



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Idaho 2017



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2016 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$306,530
Forest Legacy	\$3,365,000
Forest Stewardship	\$177,400
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$600,000
State Fire Assistance	\$2,521,261
Urban and Community Forestry	\$218,380
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$263,360
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,451,931</b>

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

From Main Street to mountaintop, cooperative programs administered and implemented through partnerships between Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), USDA Forest Service, and other private and government entities promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forests and rural economies. To guide investments in our forests, IDL utilizes the Statewide Forest Action Plan (FAP), National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy concepts and input from the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council to ensure resources are invested in areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

### Program Goals

- To provide services, tools and resources to reduce risk, improve use and increase functional value of Idaho trees and forests.
- To provide targeted information, education and assistance for improved customers' forest aptitude and management abilities.
- To promote actions and provide services to enhance our forest-based markets.
- To assess and streamline information sharing, program delivery, and strategic alignment.
- To increase cost effectiveness in all that is done.

### Key Issues

- Threats of wildfire to Idaho communities and forests both in the urban interface and in high value productive forestlands.
- Constraints on federal land management practices.
- Stressors on forest health, including impacts from invasive species and climate change.
- Conversion from traditional forest use to non-forest use.
- Overall degradation of water quality/quantity, air quality, wildlife habitat, and bio diversity.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2016 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	1,567,582	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	3,669
Acres of Forest Land	21,495,842	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	63,773
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,427,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	53,793
Number of NIPF Landowners	34,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	40
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	915,774	State Fire Communities Assisted	37
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,289,303	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,338
Number of Rural Fire Departments	254	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	6,124
Cities and Towns	201	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	83
Forest Based Employment	10,510	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	980,873
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	35,481
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

## Program Highlights

### **Addressing Issues with Special Projects**

IDL collaborates with numerous partners throughout the state to develop and fund projects that address key issues and strategies with Idaho's Forest Action Plan. Highlights are presented on S&PF Programs and the following special projects: Community-based Hazard Planning and Mitigation, County Wildfire Risk Map Integration--Ada County, and Treasure Valley Shade projects.

### **Community-based Hazard Planning and Mitigation**

This project provides a one-stop source of information that can be used to address the myriad issues that governments, organizations and homeowners deal with related to wildland urban interface planning. IDL, University of Idaho and Boise State University collaborated to create the "Planning for Wildfire in the Wildland-Urban Interface: A Guide for Idaho Communities." The guide consolidates best management practices into a four-step planning process for wildland urban interface (WUI) planning. Also, contained within the document are representative codes from Idaho communities, counties and other states that address WUI development standards. Additionally, the project completed a survey of public perceptions regarding wildfire, its role in the ecosystem, and personal responsibility. This information will be used as a baseline from which to measure changes in future perceptions and gauge success of educational efforts.

### **Conservation Education**

IDL collaborated with forestry professionals to fund and facilitate the Idaho State Forestry Contest, which provided education and a competition of forestry skills to 405 elementary, middle and high school students throughout the state. Over 200 forestry professionals and volunteers assisted in the event.

IDL sponsored four Project Learning Tree Workshops, a nationally developed environmental education program, which provided forestry education to 83 educators to benefit approximately 2,000 school age children.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Protection of forestlands, rangelands and urban interface areas from wildfire is a critical function of IDL. Funding of this program helps hire, train, and equip firefighters for deployment to both local and national incidents. This program supports four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache where small local fire districts can obtain firefighting equipment and supplies. The "Keep Idaho Green" initiative is the educational arm of the statewide, interagency "Idaho Firewise" program. Additionally, Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) funding helps train and equip volunteer departments in rural communities.

## Community Assistance - Hazardous Fuels

IDL supports a wide range of activities that reduce wildfire impacts on communities. Collaboration with counties includes fiscal and contract management plus landowner education. 2016 efforts include:

- Eighteen counties received planning, educational and hazard fuel reduction assistance.
- Six (6) entities--Boundary Co. (2), Lemhi Co., Nez Perce Co., Idaho Soil & Water Conservation District, and Boise Co. --received Hazardous Fuels Reduction funding to reduce fuel loads on private lands. Several of these projects are adjacent to similar efforts on US Forest Service lands.

### **County Wildfire Risk Map Integration - Ada County**

Boise Fire Department is creating an on-line, decision-support system that can help identify risks, manage response and allocate resources. The system is currently being field tested to identify and resolve issues. In the next phase of the project, residents will be able to complete and upload their own home assessments, or seek professional assistance in completing these. This information will help refine the model, providing greater detail for emergency service personnel seeking situation information during an incident.

