



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Idaho 2024



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

| Program                                      | FY 2023 Estimate    |
|--|---------------------|
| Community Forestry and Open Space            | \$600,000           |
| Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management | \$407,115           |
| Forest Legacy                                | \$7,050,000         |
| Forest Stewardship                           | \$165,574           |
| Landscape Scale Restoration                  | \$300,000           |
| State Fire Assistance                        | \$2,712,732         |
| Urban and Community Forestry                 | \$390,431           |
| Volunteer Fire Assistance                    | \$392,636           |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>\$12,018,488</b> |

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

From Main Street to mountaintop, cooperative programs administered and implemented through partnerships between Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), USDA Forest Service (USFS) and other private and government entities promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forests and rural economies. To guide project investments in our forests, IDL incorporates strategies and objectives from the Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP), National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy, Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreements and input from the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council to ensure resources are invested in areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

### Program Goals

- Idaho's forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other natural and unique stresses
- The ecosystem benefits that Idaho forests provide are identified, maintained and enhanced
- Forestlands with the highest benefits are identified, protected and enhanced
- Forest ecosystems are resilient to human activities (development, recreation, forest practices, noxious weeds, etc.)
- Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable
- An integrated framework for implementing the Idaho Forest Action Plan guides project development, legislative/policy actions and cohesive management of Idaho's urban and rural forests.

### Key Issues

- Threats of wildfire to Idaho communities and forests both in the urban interface and in high-value productive forestlands
- Assist in implementation and completion of federal land management practices
- Stressors on forest health, including impacts from invasive species and climate change
- Conversion from traditional forest use to non-forest use
- Overall degradation of water quality/quantity, air quality, wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

## Forest Facts and Accomplishments

| Selected Facts                                    | Value      | FY 2023 Accomplishments  | Value     |
|---|------------|--|-----------|
| Population  | 1,839,106  | Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance                             | 1,847     |
| Acres of Forest Land                              | 21,895,976 | Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans                             | 80,577    |
| Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land        | 1,804,233  | Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans | 65        |
| Number of NIPF Landowners                         | 17,231     | Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted  | 216       |
| Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection | 540,064    | State Fire Communities Assisted  | 10        |
| Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection | 9,043,240  | Coop Forest Health Acres Protected   | 300       |
| Number of Rural Fire Departments                  | 254        | Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions   | 655       |
| Cities and Towns                                  | 201        | Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance                               | 68        |
| Forest Based Employment                           | 10,510     | Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance          | 1,184,147 |
| Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)             | 3          | Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance  | 19,099    |
| State Forestry Budget (All Sources)               | 0          |  |           |

## Program Highlights

### Addressing Issues with Special Projects

IDL collaborates with numerous partners throughout the state to develop and fund projects that address key issues and strategies identified in Idaho's Forest Action Plan. Highlights are presented on S&PF Programs and the following special projects:

**Shared Stewardship:** As part of Idaho's initiative, education, information-sharing, and technical assistance were provided to landowners, local counties/communities, and land-management organizations to more actively engage with all partners working in the state's cross-boundary project areas within the FAP Priority Landscapes, the two Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes, and the designated Wildfire Crisis Strategy (WCS) landscapes. As a result of the growing coordination, there is an increase in the pace and scale of treatments being implemented across state, federal and private ownership boundaries, in the Shared Stewardship focal areas located in and around the southwestern and panhandle multi-designated priority landscapes.

### Community Assistance - Hazardous Fuels

IDL supports a wide range of activities that reduce wildfire impacts on communities. Collaboration with counties includes fiscal and contract management plus landowner education. 2023 efforts include:

- Twenty-eight (27) Idaho organizations received planning, educational and hazard fuel reduction assistance.
- Eleven (9) entities (Boise County, Bonner County, Caribou County, Clark County, Kootenai County, Nez Perce County, City of Pocatello, Shoshone County, Teton Fire District) received Hazardous Fuels Reduction funding to reduce fuel loads on private lands. Several of these projects are adjacent to similar efforts on USDA Forest Service lands.

