

# INTERMOUNTAIN REGION State and Private Forestry (Nevada)

**S**tate and Private Forestry promote forest health practices that facilitate stewardship, protection and management of forested and range ecosystems for federal, tribal, state, local, and private resource partners and customers in the Nevada.

Research conducted by SPF identifies cost-effective measures communities can use to keep their land-based economies vibrant and self sustaining.

The Intermountain Region (R4) and the Northern Region (R1) combined staff resources to work as one entity to support Nevada. By merging resources, the two regions more efficiently and effectively meet customers' multiple needs. While the roles and responsibilities of SPF are numerous, they strategically focus on assisting others so all lands in the state can richly provide benefits to every citizen.

## ► FOREST HEALTH PRACTICES

SPF promotes forest health practices that facilitate stewardship, protection and management of forested and range ecosystems for federal, tribal, state, local, and private resource partners and customers. The division focuses on four strategic areas that monitor and improve forest health. The areas are: Forest Insect and Disease Services (which includes surveys, technical assistance and new technology development); Forest Health Education & Information Management; Invasive Species Management (control small infestations of established target weeds and contain large infestations of established target weeds, working cooperatively across landownership boundaries) and Forest Health Monitoring and Assessment.

## ► TIMBER TARGET

SPF is helping fund the State of Nevada to test biochar as a soil amendment to improve soil nutrients and water retention for tree survival in arid climates with limited water resources. The project has another benefit as excess pinyon and juniper trees are used. Using portable kilns, trees are “cooked” until they turn into charcoal which is then used to help lands retain moisture.

## AT A GLANCE

The Forest Services' State and Private Forestry division is a leader in providing financial and technical support on natural resource issues to the State of Nevada, tribal and federal entities as well as private individuals.



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# STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY (Nevada) Intermountain Region



*Thistle at Dog Valley, Nevada in  
burned area.*

## ▶ PEST CONTROL

A forest has many pests that can decimate trees. SPF has ongoing technology developments that include testing new formulations and insecticide injection systems for controlling bark beetles, formulating a new repellent for spruce beetle and new and novel methods of pheromone deployment for mountain pine beetle that improves repellent effects. From a safety perspective, pheromone treatments are used to keep beetles away from specific trees such as those in campgrounds or at trailheads, places where people congregate.

SPF initiated a long-term study throughout the Intermountain West to assess mountain pine beetle and spruce beetle impacts on affected landscapes. Data collected includes mortality rates, fuel accumulation, regeneration, wood deterioration and invasive species incursion.

## ▶ WEED INFESTATION

Nevada has treated over 7,700 weed infested acres and protected approximately 95,000 acres from weed infestation since 2011. SPF's sponsorship of an invasive plant (Medusahead) symposium fosters the sharing of resources and knowledge that facilitates the development of new adaptive strategies which will help in Sage Grouse habitat restoration.

## ▶ URBAN TREES

Nevada has an estimated 1.15 million trees which store about 72,000 metric tons of carbon a valued at \$50.2 million. Air pollution removal savings through urban trees is estimated at \$12.4 million. Urban forests contribute to the aesthetic quality of a city and attract businesses and residents. By integrating urban forests as elements into a city's green infrastructure, urban trees will help a city meet air and water regulatory requirements. SPF has invested in Nevada's urban forests to provide cities with an assessment of the value its trees provide. Urban trees help address air quality and energy costs in the Las Vegas and surrounding area.

## ▶ FIREFIGHTING ASSISTANCE

The Forest Service allocates funds to the State of Nevada for its Volunteer Fire Departments to help them in preparing for and fighting wildland fires on federal and non-federal lands. One way Nevada uses these funds wisely is by consolidating supply and equipment orders for the Volunteer Fire Departments in order to obtain the best prices. While fire is a natural element that keeps Nevada's lands healthy, unplanned wildfire can have devastating effects on natural environments, including loss of sagebrush cover for sensitive species. SPF works with the State agencies and rural fire departments to assist them in controlling unplanned wildfires.

## ▶ COMMUNITY PLANNING

Promoting the role of urban forestry in community planning has increased the use of tree planting programs to meet the performance standards of clean air and water regulations. Urban tree canopy assessments enable cities to estimate the value trees contribute to their economy in terms of; cost savings on homeowner energy costs, maintenance and repair of streets, an increase in property values. Recent studies monetize health benefits and cost savings with reduced stress and higher birth weights in green areas.

## CONTACT

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