

A decorative collage of forest-related images in the background. It includes a large green leaf with prominent veins, a red autumn leaf, and a circular image of tall pine trees against a blue sky.

North Carolina's Forest Development Program (FDP)



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The N.C. Forest Service is a division of the N.C. Depart. of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Steve Troxler, Commissioner



Importance of Forestry in North Carolina



- *Birthplace of American Forestry*
 - Biltmore Estate and Forestry School
- “First in Forestry” license plates
- 2019 forestry sector:
 - **\$21.6 billion** in industry output
 - **\$266.8 million** in state & local taxes
 - Top employer - manufacturing sector
 - Each dollar generated - additional 62 cents to the NC economy





Forest Development Program History

- 1977 Forest Development Act
 - site preparation, tree planting, forest stand improvement
- Funding – 1977 Primary Forest Product Act
 - Forest products assessments
 - NC Dept. of Revenue
- Cost-share Funding:
 - Private woodland owners (usually pays 60+%)
 - Forest Industry (avg. \$1.8 million/yr.)
 - State appropriations \$500,000 - \$800,000 (1978-2008)





Forest Development Program Strengths

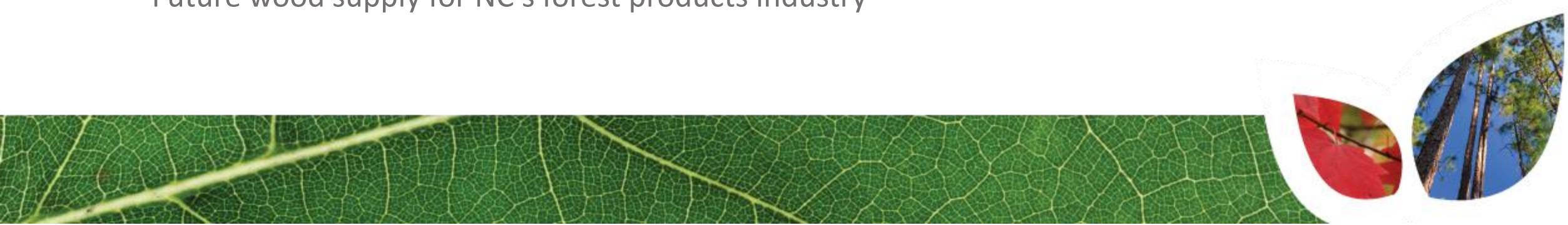
- Reasonable application process
 - Forest Management Plan Required
 - FDP application
- Effective quality control measures
- “On the Ground” results
 - 222,200 acres tree planting (last 10 yrs.)
 - 1.5 million acres planted since 1977 (930 million trees!)
- Low administrative costs (5% for NCFS and DoR)
- Adaptable and used as a Model





Forest Development Program Benefits

- Societal
 - Healthy Trees = Healthy Lives
 - Planting trees leaves a Legacy for future generations
- Environmental
 - Soil and water quality protection
 - Improved air quality
 - Carbon sequestration
- Economic
 - Planting trees can increase property values
 - Future income for woodland owners
 - Future wood supply for NC's forest products industry





