

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION State and Private Forestry (Utah)

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 Utah. 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.

▶ **WEED MANAGEMENT**

Weeds hinder a land's productivity. Our work with cooperators achieves efficient and effective biological control strategies to manage invasive plants and improve ecosystem health across all land ownerships. The Intermountain Region's invasive plant biological control program develops and implements successful invasive plant management programs using insects and pathogens as biological control agents. SPF's entomologists and pathologists provide key information and services to those involved with weed management on federal, tribal, state and private lands. Our participation emphasizes developing and implementing effective biological control programs and developing new technologies in collaboration with research and land managers. The need for invasive plant technical expertise will only increase as invasive plants continue to spread throughout the west.

▶ **FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION**

When county weed supervisors spotted an infestation of purple loosestrife in Utah's west desert, they called on SPF's Forest Health Protection biological control specialists to assess the situation and organize biological control agent releases in areas where other options, like hand pulling or herbicide application, were not possible.

AT A GLANCE

The Forest Services' State and Private Forestry division (SPF) promotes forest health practices that facilitate stewardship, protection and management of forested and range ecosystems by providing financial and technical support on natural resource issues to the State of Utah, tribal and federal entities as well as private individuals.



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STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY (Nevada) Intermountain Region

▶ FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Forested lands in Utah are one of the State's most valuable natural resources. They provide scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, clean air and supply timber products. The State of Utah has, through the Forest Service's Forest Legacy program has placed 69,965 acres under conservation easements helping to protect high value forest land while keeping lands in private ownership. In order to protect these acres, Forest Legacy has expended \$24.2 million, partners have contributed \$9 million and landowners donated more than \$25 million in values. A portion of the Forest Legacy program is funded with the Land and Water Conservation fund. Once key areas and properties are subdivided, fragmented or converted to developed uses, the critical natural resource values can be lost forever.

The forest legacy program keeps high valued forest lands from being developed while providing for active timber management of the land. The program preserves soils, water, aesthetics, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities for the present and future generations.

Currently three projects have been submitted for funding in 2017.

▶ URBAN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

The Forest Service has invested over \$1.9 million dollars over the past five years in helping Utah's cities and communities understand the value and tangible benefits of their urban forests. Over 80% of the population has been reached through urban forestry programs at the local level and through the "Learn at Lunch" series in partnership with Utah State extension and local ISA Chapter. Tree Inventories across Utah will enable cities to take control of their urban forests and invest wisely in management practices and species diversity that provides for clean air and wise use of water resources. Leaders can make plans for stronger healthier more livable cities with cleaner air and lower air temperatures reducing energy costs for the average homeowner. It makes good economic sense. Cooler temperatures and healthier trees have shown to help reduce stress and provide many other health benefits for young and old.

Multiple studies in the U.S. show that having a well maintained, high quality urban forest contributes to better air quality and improved stormwater management. Strategically placed trees can reduce building energy use in hot climates and reduce urban heat island effect which helps improve air quality.

Utah has an estimated 24.3 million urban trees that store about \$104.9 million dollars in carbon and annually remove \$33.2 million dollars' worth of air pollution. 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 enabled many cities to estimate the value trees contribute to the 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.

The UCF program contributed \$300,000 to the Ogden River cleanup restoration project, planting trees and providing green infrastructure to capture runoff on site and manage stormwater.



Students actively learning about the elements of a forest.

CONTACT

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