



# Idaho



## State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2006 Final</b>	<b>FY 2007 Estimate</b>
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	186,800	186,800
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	1,239,300	1,239,300
Forest Land Enhancement	55,000	55,000
Forest Legacy	725,300	2,900,000
Forest Stewardship	282,200	282,200
State Fire Assistance	515,400	515,400
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,620,700	1,620,700
Urban and Community Forestry	202,200	202,200
Volunteer Fire Assistance	71,500	71,500
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	116,000	116,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,014,400</b>	<b>7,189,100</b>

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the State of Idaho, the USDA Forest Service, and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forest lands and rural economies. We emphasize timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices. Our goal is to maintain and improve the health of Idaho's urban and rural forests and related economies.

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests
- Are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches

### Key Issues:

- Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Management
- Forest health concerns related to increased age & density, and decreased diversity on federal lands
- Rapid urbanization and subdivision development
- Threats to Idaho's forests from invasive species
- Increasing dependence on timber supply from private lands
- Protection and rehabilitation of water quality and riparian areas
- Biomass Utilization
- Ecosystem restoration
- Community transportation enhancement



## Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	1,293,953	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	33
Acres of Forest Land	21,821,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	8,798
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	2,106,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	121,597
Number of NIPF Landowners	54,853	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	12,073
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	966,689	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	44
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,238,798	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	37
Number of Rural Fire Departments	250	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	28,760
Number of Cities And Towns	205	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	29,313
Forest Based Employment	15,100	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	79
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	6,473
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

## Program Highlights:

### *Forest Health Protection*

Forest Health is providing assistance to landowners whose lands have been ravaged by mountain pine beetle in east-central Idaho. Approximately 1,339 acres (~76,670 trees) were treated by contractors via salvage harvest, spraying, pheromones, thinning, and planting on private lands in east-central Idaho affected by this beetle. Idaho Department of Lands thinned an additional 600 acres of lodgepole pine forest in south-eastern Idaho. Eight detection/evaluation surveys were conducted statewide, covering 5.8 million acres of state and private lands. Twenty-eight identification and control training sessions and technical service visits were delivered to a total of 1,460 state and private land managers and the general public. In addition, \$722,500 in Forest Service - Forest Health Management funds were granted to the ID Dept of Agriculture for their aggressive campaign against noxious weeds. These funds were used to support Cooperative Weed Management Areas ~ groups of like-minded landowners and land managers who coordinate closely to reduce, eliminate and/or prevent noxious weed infestations.

### *Cooperative Fire Protection*

Idaho continues to emphasize implementation of the National Fire Plan under the guidance of

the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG). The updated Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan was signed by the Governor and state, federal and tribal agency stakeholders in December 2006. Idaho's 44 counties have completed County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and most have mapped the wildland urban interface (WUI) at the county level. The first annual Idaho Wildland Fire Conference – Building Partnerships for Safer Communities hosted by ISFPWG was held in Boise in September 2006. For more information on this and other collaborative programs and collective efforts of the ISFPWG, please visit either of the following sites: [www.idl.idaho.gov](http://www.idl.idaho.gov) or [www.idahofireplan.org](http://www.idahofireplan.org). Cooperative Fire Protection programs protect lives, property, and natural resources through the cooperative efforts of local, state, and federal entities. State Fire Assistance (SFA) funding helped hire, train, and equip 35 firefighters for national deployment. Funding was also provided for four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache. Keep Idaho Green ([www.keepidahogreen.org](http://www.keepidahogreen.org)) assisted fire prevention cooperatives with media activities and provided publications on wildland fire prevention. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program provides federal financial assistance to organize, train, and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities. The VFA Program facilitates distribution of available funding to those fire departments determined to be most in need. This year, Idaho Department of Lands received 78 VFA grant applications with a total request of \$640,249; of these, 44 rural volunteer fire departments received VFA awards totaling \$187,530 after collaborative prioritization by the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group.

