

Indiana Forest Action Plan 2020 Update & implementation plans

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/5436.htm>

- DNR Home**
- Forestry**
- Contact Us
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- State Forest Management
- Programs ▾
- Forestry Publications & Presentations
- Tree Seedling Nurseries
- Private Forestland Management
- Forest Certification ▾
- Grants & Help ▾

[FORESTRY](#) / [FOREST ACTION PLAN](#)

Forest Action Plan

2020 Statewide Forest Assessment & Strategy Update

The Indiana Forest Action Plan is a 10-year strategic plan and assessment for the Indiana forest conservation community, our natural resource partners, land stewards and conservationists. It encompasses all of Indiana's approximately 5 million acres of statewide forest ownerships, including public and private, rural and urban. Its purpose is to identify shared goals and priorities that enable the leveraging of scarce funding toward impactful, landscape-scale forest conservation and desired future conditions.

The Forest Action Plan provides an analysis of forest conditions and trends, identifies strategies to ensure healthy trees and forests into the future, and delineates priority forest landscape areas. It offers long-term strategies to address threats to forest resources in the state, consistent with national priorities and meeting federal requirements.

The 2020 Forest Action Plan is being developed by the Indiana Division of Forestry, which is coordinating with the [Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee](#), State Technical Committee, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hoosier

Forest Action Plan - Draft Development Process

- May 2017
 - Guidance issued by The State and Private Forestry Board regarding Ten-year Revisions of State Forest Action Plans
 - https://www.stateforesters.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Strategies-and-Assessments-10-Year-Revisions-Memo_final2.pdf



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 19, 2017

To: State Foresters
Forest Service Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, and State & Private Forestry Leadership

Re: Ten-year Revisions of State Forest Action Plans

The State and Private Forestry Board provides the following guidance as the State Forest Action Plans approach the 10-year mark from their original completion in June 2010.

Background:

The state Forest Action Plans collectively represent the strategic plan for the nation's forests. As many of you will recall, the impetus for this historic effort grew out of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) when Congress tasked the 50 states, eight territories, and the District of Columbia with crafting assessments of the forests within their boundaries, and developing strategies to address threats and improve forest health.

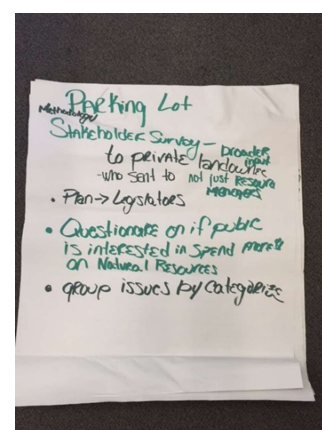
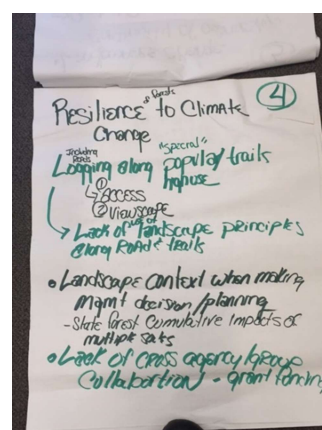
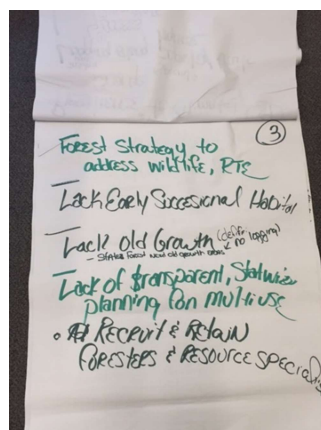
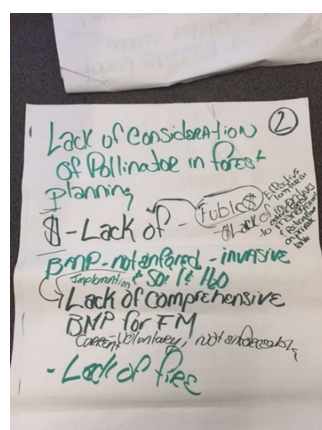
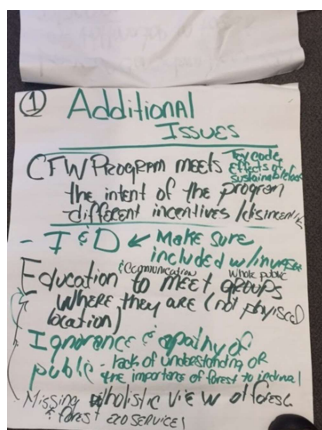
The resulting Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies, collectively referred to as the Forest Action Plans, provide an analysis of forest conditions and trends, identify strategies to ensure healthy trees and forests into the future, and delineate priority forest landscape areas. They offer practical, long-term plans for investing state, federal, and other resources where they can be most effective in achieving national conservation goals. All Forest Action Plans are publically available on the National Association of



