



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## 2015 Utah



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2014 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$257,000
Forest Legacy	\$60,000
Forest Stewardship	\$156,900
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$300,000
State Fire Assistance	\$1,920,500
Urban and Community Forestry	\$225,700
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$203,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,123,900</b>

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

Cooperative Forestry and Fire Programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL), USDA Forest Service, private organizations, and local governments. These programs promote the health and productivity of Utah's forests, communities, watersheds, and related economies. We emphasize timber, forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices.

### Program Goals:

- Maximize effectiveness through strong partnerships;
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests; and
- Use voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.

### Key Issues:

- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI);
- Increased age and density of forests and decreased diversity of forest age-classes on federal lands;
- Protection and rehabilitation of water quality and riparian areas;
- Threat of invasive, exotic species to native biodiversity;
- Economic and social well-being of forest dependent communities; and
- Rapid development and demand for urban forestry support.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>FY 2014 Accomplishments</b>		
Population	2,763,885	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	563
Acres of Forest Land	18,135,128	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	39,455
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,013,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	23,822
Number of NIPF Landowners	66,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	40
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	45
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	15,000,000	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	1,025
Number of Rural Fire Departments	251	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	245	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	114
Forest Based Employment	150	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,107,658
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	8,309
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	35,266,003		

## **Program Highlights:**

### **Conservation Education**

FFSL contracts with the Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE) to deliver Conservation Education. USEE uses the American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree (PLT). USEE provides general and customized workshops for teachers to learn the PLT model and implement the curriculums in the classroom. These workshops cover outreach and promotion activities to encourage participation of teachers, natural resources professionals, and others interested in environmental education. Topics included: PLT for grades K-8, Places We Live, Municipal Solid Waste, and Forests of the World. USEE conducted some of these workshops for in-service instructors at Westminster College and Southern Utah University. FFSL also encourages homeowners living in wildfire-prone areas to fire-proof their homes. The concepts include fuels reduction and using fire-safe building materials to increase the likelihood of a house surviving a wildfire.

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

FFSL granted approximately \$243,101 to 40 fire departments for training and to purchase firefighting and personal protective equipment. FFSL also certified 2,500 Utah structural firefighters to fight wildland fire and placed 44 firefighting apparatuses with fire departments. Fuel was reduced on more than 1,510 acres to protect communities in the WUI.

### **Forest Health Protection**

Bark beetle infestations and other forest health issues continue to affect large areas within Utah. Over the past 25 years, spruce beetle has infested and killed millions of Engelmann spruce. Spruce beetle was detected several years ago near the Cottonwood Canyon area, a very popular recreation destination. FFSL has been coordinating with the USFS Forest Health Protection program to survey the area and mark infested trees for removal where possible in campgrounds, ski resorts, and on many private lands. With landowner approval, infested trees were felled, bucked and split for firewood to be used exclusively within the immediate vicinity. This activity appears to be keeping spruce beetle populations at low levels. However, beetle populations may increase rather quickly and limit management options in the longer term. Monitoring populations will continue to be required for any chance at effective control of bark beetle populations.

### **Forest Legacy**

Since 1999, Utah's Forest Legacy Program has protected 71,357 acres of valuable forest lands that were threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. FFSL has worked with over twenty landowners who choose to protect their lands using conservation easements. In 2014, FFSL did not close on any Forest Legacy properties; however, the Forest Legacy Program continues to generate interest across Utah. FFSL

received nine applications seeking to protect 42,129 acres of Utah's high-quality forest lands in 2014.

### **Forest Stewardship**

In 2014, FFSL completed eight Forest Stewardship plans covering 39,895.5 acres. Landowners were engaged in writing these plans. The plans enable landowners to manage their forest resources to meet their objectives and to provide improved landscape-scale benefits. Eleven Forest Stewardship plans were monitored.

### **Landowner Assistance**

FFSL is making progress in becoming aware of all forestry practices that are occurring on private forested lands. This awareness will allow FFSL to provide technical assistance to a larger percentage of private landowners. FFSL provided technical assistance 563 times in 2014, contributing to FFSL's significant Forest Stewardship accomplishments.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

Urban forests provide essential benefits to Utah's quality of life and economy. FFSL's wise use of over \$350,000 in Urban and Community Forestry funding led to great results. Communities planted 6,700 new trees, generating several million dollars in net community benefits. These benefits include reductions in energy use, stormwater runoff, and air pollutants. FFSL promotes healthy urban forests by encouraging communities to participate in Tree City USA, and 84 communities have achieved this designation. FFSL also promotes volunteer support for urban forestry efforts, and in 2014 volunteers worked over 8,000 hours to keep their cities green and vibrant. In 2014, FFSL assisted 154 communities (81% of the Utah's population) in managing their urban forests and maximizing community value.

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#### **For more information, please contact:**



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