#### *Economic Action*

The Fuels for Schools (FFS) program in Idaho is a partnership between the State Forester, the Regional Foresters in Regions 1 and 4 of the US Forest Service, and the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D). The purpose is to expand the use of small-diameter trees and slash removed in hazardous fuel reduction projects to heat local public buildings and demonstrate the practicality, economic sense, and positive environmental impact of heating using woody biomass fuels. The Council, ID demonstration project has been in operation for a year and a half. Council Schools' projected fuel cost savings for the 2006-07 winter are \$35,000. A second demonstration project is under construction in Kellogg and expected to be operational by August 2007. Numerous preliminary engineering evaluations have been done through the FFS program on other public buildings in Idaho; many of these communities are actively seeking construction funds.

#### *Forest Legacy*

On November 22, 2005, Idaho purchased its third Forest Legacy conservation easement on 28,753 acres in the Saint Joe River watershed, securing development and subdivision rights, public recreation access, and special management prescriptions or exclusions on riparian and view-shed areas. On August 17, 2006, Idaho purchased its fourth Forest Legacy conservation easement on 560 acres in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem within Antelope Valley, Clark County, securing development and subdivision rights and special management prescriptions or exclusions.

#### *Urban and Community Forestry*

More than 85% of Idaho's urban population lives in cities either developing or managing their community forests. Federal and State funding generated more than \$555,000 in local matching support, supplemented by about \$60,000 in state funds. Partnerships with the Department of Transportation, Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Councils, and the three investor-owned utilities in Idaho have helped extend the program's reach throughout the state. Idaho currently has 72 Tree Cities USA, and twelve of these qualified for a Growth Award in 2006. Stratum assessments are being completed in many cities to quantify the air quality, stormwater mitigation, energy conservation, and property

enhancement values of public trees to these communities. A new five-year strategy was completed that addresses how trees serve as tools to address these issues and help solve some of the most important problems communities face.

### *Conservation Education*

Two-dozen educational programs were held across the state for communities and citizens with topics ranging from tree planting and pruning, community tree inventories, and more. Additional presentations were made at schools, county fairs, and community celebrations educating Idaho's citizens on the value and benefits of trees in our communities and providing information regarding better care and management of community forests. A state-level working group was started to address the natural partnership between trees and water, and how communities can use trees to address issues of water quality and availability and stormwater control.

### *Forest Stewardship*

Idaho's Forest Stewardship Program partnered with Idaho State University to begin work on the Spatial Analysis Project, a combination GIS and database tools to spatially display stewardship accomplishments, prioritize important forest areas, and examine potential for strategic stewardship implementation on private lands in the state. The Forest Stewardship Program partnered with University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Forestry to sponsor 29 workshops on 17 topics for 403 participants. A Bi-State (Idaho/Washington) Forest Owner Field Day drew over 300 practitioners and landowners. The annual 2-day Family Forest Owner Conference draws over 200 attendees.

### *Community Fire Protection and Hazardous Fuel Treatments*

Idaho uses National Fire Plan dollars to implement fuel reduction treatments in the Wildland-Urban Interface, to reduce risks from wildfire throughout the State. County Mitigation Committees help prioritize areas where fuel reduction is most needed to protect communities. In 2006, Idaho Department of Lands in cooperation with the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry awarded \$953,685 for Hazardous Fuels Treatment (HFT) projects in Idaho. To date, 13,147 acres have been treated at an average cost of \$900/acre. In addition, the Keep Idaho Green program provides education and information to communities to teach homeowners about effective hazard mitigation practices. An additional \$100,000 was invested to fully fund Idaho's National Fire Plan Coordinator.

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**For more information contact:**



**Idaho Department of Lands**  
George B. Bacon  
954 West Jefferson Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0050  
Ph: 208-334-0242  
Fax: 208-334-2339  
Email: [gbacon@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:gbacon@idl.idaho.gov)

**Northern Region**  
Paul Ries  
USDA Forest Service  
200 East Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59807  
Ph: 801-625-5253  
Fax: 801-625-5716  
Email: [pries@fs.fed.us](mailto:pries@fs.fed.us)

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