

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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A NEWSLETTER FROM THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS - COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND IDAHO LANDS RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Coordinator's Column

Community Forest Carbon Credits

— A potential new revenue source for tree planting

Idaho summers are getting hotter, drier and windier. In the last 30 years, the length of the wildfire season has increased nearly 80 days. Winters have also grown milder and shorter, and average annual temperatures over the past 40 years have increased 2 degrees Fahrenheit. In our communities, emissions from vehicles and factories produce both heat and high concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂). CO₂ traps the heat—hence the term “greenhouse gas”—leading to even higher temperatures in our cities. In fact, a University of Idaho study predicts temperatures in the Treasure Valley will increase 5-7 degrees Fahrenheit over the next 50 years.

Higher temperatures lead to increases in air pollution, smog, allergens, energy use, and a commensurate decrease in human health. By shading roads, buildings and more, trees help cool our cities, but they also do so by absorbing heat-trapping CO₂—locking up the carbon (C) as wood and releasing oxygen (O₂)—through photosynthesis. IDL's 2013 Treasure Valley Canopy Assessment found that Treasure Valley trees currently hold 1.36 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents worth an estimated \$29 million. These trees remove an additional \$1.1 million worth of CO₂ each year and provide \$8.2 million in annual benefits to stormwater and energy reduction, and improved air quality. Still, vehicles in Ada and Canyon Counties emit 35 times the amount sequestered by trees each year. While trees are not THE solution, they are an important tool cities can use to reduce CO₂ and temperatures.

As a way to support tree planting efforts, The Nature Conservancy, Treasure Valley Canopy Network, and Ecosystem Sciences Foundation, released a report early this year proposing to market CO₂ offset credits for tree planting projects through City Forest Carbon+ Credits (CFC—<http://www.cityforestcredits.org/>). Using protocols

How might tree planting generate income?

Read the Coordinator's Column

developed by CFC, the partners evaluated four recent planting projects comprised of 8,275 trees. Taking into account tree mortality, these trees will store more than 15,000 tons of CO₂ equivalents over 25 years. Had these projects earned carbon credits under CFC, they could have generated between \$300,000 and \$500,000!

By meeting CFC protocols and marketing these through the registry, tree-planting projects provide quantified, tradeable carbon credits. Buyers of these credits could include governments, businesses or individuals that want to reduce their carbon footprint or increase their environmental sustainability.

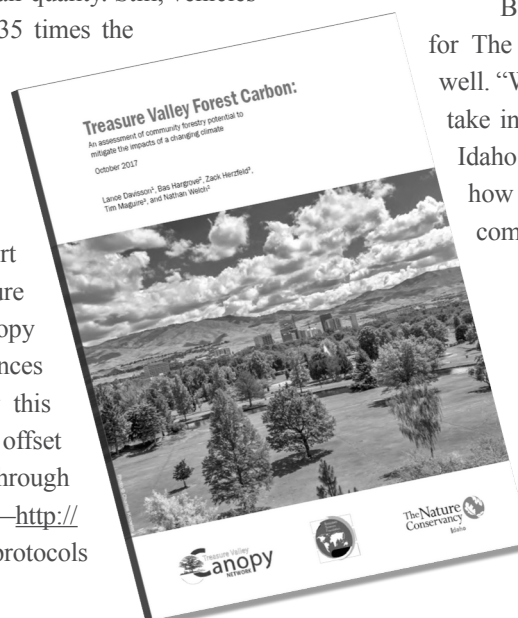
According to the report, the partners hope to pilot a project in collaboration with a local carbon buyer this year, and in the coming years to expand both the number of planting projects and partners to include transportation agencies, large landowners, nurseries and more.

Tim Maguire, a principal at Ecosystem Sciences Foundation, notes each Carbon+ credit equals 1 ton CO₂ equivalent plus the value of co-benefits—quantifiable reductions in stormwater, specific air pollutants, and energy use. “It’s an excellent way to tap into a new funding source to support community forestry projects that address the critical issues within our communities,” says Treasure Valley Canopy Network Facilitator Lance Davisson.

Bas Hargrove, senior policy representative for The Nature Conservancy Idaho sums it up well. “We hope this inspires our fellow citizens to take individual and collective action to address Idaho’s changing climate. This report highlights how each of us can make a difference, and as a community we can do even more.”

— David Stephenson
Community Forestry Coordinator

Funding for the Treasure Valley Forest Carbon report (www.tvcanopy.net/forest-carbon) was provided in part by the Idaho Department of Lands in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service.



