

**Forest Service  
Budget No. 244  
Senate Bill No. 2003**

	<b>FTE Positions</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
2025-27 legislative appropriation	36.00	\$6,394,924	\$20,541,020	\$26,935,944
2023-25 legislative appropriation	<u>29.00</u>	<u>5,851,590</u>	<u>19,141,941</u>	<u>24,993,531</u>
2025-27 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriation	7.00	\$543,334	\$1,399,079	\$1,942,413

**Item Description**

**Full time-equivalent changes** - The Legislative Assembly approved 36 FTE positions for the Forest Service for the 2025-27 biennium, an increase of 7 FTE positions from the 2023-25 biennium authorized level of 29 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly added 2 new FTE positions for the conservation tree improvement initiative. The remaining 5 new FTE positions were added pursuant to Section 39 of House Bill No. 1003 (2023), which authorized the State Board of Higher Education to adjust FTE positions at institutions under its control. Section 39 of Senate Bill No. 2003 (2025) continues the authorization of the board to adjust positions at institutions under its control during the 2025-27 biennium.

**Emerald ash borer mitigation** - The Legislative Assembly, in Senate Bill No. 2003 (2025), appropriated \$950,000 of one-time funding from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund for emerald ash borer mitigation.

**Status/Result**

The Forest Service was appropriated \$350,000 from other funds for the 2 new FTE positions for the conservation tree improvement initiative at Towner State Nursery. The nursery equipment position was filled in September 2025, and the pesticide technician position has been offered to a candidate, with an anticipated start date of May 5, 2026.

The Forest Service reported \$575,000 has been committed for 31 emerald ash borer mitigation projects across the state and the agency anticipates the remainder will be committed by the end of the biennium. Funding may be used for detection surveys, removal and replacement of trees, approved treatments, and developing outreach and education materials and programs. The agency anticipates requesting an additional \$500,000 for the 2027-29 biennium to continue mitigation efforts.