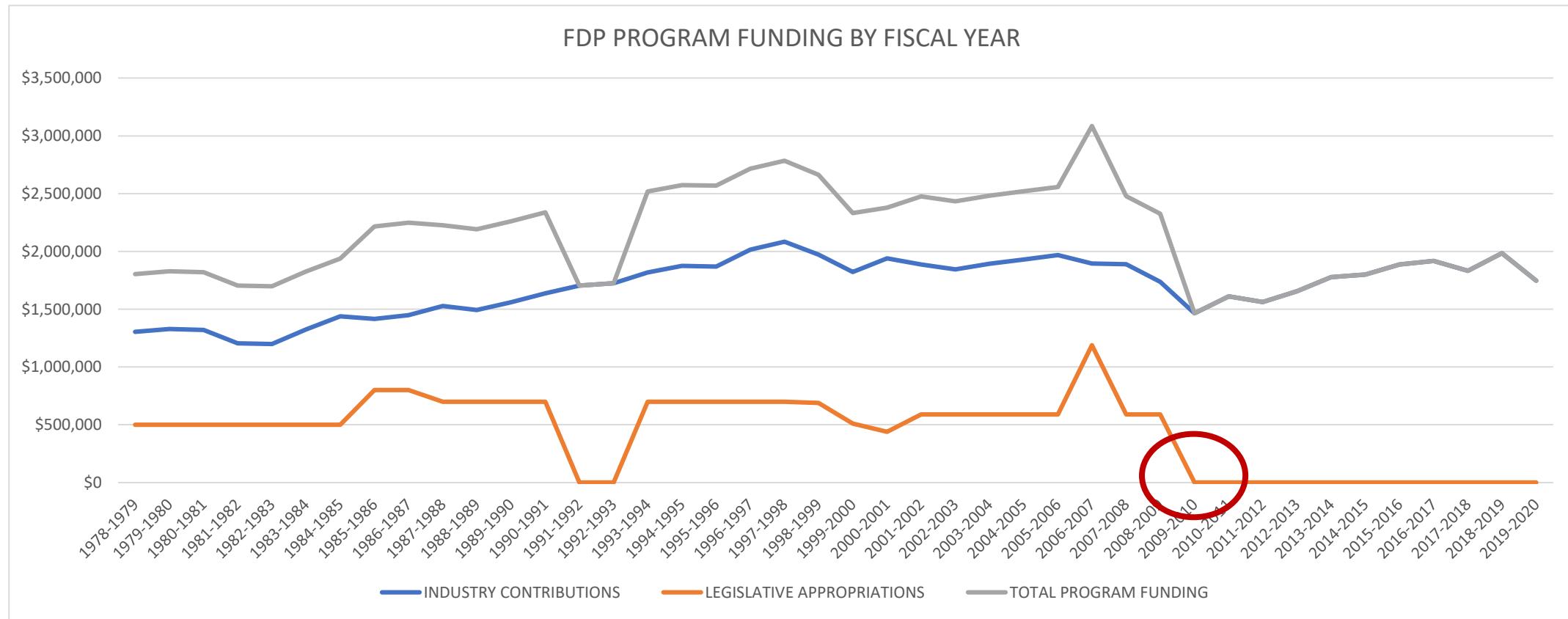
Forest Development Program Challenges

- Suspension of FDP's State appropriations (2009)
 - Significant backlogs
 - Program changes
 - Avg. \$1.25 million in qualified requests unfunded (last 2 yrs.)
- Landowner project funding uncertainty
- Less sites are planted back
- Forestry assessments subject to markets & economy



Forest Development Program Funding History

1978 – 2020





Forest Development Program Request

- Requesting \$1 million FDP recurring appropriations
 - Meet financial assistance need
 - Reinstates FDP partnership - forest industry, landowners & State of North Carolina
 - Supports forest sustainability and viable markets
 - \$1 million investment = \$2.98 million in direct & indirect economic benefits (S. Koesbandana. NC State Univ. M.S. Study - 2012)
- Key administration and agency goals supported:
 - Executive Order No. 80 – North Carolina’s Commitment to Address Climate Change and Transition to a Clean Energy Economy
 - Natural and Working Lands Action Plan
 - Recommended Strategies – Restore and Enhance Forest Lands
 - 2020 North Carolina Forest Action Plan
 - Goal 1 – Increase the Sustainable Management and Conservation of Forests

