



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet 2015 Nevada



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2014 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$222,000
Forest Legacy	\$25,000
Forest Stewardship	\$133,900
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$300,000
State Fire Assistance	\$1,348,200
Urban and Community Forestry	\$237,800
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$160,200
Total	\$2,427,100

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

Cooperative Forestry programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), USDA Forest Service, and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Nevada's forests, rangelands and rural economies. We emphasize conservation practices, water resource protection, forest product utilization, wildfire hazard reduction, wildlife habitat enhancement and support of rural economies.

Program Goals:

- Improve health of Nevada's watersheds and ecosystems through increased technical and financial assistance to landowners and land managers
- Promote science-based conservation, stewardship ethics, and best management practices

Key Issues:

- Loss of sagebrush cover type and associated habitat values from wildland fire and invasive species
- High forest stocking and poor forest health across all land ownerships
- Diminished forest products industry and associated impacts on economic viability of vegetation management projects
- Riparian system degradation from non-native, invasive species and altered hydrology

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts	FY 2014 Accomplishments		
Population	2,700,551	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	309
Acres of Forest Land	11,169,156	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	2,778
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	212,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	943
Number of NIPF Landowners	15,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	111
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	20,920,000	State Fire Communities Assisted	180
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	8,770,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2,210
Number of Rural Fire Departments	211	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	18	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	51
Forest Based Employment	33	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,459,252
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	4,100
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	26,296,450		

Program Highlights:

Community Forestry and Open Space

NDF conducted outreach efforts to municipalities regarding the new Community Forestry and Open Space program. The program is advertised on the agency website as well. To date, no applications for the program have been received.

Conservation Education

The Conservation Education program provides science-based environmental education opportunities to Nevada's citizens. NDF supported the implementation of three full length Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshops and three condensed learning experiences for school teachers across the state. Workshop themes included Wildfires in the West, Intro to PLT, and Urban Tree Values. One hundred and twenty-six educators attended the workshops. The Tree Circus received a sub-grant from NDF to conduct nine performances in Reno/Carson City/Las Vegas over Arbor Day week. This energetic, interactive program taught elementary school children about tree biology, tree care and other benefits of trees. The one-hour program was presented to 1,759 children. Two NDF staff participated in the annual Range Camp program held in central Nevada. This camp links high school students with natural resources professionals for a week long field school that focusses on natural resources management.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Nevada's State and local fire programs protect approximately 9,500,000 acres. In 2014, Nevada Division of Forestry signed cooperative wildfire protection agreements with 21 fire protection districts in 13 counties, which allowed further cooperation between state and local fire response and fuels reduction efforts. NDF sent 14 personnel to critical interagency planning/operating meetings to maintain coordination between the Division and Federal, State, and local cooperators. The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant allowed NDF to provide 43 of the 150 VFDs with 283 P-25 compliant handheld and mobile radios and 70 new generation fire shelters. Additional purchases are still occurring and we expect to deliver more than 300 pieces of PPE clothing to volunteer stations across the state. In 2014, more than 350 wildfires burned 158,158 acres in Nevada. NDF responded to 321 of these wildfires. NDF provided cost-share assistance on 24 wildfires affecting multiple jurisdictions which is included in the \$3.4 million NDF spent on suppression. NDF funded, attended, and hosted 82 fire prevention events for public education and provided 25 first responder trainings for state and local cooperators. The Division sent 58 staff to wildland fire related training and trained more than 126 employees. NDF performed more than 241 defensible space assessments for private landowners. Through the FEPP/FPP programs NDF built up one Type 4 brush truck and a dozer transport tractor. NDF also performed essential repairs to the many pieces of the fleet of wildfire suppression resources to ensure reasonable and effective response. This year, hazardous fuels reduction projects were completed on 4,573 acres. The projects directly and

indirectly protect an estimated 36 communities. Pass through dollars are awarded to at-risk communities with current CWPPs through an interagency competitive process. Fourteen cooperators' projects were funded in 2014 to assist in completion of high priority fuels reduction.

Economic Action

NDF has been developing a forest products industry to find a higher value product for the wood harvested from forest restoration projects. Building local sales has been a priority for NDF during this process. Chipped slash and Christmas trees are offered to NDF nursery customers for their use in mulching their tree planting and landscaping. This value-added product helped reduce the amount of slash piles to burn and removed a green waste stream from local landfills. Sub-merchantable timber from thinning projects is sold for firewood. NDF has produced more than 400 cords of firewood which has been sold to local suppliers, convenience store owners and private citizens. In addition to enhanced utilization, locally produced firewood reduces the potential for the spread of invasive species from out of the area. Biochar produced from pinyon and juniper removal projects is showing potential as a soil amendment by itself or as a component of compost. Multiple partners from state and local government, university and private enterprise are working with NDF to develop new biochar applications. Two applications currently being investigated are stormwater filtering at Lake Tahoe and soil amelioration for urban tree plantings. The intent of NDF's biochar program is to develop products such as composted biochar and expand emerging biomass markets in a manner that will ultimately reduce the cost of pinyon and juniper woodland projects.

