



New Mexico



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	528,850	306,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	79,695	80,500
Forest Land Enhancement	45,012	0
Forest Legacy	1,242,000	0
Forest Stewardship	292,027	275,000
State Fire Assistance	252,000	283,000
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,265,893	163,000
Urban and Community Forestry	201,000	203,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	79,147	79,500
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	213,840	251,000
Total	4,199,464	1,641,000

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of New Mexico, the USDA Forest Service and many other private, non-profit, and government entities. Program goals promote the health and productivity of New Mexico forest lands and rural economies. Emphases include forest products, wildlife, water resources, fire hazard management, fuels reduction, biomass utilization, rural economies, conservation practices and improving quality of life in the nation's cities and towns. These programs: * Increase cost effectiveness by working through partnerships. * Increase land value through cost-sharing sustained productivity of forests. * Are voluntary, and use non-regulatory approaches.

- Work collaboratively to improve forest restoration, forest management, and community sustainability through integrated program planning and implementation.

Key Issues:

- Addressing watershed health, forest health and fire safety issues in wildland/urban interface (WUI) areas. Assisting communities in building partnerships for sustainable community forests; addressing urban sprawl; building volunteerism; and providing ecosystem services through urban and community forestry.
- Hazardous fuel removal in the Wildland / Urban Interface and the completion of community wildfire protection plans (CWPP) for communities at risk. The need for treatment is high and the amount of funding available for treatment is not sufficient to meet the needs of communities at risk.

- Developing uses and markets for small diameter trees while increasing utilization capacity for existing businesses, which will increase the amount of hazardous fuels that can be treated and removed from the urban interface.
- Forest Health as it relates to unsustainable conditions of density, age class distribution, and species composition which are outside the historic range of variability.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	1,819,046	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	35
Acres of Forest Land	6,300,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	12,392
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	4,000,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	607,598
Number of NIPF Landowners	24,600	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	2,221
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	201
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	44,500,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	34
Number of Rural Fire Departments	373	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	1,100
Number of Cities And Towns	234	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	5,000
Forest Based Employment	308	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	30
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	750
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	12,638,000		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Invasive Plants program activities have been completed in Colfax County by the Adelante Soil & Water Conservation District (S&WCD) and are under way in the San Juan Weed Management Area and the Cuba S&WCD. A 2006 call for invasive plant project proposals was issued but award selections had not been finalized at the time of this writing. Western Bark Beetle program funds in the amount of \$352,000 have been allocated for 28 projects using the State's stewardship model. The Cooperative Forest Health program supports a cost-shared forest health specialist position that provides forest insect and disease technical assistance to private landowners. Forest Health Monitoring funds provide supplemental funding for annual insect and disease aerial detection surveys which in 2006 covered 1.4 million acres of State and private forest land. With the Forest Service, the State Forest Health Specialist co-hosted the 2006 Intermountain Aerial Observer "Fly-in" at Taos in June. This three-day workshop prepares State and Federal forest health aerial surveyors for the upcoming season using presentations, in-flight observation exercises (3 fixed-wing aircraft were on-site for this session), and ground-truthing field visits.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance enhances State and local organizational skills to assist with firefighting efforts. Grants are used for training and education, fuel reduction, hazard mitigation and equipment needs. In 2006 approximately \$252,000 of regular program, \$1,265,893 of National Fire Plan funds and an additional \$962,771 million of Forest Service hazardous fuels funds were allocated to the state for hazardous fuels treatment on non-federal lands. In New Mexico, five applications were funded for programs ranging from homeowners brochure development, public education, and FIREWISE presentations, to thinning and prescribed burning. Approximately 10 projects are planned for treatment with NFP funds targeting 34 communities. Volunteer Fire Assistance supports training and equipment for rural and volunteer fire departments. National Fire Plan funding of approximately \$213,840 in addition to the \$79,147 of regular program funds were allocated to assist fire departments. In New Mexico 67 applications for assistance were received requesting over \$90,296 in funding. Sixteen applications were approved for funding, \$156,000 was planned for purchasing, maintaining and rehab of equipment, three new fire departments will be formed. 201 communities will be assisted.

Forest Legacy

Horse Springs Ranch Phase 1 5,000 acres was purchased in 2006 for \$2,700,253. Phase 2 received funding in FY2006 for \$1,134,208 for 2,100 acres. It is currently being appraised.

Landowner Assistance

Eighty-one NIPF landowners were assisted by the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). \$15,366 was provided through cost-share agreement, including development of new or revised plans for 2,117 acres. FLEP funds provided technical assistance impacting 3,100 acres not under cost-shares.

Urban and Community Forestry

Urban and Community Forestry: Of the State's 2004 estimated population (1,903,000), nearly 1,470,000 (80%) live in communities or county subdivisions that could potentially use UCF program resources. Of these, more than 1,050,000 people (or approximately 70 percent of total state population) live in communities actively engaged in urban and community forestry activities facilitated by NM State Urban Forestry. Nearly half (46%) of them (483,000 people) are served by communities with fully functioning community forestry programs characterized by community management plans, professional staff, policies and local, citizen based organizations that volunteer and advocate for the local community forestry program. Community volunteer participation was coordinated through an \$80,000 UCF grant to non-profit Tree New Mexico (TNM). TNM generated local match of \$200,000, 2 ½ times the required match, from groups such as the Public Service Company of New Mexico, Albuquerque Community Foundation, and Albuquerque City Council.

Forest Stewardship

Thirty-five Stewardship Plans plans were prepared in FY2006 covering approximately 12,392 acres. There were 96 Forest Management Plans prepared covering 697 acres. There were 226 technical assists, tech transfers, and referrals under Stewardship.

For more information contact:



New Mexico EM NRD - Forestry Division
Butch Blazer
P.O. Box 1948
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1948
Ph: 505-476-3328
Fax: 505-476-3330
Email: ablazer@state.nm.us

Southwestern Region
Gilbert Zepeda
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Ph: 505-842-3240
Fax: 505-842-3165
Email: gzepeda@fs.fed.us

United States
Department of
Agriculture

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