



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Utah 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$304,065
Forest Legacy	\$3,000,000
Forest Stewardship	\$162,700
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$921,970
Urban and Community Forestry	\$258,780
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$228,249
Total	\$4,875,764

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

Cooperative Forestry and Fire Programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL), USDA Forest Service (USFS), private organizations, and local governments. These programs promote the protection, health and productivity of Utah's forests, communities, watersheds, and related economies. We emphasize wildfire risk reduction, forest restoration, forest products, wildlife habitat, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices.

Program Goals

- Increase active, outcome-based management on all forests through strong partnerships;
- Enhance public benefits through focused efforts to protect and sustain healthy forests, watersheds, and landscapes; and
- Promote voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues

- Growing risk of catastrophic wildfire, especially in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas;
- Increased age and density of forests and decreased diversity of forest age-classes on federal lands;
- Protection and rehabilitation of water quality and riparian areas;
- Threat of invasive, exotic species to native biodiversity;
- Economic and social well-being of forest dependent communities; and
- Rapid development and demand for urban forestry support.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	2,763,885	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	197
Acres of Forest Land	18,240,215	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	33,994
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,013,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	29,083
Number of NIPF Landowners	66,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	27
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	39
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	15,593,893	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,820
Number of Rural Fire Departments	254	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	245	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	105
Forest Based Employment	150	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,039,955
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	7,587
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	39,737,400		

Program Highlights

Conservation Education

FFSL contracts with the Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE) to deliver Conservation Education. USEE uses the American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree (PLT) to provide workshops for teachers to learn the PLT model and implement the curricula in their classrooms. These workshops cover outreach activities to encourage participation of teachers, natural resources professionals, and others interested in environmental education. FFSL also encourages homeowners living in wildfire-prone areas to fire-proof their homes. The concepts include fuels reduction and using fire-safe building materials to increase the likelihood of a house surviving a wildfire.

Cooperative Fire Protection

FFSL granted approximately \$208,000 to 22 fire departments for training and to purchase firefighting and personal protective equipment. FFSL also certified approximately 2,500 Utah structural firefighters to fight wildland fire and placed 33 firefighting apparatuses with fire departments. Fuel was reduced on more than 1,509 acres to protect communities in the wildland urban interface.

Forest Health Protection

Bark beetle infestations and other forest health issues continue to affect large areas within Utah. Over the past 30 years, spruce beetle has infested and killed millions of Engelmann spruce and is still presently active. Balsam Woolly Adelgid (BWA), an exotic and invasive insect, was confirmed in Utah on September 6th, 2017, and as of 2019 has been confirmed in Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Weber, Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, and Summit counties. BWA has been established in the United States for over 100 years and documented in Idaho since 1983. Utah FFSL, USFS Forest Health Protection, USDA APHIS PPQ, Utah State University, and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food are collaborating to address the impacts of the current infestation. We are looking at potential concerns in regards to snow pack retention, watershed health, fuel loading, aesthetics, and economic impacts. Two public fact sheets are available on the FFSL website: one with general information and one with general and managerial information.

Forest Legacy

In 2018, the Utah Forest Legacy Program was awarded funding for Phase 1 of the Soldier Summit Conservation Easement located in Wasatch County, Utah. Due diligence began on the 2,518-acre Phase 1 portion of the property in mid-2018. Due diligence work continued on the funded 880-acre Simon Gulch, the 644-acre Coldwater and the 1,800-acre Orderville Gulch. When completed, these projects will add

5,842 acres to the 74,737 acres of private land that is protected throughout Utah with Forest Legacy conservation easements. An additional 20 acres was also added to the 382-acre Zion North Fork Conservation Easement project that was completed in 2017. Phase 2 of the Soldier Summit conservation easement project was submitted to the USFS for national ranking that will occur in early 2019.

Forest Stewardship

The Utah Forest Stewardship Program enables private forest landowners to better manage their lands to provide valuable social, economic, and environmental benefits. Across Utah's landscape, approximately 3 million acres or 16% of Utah's forests are held in private ownership. In Federal Fiscal Year 2018, FFSL completed 13 Forest Stewardship Management plans covering 33,994 acres. The plans enable landowners to manage their forest resources to meet their objectives and to provide improved landscape-scale benefits. Utah currently has 95 active plans covering 292,776 acres. FFSL is working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide funding through the Environmental Quality Program to landowners to implement recommended forest practices. Forest Water Quality Guidelines Monitoring also continued with only minor departures being recorded.

Landowner Assistance

FFSL is making progress in becoming aware of all forestry practices that are occurring on private forested lands. This awareness will allow FFSL to provide technical assistance to a larger percentage of private forested landowners. FFSL provided technical assistance 180 times to landowners in 2018, along with 17 educational contacts. Also, FFSL made 376 incidental contacts with landowners to discuss natural resource issues and made 18 contacts with timber harvesters that were working on private forested properties. These contacts contributed significantly to FFSL's Forest Stewardship accomplishments.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Forest Restoration Through Biomass Utilization in Southeastern Utah: FFSL continued collaboration with Utah State University (USU) Extension Forestry on a biomass project on private forest land in 2018. This included forest thinning, using portable kilns to produce biochar (charcoal-like organic matter), and a public workshop. FFSL also monitored two sanitation and salvage timber harvests.

UT PJ Encroachment: FFSL monitored work that was completed in 2016 and 2017. Equipment was purchased in order to more efficiently burn slash piles which resulted in much higher productivity.

Monroe Mountain Aspen Restoration: FFSL completed archaeological clearance on roughly 700 acres for work to be completed in 2019. In addition, 30 acres of forest stand improvement and slash fencing was completed in October.

City to Stream, Ogden River: Work in 2018 removed invasive species from the river corridor and improved riparian function by increasing plant diversity.

Urban and Community Forestry

Urban forests provide essential benefits to Utah's quality of life and economy. FFSL's strategic use of \$258,780 in Urban and Community Forestry funding led to great results. Communities planted 664 new trees and 11,210 new seedlings, generating several million dollars in net community benefits. These benefits include reductions in energy use, stormwater runoff, and air pollutants. FFSL promotes healthy urban forests by encouraging communities to participate in Tree City USA, and 89 communities have achieved this designation. FFSL also promotes volunteer support for urban forestry efforts, and in 2018 volunteers worked more than 7,587 hours to keep their cities green and vibrant. In 2018, FFSL assisted 105 communities (over 73% of Utah's population) in managing their urban forests and maximizing community value.

Contact Information



Utah Department Natural Resources

Brian Cottam
State Forester
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
1594 West North Temple, Suite 3520
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3154
801-538-5504
briancottam@utah.gov

US Forest Service Intermountain Region

Tim Garcia
Director, State & Private Forestry
USDA Forest Service
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 844401
406-329-3250
tpgarcia@fs.fed.us
