



Idaho



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2009 Final
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	95,763
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	819,476
Forest Legacy	735,000
Forest Stewardship	195,900
State Fire Assistance	607,500
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	2,030,568
Urban and Community Forestry	153,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	72,600
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	138,500
Total	4,848,307

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

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the State of Idaho, USDA Forest Service, and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forests and rural economies. We emphasize timber, forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices.

- Increase cost effectiveness by delivering services through partnerships.
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests.
- Integrate program efforts to maximize impact and address issues identified in the Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources and Response Strategy.
- Implement American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects in an efficient and timely manner.

Key Issues:

- Threats to Idaho's communities and forests from wildfire - Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) management
- Forest health concerns: older and dense stands, decreased federal lands management, invasive species, and climate change
- Declining timber markets and increasing dependence on private lands for timber
- Biomass utilization

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2009 Accomplishments	
Population	1,293,953	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	5,702
Acres of Forest Land	21,430,000	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	20,137
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,427,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	18,950
Number of NIPF Landowners	34,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	186
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	915,774	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	174
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,289,303	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	22,864
Number of Rural Fire Departments	250	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	400
Number of Cities And Towns	205	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	46
Forest Based Employment	14,700	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	670,985
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	30,078
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

Program Highlights:

Conservation Education

Funding provided to the Idaho Forest Products Commission supported over 20 Project Learning Tree training workshops for more than 400 educators. Topics included urban forest ecosystem benefits, wildfires, weeds, natural resources, and solid waste.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Program funding helps hire, train, and equip firefighters for national deployment. This program supports four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache while the "Keep Idaho Green" initiative assists fire prevention cooperatives. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program provides funding to fire departments in rural communities. In 2009, 64 rural volunteer fire departments received VFA awards totaling \$191,909. All 44 counties have completed their County Wildfire Protection Plans and periodically submit

updates to WUI maps, priorities and goals. County groups design and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects to mitigate wildfire threats. To date, 20,276 acres of private land have been treated with National Fire Plan (NFP) funds. In 2009, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) awarded over \$2.6 million of NFP funding for hazardous fuels treatment projects. Funding also supports the Idaho NFP Coordinator position and development and maintenance of websites, including the new Idaho Firewise program website.

Economic Action

The Fuels for Schools and Beyond program in Idaho is a partnership between the State Forester, Regional Foresters in USDA Forest Service Regions 1 and 4, and the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). The program promotes using small-diameter trees and slash from hazardous fuels projects to heat public buildings. Five community groups are organizing to promote woody biomass use throughout Idaho. Wood chip and pellet-fueled heating systems have been installed in schools at Council, St. Maries, and Kellogg. Also, a wood chip-fueled heating system is under construction in Garden Valley.

Forest Health Protection

Four detection/evaluation surveys were conducted statewide on approximately 2.4 million acres of state and private lands (aerial detection, Gypsy moth, Douglas-fir tussock moth, and balsam woolly adelgid). IDL thinned approximately 800 acres of lodgepole pine in southeastern Idaho to increase resilience to bark beetles. In total, 44 forest health training sessions were held and 61 technical service visits were made. Overall, 1,286 state and private land managers received direct services from our staff. An additional 381 requests for technical assistance were also handled by IDL forest health staff.

Forest Legacy

In February 2009, Idaho used federal funds to purchase its sixth Forest Legacy Conservation Easement on 400 acres near Sandpoint. Under this purchase, the state secured development and subdivision rights, special management prescriptions, and exclusions. In January 2010, the state will purchase an additional 243 acres. Also, Idaho used Forest Legacy funds to pay due diligence costs for a 369-acre donated conservation easement near Bonners Ferry that is being held by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Both projects are located in the highest priority State Assessment of Forest Resources area.

Forest Stewardship

The Idaho Forest Stewardship Program partnered with over 140 forestry professionals to fund and facilitate the Idaho State Forestry Contest, providing hands-on education for 450 elementary, middle, and high school students. IDL also partnered with University of Idaho Extension Forestry to sponsor 13 educational activities at 24 sites and fund a new Master Forest Steward volunteer program. IDL and its partners hosted the Family Forest Landowner Conference, reaching over 130 private landowners and forest managers. IDL staff provided 6 in-the-field training sessions on culvert-design to 294 Idaho loggers and forest managers. Idaho is partnering with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement forestry and conservation provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Urban and Community Forestry

This program emphasizes the benefit of urban trees beyond aesthetics, with a strong focus on their economic and environmental value. In total, 87 Idaho cities, comprising 91% of Idaho's urban population, are actively developing or sustainably managing their community forests. Partnerships with the Idaho Department of Transportation, RC&Ds, Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association, and Idaho's three investor-owned utilities continue to add additional support and value to state program efforts. Idaho currently has 72 Tree Cities USA, 11 of

which qualified for a Growth Award. Staff completed analyses of street tree benefits in 4 cities.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - North Idaho Project

This project reduces hazardous fuels in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, and Kootenai Counties. Three of the 4 counties have already treated 782 acres. Moreover, the project has directly assisted 19 communities to make them more resilient to catastrophic wildfires. Most significantly, 45 full-time equivalent jobs have been created or retained.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - Silver Valley Project

This project aims to improve forest health and expand wildfire protection zones in Idaho's Silver Valley. In the first phase of this project, Shoshone County established a field office and conducted forest resource assessments to develop prescriptions and prioritize stand treatments.

Competitive Grant - Forest Analysis

IDL completed a 110-square mile urban tree canopy benefits analysis of the developed areas overlying the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, which is a sole source aquifer. The existing 18% tree canopy provides air quality and storm water benefits of more than \$7.5 million per year. An increase of canopy to 30% would reap \$4.9 million annually in additional benefits. Existing energy conservation benefits add roughly \$1 million per year. Results will be used by the four cities within the analysis area to integrate increased canopy into storm water, air quality, energy, and urban growth plans.

Competitive Grant - Silver Valley

Through the Silver Valley Ecological Restoration and Economic Development Project, Forest landowners, environmental organizations, and agencies have formed a collaborative working group to identify and build projects that improve and sustain forest resources, treat hazardous fuels, utilize biomass and stimulate new business opportunities.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants Management

This program is delivered through the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Resource Conservation Districts, and Coordinated Weed Management Areas for the detection, suppression, and control of non-native invasive plants. In 2009, 21,707 priority acres were treated through herbicide, targeted grazing, biological control, mechanical control, and reseeded. An additional 92,875 acres were mapped or monitored for incidence of noxious weeds. Idaho leveraged additional funding at a ratio of nearly 4:1 with the \$201,367 it received through State & Private Forestry.

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