



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Nevada 2019



## Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$212,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$139,100
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$300,000
State Fire Assistance	\$775,748
Urban and Community Forestry	\$261,220
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$148,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,836,068</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Cooperative Forestry programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), USDA Forest Service (USFS) and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Nevada's forests, rangelands and rural economies. We emphasize conservation practices, water resource protection, forest product utilization, wildfire hazard reduction, wildlife habitat enhancement and support of rural economies.

### Program Goals

- Improve health of Nevada's watersheds and ecosystems through increased technical and financial assistance to landowners and land managers
- Promote science-based conservation, stewardship ethics and best management practices
- Provide technical and financial assistance to local governments and private landowners to help reduce the threats from catastrophic wildland fires.

### Key Issues

- Loss of sagebrush cover type and associated habitat values from wildland fire and invasive species
- High forest stocking and poor forest health across all land ownerships
- Diminished forest products industry and associated impacts on economic viability of vegetation management projects
- Riparian system degradation from non-native, invasive species and altered hydrology
- Impacts of persistent drought on ecosystem resilience to and recovery from disturbances
- Fire threat in the wildland-urban interface.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	2,700,551	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	617
Acres of Forest Land	10,563,319	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	2,054
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	212,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	0
Number of NIPF Landowners	15,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	129
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	20,920,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	242
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	9,500,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,035
Number of Rural Fire Departments	211	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	18	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	38
Forest Based Employment	2,961	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,202,405
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	21	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,745
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	45,127,248		

## Program Highlights

### **Community Forestry and Open Space**

In 2018, NDF continued outreach efforts to private landowners, municipalities and eligible nonprofits regarding the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP) using informational emails and in-person contacts during meetings with interested landowners, land trusts and eligible government entities. The program was also promoted through the agency's website and social media accounts. In 2018, no eligible landowners applied for CFP funding. The Carson City Department of Parks, Recreation and Open Space is considering a 2019 funding proposal as an alternate means of acquiring and conserving a 100-acre tract of forest in Carson City, which was submitted for the Forest Legacy Program in 2018 but not selected for funding.

### **Conservation Education**

The Conservation Education and Outreach program provides science-based environmental education opportunities to Nevada's citizens. In 2018, NDF continued to support the implementation of conservation education modules for students and teachers throughout the state. A sub-grant was awarded to Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) – a Reno-based nonprofit organization specializing in innovative outdoor, science-based education programs – for a project entitled Classrooms Unleashed. This project provided 380 students (50% from low-income homes) three classroom lessons and a full day field-study experience focused on increasing their understanding of statewide science standards. Fourteen teachers were also provided with five ready-to-use lesson plans and accompanying materials to reinforce the concepts, skills and ideas learned during the SNJ program.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Nevada's State and local fire programs protect approximately 9.5 million acres. In 2018, NDF signed cooperative wildfire protection agreements with 23 fire protection districts in 12 counties, furthering cooperation between state and local fire response and fuels reduction. Enhanced coordination with federal, state and local cooperators occurred by sending 90 staff to multiple critical interagency planning/operations meetings. NDF used Volunteer Fire Assistance to provide 76 pieces of firefighting personal protective equipment, p-25 compliant radios, pumps, brass, nozzles and hose to volunteer fire departments. Over 662 wildfires burned over 1M acres and NDF responded to 275 fires, cost-shared on 35, and incurred suppression costs of \$28.3M. Through the FEPP/FPP programs NDF maintained 363 pieces of equipment, including refurbishing two tractors, and disposing of 17 pieces necessary for effective fire response. NDF held 92 public fire prevention education events, contacting nearly 51,571 people, and provided 146 first responder trainings for state and local cooperators. NDF trained 2,986 first responders, including sending 102 staff to wildland fire-related training. NDF completed 2,949 acres of

fuel reduction, providing protection for an estimated 73 communities. Pass-through funds are awarded to at-risk communities with current CWPPs, using an interagency competitive process. Three cooperators' projects were funded in 2018 for high priority fuels reduction projects and mitigation education. NDF, in cooperation with NV DEM and FEMA, helped develop a new FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

### ***Economic Action***

NDF continued with efforts to find higher value product for the wood harvested from forest restoration and fuel reduction projects. Increasing value-added products helps reduce air quality impacts through reducing the amount of slash burning, removes green waste from local landfills and offsets the treatment costs. NDF used its cable yarder, contractors and hand crews to produce over 1 million board-feet of logs, 500 cords of firewood, and 2,200 tons of chips, with an estimated value of \$500,000. Contractor work has the largest economic impact through support of the artisan, local trucking, equipment rental, bulk fuel, parts supply, certified road flagging, aggregate, water truck, housing and hospitality services.