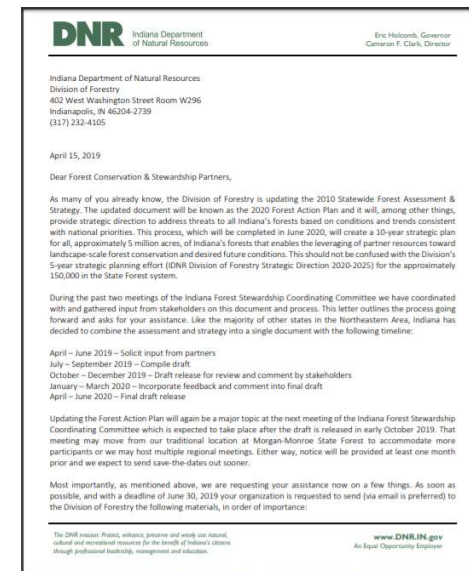
- September 2017
 - “2020 Forest Action Plan” State Forester presentation to committee
 - State of Indiana’s Forests – From Our Perspective – member presentations:
 - IDNR – Division of Fish & Wildlife (Backs)
 - Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association (Jackson)
 - The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Chapter (Shaver)
 - US Forest Service, Hoosier National Forest (Chaveas)
 - Indiana Wildlife Federation (Wood)
 - Indiana Hardwood Lumberman’s Association (Moistner)
 - Purdue University, Forestry & Natural Resources (Farlee)
 - Hoosier Environmental Council (Maloney)
 - Urban Forestry Community (Purcell)
 - The Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society (Rudolph)
 - Committee facilitated discussion session: input relating to previous presentations and suggested changes to the 2010 plan

• September 2018

- Presentation “Indiana Statewide Forest Action Plan 2020 Process” Brenda Huter, Stewardship Coordinator, IDNR – Division of Forestry
- Presentation “Statewide Forest Action Plan 2020 - GIS Updates” Jill Flachskam, GIS Specialist, IDNR – Division of Forestry
- Committee discussion session: review and changes to Indiana forestry issues list - Brenda Huter, Stewardship Coordinator, IDNR – Division of Forestry



- April 2019
 - Partner outreach letter
 - A copy of your organization's most recent strategic plan
 - Your organization's priority forest areas
 - Any statewide or regional plans that you think should be incorporated
 - Any multi-state areas that are a priority
 - Any other information you'd like to see included in the Forest Action Plan
- August - October 2019 - Compiled draft
- November - December 2019 - DNR internal review
- Draft release January 2020
- Public comment February – March 2020
- Incorporation of public comment – April – May 2020
- Release of final version and submission to USFS - September 2020



Major Goals

- Conserve, manage and protect existing forests
- Maintain the oak species component in the forests
- Restore, expand and connect forests especially along riparian areas
- Connect people to forests
- Maintain and expand markets for Indiana hardwoods both primary and secondary
- Increase Indiana's urban forest canopy

How to accomplish these goals?

