

Regions 1 and 4 Northern and Intermountain Regions

Program Overview

In 2002, Region 1 and Region 4 merged their State and Private Forestry (S&PF) staffs into one unit covering both regions. Bill Boettcher is the S&PF staff director and Paul Ries is the S&PF deputy director. Each staff person is now responsible for fewer S&PF programs, but covers all five States (Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota) in the two regions. Glenn Roloff is now responsible for administration, including oversight and monitoring, of the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in both regions.

National Forest Volunteer U&CF Program

In 1992, Region 1 initiated a program involving national forest personnel as volunteers to assist their communities in their U&CF efforts. Each year a request for proposals (RFP) is sent to all national forests and grasslands in the region. USDA Forest Service personnel then help communities develop a proposal for a grant

to undertake U&CF projects, such as tree planting, street tree inventories, and hazard tree removal. One of the stipulations is that USDA Forest Service personnel volunteer their time and expertise in conducting the projects. Since 1992, 83 projects in 58 communities have been funded in areas adjacent to 21 national forests and grasslands. With the merger of the two regions in 2002, Nevada and Utah communities became eligible for the first time. Twenty-nine project proposals were submitted, with 15 communities in the five State areas approved for grants.

Administration

The Region1/Region 4 U&CF Program leader provides guidance, direction, oversight, and monitoring of the U&CF Program in the five States. This person is also a member of the National U&CF Technology Transfer Team. Glenn spends considerable time and effort on the U&CF technology transfer to the State foresters and other partners.

Idaho

Program Overview

The State of Idaho is geographically rich and diverse, with ecosystems ranging from desert to alpine. This diversity, coupled with the large land area (the travel distance from the southeast corner of the State to the Canadian border in the panhandle is the same as between Washington, DC, and Chicago), can make it very challenging to deliver community forestry assistance.

Yet Idaho continues to have a very active community forestry program. About 66 percent of Idaho's population lives within the State's 200 incorporated communities and cities. Idaho's U&CF Program provides technical and financial assistance to increase public awareness and understanding of the value of sound community forestry management. This program assists Idaho communities in establishing and enhancing sustainable community forests on public and private lands. For the third consecutive year, the Idaho Transportation Department supplemented the U&CF Program with \$110,000 to landscape terraces and parks along transportation corridors within communities. The Idaho Department of Lands has partnered with all nine Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to deliver community forestry assistance locally throughout the State. The Arbor Day Trust Account was once again able to provide financial assistance to cities statewide to celebrate Arbor Day. Some 73 percent of Idaho communities were involved in the U&CF Program. The number of Tree Cities also continues to grow rapidly—61 Idaho communities are now so designated. As a percentage of all communities in the State (31 percent), Idaho ranks near the top of all States in the Nation.

Program Accomplishments

Landscaping That Teaches

By Dr. James Fazio

The City of Pocatello is getting double—or triple—duty out of a strip of landscaping next to city hall. Thanks to a Community Transportation Enhancement grant from the Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Department of Lands' Community Forestry Program, the landscaping beautifies the roadside at a major intersection and buffers the impact of a large parking lot. But its usefulness does not stop there. The buffer strip has been designed to show visitors how plant selection and maintenance can save water.

This unique site includes a walkway that starts in a typical high water-use zone (complete with turf), requiring about 18 inches of water per season. It winds its way through a moderate-use zone, requiring 12 inches of water, to a low-use zone that needs only 8 inches of irrigation water. Interpretive signs and leaflets are being developed and will help promote the use of trees and other vegetation that require little

watering yet provide a beautiful landscape. Techniques such as placing weed barriers beneath chip mulch and using drip irrigation are also part of the demonstration.

For more information, contact Project Coordinator Paula Jones of Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development, 1551 Baldy Ave., Pocatello, ID 83201.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 147
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 95
Number of hours of training provided: Did not track
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 9,070
Number of trees planted: Did not track
Number of Tree City USA communities: 61 (with 19 Growth Awards in 2002)

Other facts:

- Held 30 workshops on topics such as planting, pruning, inventories, chainsaw safety, and inventories.
- Cohosted (with Oregon, Washington, and Alaska) a 2-day Community Trees Conference in Boise.

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Members of the Idaho Community Forestry Council inspect Pocatello's low water-use demonstration area during the council's summer meeting. The group is near the start of a walkway in the first of three zones that require different amounts of irrigation water.

Montana

Program Overview

In its 12th year as a national program created in the 1990 Farm Bill, the U&CF Program continues to grow in Montana. The mission of the program remains the same: to have a viable program in every community in the State. The program assists community leaders, volunteers, local governments, and the tree care industry with technical assistance, planning, funding for local programs, volunteer coordination, and education. The program works closely with several major partners, including Federal agencies, Montana Resource Conservation District areas, the university systems, and private organizations. Staff also participates in the Montana League of Cities and Towns, local tree and park boards, and volunteer organizations.

