on the implementation and effectiveness of forest management practices and guidelines. We develop, and evaluate new management approaches, assist county land managers, and provide marketing assistance to forest-related businesses. And we coordinate forestry related education programs in schools.

Implementing the Sustainable Forest Resources Act: The Legislature created the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) to help implement the Sustainable Forest Resources Act. The MFRC is a forum in which forest stakeholders can solve problems in forest management collaboratively. The MFRC addresses conflicts between economic, ecological and social values associated with forests by focusing on site-based forest resource practices and landscape-level planning and coordination.

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council:

- provides policy advice to the governor, legislature and public management agencies;
- develops and promotes science-based best management practices;
- coordinates multi-owner, landscape-level forest resource planning and management;
- assesses the implementation and effectiveness of forest management guidelines;
- assesses current trends and conditions of forest ecosystems;
- supports relevant forest research; and
- evaluates citizen concerns regarding timber harvesting and forest management.