



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Wyoming 2021



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$245,120
Forest Legacy	\$47,000
Forest Stewardship	\$139,380
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$1,133,384
Urban and Community Forestry	\$221,100
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$210,744
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,996,728</b>

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

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2020 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	563,626	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	443
Acres of Forest Land	10,556,536	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	18,896
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	1,942,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	5,820
Number of NIPF Landowners	24,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	99
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	11
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	29,100,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2,051
Number of Rural Fire Departments	147	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	4,350
Cities and Towns	99	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	53
Forest Based Employment	925	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	367,739
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	5,809
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	10,500,000		

## 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. PLT finalized and published the second edition of the Exploring Wyoming's Natural Environments supplemental publication with eight activities and over 100 pages of Wyoming specific content.

The Northern Rockies Tree School (NRTS) is a joint educational training conducted by the Community Forestry Programs of Wyoming and Montana. The 2020 NRTS event was to be hosted in Sheridan, WY, due to the pandemic it was cancelled this year for safety concerns.

### Cooperative Fire Protection

In 2020, the State of Wyoming experienced over a 1,000 fires. The 2020 fire season was one of the largest on record, with the Mullen fire becoming the largest single fire in the state's recorded history. Wyoming counties were able to provide 115 fire engines and 525 personnel to aid in firefighting efforts in other States. In 2020 1,162 red cards were issued by Wyoming State Forestry, the majority of red cards were higher qualifications providing leadership on fires both in state and nationally.

Wyoming has 306 pieces of Federal Excess Personal Property valued over \$11.5 million and over 300 pieces of Firefighter Property worth over \$2.3 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.

The Wyoming State Helitack hosted 13 detailers from the Big Horn NF, Medicine Bow-Routt NF, and Wyoming State Forestry. The crew assisted on 43 fires and 1 search and rescue. Wyoming State Forestry contracted two Single Engine Air Tankers assisting on 55 fires.

State Fire Assistance grants assisted 20 counties with funding for training, preparedness, prevention, planning, and fire fighting equipment. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants assisted 30 applicants used for equipping, training, and prevention for rural fire departments that service a population under 10,000.

WSFD Fuels Mitigation Program supported 36 defensible spaces, 852 acres of fuel treatments, and 1 fuel break. 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 22 fleet vehicle services and repairs and 55 major fire engine repairs. 2 county fire engines were refurbished and one large truck built.

### **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 2020 included over 556 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, permanently protected 4,349.51 acres in one conservation easement valued over \$11 million dollars.

### **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. In 2020, 13 new Forest Stewardship Plans were written with 89,967 acres of Important Forest Resource Areas covered by current plans.

### **Landowner Assistance**

Provided on the ground, technical assistance to 293 Wyoming landowners. Developed management plans for 18,896 acres of private forest lands; a total of 211,6079 acres of private land in Wyoming are now under management plans as a result of WSFD assistance. Facilitated landowner workshops and field days with 150 attendees, down due to the pandemic.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

In 2020, funding from the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program and Rocky Mountain Power was over \$103,000 in cost share grants, which were made available to 18 Communities for tree planting and community forestry program development. Projects funded included over 600 trees planted, technical forestry capacity for training, educational program development, equipment and internships.

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. 36 of Wyoming's 99 incorporated cities and towns were certified in this program in 2020 and Central Wyoming College was recognized as a Tree Campus USA, with Sheridan College renewed for a 7th year.

In June 2020, the statewide Community Tree Managers Focus Group held a virtual meeting. 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.

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## Contact Information



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