- Partnerships
 - a. Recent successes – Woods on Wheels, NRCS contribution agreement, RCPP grants, invasive species SICIM and Lt. Governor’s office and Dept. of Ag. tours
 - b. EQIP and CRP programs – special emphasis on conservation easements, focus of cost share support on forestry minded programs
 - c. Forest Service federal dollars to DNR – urban forestry, prescribed fire, insect and disease and private land stewardship



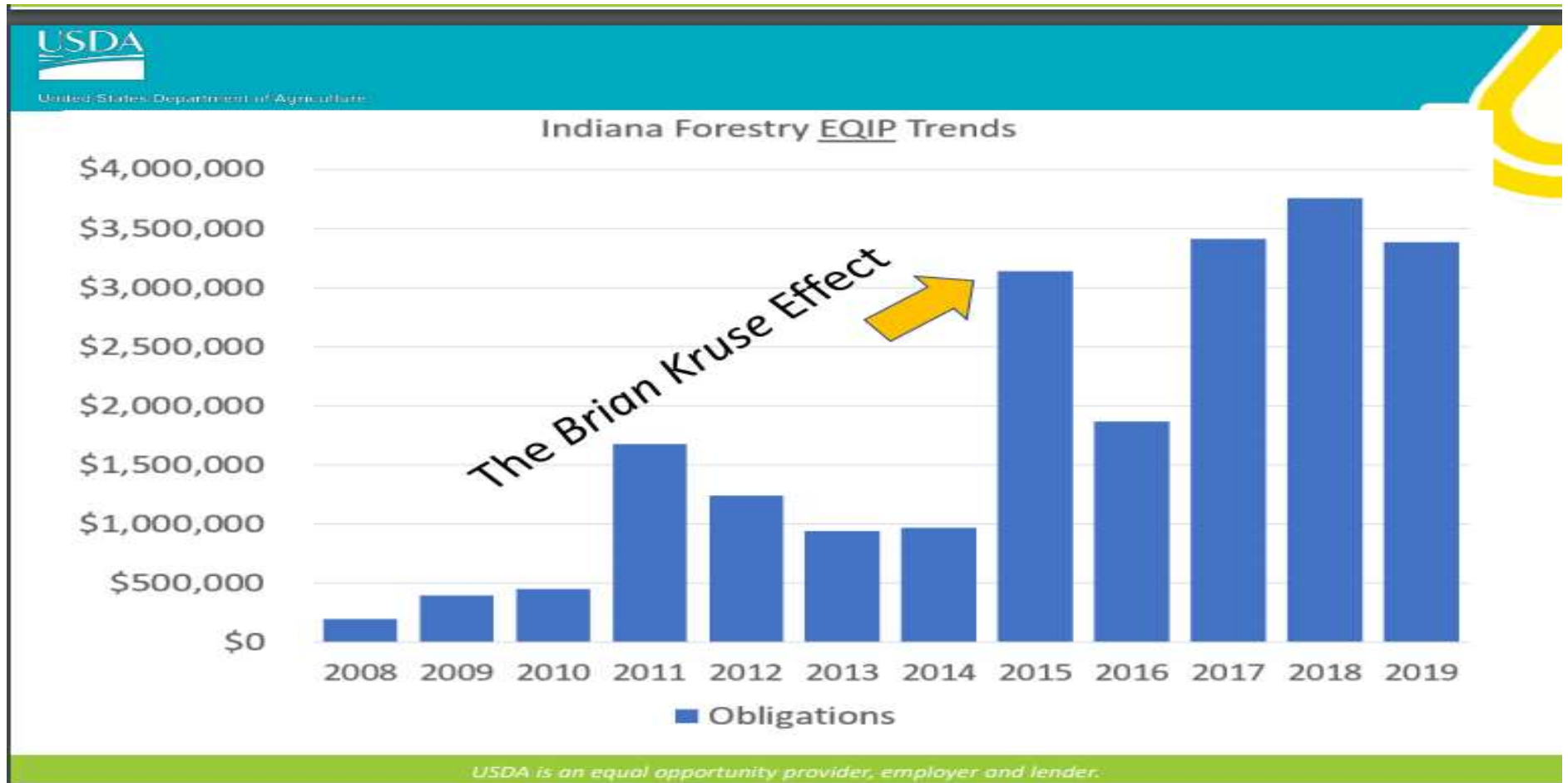
United States Department of Agriculture

EQIP – Regional Conservation Partnership Project (RCPP) – Southern Indiana Young Forest Initiative