Forest Health Protection

NDF provided technical assistance to private landowners and state parks. Forest pest control projects on private lands addressed pine and pinyon engraver, pine needle scale, fir engraver beetle and dwarf mistletoe. NDF also used FHP funds to treat dwarf mistletoe and true mistletoe infestations at Big Bend and Valley of Fire State Parks. Funding provided for reforestation of areas that had high levels of tree removal due to mistletoe control. These projects are being revisited to continue treatments and reforestation efforts. NDF, in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA), the USFS, and Mt. Rose Ski Resort set up monitoring traps for bark beetles in the Spring Mountains and the Carson Range. Trap results showed active populations of mountain pine beetle in northeastern and northwestern Nevada. A moderate amount of western pine beetle and pine engraver were noted in the traps in southern Nevada. In 2014, defoliation of aspen caused by the non-native satin moth slightly expanded, with reported occurrences in at least five counties across northern Nevada. One new occurrence in Lander County was identified with a FHP sub-grant project being issued to control the population. Overall, defoliation and population growth did not change or slightly decreased. It is likely that natural predators are responsible for the control of the satin moth outbreak. Population monitoring will continue in 2015 via trapping. NDF continued outreach and education on identification and reporting invasive species including EAB, and Asian Long Horn Beetle. Approximately a half dozen reports were taken and investigated, with no positive identifications made. This is an ongoing monitoring effort for these species. The Forest Health program also assisted in planning silvicultural treatments for forest health on the Clear Creek fuels reduction project which covers more than 800 acres of privately owned land in northwestern, Nevada.

Forest Legacy

NDF completed annual monitoring of TSI work prescribed in the Forest Stewardship plan for the Ash Canyon Gateway Forest Legacy project. The Forest Legacy program has been working with a local land trust to develop a project in Northeast Nevada. There were no projects submitted for ranking this year. The Community Forest and Open Space program continues to receive inquiries. Both of these programs are highlighted on the NDF website.

Forest Stewardship

The stewardship program Coordinating Committee met in April of 2014. NDF staff publicized the Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy programs, as well as NDF's Rural Forestry Assistance program, to local conservation districts across the state. The state stewardship coordinator participated in the NRCS state technical committee meeting and continued working with the Nevada NRCS state office to find opportunities to implement activities/practices and use the EQIP cost share program for private landowners. Six new plans written using SMART and it has been fully adapted by the NDF resource staff. The stewardship and legacy program continued to take advantage of GIS technologies by using ESRI Story Maps to document stewardship projects. NDF conducted compliance monitoring on eight plans in 2014.

Landowner Assistance

NDF's Natural Resource staff provided technical assistance and education to 309 landowners in 2014. Surveys of landowners receiving assistance indicate that 52% chose to implement the management advice they received. Ninety-eight percent of the cooperators surveyed indicated they were satisfied with the assistance NDF provided.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Virgin River-project has led to the restoration of 100 significant acres of Virgin River floodplain. Treatments have removed invasive tamarisk forests and replaced it with native willow, cottonwood and drier upland species.

Medusahead-Project sites identified by Truckee Meadows Coop Weed Management Area group. Twenty-one "Weeds to Watch For" signs were posted at trailhead and park locations. Thirty-three acres of Medusahead were mapped as well as 0.5 acres of musk thistle, poison hemlock, scotch thistle and yellow starthistle. Twenty acres of medusahead head were treated with pre-emergent herbicide. Five additional acres are scheduled for treatment.

Urban Forestry-Tree inventories were completed in six new communities; Risk assessments were completed in three state parks; state-wide Big Tree database was updated; plans were made for providing sub-grants to communities to acquire tree inventory/management software to provide for long term management planning.

Biochar-biochar produced from pinyon-juniper removal projects has been evaluated for use as a soil amendment for improving growth/survival of urban tree plantings. Additions of biochar and biochar composted with woodchips from thinning projects is being investigated. Biochar has been incorporated in stormwater detention ponds at Lake Tahoe to evaluate its pollutant filtering properties.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CFP) completed inventories of public trees in Gardnerville, Incline Village, Ely, and White Pine County in 2014. These inventories help municipalities understand their urban forest resource, assist in prioritizing tree management, and provide tangible monetary values for the services urban trees provide. The U&CFP will work to complete ongoing tree inventories and support management based on these assessments in 2015, and publicize the results of these assessments. NDF and partners provided urban forestry educational opportunities. The Nevada Shade Tree Council continued to support International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) introductory classes in southern and northern Nevada and the Tree Circus children's educational program. The International Professional Development Services firm provided training in Spanish in Reno and Las Vegas for best management practices in pruning, fertilizer, and safety. The sessions were free and were well attended. The University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension (UNCE), received a grant to fund a seminar series on Trees and Drought in September 2014, and statewide attendance was excellent. The U&CFP coordinator gave several public lectures in 2014, addressing pruning, urban tree inventories, and soil chemistry, in cooperation with the UNCE and Western Chapter, ISA. All of these lectures qualified for ISA Continuing Education Units for certified arborists. Ten of Nevada's cities qualified for Tree City USA status in 2014, including Las Vegas, Henderson, Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Nellis AFB, Elko, Boulder City, Gardnerville, and Ely. The NDF-U&CFP will continue to support and grow the Tree City USA program in Nevada in 2015. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was recertified as a Tree Campus USA, and the University of Nevada, Reno, has taken all the steps necessary to qualify next year, including completing a tree planting service project and celebration for Arbor Day 2014.

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