

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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Spring
2018

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

Coordinator's Column

Good News for Idaho Forests

—The 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Like many states, Idaho receives funding from the USDA Forest Service for its State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs, including Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) and the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has used LSR competitive grants to fund larger “landscape-scale” projects across the state, including the geospatial canopy assessments in 25 Idaho cities, and the Treasure Valley Energy-Saving Trees project.

Early last year, the President released his federal fiscal year 2018 budget proposal, which zeroed out several S&PF programs, including UCF and LSR. While it is the job of Congress to create the budget, the President's proposal serves as a blueprint, highlighting the administration's priorities.

However, the Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies in the House and Senate instead included funding for these programs in their respective bills. The House mark for UCF was \$27.3 million, a \$713K reduction from the previous year. The Senate bill was much lower at about \$21 million, a \$7 million reduction.

If Congress passed the Senate mark, IDL would have had to reduce significantly the UCF assistance it provides. For LSR, the reduction was about \$350K in the House bill, and \$2 million in the Senate bill, from \$14 million in 2017 to \$13.64K (House) and \$12 million (Senate).

Further complicating the budget process was sequestration; the automatic spending cuts passed in 2013 that reduce the amounts available to Congress each year. However, in early February, Congress passed a bipartisan two-year spending pact that allowed lawmakers to spend \$300 billion dollars more than the current law allowed. Ultimately, this led Congress to revise their budget marks. In the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill signed into law on March 23, LSR remained the same as last year (\$14 million), and

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Need Help with Arbor Day?

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North Idaho College Becomes Idaho's Second Tree Campus USA



Katie Kosanke (left with crutch), Bill McElver (center with cup), along with NIC students and staff celebrate NIC's first Arbor Day. (Photo courtesy of NIC)

Tree Campus USA is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes 2- and 4-year accredited colleges and universities that manage their campus trees, connect with the greater community and engage the student population in service learning opportunities on and off campus.

When North Idaho Campus (NIC) Physical Plant Manager Bill McElver reached out to Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Urban Forester Katie Kosanke about becoming a Tree Campus, she jumped at the chance. Katie had been meaning to contact the college on just this, so the timing was perfect. Together, they have successfully implemented the five Tree Campus USA standards.

To meet the first standard, they put together a Campus Tree committee with student, faculty, campus facility management and community members. The 8-person committee helps guide campus forestry planning, education on the benefits of campus trees and in connecting with the larger community.

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NIC already had completed most of the second standard—a Campus Tree Care Plan. First developed in 2012 by then-owner of Grace Tree Service Tim Kastning to identify priority work on campus, campus staff with the help of the tree committee updated and expanded the plan to include campus tree-care policies and procedures, goals and targets, and new initiatives. They've already started on one of these—a campus-wide tree inventory using Idaho Tree Plotter.

To meet standard three, NIC needed to expend at least \$3 for each of their 3,375 students for tree planting, care and overall tree management, which NIC easily met.

On a chilly November day last year, students, staff and members of the community gathered to plant an ornamental plum, London planetree, a Flemish Beauty pear and two eastern redbuds in celebration of NIC's first Arbor Day, thus meeting the fourth standard.

For the fifth and final standard—a service learning project—the college teamed up with city forestry staff to place educational tags on campus trees. Placed in highly visible locations by buildings and along pathways, some tags displayed monetary benefits of the values the tree(s) provided, while others had various tree care messages. As well, the committee distributed native tree seedlings to students on campus.

To celebrate their achievement, Coeur d'Alene and North Idaho College will combine their 2018 Arbor Day celebrations, which they will hold on campus on April 27. Congratulations to NIC on achieving Tree Campus USA recognition! For more information on Tree Campus USA, visit arborday.org/programs/



Southern Idaho Community Forestry Assistant Gerry Bates and the Lorax help celebrate Arbor Day in McCall.

Celebrating Arbor Day across the State

Cities in Idaho choose many different ways to celebrate Arbor Day and ideas for celebrations are as diverse as the communities in which the holiday is celebrated. Getting children involved in the planting and care of trees is a great way to encourage stewardship in the urban forest. Some cities plan community-wide celebrations, complete with a BBQ and city clean-up or parade. Others plan events that enhance a park or greenway. Regardless of the size and scope of your celebration, it's an opportunity to give something back to the community through the lasting contributions of trees. Importantly, now is the time to review this year's event and plan how to improve or expand it next year.

