



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



President's Message



During 2018, the FSF continued to move forward on several conservation projects. One of these, which recently closed on January 10th, 2019, is Jane Woods' 144-acre property near Corry, PA. The 2016 "Loving the Land Through Working Forests" conference was held at this property on a cold and wet day in May. In spite of the weather conditions we still had very good attendance. I believe that this demonstrates the commitment of our loyal members. Jane has certainly shown a tremendous dedication to the FSF over the years. Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to Jane.

The other area in which the FSF has made the greatest advances is in the partnerships that we gained with other organizations in our area. We have done cooperative management work with the Army Corps of Engineers at the Woodcock and Union City dams where the FSF removed dying ash trees and is helping to control invasive species. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding has been reached with the City of

Erie where diseased trees will be removed and invasive control will be started. Many cities have parks where invasive species have become established to the detriment of the natives that provide the natural beauty of these places. We hope to demonstrate the potential of "restorative forestry" in maintaining this natural beauty.

We are also working alongside the Erie National Wildlife Refuge and the Presque Isle Audubon Society. Invasive species control and forest bird habitat improvement is planned during the summer of 2019 at the Laura Olsen Memorial Sanctuary in Crawford County, which is owned by the Presque Isle Audubon.

These cooperative efforts are the essence of the FSF's mission. We are very proud to work with individuals such as Jane Woods or with national or local organizations that are truly concerned with our environmental future. The members and future members of the FSF are the key to these efforts.

Troy Firth, President & Founder

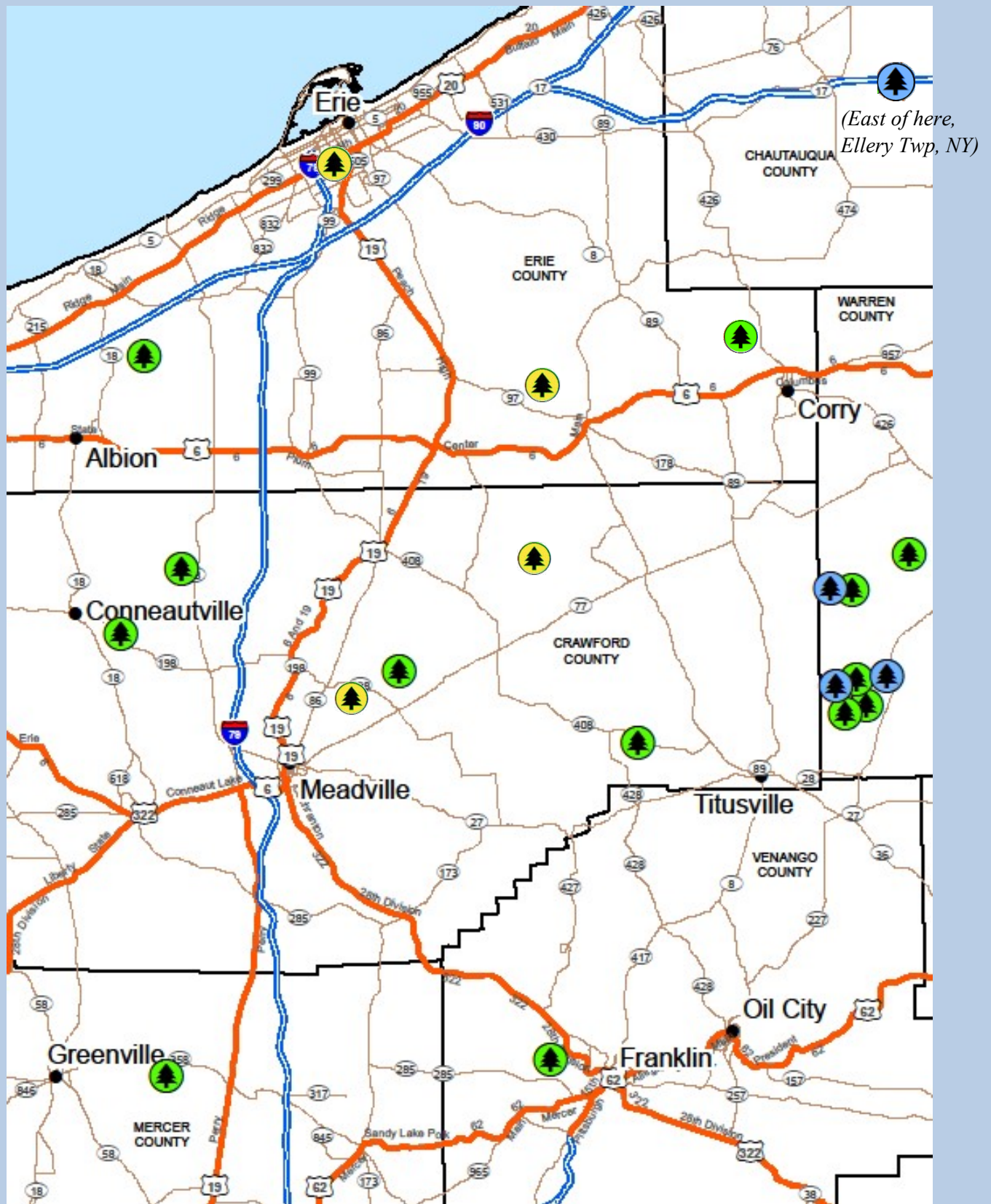
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The FSF Across the Landscape

