



Wyoming



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	54,640	54,640
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	99,000	99,000
Forest Land Enhancement	20,486	0
Forest Legacy	0	0
Forest Stewardship	246,993	246,993
State Fire Assistance	269,771	269,771
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	657,183	657,183
Urban and Community Forestry	225,000	225,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	45,876	45,876
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	112,479	112,479
Total	1,731,428	1,710,942

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Wyoming, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Wyoming forest lands and rural economies. Emphasis focuses on timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices. The goal is to maintain and improve the health of Wyoming urban and rural forests and related economies.

- 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:

- Increasing Wildland / Urban interface and associated potential to loss by catastrophic wildland fire.
- Fire preparedness and suppression capacity.
- Forest health, insect & disease suppression and prevention.
- Increased management levels on private forested lands.
- Protection of the states water quality during the implementation of silvicultural practices
- Small diameter utilization.
- Tree plantings to protect water, soil, wildlife and livestock resources.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2006 Accomplishments	
Population	493,782	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year) (Each)	250
Acres of Forest Land	10,995,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year) (Acres)	39,063
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,886,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years) (Acres)	394,591
Number of NIPF Landowners	8,812	Acres of Multi-resource Practices Implemented on NIPF (Acres)	264
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	29,100,000	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	100
Number of Rural Fire Departments	147	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected (Acres)	3,220
Number of Cities And Towns	198	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition (Acres)	0
Forest Based Employment	925	Urban Forestry - Participating Communities (Each)	111
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry - Volunteer Assistance (Days)	1,070
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	6,800,000		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Aerial detection surveys were conducted in the Sierra Madre and Snowy Mountain Ranges of the Medicine Bow National Forest. Mountain pine beetle mortality, particularly in lodgepole pine, was observed throughout the entire forest with large acreages observed on or near Wood Mountain, Bear Mountain, Blacktail Mountain, Encampment River, South French Creek and Barrett Ridge. Large expanses of aspen decline were observed adjacent to Little Sandstone Creek and Cottonwood Creek. The US Forest Service granted \$49,500 for prevention and suppression projects on State trust and private forest lands.

Cooperative Fire Protection

The helicopter program in 2006 was a success due in part to the continued funding and support of the Wyoming State Legislature. It responded to 17 of the 22 large fires experienced in the State. To date, Wyoming has 16 Community Wildfire Protection Plans completed with 4 in progress. These cover approximately 90% of the identified communities at risk in the State. This year Wyoming was successful in procuring funding through the National Fire Plan Competitive Grant program in the amount of \$972,485 for nine project areas for fuels reduction and defensible space development around homes in the WUI.

Economic Action

The Wyoming State Forestry Division continued to provide technical assistance to communities interested in utilizing forest residue for heat and power projects and to businesses interested in utilization of small diameter materials and forest residue. Increased staff knowledge in biomass utilization was also pursued through attendance at major conferences. The potential biomass ethanol plant in Upton remains an area of emphasis; improved technology related to the conversion of cellulose to ethanol through enzyme activity is being evaluated.

Landowner Assistance

The WY State Forestry Division cooperated with the NRCS to earmark \$100,000 in EQIP funding to address private forest land management. While NRCS will provide for program administration, WY State Forestry personnel will provide technical assistance for practice development and certification of completed projects. Although the signup period was only 3 weeks, applications exceeded available funding by three-fold. The initiative provided much needed funding to meet the needs of landowners with projects deferred under the Forest Land Enhancement Program. The EQIP Forestry Initiative will provide \$200,000 to WY forest landowners in 2007.

Urban and Community Forestry

To determine the structure, functions, and values of the urban forest in Casper, a vegetation assessment was conducted during the summer of 2006. The Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) model was used to determine results and values of forest structure, potential risk from insects and disease, carbon storage, annual carbon removal (sequestration), and tree canopy cover. The study was part of the new i-Tree suite developed by the USFS to measure urban forest values. Casper was the first city in the nation to conduct the research under the i-Tree suite.

Conservation Education

Wyoming State Forestry continued support for Project Learning Tree. The program provides balanced conservation education to K-12 students throughout the state. In 2006, 179 current and pre-service teachers received training in PLT. A total of eleven workshops were held. The 2nd annual Facilitators Conference was held in Dubois, WY. Students received explanations of PLT activity guides, learned to define the intended audience and what is required to conduct a PLT workshop. Also covered were the PLT correlation documents which link PLT activities to state educational standards. The graduates of this workshop will now be certified PLT facilitators and will take PLT to their communities and classrooms.

Forest Stewardship

A Clean Water Act section (319) was obtained by the Wyoming State Forestry Division. This grant will allow for the revision of the states Forestry BMP Field Guide to incorporate changes that were made to the state silvicultural BMP standards. In addition, field audits of state, private and federal timber harvests will be conducted in the summer of 2007. This is an ongoing program designed to protect water quality through the evaluation of the level of implementation and effectiveness of the states Forestry BMP's. The program is voluntary and is a cooperative effort involving the Division, forest industry, Environmental Protection Agency, landowners and Department of Environmental Quality.

WY State Forestry Strategic Planning

The WY State Forestry Division implemented a new strategic planning process to guide program activities. Division programs were grouped into Assistance and Trust Land Forestry. Each individual program element within these categories evaluated current activities, customers served, trends, data development needs, and measures needed to improve performance. This new tool will allow the Division to more efficiently utilize program

dollars while tracking performance trends and program accomplishments.

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