### **Forest Health Protection**

IDL staff conducted comprehensive evaluation surveys on approximately 8.2 million acres of state, private, and other lands to detect, map and assess forest health issues, including aerial detection of 7.1 million acres of forested lands over all ownerships. Since 2015, this border to border aerial detection survey has been conducted using a grid pattern by IDL and Forest Service aerial observers in the same aircraft. Since final survey numbers are not available until the following year, 2015 totals are reported in 2016. Additionally, field surveys were conducted for gypsy moths on nearly one million acres in northern Idaho, and Douglas-fir tussock moth on 80,008 acres. A total of 68 forest health-training sessions were held, educating over 2,400 state and private landowners and managers. Staff also provided 307 technical assists.

### **Forest Legacy**

Idaho's Forest Legacy projects assure high value forestlands will remain as sustainable, working forests while protecting vital wildlife habitat for big game and federally listed species including grizzly bear, caribou, and lynx. IDL 2016 program accomplishments (all projects located in northern Idaho):

- Purchased six conservation easements totaling 19,987 acres as part of the following projects: FY12 Boundary Connections, FY14 McArthur Lake East, and FY2015 Clagstone Meadows.
- Due diligence work in progress on the following projects: FY14 McArthur Lake East, 2,500 acres remaining; FY15 Hall Mountain, 1,256 acres; and FY16 Hall-Kootenai, 3,281 acres.
- Completion of all open Forest Legacy project grants is expected by early 2018.

### **Forest Stewardship**

Trained volunteers provided more than 800 hours of service and reached over 2,700 citizens through the Master Forest Stewards program. Funding for the Master Forest Stewards training and the following initiatives were provided by IDL:

- Support for the Family Forest Landowner and Managers Conference, reaching more than 250 landowners and managers
- 156 new and revised Forest Stewardship Plans on 63,773 acres
- Collaborated with the University of Idaho Extension Forestry program to sponsor the Master Forest Stewardship Program, with 25 educational sessions and 784 participants.
- Partnered with the Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency to provide needed technical and financial assistance to forest landowners. IDL directly facilitated forest improvements, such as planting and thinning, on more than 780 acres of private lands.

### **Landscape Scale Restoration**

- Sweetwater Forest Enhancement Project – Project will implement treatments across ownerships to improve forest health, mitigate fire threats, restore steelhead habitat and riparian function, improve water

quality, and treat invasive species within the Sweetwater watershed.

- Teton Creek Collaborative Watershed Restoration – Project will restore and enhance ecological integrity and connectivity within the Teton Creek Corridor by improving riparian habitat, forest and floodplain resiliency, biodiversity, and water quality and quantity in a critical 8-mile stretch threatened with development pressures.

### **Treasure Valley Shade**

IDL continued its partnership with Idaho Power, national, state and local organizations and cities in the greater Boise metro area on an Energy Saving Trees Program. A geospatial canopy assessment identified specific planting sites that, if planted, will maximize shade on buildings during the summer, lowering energy use and saving money. To date, more than 6,300 homeowners have been provided free trees for planting in these locations. Infographics, videos and on-site education at tree pickup locations provides education on the value of trees in conserving energy. Idaho Power is undergoing a detailed cost-benefit analysis to assess whether trees are planted correctly, in the right locations, and are surviving, and whether the value of the energy saved exceeds the cost of creating the same amount of energy. If so, the utility company will adopt and sustain this program permanently.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Idaho's Community Forestry Program focuses on assisting communities manage public trees within cities to address critical issues, such as energy conservation, stormwater management, air quality and human health.

Highlights include:

- IDL facilitates the Treasure Valley Canopy Network (TVCN)--a growing partnership of government organizations, academia and non-profits using geospatial tree canopy data and benefit modeling tools developed by IDL (FY10 LSR Grant project) for projects that address critical issues. This year, TVCN initiated efforts to increase canopy in underserved areas to improve public health. <http://www.tvcanopy.net>
- IDL rolled out Idaho Tree Plotter (ITP), a statewide tree inventory program for Idaho Cities. This year, 7 communities completed inventories using ITP, and 9 existing city tree inventories were converted into this program. This tool also allows IDL to roll-up all city data statewide, allowing targeted assistance based on the structure, extent, benefit value, and potential risk from invasive species for the State's community forests. <https://pg-cloud.com/Idaho/>

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## **Contact Information**



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