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

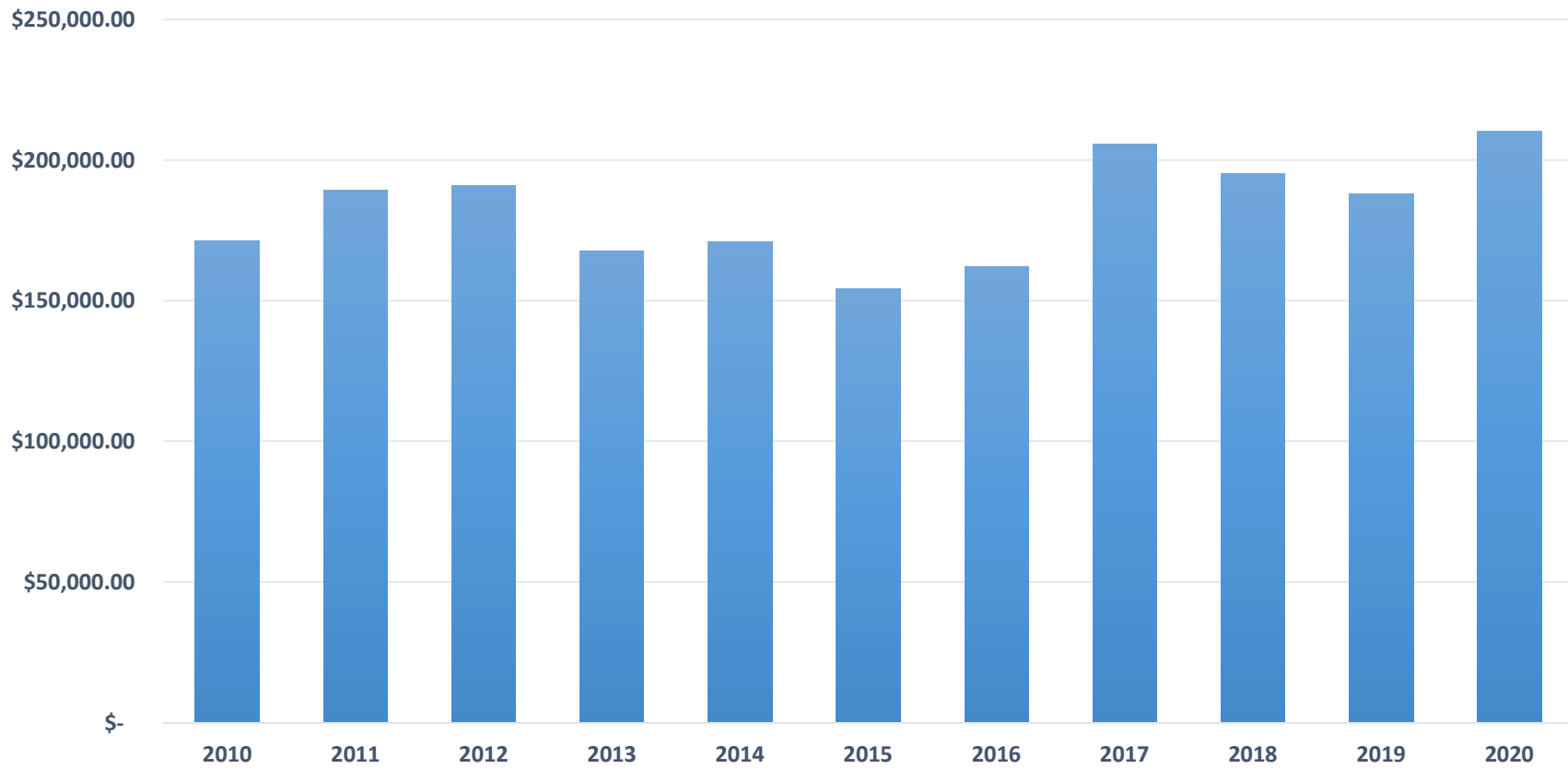




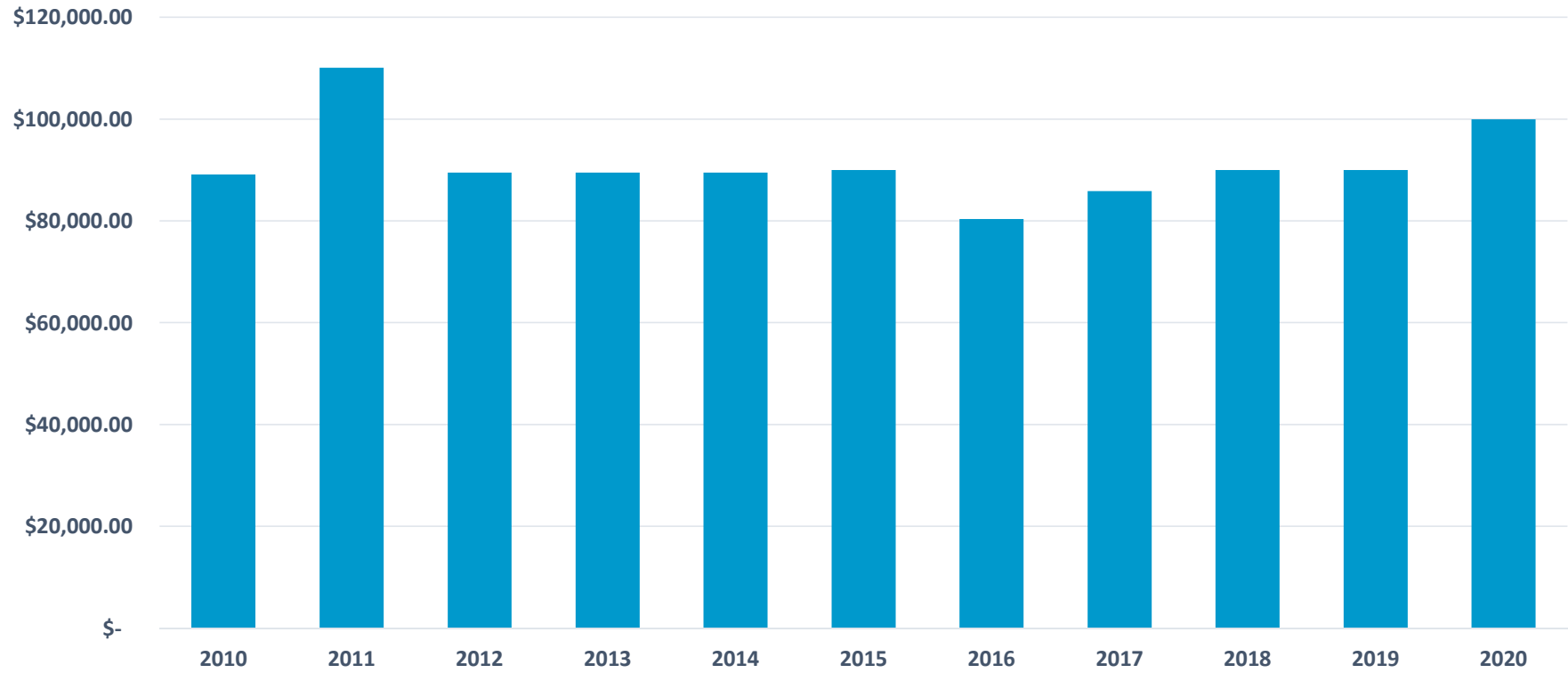
Research and Outreach

- Legislative – state and local involvement
- Continuing education – universities, conservation minded groups and state and federal governments
- Understand that there is a changing demographic
- Economic development

