



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Arizona 2020



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$280,500
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$393,723
Forest Legacy	\$1,120,000
Forest Stewardship	\$243,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$310,000
State Fire Assistance	\$2,425,379
Urban and Community Forestry	\$583,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$490,395
Total	\$5,845,997

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Arizona, the USDA Forest Service and many other private, non-profit, and government entities. Program goals promote the health and productivity of Arizona forest lands and rural economies. Emphases includes forest products, wildlife, water resources, fire hazard management, fuels reduction, biomass utilization, rural economies, conservation practices and improving quality of life in the state'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.

Program Goals

- Work collaboratively to implement Arizona's Forest Action Plan (Forest Resource Strategy) - to improve forest restoration, forest management, and community sustainability through integrated program planning and implementation and supporting shared stewardship principles.

Key Issues

- Encouraging fire adapted communities, promoting wildland ecosystems where appropriate fire regimes maintain health and resiliency of natural vegetation, and improving wildland fire management capacity across the state.
- Pursuing economic development potential of sustainable forest products and bioenergy, protecting areas of economic potential, and promoting the recognition of economic impacts of protected healthy natural systems. Developing uses and markets for small diameter trees while increasing utilization capacity for existing businesses - increasing the amount of hazardous fuels that can be treated and removed from the urban interface.
- Improving ecosystem health by promoting resilient and diverse forest ecosystem structures, processes, and functions - and making progress toward landscape scale outcomes, restoration of unhealthy ecosystems, and enhanced sustainability.
- Connecting people with trees and forests to allow maximum benefits, while minimizing negative human impacts. Addressing watershed health, forest health and fire safety issues in populated wildland/urban interface areas.
- Improving communications across a culturally diverse state - with emphasis on improved collaboration with Native American Tribes. Sharing resources and information about varying perspectives and beliefs related to forests, trees, and other natural resources.
- Maintaining or improving water quality and quantity from forested watersheds - and improving health and resiliency of forested aquatic systems.
- Improving air quality through specific management activities and increased public understanding of

the importance and effects of fire on Arizona's air quality.

- Increasing resilience of Arizona ecosystems to climate change - preparing for and mitigating potential impacts- and reducing the potential rate of future climate change through maximized carbon sequestration in Arizona forests and trees.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2019 Accomplishments	Value
Population	6,392,017	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	788
Acres of Forest Land	18,477,578	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	8,152
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	7,381,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,318
Number of NIPF Landowners	45,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	55
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	89
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	22,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	500
Number of Rural Fire Departments	200	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	90	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	70
Forest Based Employment	5,246	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4,932,956
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	15	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	10,720
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	17,750,938		

Program Highlights

Conservation Education

Arizona's Urban and Community Forestry Program participates in Conservation Education by educating youth and the public about the value and benefits that urban trees and forests provide. A part-time Conservation Education Coordinator manages the Tree City USA programs, coordinates the annual Arizona State Arbor Day Celebration, and participates in numerous outreach events throughout AZ. In addition, Urban and Community Forestry provides urban forest-related lesson plans (e.g. Neighborhood Forests: Southwest Learning Guide), coordinates publication of the Urban Tree Talk newsletter, and hosts an annual grantee showcase for Community Challenge Grant recipients.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs are used to enhance the State of Arizona and local fire department firefighting efforts and capacity by providing necessary training and support in areas that are in the greatest need. This is provided through a variety of programs designed and based around the common goals of health and safety. Through these cooperative fire programs, hazardous fuel mitigation practices are pursued on non-federal lands in areas of greatest concern to prevent the loss of life and property, and lessen environmental and economic impacts.

Prevention and educational programs such as FIREWISE USA are administered to teach property owners proper mitigation techniques and land users the role of wildfire in the ecosystem, how to prevent fires from occurring and how to act when a fire is in their area. State Fire and Volunteer Fire Assistance is also utilized to purchase needed equipment, such as personal protective equipment, for fire departments to better respond to active wildfires, and funds aid in modifying excess federal equipment to support fire response throughout the state.

Community wildfire education is focused on the wildland-urban interface and forest health education issues as well as educational resource development. Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management provides assistance in Firewise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning to increase awareness of the hazards and responsibilities of people who live in and near forest ecosystems.

Economic Action

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management is pursuing multiple public-private partnerships to incentivize private wood products industry expanding into rural economies throughout Arizona. DFFM and NAU ERI have recently partnered on a Wood Innovations Grant that if funded, will provide capacity for engaging in biomass and wood utilization projects in AZ.

