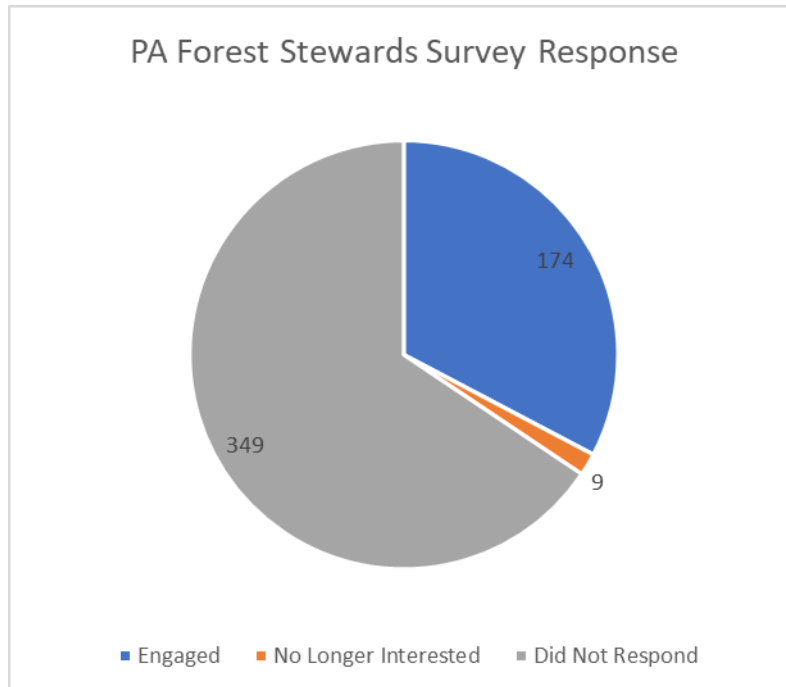


# Pennsylvania Forest Stewards Summary Report of 2023



*The 2023 edition of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewards biennial survey shows PA Stewards volunteers continue to actively promote forest stewardship in their communities.*

Of the 532 PA forest stewards surveyed, 183 provided returned the survey (34% response rate). Separate surveys were sent to each PA Forest Steward within a household.



## Number of Outreach Hours Volunteered

Volunteers	Number of Hours	Average Number of Hours
All Volunteers	10,376*	60

\* Equivalent to 5 full-time employees at 40 hours per week for 50 weeks

Using the national volunteer time average of \$31.80 per hour, this outreach totals \$329,956 in volunteer time.

PA Forest Stewards were asked to estimate how many friends, neighbors, or members of the public they reached through their stewardship-related outreach activities. According to respondents, they reached 21,765 people within the last year.

To ease reporting, we broke outreach activities into nine categories, through which volunteers could report time and people reached. The most time (2917 hours) was spent on participation on conservation-related boards. The most people were reached through media outreach (8,798 people).

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>People Reached</b>
Woodland Owners Associations	1,851	1,558
Presentations to Adults	725	2,530
Presentations to Youth	440	1,663
Natural Resources Professional Assistance	244	161
Outreach through Media	1,215	8,798
Participation on Conservation-related Boards	2,917	2,604
One on One Conversations with Landowners	482	639
Staffing Displays at Outreach Events	367	2,392
Other Stewardship Outreach	2,135	1,420

We also asked about time spent practicing good forest management on properties. Respondents spent 24,241 hours working on their own and some public properties. This equates to 12 full-time employees at 40 hours per week for 50 weeks working on properties across the state.

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Numbers of Professionals Hired</b>
Invasive Plant Control	4,826	4,227	23
Forest Health (surveys and monitoring)	711	3,349	8
Maintaining Roads	1,483	6,965	7
Maintaining Boundary Lines	656	6,825	6
Creating or Maintaining Recreational Trails	1,691	4,313	7
Phenology Tracking	151	541	1

Measuring Tree Growth and Change	127	1,044	4
Wildlife Population Assessment	736	5,087	3
Establishing New Forest - Regeneration Cuts	831	955	9
Establishing New Forest - Interplanting, Planting Seeds or Seedlings	1,770	1,374	7
Wildlife Habitat Improvement	2,209	2,022	9
Riparian Buffer Creation	215	123	5
Riparian Buffer Maintenance	374	222	2
Firewood Harvesting	3,938	2,729	5
Deer Control or Fencing	775	4,045	9
Growing NTFP	416	455	2
Silvopasture, Shelterbelt, or other Agroforestry	70	100	3
Timber Stand Improvement	1,088	1,649	15
Meeting with Estate Planning Professionals	115	2,279	11
Creating a Legacy/Estate Plan	215	2,726	11
New Management Plan	164	1,347	10
Updating a Management Plan	93	6,514	8
Researching Management Options and Techniques	504	4,623	9
Commercial Timber Harvest	130	659	6
Prescribed Burn	85	3	1
Enrolled in Carbon Credit Program	64	1,514	11
Inventory to Establish Baseline for Carbon Markets	20	186	1
Other Land Management Activity (included pollinators, garbage cleanup, applying for funding, urban forest maintenance and more)	784	2,166	7

The funding that supports this volunteer program requires a 1:1 match of time to supplement the grant monies received. The volunteer time given in outreach almost triples the total grant monies received to support all aspects of the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship program, of which the PA Forest Stewards volunteers are only one part.

*This program is funded by the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry, the USDA Forest Service, the Center for Private Forests Endowment, and administered through the Center for Private Forests in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State.*

**For more information, contact the Forest Stewardship Program, 416 Forest Resources Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 863-0401**

<http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/centers/private-forests/outreach/pennsylvania-forest-stewards>