

**Forest Service
Budget 244
House Bill No. 1003**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1999-2001 legislative appropriation	17.66	\$1,640,151	\$2,195,088	\$3,835,239
1997-99 legislative appropriation	<u>17.66</u>	<u>1,568,068</u>	<u>860,526</u>	<u>2,428,594</u>
1999-2001 appropriation increase (decrease) to 1997-99 appropriation	0.00	\$72,083	\$1,334,562	\$1,406,645

NOTE: The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts include the following general fund allocations for the agency's share of the funding pools appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the University System:

- Funding of \$1,579 of the \$1.4 million funding pool appropriated to OMB for assisting agencies in providing the \$35 per month minimum salary increases in July 1999 and July 2000.
- Funding of \$11,821 of the \$2,630,992 critical salary funding pool appropriated to the University System to address additional salary increases beyond legislative appropriations for market and equity raises.

Item Description

Living snow fence initiative - In January 1998 Governor Ed Schafer announced the goal of planting 100 miles of living snow fences to reduce snowdrifting and blockage on roads, highways, and interstates through North Dakota by 2001. The Governor asked the State Forester to direct the project in conjunction with the Centennial Trees Advisory Committee.

Centennial trees program - The centennial trees program is a 1989 state centennial initiative which encourages North Dakotans to plant one hundred million trees by the year 2000.

The program will conclude on June 30, 2001, and the expiration date for optional contributions to the centennial trees program trust fund through individual income tax returns is December 31, 2000.

Status/Result

In 1998 the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management awarded \$673,911 in Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation grant funds to the Forest Service for the living snow fence initiative. Also in 1998, the Department of Transportation and the Forest Service signed a \$300,000 three-year commitment to fund living snow fence projects. In addition, the State Forester allocated \$33,333 from the 1997-99 biennium "Grants to centennial trees" line item for the initiative.

The funds are used to provide grants to private and public landowners who are willing to establish living snow fences to protect interstate, county, or township roads. By summer 2000, 150 tree planting projects will have been initiated in 30 counties. The projects result in the planting of approximately 228 miles of trees which will protect 85 miles of road.

The official centennial tree count is over 60 million, and a celebration is planned for the centennial trees program for Arbor Day of 2001.

The Forest Service plans on proposing statutory changes to North Dakota Century Code Chapter 4-21.2 which will rename the centennial trees program and extend the effective date of the program. The Forest Service also plans on proposing statutory changes to North Dakota Century Code Section 57-38-34.5 which will extend the effective date for optional contributions to the centennial trees program trust fund through individual income tax returns.