



Colorado



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	98,840	525,998
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	269,280	318,780
Forest Land Enhancement	67,906	0
Forest Legacy	1,505,790	0
Forest Stewardship	326,700	432,500
State Fire Assistance	488,960	596,710
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,856,778	1,881,696
Urban and Community Forestry	264,000	394,100
Volunteer Fire Assistance	111,414	111,414
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	424,516	424,516
Total	5,414,184	4,685,714

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Colorado, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Colorado's forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis focuses on timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices.

- Maintain and improve the health of Colorado's urban and rural forests and related economies.
- Protection and safety of the public and firefighters.
- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery.
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests.
- Deliver programs that are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches.

Key Issues:

- Concerns about forest condition and wildfire in the interface areas of the state continue to grow. Western bark beetles, including mountain pine beetle and spruce beetle, are spreading rapidly and causing concerns for land managers, fire planners, and recreation interests. We are continuing a major effort to assist communities with the preparation and implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Interface private forestland management faces growing challenges for implementing fuels mitigation projects in the face of weak markets and a struggling forest products industry.

- Cross boundary landscape scale projects that produce significant accomplishment on the ground.
- Local fire planning, extended attack capability and transitioniong during complex incidents.
- Mountain Pine Beetle and Spruce Beetle epidemics are a priority for prevention and suppression

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	4,301,261	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	78
Acres of Forest Land	22,600,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	19,642
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,200,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	565,716
Number of NIPF Landowners	200,000	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	1,317
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	24,240,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	571
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	41,432,979	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	379
Number of Rural Fire Departments	424	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	11,097
Number of Cities And Towns	354	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	0
Forest Based Employment	4,000	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	105
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	3,554
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	32,775,000		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Forest Health issues in Colorado continue to be a center stage issue with the public. In 2006 the aerial survey showed over 600,000 new acres affected by beetles. That is an increase of 50% over 2005. The Colorado State Forest Service affects land treatments through our 18 district offices across Colorado. We are leveraging our resources to treat acres by working in cooperation with our federal land partners and private and other public ownerships to achieve the best landscape scale cross-boundary effects possible. We are also training personnel who work for communities so they can recognize insect and disease affected trees and what trees and forest environments are at risk in the future. Our goal is to be aggressive where insects and diseases are ongoing and to be proactive where the risk is high. Colorado's urban forests are also at risk to invasive as well as our riparian forests. Should emerald ash borer ever become established in Colorado, it would have serious, devastating impacts on our urban forests. We are cooperating with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to attempt to prevent this from occurring. We continually work to increase our ability to affect acres across Colorado. Our leadership in the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative identifying priority acres, and building community knowledge and support for the treatments necessary is but one example. In 2006 in Colorado we affected over 17,000 acres and our goal for 2007 is 20,000

acres.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Colorado's land base is approximately 66 million acres (41.5 million state and private, 24 million federal). Of the state's 4.6 million people, 1.8 million live outside municipal boundaries or in communities of less than 10,000 people. These people expect wild land fire protection from the 400 rural fire departments, sheriff's departments and state units. Federal funding allows some level of rural fire protection through the organizing, training and equipping local rural resources. The Colorado Wildfire Academy and Great Plains Wildfire College hosted over 1600 trainees, instructors, and students. The Academy, along with the Great Plains Wildfire College and the Colorado Wildfire and Mitigation Conference are supported in part by VFA funding. SFA funding helps support Wildfire Prevention, Preparedness, and Response efforts. Approximately 16 % of CSFS total workforce participates on the Region 2 Type 1 and Type 2 IMT's. The Federal Excess Property Program has allowed CSFS to convert 140 military vehicles to Type 6 and Type 3 wildland engines on loan to fire departments across the state.

Economic Action

The Colorado State Forest Service continues its efforts to develop economically viable uses for wood products in Colorado. This is accomplished through the Colorado Wood Initiative. We are currently using a mix of funding sources to continue to cooperate with other state offices, including the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation, and our federal partners in promoting uses of wood in Colorado. Our Colorado Forest Products branding effort is managed cooperatively through the Colorado Department of Agriculture Colorado Proud campaign. We continue to increase awareness of the benefits of using wood products made in Colorado from Colorado Wood. We are providing information and assistance to new business interests and existing businesses through efforts including technical assistance for drying wood, information on the structural and milling properties of wood in Colorado, a statewide wood supply study, and information on the use of biomass for producing heat and electricity. We have worked with the green building initiative in Colorado to increase awareness of the value of Colorado Wood products. We currently have one new business that is looking for a location in Colorado to build a wood pellet plant. This business has also produced a test run of wood pellets from pinion and they were used to heat a building in Southwest Colorado. The interest for using biomass for heat in Colorado continues to increase. We continually assist in development of feasibility studies. Our efforts in providing information and technical assistance have enhanced local businesses and resulted in a very successful biomass for heat operation in Colorado.

