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Boise will be part of tree canopy survey

Boise has been selected as one of 19 cities for a nationwide study analyzing the costs and benefits of tree canopies in the United States.

A team of researchers from the U.S. Forest Service's Center for Urban Forest Research will give an overview of the study at a meeting at 4 p.m. Monday in the Boise City Hall Bonneville room, 100 Capitol Blvd.

The project is a partnership with the Boise Parks and Recreation Community Forestry Unit, which cares for 42,000 trees in Boise parks and rights of way. The study was recommended by the Les Bois Tree Task Force Committee, which is completing a 10-year plan for the unit.

Starting Aug. 15, researchers will spend about two weeks collecting data and taking samples from about 800 street and park trees throughout the city. Data will be analyzed with STRATUM, a new management tool that uses tree inventory data to quantify the dollar value of environmental and aesthetic benefits such as energy conservation, air quality improvement, carbon dioxide reduction, stormwater control and property value increases.

The computer-based program creates a model for communities in the same climate zone. Boise is in the Temperate Interior West, which also includes Reno and the

Columbia Gorge region of Eastern Washington and Oregon.

In a recent study of another western region, scientists determined that a large 40-year-old tree on public property annually intercepts over 2,143 gallons of stormwater, removes 2.5 pounds of air pollutants and conserves 7 percent of energy bills for cooling.

For information, call the Community Forestry Unit at 384-4083 or see the Caring for Parks link at www.cityofboise.org/parks.