NDF has developed partnerships to bring a 1mw cogeneration power plant back on line. Federal land management agencies support for opening the plant includes using the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) that was used to fund a contract that provides a feasibility study for restarting, enhancing efficiency and sustainably operating the plant.

### ***Fire Adapted Communities***

Nevada Division of Forestry collaborated with other State, Federal and local stakeholders to adopt and grow the Nevada Network of Fire Adapted Communities (The Network). The Network fosters the widespread occurrence of Fire Adapted Communities, where people living in high fire threat locations fully prepare themselves, their homes and the landscape where they reside to survive the destructive force of wildfire. The Network achieves this mission by connecting community-level stakeholders with supporting resources, such as funding, education, peer mentors, technical expertise and labor sources available. NDF completed the transfer of the Network from the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and created a sustainable supporting organization with most of the necessary components. These components included an advisory board composed of the major stakeholder representatives, community-level guidance information, chapter leader handbook, website, statewide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) database, newsletter and annual statewide fire adapted communities conference. The Network provided 63 outreach events that provided education on wildfire prevention, emergency preparedness and fuels reduction to 4,217 individuals throughout Nevada. The Network added 208 new individual members and supported the development of 94 existing individual members. The Network facilitated the creation of three new community chapters and maintained support for nine existing chapters. Support included helping the communities secure fuel reduction grants, CWPP updates and defensible space inspections, and organizing an annual fire adapted community day. The Network supported the renewal of 27 CWPPs for Nevada's 256 communities-at-risk.

### ***Forest Health Protection***

NDF provided forest health-related technical assistance to 20 private landowners covering 26 acres, three state parks, two county governments, and four cities. Forest pest control projects on private lands addressed pine and pinyon engraver, pinyon blister rust, pine needle scale, fir engraver beetle, dwarf mistletoe and conifer encroachment in Aspen stands. NDF treated mistletoe infestations, eradicated tamarisk and restored native trees and riparian vegetation along the Colorado River flood plain at Big Bend State Park. Tamarisk eradication also occurred on private and county-owned lands along the Virgin River. Restoration of the state's oldest Arizona Ash grove at Spring Mtn. Ranch State Park is ongoing and post-fire forest restoration monitoring was conducted at Beaver Dam State Park. Mountain pine beetle was controlled using Verbenone application on private lands on 170 acres owned by 70 private landowners in Kyle Canyon, located in the Spring Mountains near Las Vegas. Cooperative (NV Dept. Ag, USFS, and Mt. Rose Ski Resort) bark beetle monitoring continued in the Spring Mountains, Carson Range and Ruby Mountains. There was approximately 40,000 acres of recorded damage from multiple insect or disease problems. Invasive satin moth was detected in five counties and a total of 350 acres was heavily defoliated in the Lake Tahoe Basin. A cooperative FHM Grant Study with the University of Nevada, Reno, with funding from the Tahoe Resource Team has been implemented to study tree genetics and habitat to develop possible management solutions. Additional damaged acres were mapped on federal lands, mainly in the Santa Rosa Mountains. Damage estimates show approximately 700 acres of defoliation from the white satin moth.