### Conservation Education

IDL provided administrative support to plan the annual Idaho State Forestry Contest at Farrugat State Park. This event brings over 600 youth from across the state to compete in basic forestry skills such as tree identification, cruising, silviculture, surveying and scaling logs. IDL partnered with organizations to plan the 34th Family Forest Landowners and Managers Conference in Moscow, Idaho. This hybrid event welcomed nearly 200 participants offered primarily as an in-person format. A virtual option was available to accommodate more attendees. The Idaho Forest Owners Field Day was supported by IDL in partnership with the Idaho Forest Owners Association, Idaho Tree Farm, UI Extension Forestry, and the Kaniksu Land Trust's Pine Street Woods. This event welcomed over 50 attendees for educational demonstrations on forest practices rule implementation, forest insects and disease, cost-share programs,

thinning and pruning, forest mushrooms, forest product utilization, carbon markets, and rodent control. The IDL also supported the program Women in Forestry which utilized all women in presenting stewardship details (eg: various ecological aspects, thinning, pruning) to landowners in both a class day and a field day.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

Protection of forestlands, rangelands and urban interface areas from wildfire is a critical function of IDL. Funding helps hire, train and equip firefighters for deployment to both local and national incidents. This program supports four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache where small local fire districts can obtain firefighting equipment and supplies. The "Keep Idaho Green" initiative is the educational arm of the statewide interagency "Idaho Firewise" program. Additionally, Rural Fire Capacity (RFC) funding helps train and equip volunteer departments in rural communities.

### **Forest Health Protection**

IDL staff conducted comprehensive evaluation surveys on over 1,804,860 acres of state, private and other lands to detect, map and assess forest health issues. Field surveys were conducted to monitor for spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth), an invasive defoliator, on 746,551 acres in northern Idaho, and to track populations of Douglas-fir tussock moth, a native defoliator, on 86,584 acres. A smaller survey was conducted to assist APHIS personnel for invasive bark beetles and wood borers on 1,506 acres. A total of 83 forest health training sessions were held, educating 3,075 state and private landowners and managers. Staff also provided 262 technical assists to landowners and managers. IDL's Forest Health Specialist participated as an observer trainee and assisted with surveying acres in Idaho and Montana.

### **Forest Legacy**

IDL worked closely with The Nature Conservancy and the industrial forest landowner to purchase the development rights, by way of conservation easement, on 655 acres of working forest land in Boundary County. Additionally, assistance was provided for a donated easement that contribute to program growth and success. IDL's Forest Legacy Program seeks to keep working forests working by partnering with, and empowering private landowners to safeguard their forestland for perpetual timber production. This protects forested lands from conversion to non-forest uses, protects wildlife habitat, maintains viewsheds, protects water quality, and improves recreation opportunities for Idahoans. IDL Forest Legacy projects are strategic in connecting ownerships to protect forest lands within high priority areas without removing those lands from private ownership.

### **Forest Stewardship**

The Forest Stewardship Program provided landowners with comprehensive resource management plans designed to achieve landowner goals to protect, enhance or conserve their forest resources. IDL partners with the University of Idaho, landowners, private consultants and other agencies to develop the plans. Existing plans were inspected, modified and reported as required. Professional assistance was provided to landowners to improve the health, productivity and resilience of private forested lands. IDL provided landowner education and outreach through workshops, field tours, landowner visits and distribution of information through printed materials, the internet and media outlets.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Idaho's Urban Community Forestry Program assists communities in the management of public trees within cities to address critical issues, such as energy conservation, storm water management, invasive pests, air quality, human health and environmental equity.

The Urban Community Forestry Program continued outreach efforts in underserved and rural communities by offering Invasive Pest Preparedness & ISA Certified Arborist preparatory seminars throughout the state. These seminars helped communities prepare for the looming threat of destructive and invasive urban forest pests and set arborists up for successful ISA Certified Arborist exam results.

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## Contact Information



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