Hayden Receives Prestigious Award

The City of Hayden is the recipient of the 2018 Legacy of Leaves Award. This award is given to an Idaho city or county that holds the best or a unique Arbor Day celebration and has received an Arbor Day grant from the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association. The association, in partnership with the Idaho Department of Lands, administers the Arbor Day Grant Program to assist communities with the celebration of Arbor Day. Funding comes from donations provided by Avista, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. The criteria used to determine the winner of the award are: (1) the dollar amount leveraged with the grant funds, (2) uniqueness of the Arbor Day celebration, and (3) support by local volunteers. The award is named “Legacy of Leaves” to recognize the contribution that trees make to the communities in which they are planted.

Hayden volunteers establish learning stations for students of local schools and then the students rotate through the stations to gain information about trees and the contributions they make. The stations are based on grade level curricula for the schools. Volunteers include folks from the Master Gardener program, Idaho Department of Lands, Panhandle National Forest, Idaho Forest Products Commission, certified arborists, landscapers, architects, and herbologists.

2017 was a year of inclement weather (snow, hail, rain, wind), but it didn't deter participation, and more than 425 students went through the stations. Hayden's Arbor Day also involved the planting of 500 trees thanks to city employees, 75 teachers, parents and other volunteers. In all, Hayden leveraged its \$300 Arbor Day grant to a project valued at \$15,416.13!

City of Blackfoot Establishes Policy on Street Tree Lighting

Decorative or seasonal lighting in street trees can add vibrancy to the streetscape. In response to a growing interest in street improvements from business owners, the City of Blackfoot has developed a new policy allowing permits to be let for the decoration and lighting of city street trees. The purpose of this permit is to ensure that the lighting in the commercial district is installed and maintained in a manner that protects public safety and the health of trees. Two types of permits are available: 1) A seasonal lighting permit valid for up to three months; and/or 2) An extended lighting permit for longer than three months but not to exceed three years.

The forestry committee and department heads developed standards that specify the minimum size of tree to be decorated, pruning according to ANSI A300 standards, sidewalk and street clearance, electrical code compliance, and damage assessment if necessary. Guidelines are provided for lighting attachment and acceptable installation methods that include tracing, draping and wrapping. The preferred methods are tracing or draping with attachment to the tree being done using Velcro or florist tape. These methods are typically less harmful than wrapping. Wrapping can only be used for short-term installations and must be loosely wrapped on branches no less than 2 inches in diameter.

A Special Opportunity — Soils Workshop in Boise

It's ALL about soil! Most people only have a vague idea of what soil is and how it works. Learn more than you ever thought possible about soil and the difference it can make for trees at a special workshop in Boise on April 26. The reason you can be alive, what nutrients are, how soil stores water and nutrients—fundamentals that, actually, everyone on the planet Earth should know! Join Oregon State University soil science instructor James Cassidy as he explains how soil interacts with trees and impacts tree health.

In the afternoon of the workshop, City of Boise Urban Forester Brian Jorgenson will lead a tour of the downtown Boise Green Stormwater Infrastructure project implemented in 2016. City of Boise analysis determined that soil compaction and limited soil volumes were contributing to the short life span and poor health of the urban forest. A network of local partners created a shared vision for greater tree canopy by using Silva Cells suspended pavement systems to hold soil amendments and create space for tree roots to grow and treat stormwater. For more information and to register visit <https://pnwisa.org/classes-events/>.



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Time to Celebrate Arbor Day!

Arbor Day has long been recognized as a day to plant and appreciate trees. It began in Nebraska in 1872 when journalist J. Sterling Morton started a new holiday to plant trees. Morton's motives were not only to beautify the state, but to also provide windbreaks, curtail soil erosion and provide a source of fuel and building materials. It's estimated that over a million trees were planted on the first Arbor Day. Morton's idea quickly spread and today Arbor Day is celebrated in all 50 states and many other countries.

