



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Wyoming 2025



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2024 Final
Community Forests and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$192,000
Forest Legacy	\$70,000
Forest Stewardship	\$149,402
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$892,270
Urban and Community Forestry	\$374,135
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$244,140
Total	\$1,921,947

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 of Wyoming's Forest Action Plan through integrated forestry program delivery.
- 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.
- Continue to address the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Forests Report.

Key Issues

- 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.
- Insect threats are still a big concern and restoration efforts are ongoing in areas heavily impacted by the recent epidemic.
- Invasive agents present ongoing threats to forests in communities and rural areas.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2024 Accomplishments	Value
Population	576,851	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	166
Acres of Forest Land	10,804,151	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	3,584
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,302,881	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,229
Number of NIPF Landowners	5,368	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	29,100,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	300
Number of Rural Fire Departments	147	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	240
Cities and Towns	99	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	45
Forest Based Employment	925	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	372,964
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	3,688
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	10,500,000		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

In 2024, WSFD aided in the management of 24 Emergency Fire Suppression Account (EFSA) fires in 13 counties, totaling nearly 103 million dollars in suppression costs and approximately 55 million dollars EFSA costs. There were 1,823 non-federal fire occurrences with 596,925 acres burned. The 10-year average is 644 fires for 12,512 acres.

Wyoming has 321 pieces of Federal Excess Personal Property valued over \$13.0 million and over 300 pieces of Firefighter Property worth over \$2.9 million. 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.

Wyoming State Helitack: flew 76 initial response missions, 795 personnel transported, 159,840 gallons of water delivered in bucket drops, 248.9 flight hours, and 19 detailers.

The WSFD Single Engine Airtanker (SEAT) operations are operated out of the new Casper Tanker Base at the Casper International Airport. The Casper Tanker Base is operated by Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is staffed by personnel from surrounding states. SEATs also utilized bases in Worland, Rock Springs, Hot Springs, SD and Billings, MT. In 2024, Wyoming contracted SEATs responded to 53 initial attacks, conducted 190 sorties, and delivered 114,444 gallons of retardant.

Volunteer Fire Assistance in 2024 42 grant applications with 41 funded, \$726,171.35 in total grant requests with 50/50 reimbursement. A total of \$336,116.30 was awarded: \$328,280.96 in equipment, \$697.67 in training and \$4,051.55 for organization. During the last application period that closed on 12/31/2024, WSFD received 48 grant applications.

The Fuels Mitigation Program received funding for 10 projects. Two Region 2 Community Assistance Funding Adjacent grants (CAFA), one Region 4 CAFA grant, and seven Community Wildfire Protection Grants (CWDG). Additionally, 10 communities either renewed or received new Firewise USA recognition.

Forest Health Protection

In 2024, over 17.5 million acres were surveyed across Wyoming's Federal, State and Private Forests. 5,292 separate observations of damage were recorded across 179,370 acres by aerial survey. Tree mortality caused by bark beetles is estimated to be 53,598 acres. Forest health funding was used on 1,315 acres across 9 projects to conserve, protect and enhance Wyoming's forests. Forest health

improvement projects increase forests resistance and resilience to insects, disease, wildfire, and drought, helping to ensure their viability for the future. Forest Health continues to monitor for new invasive insect introductions including emerald ash borer, spongy moth, and exotic bark beetle introductions. The Wyoming State Forestry Division Forest Health Program participated in the 2024 U.S. Forest Service Early Detection and Rapid Response program for invasive bark beetles. Trapping was conducted in conjunction with the USDA APHIS PPQ Exotic Wood Borer/Bark Beetle Program. Trapping sites included high risk areas for wood movement such as State Parks, airports, rail yards, and recreation areas. Emerald ash borer has not been confirmed in Wyoming to date.

Forest Legacy

In November 2023, Wyoming State Forestry Division in partnership with a willing landowner, The Conservation Fund, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, and Jackson Hole Land Trust closed on the Chimney Draw Conservation Easement protecting 259.5 acres in Teton County. This easement is in a landscape that provides a critical migration corridor from the Bridger-Teton National Forest to adjoining state and federal lands, including the South Park Wildlife Management Area; it also abuts other lands already under conservation easement. Adjacent to the Snake River, the area provides habitat to some of Wyoming's most well-known wildlife including: elk, moose, grizzly bear, mule deer and the great grey owl, which is the largest owl in North America. In August 2024, representatives of the family, the Conservation Fund, USDA Forest Service, the Jackson Hole Land Trust and Wyoming State Forestry Division met on the property to recognize the family and partners and celebrate the project's completion.

Forest Stewardship

The 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. A total of 353,967 acres of private lands in Wyoming are currently under management plans. Plan follow up and direct on the ground assistance to aid in the active implementation of landowner management goals is a significant program focus. Assistance is provided free of charge to landowners via one-on-one interaction, educational materials, and workshops.

Shared Stewardship/Good Neighbor Authority

In 2024, the Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD) continued expanding its Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and Shared Stewardship initiatives, working collaboratively with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to enhance forest and watershed restoration efforts across Wyoming.

The Division maintained a robust GNA team, comprising five foresters and one program coordinator strategically positioned across the state. This staffing structure enabled another successful year of project layout and implementation. WSFD managed 20 active USFS contracts across six national forests, covering 5,700 acres of federal land under State of Wyoming contracts. These projects included 4,079 acres of timber sales and 1,621 acres of service contracts statewide. Notable achievements included:

- Expansion through NEPA Surveys: WSFD contracted its first NEPA surveys on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest with plans to contract additional surveys for additional Wyoming National Forests in the future.
- Roughneck Timber Sale: A 1,400-acre timber sale on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, representing a significant contribution to local industry and forest health.
- Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) Projects: Multiple timber sales advancing restoration and economic support in the region. The program continues to expand within the BHNF and GNA is being utilized in new innovative ways to increase the pace and scale of management within the forest.
- Focus on the Dunoir Fireshed: The hiring of a new GNA forester dedicated to projects within Wyoming's only nationally prioritized fireshed on the Shoshone National Forest.

Since the launch of GNA in 2017, WSFD has contracted 13,235 acres of forest management projects across Wyoming's national forests and BLM lands. In 2024, the Division further accelerated the pace and scale of restoration efforts, supporting local industry, improving watershed health, and fostering resilient, healthy forests.

Urban and Community Forestry

The mission of Wyoming's Urban and Community Forestry Program is to assist communities in establishing effective, self-sustaining tree care initiatives with strong local backing. In 2024, cost-share grants were awarded to eight communities through the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program, supporting tree plantings and the development of local forestry programs. These projects included tree planting events, training to enhance municipal forestry skills, educational materials creation, volunteer and advocacy group support, and the placement of forestry interns. Additional IRA program funding is currently being utilized by three communities to remove hazardous trees, increase biodiversity with new plantings, and create/supplement tree inventories and management plans.

The program has also developed a statewide urban tree inventory system, providing communities with valuable data to better manage their urban canopies. This system will support ongoing outreach efforts and help the state collect and utilize data to enhance urban forestry practices across Wyoming. This system will be accessible to the public and continued efforts will increase the number of inventories housed on the database.

In 2024, the Urban and Community Forestry Program launched the Wyoming Tree Academy, a new green industry conference designed to offer educational opportunities to professionals and communities in the region. The Wyoming Tree Academy will become an annual event, helping to expand knowledge and foster collaboration in urban forestry.

Contact Information



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