

# Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



**Project Name:** Facing Emerging Pest Threats: Development and Implementation of State Response Plans and Guides for Developing Community Response Plans

**Funding Year:** 2012

## Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - R2

Sponsoring Organization: Colorado State Forest Service

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Participating Organizations: Idaho Dept. of Lands, Montana Forestry Division

Grantee: Colorado State Forest Service

## Project Funding

Agreement(s): 12-DG-11020000-035, 12-DG-11010000-005, 12-DG-11010000-004

Funding Sources

## Project Design

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## Project Purpose

In order to be good stewards of our western forests we should strive to conserve forests while enhancing the benefits obtained and protecting those forests from harm. Emerging pest issues in the western states pose significant threats to our good stewardship and action must be taken to raise awareness of these emerging pest issues and to ensure that western states are prepared and able to respond in an effective manner to emerging pests. This project will build upon activities already taken up by many states including the Don't Move Firewood program and the Great Plains Initiative. We will conduct a review of current response plans to emerging pest issues, create response plans for our states and develop material for outreach and education activities. This will facilitate community involvement in emerging pest issues including understanding the threats posed by emerging pests, understanding the state and national response plans and improving community forest resilience.

## National Themes & Outcomes

### **Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes**

#### **Protect Forests from Threats**

#### **Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests**

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## Strategic Issues

### Colorado

This project ties directly to several of Colorado's key strategies outlined in the State Forest Action Plan which identified threats representing the major issues and challenges Colorado's forest face. Several threats associated with the potential introduction and spread of insects and diseases can impact the national threat themes of 1) conserving working forests landscapes, 2) protect forests from harm and 3) enhance public benefits from trees and forests. Some of the treats identified include the fragmentation of forests landscapes, loss of forest products manufacturing capacity, declining watershed health, and the loss of public benefits from trees and landscapes – these all can be directly tied to impacts from exotic/introduced insects and disease.

### Idaho

One of the principle activities IDL's Forest Health Program is prevention of damaging forest pests. This is mandated by Idaho Code Chapter 6 Title 38 and is part of Idaho's Forest Action Plan. This project ties directly into Idaho's plan by focusing efforts to minimize introductions of invasive exotic forest pests and preventing the transfer of native forest pest to uninfested areas through education and outreach.

Similarly, this project falls directly in line with the Idaho Invasive Species Act (Idaho Code Chapter 19 title 22) and the goals and action plans delimited in Idaho's Action Plan for Invasive Species.

### Montana

This project also ties into many of Montana's key strategies outlined in the State Forest Action Plan under Focus Area One: Forest Biodiversity and Resilient Forests. Invasive species are a particular threat to Strategy 1A that states we "Manage ecosystem and biotic composition to achieve ecological integrity through recovery of species diversity, water quality and quantity, soil quality and function by implementing best available science, and adaptive management."

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## Collaboration & Partners

### Colorado

Partners include the cooperating agencies active in the Emerging Pest Issues in Colorado groups, which include: Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University, Colorado Department of Agriculture, APHIS, PPQ, several state, city, county and municipality and special interest groups and representatives of wood utilization groups/business owners.

The CO Firewood Task Force has been instrumental in promoting education and outreach on emerging pest issues in Colorado including both insects and diseases.

### Idaho

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is collaborating with Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to develop and implement the Emerging Pests response plan for Idaho.

Additional partnerships are being developed in 2013.

### Montana

Partners include the cooperating agencies active in the Emerging Pest Issues in Colorado groups, which include: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) (Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program and Forest Pest Management (FPM) Program), Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA), APHIS, PPQ, various city and municipal governments, tree boards, Montana State University Agricultural Extension.

The project is underway and thus far partners have had limited contributions. The UCF and FPM Programs have collaborated to hire an outreach and inventory coordinator and have made previous progress on the MT DNRC Invasive Forest Pest Response Plan.

## **Accomplishments**

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## Deliverables

### Colorado

Several new outreach materials are under development/review including material on pine wilt nematode, marmorated stink bug, drippy blight and Asian long horn beetle. Final revisions on CO response plan to emerging pests will be completed by midyear 2013 and an invasive insect workshop is scheduled for June 2013 for which we expect approximately 100-120 participants.

### Idaho

Details about the deliverables and outcomes are being developed during the first quarter of 2013.

### Montana

Final revisions on the MT DNRC Invasive Forest Pest Response Plan will be completed by April 2013. Urban inventory logistics have been arranged and a coordinator position advertised.

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## Accomplishments to Date

### Colorado

We've completed/distributed three informative brochures on gypsy moth, emerald ash borer and thousand cankers disease to numerous collaborators particularly among urban and community foresters, arborists and landscapers.

### 12-2016 Update:

Upon discovery of EAB in Colorado in Fall 2013 the remaining funds for the Colorado portion of the project went to time spent on Emerald Ash Borer response, education and outreach. (Workshops, travel, events, tours, branch peeling workshops, response team efforts/meetings). Two documents were developed, the EAB Quick Guide and EAB Decision Guide. Some of the remaining funds helped print the EAB Decision Guide.

### Idaho

A statewide Idaho Response Plan for Invasive Insect and Disease Tree Pests was created through in partnership with the Idaho Invasive Species Council. This plan provides a framework for interagency coordination among state and federal agencies, tribes, partner institutions and community officials to respond to an invasion of exotic tree pests, including insects and diseases. Information on this plan and on potential invasive insect and diseases that impact trees have been presented at multiple conferences and workshops throughout the state. The plan can be accessed at: <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-health/index.html>.

Communities are most often the entry points for invasive tree insects and diseases, placing urban trees at significant risk. Proactive management is key to understanding and managing for potential pest outbreaks. In 2015, IDL purchased a statewide, customized browser-based tree inventory program called Idaho Tree Plotter (ITP) that is available for all cities in the state to use at no charge. The program is scalable. Each city can use this tool to inventory and manage their city's public trees. Additionally, inventory data can be rolled up statewide from all cities using it, allowing IDL to assess risk potential from invasive species across the state, and work with Idaho cities to proactively plan and manage community trees to minimize impacts. Two web-based trainings on this program were held in spring of 2016. Seven city inventories have been converted and uploaded into ITP, and IDL has provided grants to additional four cities to complete public tree inventories with Idaho Tree Plotter. IDL also assisted two other cities in completing tree inventories. This information is guiding assistance efforts with respect to potential invasive species including Emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, gypsy moth and others.

### Montana

Multiple brochures on emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, gypsy moth, and Sirex woodwasp have been distributed at various outreach events. EAB specimens and detection kits have also been distributed to key tree care specialist, arborists, and extension agents. The Invasive Forest Pest Response Plan has been drafted.

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## Deliverables in Progress

This project is complete.

## Challenges

Colorado

No significant challenges to date.

Idaho

The primary contact for IDL that was working on this grant is no longer working with this agency. A new contact has made contact with partner states, a representative of ISDA and developing a plan to achieve the goals of this grant in Idaho.

Montana

No significant challenges to date.

## **Information Last Updated**

10/27/2021