In Idaho, Arbor Day falls on the last Friday in April every year. The Idaho Forest Products Commission is planning a statewide Arbor Day celebration honoring trees and all they do to improve our daily lives. A reforestation billboard campaign along with radio and television public service announcements will air throughout April. The annual Arbor Day Photo Contest offers 5—12th grade Idaho students an opportunity to share what they see when they "Look to the Forest." The competition has three division winners and a grand prize that includes a tree being planted near the state capitol in their honor. Entries are due March 31. There is also a new Arbor Day t-shirt and brochure touting a fresh new design. Be sure to order your shirts by April 13 for an Arbor Day arrival. On Friday, April 27, the Commission hosts the state Arbor Day event and tree planting at the Idaho capitol. Seedlings will be available that day at all Home Depot stores throughout the state and bordering communities. One important change to note this year—IFPC is no longer offering seedlings to individuals and groups. The University of Idaho Pitkin Forest Nursery will have seedlings available for purchase. Place your seedling order online at www.uidaho.edu/cnr/center-for-forest-nursery-and-seedling-research/pitkin or contact Aaron Warsaw (tel: 208-885-3888 e-mail: awarsaw@uidaho.edu.)

Arbor Day is a great time to plant trees and to consider and appreciate this renewable, sustainable resource that improves our lives every day by providing a healthy environment, quality wood and paper products and living-wage jobs. Communities, schools, clubs and individuals are all welcome and encouraged to get involved. The Commission has a "tree-mendous" amount of resources available to help with your local Arbor Day celebration. Learn more at www.idahoforests.org/arborday.htm or contact Betty Munis at (208) 334-3292 or ifpc@idahoforests.org.



Winter/Spring 2018 Events Calendar

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/> Webinars are 1-1/4 hours starting at 10 a.m. Pacific Time, 11 a.m. Mountain Time. (Previous webinars can be viewed at this same website: www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/ Webinars)

- February 14, 2018, **From Street to Structure: Innovative harvesting and utilization of whole urban trees**
- February 22, 2018, **i-Tree Online Workshop..An Applications Showcase** (pre-registration required at <https://goo.gl/8iBdsF>)
Check link above for future topics on these dates
- March 14, 2018
- April 11, 2018
- May 9, 2018

February 21

Turf, Tree, and Landscape Conference, Templin's Hotel, Post Falls, ID. To learn more and register, visit www.inlagrow.org

February 22

Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council meeting, Panhandle Health, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact Suzie Jude at sjude@idl.idaho.gov.

March 18

2018 Spring Arborist Series—Tree ID, Selection/Planting, Plant Health Care, Trees and Construction, Tree Codes and Ordinances. Provo Power, Provo, Utah. Visit www.utahurbanforest.org for brochure and to register.

April 14

2018 Spring Arborist Series—Safety, Principals of Pruning, Diagnosis and Disorders, Climbing and Working in Trees, Assessment and Risk Management. Provo Power, Provo, Utah. Visit www.utahurbanforest.org for brochure and to register.

April 20

Small Business Best Practices for Tree Care Companies—Spokane, WA. This workshop provides resources, expert advice, and reflective stories to strengthen tree care companies and business acumen. Visit www.pnwisa.org for more information and to register.

April 26

Soil! What it is and How it Works for Trees—Boise Depot, Boise ID. Visit www.pnwisa.org for more information and to register.

April 27

Celebrate Arbor Day!

June 1-3

PNW-ISA Women's Climbing Workshop—Stanwood, WA. For information about this and other educational events in the region outside Idaho, visit: pnwisa.org.

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Certified Tree Worker (CTW), Municipal Specialist (MS) and Utility Specialist (UA) written Exams

April 7—Spokane, WA (CA, UA, MS)

For information or to register, visit:

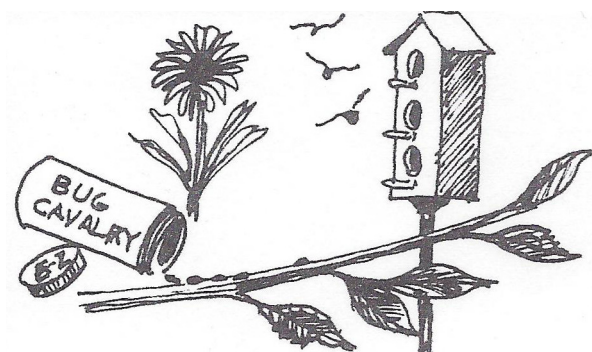
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When treatments are necessary, a first step should be to explore those with the least impact on non-target plants and animals.

Go Easy on Tree Treatments

When pestilence arrives at our doorstep, defend we must! But a good guide to prevent unintended consequences and to protect environmental quality is: Use the minimum treatment that still gets results.

- Use good practices to keep trees healthy, and monitor regularly.
- Prune infected or damaged parts instead of using sprays when possible.
- When spraying use well-timed, low-toxicity spot spraying
- Look into biopesticides, horticultural oils and soaps instead of petrochemicals

For more information, contact the Bio-Integral Resource Center at www.birc.org.