In recent years, the Foundation has begun to assist other woodland owners with the care and stewardship of their woodlands. These are represented in yellow below and include Erie's City Parks, Union City Dam, Woodcock Creek Lake, and Laura Olesen Memorial Sanctuary



FSF-Owned Forests



Forest Protection
Projects in Progress



Management Partnerships

2018 Financial Summary

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests strives for fiscal transparency and good stewardship of your contributions. We are committed to keeping operational expenses low, to be able to direct more funds to the care and protection of forested lands.

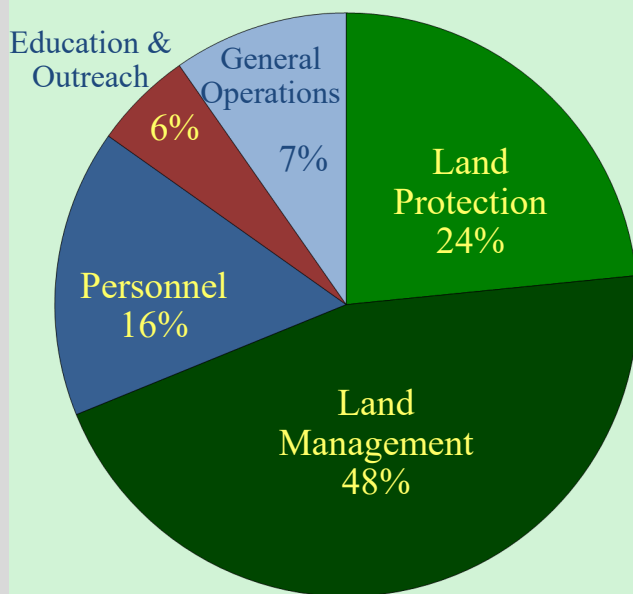
In 2018, the Foundation continued with stable growth in public support, revenue generated by land stewardship activities, and grants. A quarter of the organization's budget was allocated towards land acquisition expenses. And, as in 2017, the largest proportion of expenses was dedicated to the stewardship of protected lands.

In 2018, stewardship activities included extensive cutting of grape vines at the **Bail Family Forest**, and tree planting at the **Slagter Property**. Stewardship expenses also included partnerships with other landowners on their land.

Land stewardship activities contributed 65% of our revenue for the year, *excluding* the \$652,500 received from the DCNR Bureau of Conservation and Recreation's Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2), which is omitted from the chart below. The acquisition of the Stony Hollow property, for which the C2P2 funds are allocated, is still in progress. Therefore you can expect to see this included as an expense in 2019.

Your support in 2018 was a steady and important source of revenue for the organization, providing important funds for land conservation, stewardship, and the suite of events that the Foundation offers throughout the year. This year was a milestone in a different way as well, marking the least support in one year by its Founder, Troy Firth, since the FSF's inception. This is a direct reflection of the Foundation's growing self-sustainability. The self-sustainability of the organization is just as core to the mission as the sustainability of its forests. Our financial picture in 2018 is a strong step in that direction, and our work continues. Thank you for your role in achieving this.

Expenses

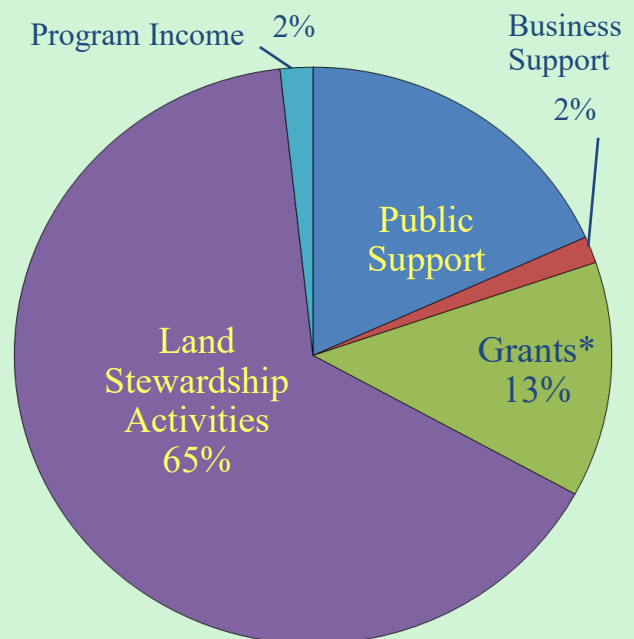


Total Expenses: \$148,500

Land Management includes maintenance, invasive species & pest control, real estate taxes, and timber harvest expenses

Land Protection includes legal fees & payments towards protected lands, including principal payments and interest on long-term loans.