Landowner Assistance

Fire danger has always been a concern for the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA), especially after the Colorado fire season of 2000. The Forest Stewardship property, located in Monument, Colorado, has a vegetation type of ponderosa pine combined with gambel oak undergrowth. Over 60 percent of the acres in WIA have a high to extreme fuel hazard rating. They applied for, and received, many SFA grants under the National Fire Plan. WIA created their own cost-share program, implementing defensible spaces and reducing fuel loading in their common areas. WIA also has a forestry committee that trains residents in insect and disease detection, and defensible space implementation. In 2002 Woodmoor was awarded the Colorado Outstanding Forest Steward of the Year award for their positive multiresource efforts. In 2006 they realized that their Forest Stewardship plan needed to be updated and revised. Because of their fire danger concerns they also wanted to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). They felt that this would make them more competitive for continued grant assistance. With the collaboration of the county, fire protection district and CSFS, they combined the criteria of a CWPP with their Forest Stewardship plan. The resulting plan is a comprehensive, multi-resource approach to good land management, with

an emphasis on fire management and community involvement. Stewardship funds helped provide technical assistance.

Urban and Community Forestry

There are 354 cities and towns in Colorado. The Colorado State Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Division, in conjunction with our District Foresters, provides technical and educational support to more than 88% of the states population. The Tree City USA Certification and Recognition program is one measure of the success of local volunteer efforts. Colorado had ninety Tree City USA communities. Our State Council, the Colorado Tree Coalition, increased its visibility through the poster contest, the 2006 Notable Trees of Colorado calendar, and its Trees Across Colorado program. Colorado State Forest Service is involved in City Print Denver, Denver Mayor's Initiative, to plant 1,000,000 trees over the next two decades. Additionally, progress was made in making the urban/rural connection more visible throughout the state through efforts like fire mitigation, CWPP'S, and urban wood waste utilization.

Conservation Education

Major emphasis will be placed on wildland-urban interface and forest health education issues and educational resource development. FireWise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning assistance are important approaches that the CSFS will take to increase awareness of people living in forest systems.

Forest Stewardship

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Helping Communities Help Themselves

Colorado has received forest health funds for a project entitled "Helping Communities Help Themselves". The objective of this project is to assist communities who are interested in developing a long-term sustainable capacity to maintain healthy forests through management. Colorado State Forest Service will be working with a county in a cooperative effort with their own grant program to treat forest lands, especially lands affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The effort is designed to leverage their funds and assist them in building additional capacity to use forest products. The goal is to reduce the cost of forest management treatments for landowners. Reducing cost of forest management activities through a reliable supply of wood will allow more landowners to conduct management activities on their land. It will also enhance the ability of the county to treat more acres. Another piece of this project is a wood sort yard located in North Central Colorado. Markets for beetle killed wood and other forest products, especially small diameter wood are lacking. This lack of markets

translates into high costs for forest management treatments. We are working in a cooperative effort with the community and local business to establish a wood sort yard. This would enable landowners to bring loads of wood in and develop value through distribution of the wood to the highest value market. The value would offset part or all of the cost of forest management and encourage more acres to be treated. There currently exists no such market in the area. Many landowners do not develop enough volume of a particular product to allow it to be transported directly to a high value market. The sort yard effort is designed to develop a capacity that is self-sustaining into the future.

Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) was established following the catastrophic fire season of 2002, one of the most destructive in Colorado's recorded history. The FRFTP is a collaborative program of the Colorado State Forest Service, National Park Service, and USDA Forest Service to reduce wildland fire risks through sustained fuels treatment along Colorado's Front Range. The primary goal of the FRFTP is to enhance community sustainability and restore fire-adapted ecosystems over a 10-year period. Key to success is extensive participation from local governments; public involvement; collaboration in identifying and supporting specific project areas and types of treatment; and building on successful projects such as the Upper South Platte Watershed Restoration Project and the Winiger Ridge Project. In 2002, Partnership agencies conducted a large-scale rapid assessment of hazardous fuels conditions along the Front Range to identify large areas where treatment needs are of greatest concern and where hazardous fuels place communities at risk. The assessments indicate that approximately 510,000 acres are high priority for treatment—300,000 acres within the Pike National Forest, 140,000 acres within the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests, and 70,000 acres of non-federal land. The Colorado State Forest Service competes for USDA Forest Service and other federal grant funds to treat state and private land, while other Partnership agencies use internal funds to treat acres. The viability of the FRFTP depends on continued USDA Forest Service funding. Complementing the work of the Partnership is the FRFTP Roundtable. The Roundtable is a coalition of individuals, organizations, and government agencies that have worked together since 2004 to develop a long-term vision and roadmap to protect communities from the risks of wildfire and restore forest health in 10 Colorado Front Range counties (<http://www.frftp.org/docs/roundtable/report.pdf>).

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