



# *North Carolina's Forest Development Program (FDP)*



Ron Myers

North Carolina Forest Service

Forest Management Program Head

[Ron.Myers@ncagr.gov](mailto:Ron.Myers@ncagr.gov)

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*

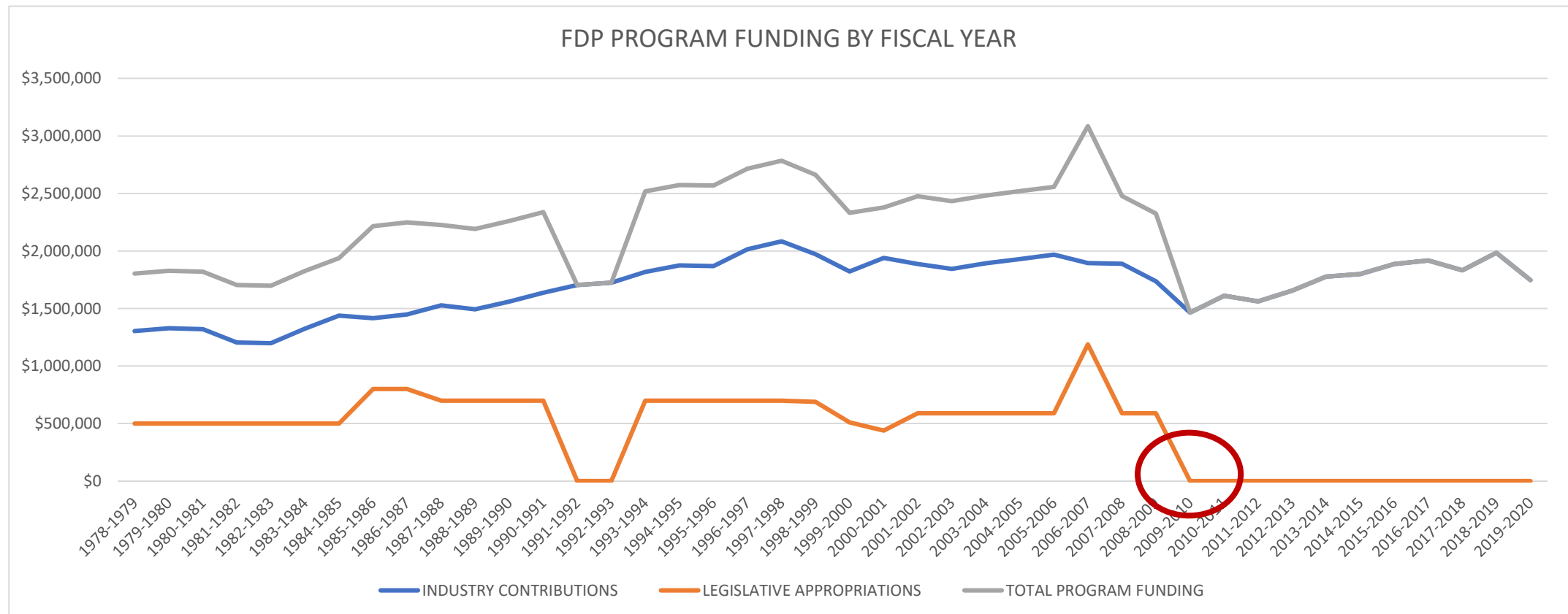
---

- 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](http://www.ncforestservice.gov)

---

**RON MYERS**

919-857-4811 [RON.MYERS@NCAGR.GOV](mailto:RON.MYERS@NCAGR.GOV)

---

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