Forest Health Protection

Arizona's Forest Health program provides technical assistance for forest insect and disease issues, as well as invasive plant prevention, detection, control, and monitoring. The program develops and provides forest health educational tools, workshops and training, and contributes to the development of new forest health technologies. A number of forest health related publications, workshops, and training sessions are developed and provided annually to interested state and private groups and individuals. A Western Bark Beetle Initiative grant program is focused on improving tree health and reducing adverse bark beetle impacts. Forest Health Monitoring funds provide support for ground survey work and an annual Aerial Detection Survey over millions of acres that provides land managers and the public with information about landscape-level insect and disease conditions. An invasive plant program coordinates with Cooperative Weed Management Areas, partnerships, and coalitions and focuses on treatment of invasive plants that are capable of transforming plant communities in forests, woodlands, and rangeland. Recently, DFFM was appropriated state funding for invasive plant treatment that will be instrumental in leveraging other local, state, and federal funds and restoring the most amount of acres possible.

Forest Legacy

Arizona began participation in the Forest Legacy Program in 2003, with its Assessment of Need receiving final approval in May, 2005. Conservation partners include Coconino County, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, and the Arizona Land and Water Trust. Arizona's inaugural project, Cedar Springs, was completed in December, 2008, applying \$680,000 of Forest Legacy funding to acquire a conservation easement on 629 acres near Flagstaff, Arizona. The top-ranked San Pedro Riparian Ecosystem project received funding in FY 2010 to acquire easements on 4 separate parcels totaling 612 acres in southeastern Arizona. FY 2015 funding is supporting completion of a conservation easement on 1903 acres in Turkey Creek Canyon in southeastern Arizona; Arizona's 3rd Forest Legacy project.

Recently, Arizona's Forest Legacy program has been working with partners to finalize the CE for El Quen Ranch. This project will support the protection of critical riparian habitat and important wildlife movement corridors for multiple threatened and endangered species.

Forest Stewardship

Arizona's Forest Stewardship program prioritizes ecological restoration in important forest areas identified in the state's Spatial Analysis Project and Forest Resources Assessment. These areas are primarily comprised of ponderosa pine forests and pinyon-juniper woodlands in areas covered by Cooperative Wildfire Protection Plans. The program works closely with Cooperative Fire, Forest Health, and Urban & Community Forestry to address multiple program objectives. Current efforts focus on development of, and program alignment with, the Arizona Forest Action Plan (Forest Resource Strategy, 2010).

The forest stewardship program recently hired a new program manager and is in the process of hiring a service forester in Flagstaff and Tuscon. Plans that will be developed by these foresters will tie directly into NRCS EQIP funding, greatly improve ecosystem health and significantly lower fire risk.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management strongly supports restoration activities on a landscape scale and proactively encourages and participates in collaborative opportunities whenever possible. Partnerships include projects such as the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) supporting activities on multiple National Forests, the Verde River Watershed Restoration project which is restoring an important Arizona waterway and watershed, multiple activities within the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape in southern Arizona, and statewide projects supporting diversification of urban forests. And, important collaborative work is occurring with the Diablo Trust, Malpai Borderlands, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, the Gila Watershed Partnership, and many others.

Recent Landscape Scale Restoration Projects supported with S&PF funding include; 1) the Yuma West Wetlands project, providing resources and tools for sustainably managing a critical urban riparian forest located in the City of Yuma (the Colorado River flows through the heart of the City of Yuma and this project will fully restore nearly 3 miles of continuous riparian forest), and; 2) a Watershed Erosion Mitigation project in Yavapai County that will utilize woody pinion-juniper biomass to build silt dams on a 320 acre site as a demonstration to control erosion and improve watershed conditions; 3) Bark Beetle Treatment and Prioritization Mapping to assist areas hardest hit by bark beetle infestation.

Urban and Community Forestry

Arizona's Urban and Community Forestry Program provides information and technical assistance to Arizona cities and towns. The program has Certified Arborists and Urban Foresters on staff to answer tree related questions and help communities maintain, restore and improve urban forest ecosystems. The UCF Program includes oversight and management of the Community Challenge Grant Program; promotion and management of the Arizona Tree City USA, Tree Line USA and Tree Campus USA programs; and planning and implementation of the Arizona Arbor Day celebrations. The UCF Program supports tree inventory and canopy development programs, tree-planting projects, local and state policy development, and local outreach and education programs.

Recently, the Arizona Community Tree Council has transitioned to accept the role as DFFMs UCF Advisory Council.

Contact Information



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