Idaho celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April, the traditional date. However, many communities choose to celebrate the holiday on different dates due to weather considerations or other factors. Fall celebrations aren't uncommon. It's up to the mayor to sign an Arbor Day proclamation that declares when the holiday will be observed.

The Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) encourage communities across Idaho to celebrate Arbor Day and to develop a strong relationship with local nurseries by purchasing trees and related materials for planting. A partnership has been established between the INLA and the Idaho Department of Lands to offer an Arbor Day Grant to Idaho cities and counties each year. This year, 55 grants were awarded, made possible by Avista, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. Idaho utility companies are valuable partners in the Arbor Day celebrations in Idaho and strongly promote planting the RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

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UCF funding increased by nearly a half-million dollars! This is great news and a very welcome surprise. Much credit goes to the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC—<http://www.urbanforestcoalition.org/>), a coalition of more than 30 national organizations advocating on behalf of urban forestry, and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF—<https://stateforesters.org/>).

Another very significant forestry budget item was included in this year's omnibus appropriations bill regarding wildfire spending. As mentioned in my last column, the wildfire season is growing ever longer and fires are larger and more severe. The proportion of the Forest Service budget spent on wildfire suppression has increased dramatically; in 1995, fire suppression consumed just 16% of the Forest Service budget. In 2017, it was 56%! To pay for this, funding for non-fire programs has declined dramatically. In years when wildfire costs exceeded the fire budget, the money to pay for the overage came from non-fire programs—including S&PF, further reducing funding for these efforts.

For decades, a growing coalition of partners have pleaded for Congress to fix this and fund wildfires like other natural disasters. With the help of Idaho Senator Mike Crapo and Representative Mike Simpson, Congress finally accomplished this in the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The bill sets aside more than \$20 billion for wildfire suppression over the next ten years outside of the regular Forest Service budget. If costs exceed this, Congress will appropriate emergency supplemental funds to cover the difference. That means non-fire programs will no longer be raided to pay for fire suppression.

For more information on forestry in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, visit the NASF website shown above.



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.

Check link above for future topics on these dates

- May 9, 2018
- June 14, 2018
- July 11, 2018

April 20

Small Business Best Practices for Tree Care Companies—Spokane, WA. This workshop provides resources, expert advice, and reflective stories to strengthen your own tree care company 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. **STILL ROOM FOR ENROLLMENT!**

April 27

Celebrate Arbor Day!

May 8

Fundamentals & Theory of Pruning Trees and Shrubs—Oregon City, OR. For information, visit www.pnwisa.org.

May 17

Tree Growth & Development—What Arborists Need to Know, Seattle, WA. For information, visit www.pnwisa.org.

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: www.pnwisa.org.

June 11 & 18

Tree Risk Assessment Qualification—Seattle, WA (June 11) and Oregon City, OR (June 18). For information, visit www.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:

www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx

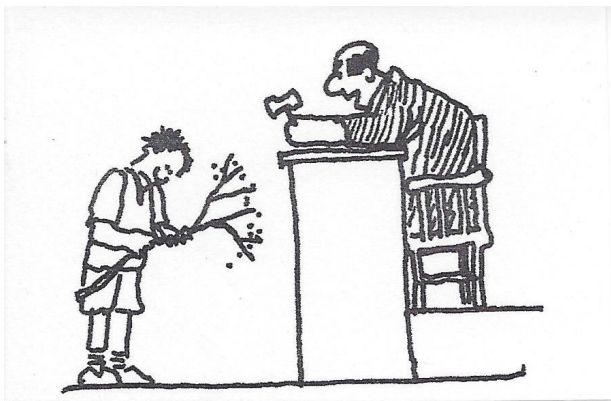


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Tree tip



"Oops, sorry your honor. I didn't know."

What About Street Right-of-Way Trees?

About 80% of a community's trees are in residential yards on private property. The majority of others are on street rights-of-way. Do residents in your community know what they can and cannot do with those trees? Many do not.

- Make sure the rules are clear in the city ordinance. Is a permit needed to plant or remove a tree? Who is responsible for street and sidewalk clearance, or other pruning?
- Publicize the rules at least annually – by newspaper ads or a letter to the editor.
- Print door hangers and use Scouts or other service groups to place them at residences.
- Include occasional slips with utility bills or other mailings.

Communication prevents conflicts!