Revenue



Total Revenue: \$204,100*

Land Stewardship Activities includes the sale of timber from "worst-first" selection, ash tree salvage, and other forest quality improvements.

Public Support includes membership dues and donations.

* "Grants" does not include the DCNR C2P2 grant.

The Foundation At a Glance

1070

Acres of forested land
protected to date!



153

Memberships in 2018. You are the 'heartwood' of
the organization and its Mission. Thank you!



2

Exciting new forest stewardship partnerships with the
City of Erie and Presque Isle Audubon Society!



Scenes from the 2018 Loving the Land Through Working Forests Conference (clockwise from top left). Josh VanBrakle led a session on improving wildlife habitat in your woodland, Allyson Muth co-presented a session on "Women and Working Woodlands" with Amanda Mahaffey and Cecile Stelter (bottom center), and Jason Rutledge (bottom left and right) was our featured presenter on the subject of Restorative Forestry.





UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2019

APR 28 SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

In memory of FSF co-founder Lynn Firth, we will walk through the woods on a Sunday afternoon and enjoy spring's wildflower display. Sunday, 1pm-4pm at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge



MAY 10 FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION DINNER

Attend the 3rd Annual Dinner, at the Woodland Lodge event barn. The featured speaker is Dave Mance, III of Vermont, Editor of Northern Woodlands magazine. Begins 5:30pm, Grand Valley, PA



MAY 11 LOVING THE LAND CONFERENCE

Our premier field event, open to all. The day's program covers woods walks, management for climate change, Family Forest Carbon Initiative, and forest legacy planning. 8am-4pm, Grand Valley, PA



AUG 13 ERIE GIVES DAY



The region's annual day of giving, and the FSF's biggest campaign of the year

OCT 6 WALK IN PENN'S WOODS DAY

This statewide event was launched in 2017, and was so successful it has become an annual event. 1pm-4pm, Location to be announced.



NOV 2 FALL POTLUCK GATHERING

Always a highlight, we offer light programming and a potluck feast at the Woodland Lodge in Grand Valley, PA. Walks and Talks begin at 4pm, Supper at 5:30pm



FoundationforSustainableForests.org/events



Far left: Forest management activities at Woodcock Dam

Left: Neighborhood residents of Erie's Glenwood Park visit the crew on their lunch break to learn more about restorative forestry

A Strong Start to 2019

Ewing Family Woods Donation

In January 2019, long-time supporter and Board Member emeritus Dr. Jane Ewing Woods donated her family's 144-acre woodland in Wayne Twp, Erie County to the FSF, to be conserved in perpetuity as a sustainable working forest. The property, which will be dedicated as the "Ewing Family Woods" in an event on site later this year, has been managed under the "worst-first" and other management principles of the FSF since 2000.

On her decision to donate the property, Dr. Woods stated: "My time here began before rural properties were being subdivided and their farming fields and woods so fragmented. But I've also had enough years now in working with Troy Firth and the FSF to see their astute observations and forest management work with nature to benefit and protect the whole ecosystem." We look forward to honoring Jane and the Ewing Family Woods in the year ahead, and meeting the challenge of responsible stewardship of the property in perpetuity.



Erie's Sustainable Urban Forestry Initiative



A horse team in the Erie's Glenwood Park, an urban forest where the FSF began management activities in early 2019.

2018 Membership & Support

With gratitude to the following supporters for sustaining the Foundation's Mission

Forest Partner (\$250+)

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Diane Esser	Paul & Barbara Rankin & Family	Richard & Bonnie Zeber

Sustaining (\$50-\$249)

Ward Allebach	Mark & Mari Harrison	Andrew Reilly
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Family (\$25-\$49)

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PA DCNR Bureau of Conservation &
Recreation- Community Conservation
Partnerships Program
Palmiero Toyota

*The FSF makes every effort to acknowledge the generosity of its supporters each year.
If you have been omitted in error, please accept our deepest apologies and kindly let us know.*



Cecile Stelter (DCNR) led the FSF's first ever Spring Wildflower Walk in memory of Lynn Firth last April.

***Protecting forested land
and supporting
rural communities
through working forests***



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info@forestsandpeople.org**

The Foundation for Sustainable Forests is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land trust and outreach organization dedicated to conserving forested land and protecting sustainable working forests. Through direct ownership and active forest management we promote the protection and stewardship of forests.

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Development Director, Emeritus



**The
Foundation for
Sustainable Forests**

8th Annual Conference

**Loving the Land
Through Working Forests**

Saturday, May 11, 2019

The Woodland Lodge, Grand Valley, PA

forestsandpeople.org/loving-the-land