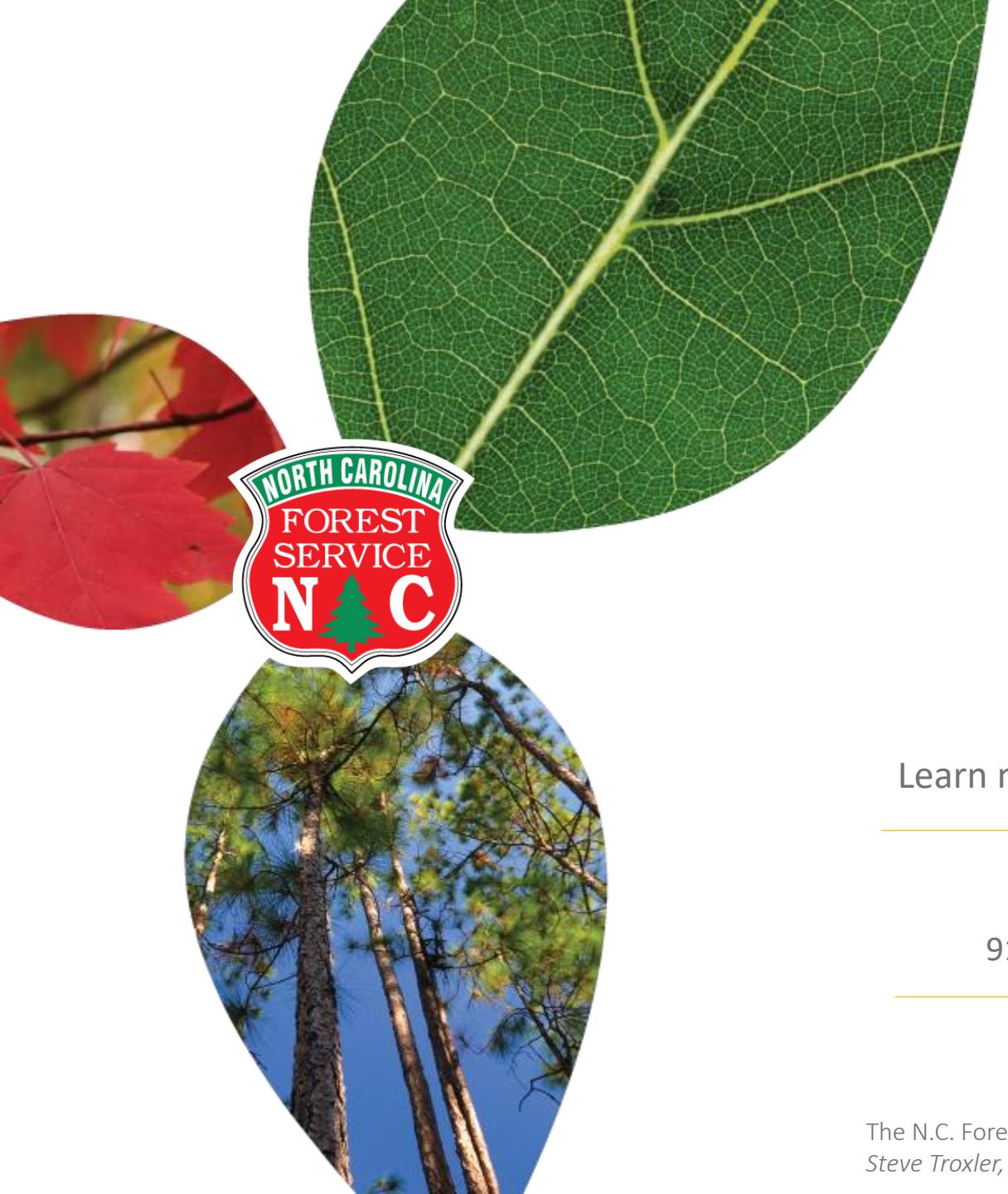




Forest Development Program Summary

- FDP:
 - Successful history (1977)
 - NC's "flagship program" for tree planting
 - Partnership: landowners, forest industry, State
 - Provides direct assistance to NC landowners
 - Insufficient funding to meet current demand
- \$1 million FDP recurring appropriations request
 - Fund more qualified, shovel-ready tree-planting
 - Strengthen FDP partnership and forest sustainability
- FDP can achieve key administration and agency goals





Learn more at www.ncforestservice.gov

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