



**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 18.7 million acres of forestland 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.

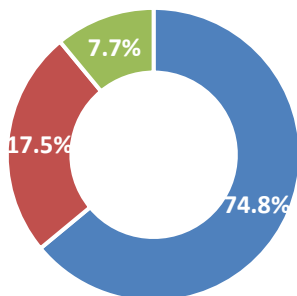
**Number of Employees and Assigned Areas**

The NCFS has 643 full-time positions and 66 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. As of January 2024, 103 positions were vacant. At any point during the course of a year, we are at an 80-85% staffing level. One out of every seven jobs in our workforce is vacant.

**2023 Accomplishments**

- NCFS personnel suppressed 4,671 wildfires across the state, protecting life and property in and around the 69,690 acres burned by these wildfires.
- In FY22-23, \$2.74 million in funding was allocated for 986 cost share projects on 66,120 acres across the state. This was made possible through the N.C. Forest Service Forest Development Program, North Carolina’s flagship tree-planting initiative, Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program, the Florence Reforestation Funding Program, Foresters for Healthy Waters and the American Forests Program.
- The NCFS provided 5,141 woodland management plans to private forest landowners. These management plans cover approximately 320,664 acres across the state.
- Approximately 1,295 forest management projects on 59,118 acres across the state were completed with assistance from the NCFS.
- North Carolina state forests welcomed nearly 1.412 million visitors in FY22-23.
- NCFS personnel participated in more than 2,500 educational outreach events, programs and meetings involving landowners, civic and school groups, organizations, cooperators and the public.
- NCFS personnel conducted 5,579 forestry inspections and reinspections to protect water quality on 153,628 acres across the state.

**FY2022-2023 Sources of Funding**



- 1. Appropriations – \$62,552,130\***
- 2. Nonfederal Receipts\* – \$14,656,110**
- 3. Federal Receipts\* – \$6,434,342**
- Total Budget: \$83,642,582**

\* Appropriations include \$12,526,731 in carryforward funds.  
 \* Nonfederal receipts as of 6/30/2023. 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 6/30/2023.

**Contact Information**

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