Investment in State’s Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2019 Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$473,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$141,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$861,182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$210,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$192,679</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,913,501</strong></td>
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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 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 by providing leadership in forest and fire management in Wyoming’s rural and community forests. Additionally, these cooperative programs are key components of the State Forest Action Plan as well as the Governor’s Task Force on Forests Recommendations.

Program Goals

- Continued implementation Wyoming’s Forest Action Plan through integrated forestry program delivery.
- Continue to address the recommendations from the Governor’s Task Force on Forests Report.
- Cooperate with partners to improve forest management across boundaries, including GNA and Shared Stewardship.
- Strive to enhance the availability of well trained firefighters and quality equipment to safely accomplish fire suppression, management and utilization objectives.
- Deliver cooperative forestry programs through voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.
- Provide technical assistance to private forest landowners to improve forest management.
- Sustain the response framework for State, federal, county, and municipal partners to readily react to the detection of an invasive agent in a community or rural forest.

Key Issues

- Insect threats are still a big concern and restoration efforts are ongoing in areas heavily impacted by the recent epidemic.
- Restricted timber supply limits forest products industry capacity which in turn limits active forest management in some areas.
- A greater understanding of the benefits of community forests by the public and elected officials is crucial for successful management.
- Private landowners need technical forestry expertise due to threats such as fire/fuels and forest health concerns.
- Invasive agents present ongoing threats to forests in communities and rural areas.
Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Facts</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>FY 2019 Accomplishments</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>563,626</td>
<td>Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance</td>
<td>1,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Forest Land</td>
<td>10,475,966</td>
<td>Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>44,457</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land</td>
<td>1,942,000</td>
<td>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans</td>
<td>9,742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of NIPF Landowners</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>State Fire Communities Assisted</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>29,100,000</td>
<td>Coop Forest Health Acres Protected</td>
<td>2,962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Rural Fire Departments</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cities and Towns</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>Forest Based Employment</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
<td>455,749</td>
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<td>Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance</td>
<td>10,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Forestry Budget (All Sources)</td>
<td>8,500,000</td>
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Program Highlights

Conservation Education

WSFD partners closely with Wyoming Project Learning Tree (WY PLT) for K-12 education. This year the WY PLT steering committee hosted workshops across the state and are working on finalizing the second edition of the Exploring Wyoming’s Natural Environments supplemental publication which will include new information to expand on one activity and provide Wyoming specific information for two additional activities.

The Northern Rockies Tree School (NRTS) is a joint educational training conducted by the Community Forestry Programs of Wyoming and Montana. In 2019 nearly 185 individuals attended the 10th Annual NRTS in Bozeman, MT. Featured speakers provided information on arboriculture in historical arboretums, pruning for aesthetics, ergonomics, and safety for working arborists, municipal stewardship and volunteer programs, utility pruning, and tree species information sharing. The 2020 NRTS event will be hosted in Sheridan, WY.

Cooperative Fire Protection

In 2019, the State of Wyoming experienced 699 fires burning 33,260 acres. In total, the 2019 fire season cost the State of Wyoming roughly $5 million. Additionally, WSFD has processed $1.4 million in payments for local government firefighting services. Wyoming counties were able to provide 29 fire engines and 203 personnel to aid in firefighting efforts in other States. In 2019 1,173 red cards were issued by Wyoming State Forestry and an additional 185 by other entities in the state.

Wyoming has 294 pieces of Federal Excess Personal Property valued at $22,040,812 and 151 pieces of Firefighter Property worth $11,665,083. It is estimated that the equipment and fire trucks obtained through these programs contribute to the suppression of 75% of all Wyoming fires, regardless of ownership.

The Wyoming State Helitack hosted 14 detailers from the BHF, MBRF, Wyoming State Forestry, and BLM. The program also sent personnel throughout Wyoming and Nation to assist with the suppression of large wildland fires and state or regional aviation and handcrew coverage.

State Fire Assistance grants assisted 20 counties with funding for training, preparedness, prevention, planning, and fire fighting equipment. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants assisted 23 applicants used for equipping, training, and prevention for rural fire departments that service a population under 10,000.

WSFD Fuels Mitigation Program supported 52 defensible spaces, 1,105 acres of fuel treatments, and 108
acres of fuel breaks. Wyoming has 24 up to date Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Firewise USA program has 9 communities in Wyoming.

The WSFD fabrication and maintenance program completed 35 fleet vehicle services and repairs and 30 county fire engine repairs. They also put a new type 6 engine in service as well as refurbished an older type 6 engine.

**Forest Health Protection**

From bark beetle mitigation to emerald ash borer (EAB) detection and many insects and diseases in between, forest health is important to Wyoming's 10.5 million acres of forest land. Wyoming State Forestry Division uses tools such as Aerial Detection Surveys as well as state and federal forest health funding to identify and combat forest and urban tree pests. Forest health work in 2019 included over 620 acres of treatments to combat insect and disease utilizing both State Bark Beetle and Federal Forest Health funds.

**Forest Legacy**

WSFD works in cooperation with state, federal, and non-governmental partners to identify areas of importance to be maintained as intact working forest land. WSFD together with partners, developed and applied for a legacy project covering a 4,714 acre, $12,965,000 land acquisition project in Wyoming's Black Hills. Efforts continue to explore opportunities for federal, state, and private funding to see this project through.

**Forest Stewardship**

Program provides landowners with comprehensive resource management plans designed to reach management objectives while maintaining and improving resource components. Delivery is provided via Wyoming State Forestry personnel, wildfire mitigation coordinators, private consultants and local Conservation Districts. Plan follow up and direct on the ground assistance to aid in the active implementation of landowner management goals is a significant program focus. 19 Forest Stewardship Plans covering 44,457 acres were developed.

**Landowner Assistance**

Provided on the ground, technical assistance to 242 Wyoming landowners. Developed management plans for 44,457 acres of private forest lands; a total of 292,149 acres of private land in Wyoming are now under management plans as a result of WSFD assistance. Facilitated landowner workshops and field days with 930 attendees.

**Urban and Community Forestry**

In 2019, funding from the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program and Rocky Mountain Power was over $92,000 in cost share grants, which were made available to 18 Communities including 21 separate entities for tree planting and community forestry program development. With financial support for program development and education programming, the Wyoming State Forestry Division provided nearly $59,000 and over $33,500 to plant 406 trees in communities across the state. Projects funded included community tree plantings and invasive Russian olive removal, development of interpretive signage, volunteer and advocacy group support, educational training scholarships, and community forestry internships. In addition, program staff and district foresters provided technical assistance to cities, towns, counties, state agencies, nonprofits, civic groups, schools, and the general public.

Tree City USA is focused on providing cities and towns with a framework for better management of public trees/green spaces and on educating citizens about the benefits of community forests. 41 of Wyoming’s 99 incorporated cities and towns were certified in this program in 2019 and Sheridan College was renewed as a Tree Campus USA.

In June 2019, the statewide Community Tree Managers Focus Group held a meeting in. The meeting focused on current state-wide community tree planting programs, as well as a tour of the Historic High Plains Arboretum. This group meets regularly at various locations that highlight Tree City USA communities and has provided the opportunity for great information sharing, education, and networking for city, county, and state employees responsible for managing local community forests.
Contact Information

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