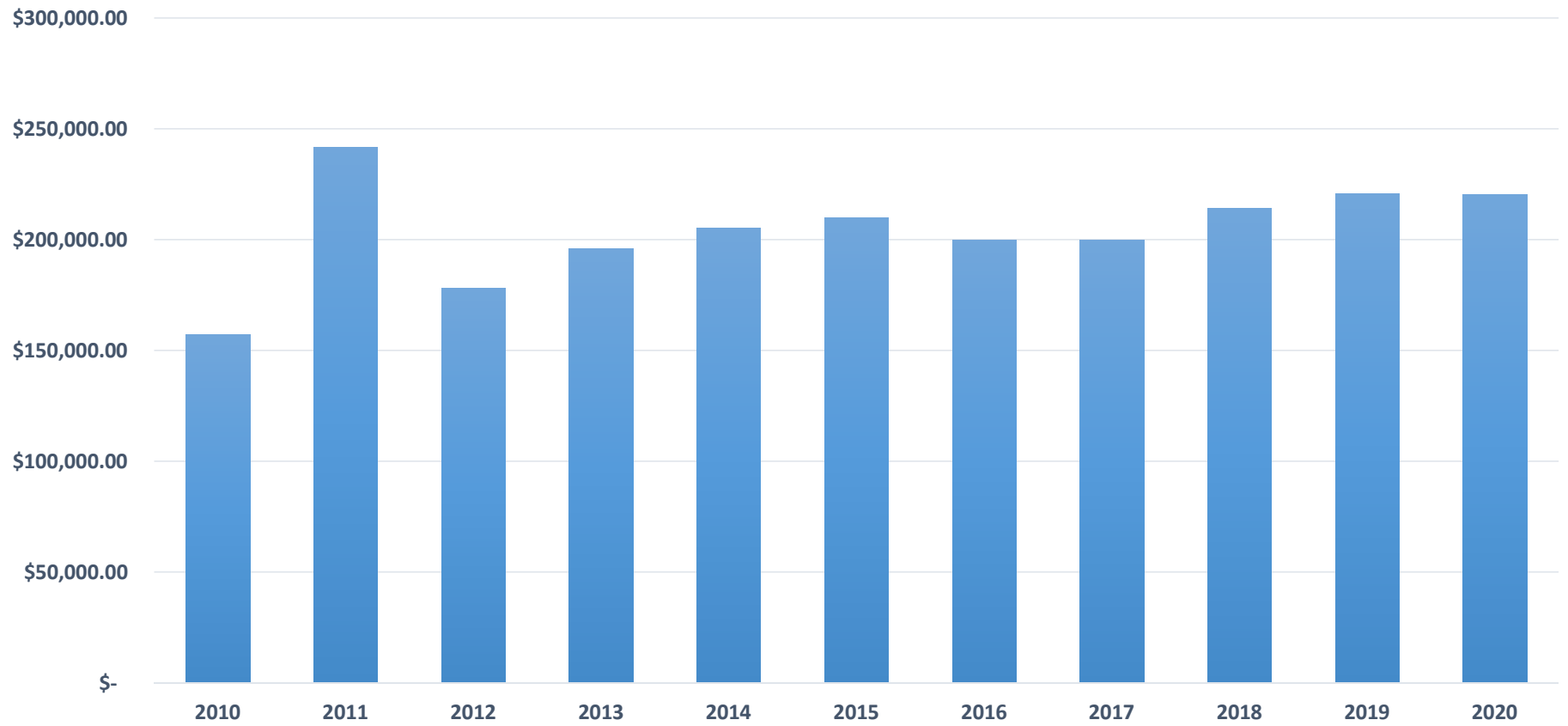
Stewardship



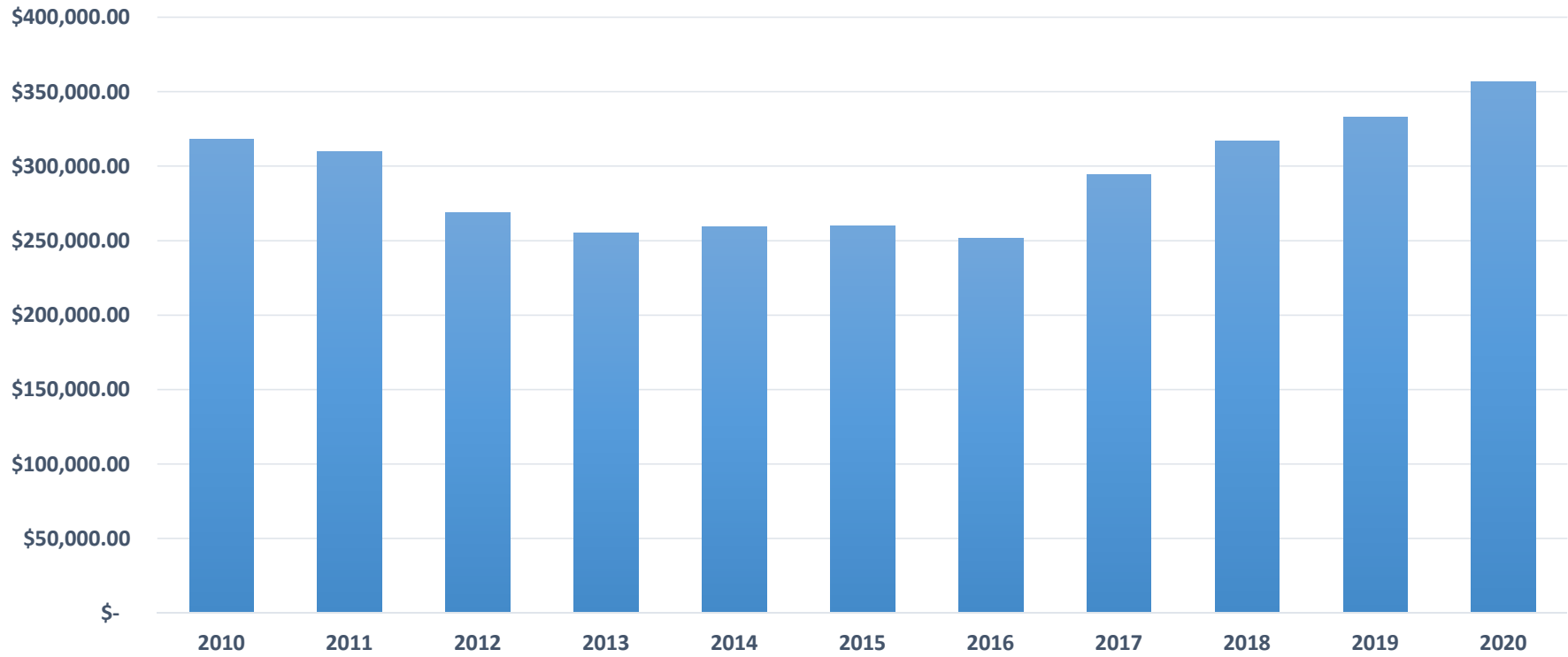
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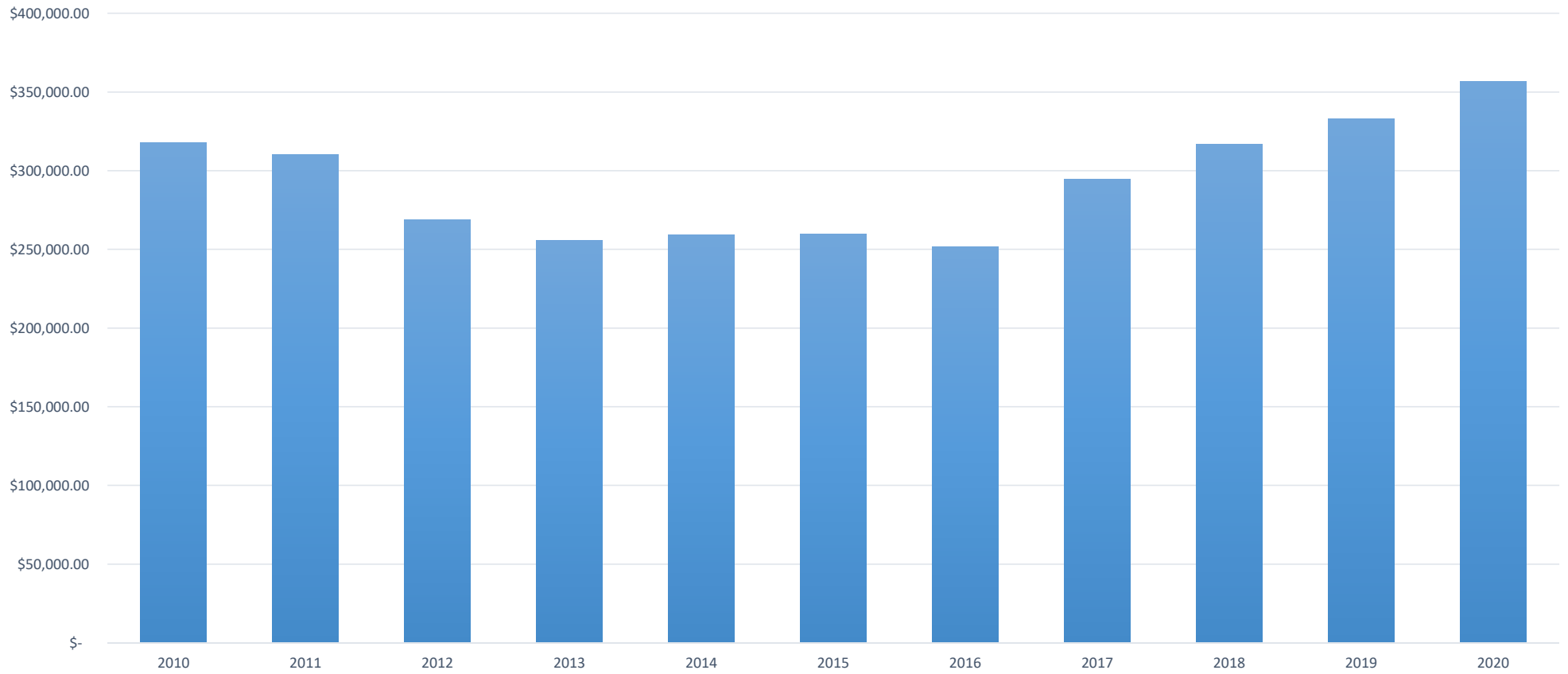
State Fire Assistance



Volunteer Fire Assistance



Volunteer Fire Assistance



Measuring Results Statewide

Annual published report of accomplishments

- a. Lands conserved (Land trusts, DNR, Forest Service, cities and towns, etc.)
- b. Federal, state and local cost share dollars spent
- c. Private lands impacted by this spending
- d. Private sector economic development
- e. Teaching events
- f. Others?