



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Wyoming 2019



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$232,480
Forest Legacy	\$6,000,000
Forest Stewardship	\$110,348
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$1,282,613
Urban and Community Forestry	\$200,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$259,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,084,507</b>

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

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Wyoming, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Wyoming forest lands and rural economies by providing leadership in forest and fire management in Wyoming's rural and community forests. Additionally, these cooperative programs are key components of the State Forest Action Plan as well as the Governor's Task Force on Forests Recommendations.

### Program Goals

- Continued implementation Wyoming's Forest Action Plan through integrated forestry program delivery.
- Continue to address the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Forests Report.
- Cooperate with partners to improve forest management across boundaries, including GNA.
- Strive to enhance the availability of well trained firefighters and quality equipment to safely accomplish fire suppression, management and utilization objectives.
- Deliver cooperative forestry programs through voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.
- Provide technical assistance to private forest landowners to improve forest management.
- Sustain the response framework for State, federal, county, and municipal partners to readily react to the detection of an invasive agent in a community or rural forest.

### Key Issues

- Insect threats are still a big concern and restoration efforts are ongoing in areas heavily impacted by the recent epidemic.
- Restricted timber supply limits forest products industry capacity which in turn limits active forest management in some areas.
- A greater understanding of the benefits of community forests by the public and elected officials is crucial for successful management.
- Private landowners need technical forestry expertise due to threats such as fire/fuels and forest health concerns.
- Invasive agents present ongoing threats to forests in communities and rural areas.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	563,626	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	503
Acres of Forest Land	10,492,815	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	14,090
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,942,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,348
Number of NIPF Landowners	24,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	177
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	11
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	29,100,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,130
Number of Rural Fire Departments	147	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	99	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	103
Forest Based Employment	925	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	462,914
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	9,819
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	8,500,000		

## Program Highlights

### Conservation Education

WSFD partners closely with Wyoming Project Learning Tree (PLT) for K-12 youth education. WSFD also partnered with PLT to sponsor the statewide Arbor Day poster contest and curriculum for 4th and 5th grade students. On June 4-7 2018, the 32nd Annual International Coordinators' Conference will take place in Cody WY bringing educators from around the country to visit the state.

The Community Forestry Program assembled educational "tree trunks" containing dozens of forestry tools and learning materials for both youth and adult education. The "tree trunks" were provided to thirteen conservation districts for use in educational programming.

### Cooperative Fire Protection

In 2018, the WSFD Fuels Mitigation Program supported the completion of 53 defensible spaces, 338 acres of fuel treatments, and 13 acres of fuel breaks throughout the state. There are currently 21 up to date county wide CWPPs throughout the state, providing direction on wildfire and hazardous fuels management. Wyoming received \$714,000 in funding through the National Fire Plan and the Western States WUI grant program and will sub-award these funds to Fremont, Sheridan, and Washakie Counties to help reduce hazardous fuels on privately owned lands. The program also released, Wyoming Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (WYWRAP), a public-facing risk assessment portal that includes GIS layers and information on reducing wildfire risk. One new Firewise Community was developed and recognized in Wyoming in 2018, bringing the total number to nine in the state of Wyoming.

The Firefighter Property Program (FFP) continues to be the preferred avenue for equipment acquisition. However, over the last 5 years the WSFD has also received engines through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP). The 5 year FFP acquisition total is \$3,579,356.33 and just over \$809,481.66 for FEPP. WSFD distributed a total of \$182,472 to 20 counties in SFA grants. VFA grant program awarded funds to 25 applicants for \$73,328.89.

There were 842 red cards issued by WSFD for Firefighter Type 2, Firefighter Type 1 and Single Resource Boss Positions. There were another 318 red cards issued by those counties who are managing their own training records with assistance from WSFD. WSFD issued 232 red cards for Unit Leader and above positions equaling a total of 1,392 red cards issued. This is an increase of 9% from 2016.

Wyoming State Forestry Division's helicopter flew a total of 34 missions. These missions included: 22 wildland fire suppression missions; 2 prescribed fires; 3 preposition flights; 2 repeater missions; 2 false

alarms; 1 cargo mission flight; and 1 reconnaissance flight.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Restoration treatments, mostly on Wyoming State Trust lands, continue with Western Bark Beetle funds. Bark beetle mitigation projects in Big Horn, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Crook and Weston counties funded by \$500,000 in 2017 state legislative funds are ongoing. These projects are conducting silvicultural and restoration treatments to mitigate the impacts of bark beetles on private and public forest land. The mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic was officially declared over, but vast stands of dead-standing lodgepole pine remain. In the wake of the MPB epidemic, Ips and wood borers continue to cause concern. However, western spruce budworm, which continues to cause significant damage statewide, is presently Wyoming's most concerning forest health issue, considering the amount of damage and its preference for Douglas-fir. The Douglas-fir beetle population is low, but could become a problem in a few areas where western spruce budworm is causing significant damage to Douglas-fir. Spruce beetle continues to cause significant mortality in western Wyoming, particularly near and just south of Togwotee Pass. Western balsam bark beetle is contributing to subalpine fir mortality throughout the state. White pine blister rust continues to damage limber pine. Scattered minor statewide aspen defoliation continues, due to a variety of factors including tortrix, tent caterpillar, Marssonina, sooty bark canker, and Cytospora, predisposed by old age and poor site conditions. Diplodia damage on ponderosa pine followed severe hail storms in Crook County near the Belle Fourche River along the South Dakota border. This damage is probably minor and effected Black Hills ponderosa pine will likely recover. Tornado damage from late June, 2018 caused a continuous path of destruction from southeast of Sundance to Spearfish Canyon, SD. Most damage occurred in wooded areas and snapped many trees along its path. WY State Trust forest land experienced 2018 tornado damage to a much smaller area i

### **Forest Legacy**

WSFD works in cooperation with state, federal, and non-governmental partners to identify areas of importance to be maintained as intact working forest land. WSFD together with partners, developed and applied for a legacy project covering a 4,714 acre, \$12,965,000 land acquisition project in Wyoming's Black Hills. Efforts continue to explore opportunities for federal, state, and private funding to see this project through.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Program provides landowners with comprehensive resource management plans designed to reach management objectives while maintaining and improving resource components. Delivery is provided via Wyoming State Forestry personnel, wildfire mitigation coordinators, private consultants and local Conservation Districts. Plan follow up and direct on the ground assistance to aid in the active implementation of landowner management goals is a significant program focus. 15 Forest Stewardship Plans covering 14,090 acres were developed.

### **Landowner Assistance**

Provided on the ground, technical assistance to 137 Wyoming landowners. Developed management plans for 14,090 acres of private forest lands; a total of 167,477 acres of private land in Wyoming are now under management plans as a result of WSFD assistance. Facilitated 15 landowner workshops and field days with 366 attendees.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Over \$118,000 in cost share grants was made available to 18 communities in 2018 for tree planting and community forestry program development. Projects funded included community tree inventories and management plans, urban forestry interns, volunteer and advocacy group support, and scholarships for training.

Tree City USA, 41 of Wyoming's 99 incorporated cities and towns were certified in this successful program in 2018. One Tree Campus USA renewed, Sheridan College.

In 2018 the 9th annual Northern Rockies Tree School was held in Cody Wyoming, October 10-12 with 170 participants. The Statewide Community Tree Managers Focus Group held an interactive meeting and tour in Bar Nunn, WY with a focus on small town community forest management. The group meets regularly at various project locations and has been an important education and networking opportunity for

city, county, and state employees responsible for managing local community forests.

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## Contact Information



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