### **Forest Legacy**

The Forest Legacy Program Coordinator continues to work with the Nevada Land Trust, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, local governments and private landowners to develop eligible projects in the Northern and Western Regions of Nevada. In 2018, two Legacy Projects were submitted for review and ranking to the USFS Western Region, one of which was selected to move on to the National Project Review Panel to be considered for competitive funding. Final project rankings and funding decisions will be announced during the summer of 2019. Additional outreach efforts include highlighting the program on the agency's website, social media accounts and through press releases. The Program Coordinator participated in the National Forest Legacy Meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Program Coordinator was also selected to participate in both the Western and National Review Panels as one of six state government representatives.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The NDF Advisory Committee held two day-long meetings in 2018 on March 13th and October 30th. The spring meeting focused primarily on reviewing project pre-proposals submitted to NDF for the Landscape Scale Restoration and Western States Fire Managers grants, while the fall meeting was reserved for programmatic updates from NDF Natural Resources staff and Advisory Committee members in attendance. NDF staff continue to publicize the Forest Stewardship and Rural Forestry Assistance programs to local conservation districts and other interested groups throughout the state. Additionally, NDF staff attended the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in Elko, Nevada. The meeting featured a discussion on locally-led resource needs assessments and case studies of successful landowner conservation efforts. NDF staff continue to develop management plans for all project work, which are entered into the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool (SMART) national database. During Federal Fiscal Year 2018, an extensive Forest Stewardship Plan was written for the entirety of Beaver Dam State Park (2,052 acres); fourteen other resource management and project plans encompassed project work on an additional 30,000 acres of private and state lands throughout Nevada. Management Plan monitoring was completed for nine flagged plans (3,478 acres) during the summer and fall of 2018.

### **Landowner Assistance**

During 2018, NDF provided 617 landowners and agency partners with technical assistance or education on issues related to forest health, wildland fire hazard reduction, post-fire rehabilitation, plant material recommendations, tree care, protected species management and other stewardship related topics. These contacts range from shorter on-site assessments, verbal education, and written recommendations to longer engagements, including authored stewardship plans, permitting and compliance, grant assistance and treatment implementation.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

Truckee Meadows Weed Management: LSR funding was awarded to NDF to implement the Truckee River Ecosystem Weed Management Plan. Sub-grants will be awarded to members of the Truckee Meadows Cooperative Weed Management Group for weed mapping, treatments and native vegetation restoration. Nevada Drought: The project will increase tree survival during municipal water conservation efforts. In 2018, UNLV completed a draft of a public and agency education handbook, which will be published and used in trainings and outreach efforts. Pinyon & Juniper Encroachment: This bi-state project is restoring healthy and resilient woodlands in greater sage-grouse (GSG) habitat throughout eastern Lincoln County (NV) and western Beaver and Iron counties (UT). In 2018, NDF thinned 30 acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands, masticated 20 acres of decadent sagebrush and seeded 40 acres to reestablish native/arid-adapted grasses and forbs. NDF also installed 10 beaver dam analogues and continued vegetation and streamflow monitoring. Fire Information Portal: In 2018, NDF promoted public awareness of the portal and beta test feature updates. Version 2.0 of the portal is in development and is scheduled for release in early 2019. Nevada Biochar: In 2018, NDF concluded the primary biochar demonstration and received a findings report by sub-grantee, Desert Research Institute (DRI). DRI also began an additional biochar demonstration, "Biochar Tree Test Plots." Trees with biochar soil treatments have been planted at both NDF nurseries to determine the effects of planting with and without biochar amendments. Truckee Meadows Medusahead Control: NDF sub-grantee, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, completed project work of weed abatement, herbicide treatments and native species restoration on 184 acres in Washoe County. Public education signs were also posted.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF) promotes active management of urban forest resources through delivery of management tools for canopy-related assessments and fostering education of green industry professionals. The U&CF program supported community tree inventory of 5,100 trees to Elko, Wells, Silver City, Virginia City, Virginia City Highlands, West Wendover and Zephyr Cove. The U&CF Program delivered a 3-day intensive arboriculture class to Forestry and other State departments, including Public Works, Department of Transportation and State Parks. A total of three courses were offered in Las Vegas, Parks and Eastlake, with a total of 95 employees trained. From this training, 5 Forestry employees have become International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists, with that trend continuing into the new year. NDF issued sub-grants to Western Chapter-ISA and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) to fund bilingual Tree Climbing Skills workshops in both Henderson and Reno and bilingual landscape training in Las Vegas and Reno. Approximately 95 climbers attended the tree climbing workshop and 120 hours of bilingual landscape training were provided. NDF has funded UNCE to create educational materials and tree watering guides for northern and southern Nevada. NDF sponsors and supports the Tree City USA program in Nevada and coordinates the renewal and recruitment of 13 qualified cities. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) were both recognized as Tree Campus USA's. In an effort to increase urban landscape species diversity, U&CF is working with our state nursery and southern Nevada cities, and are currently growing six species for performance trials in southern Nevada.

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### **Contact Information**



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