Program Accomplishments

In 2002, the Eastern Montana community of Forsyth (pop. 1,400) began a citywide and schoolwide tree project titled The Forsyth Tree Project. Forsyth teachers integrated Arc View/GIS training into the high school curriculum for the purposes of using students to conduct a community tree inventory and learn the software. The result was a K-12 participation in an all-school Arbor Day celebration with educational, hands-on activity booths, tree plantings, and school programs. Additionally, students are serving on the Forsyth Community Tree Board; assisting with revisions of Forsyth's tree ordinance and writing grants to help fund community tree plantings. The community has submitted its application for Tree City USA designation for 2002 and has presented the project to the International Society of Arboriculture, Rocky Mountain Chapter, at its annual conference in Colorado. The board plans to make the citywide and schoolwide program an annual event.



Many community residents attended the Arbor Day tree-planting ceremony in Forsyth, MT.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 125
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 105
Number of hours of training provided: No record
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 500
Number of trees planted: No record
Number of Tree City USA communities: 28

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Nevada

Program Overview

Nevada's U&CF Program assists communities in developing and maintaining their urban forests through financial, educational, and technical tree care and planting assistance. Subgrants have been awarded to 70 Nevada communities throughout the State. Nevada's U&CF Program sponsors national programs such as Tree City USA and National Arbor Day Poster Contest, the National Big Tree Program. Nevada is currently updating its State Big Tree Register and has measured more than 100 new trees for the new edition.

Program Accomplishments

Sun Valley Community Park was awarded a Title VIII Metropolitan Statistical Area grant for a community park tree-planting project. A Title VIII grant for \$9,166 was awarded to Washoe County for a tree-planting project around the new teen center at the Sun Valley Community Park, a 27-acre park that serves more than 71,000 visitors a year. Funding for forestation is limited in Sun Valley, resulting in a park with several large, unattractive, barren dirt areas. The goal of this project was to plant trees to screen a newly built teen center from a residential area, reduce blowing dust and soil erosion, and beautify the park. The entire community was mailed a tree care handout developed by the project coordinator. On "Adopt a Park" day in the fall of 2002, 175 volunteers showed up and planted 68 trees. The project received a Nevada Recreation and Park Society Program Excellence award. The project was matched with more than \$16,000 in cash contributions and in-kind matching funds.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 53
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 59
Number of hours of training provided: Not tracked
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 471
Number of trees planted: 271 (grant projects trees only; does not include shrubs)
Number of Tree City USA communities: 8

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This Washoe County, Nevada, community park tree-planting project brought out more than 175 volunteers who planted 68 trees.



Local volunteer labor, such as this local policewoman provided, contributed to a very successful tree-planting project that received Nevada Recreation and Park Society Program Excellence Award.

North Dakota

Program Overview

The 2000 U.S. Census identified 372 communities in North Dakota. This number includes military bases and tribal communities. Of the 642,200 people who live in North Dakota, 53 percent of them live in the 15 largest cities in the State. To the people of these cities, natural resource management means conservation activities in city parks, tree-lined streets, and other green spaces within their communities. Our greatest ability to reach out to them and improve their appreciation and understanding of forest resources lies in working with them, within their towns and cities, to accomplish locally identified social, economic, and environmental goals.

Program Accomplishments

After the August 8, 2001, wind event, the Grand Forks Herald's parent company, Knight Ridder, donated \$25,000 to the reforestation of five communities that were hardest hit within the readership of the newspaper. This program was called the Knight Ridder Releaf Program. The wind event did not recognize State boundaries, with the communities most affected from the storm located in both North Dakota and Minnesota. The two State forestry agencies worked together to implement and deliver the program. One of the goals that came from discussions with the communities was the need for training on storm management and trees. In the spring 2002, the two States hosted a "Storm Management and Trees" workshop located in Grand Forks. More than 80 people attended the workshop.

The 500 Lewis and Clark (L&C) Cottonwoods grown from seed collected from the Smith Grove 2 years ago will be ready for distribution to North Dakota grade schools this year. As reported last year, this project started with the effort to help communities prepare for the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. A new partnership was formed with the North Dakota National Guard; they transported the 6-foot L&C Cottonwood trees to the 400 grade schools in the State.

North Dakota Community Forestry Council

The North Dakota Community Forestry Council is an advisory group composed of 19 members from Federal, State, tribal, and local entities, as well as green industry and nonprofit groups. The council assists the State forester in recommending direction for the State Community Forestry Program.

Volunteer Program

The goal of the U&CF Program is to provide leadership "to care for, protect and improve community forestry resources for current and future generations."

The North Dakota Forest Service is responsible for providing leadership and technical assistance to volunteer groups, cities, and other local government entities in all phases of forestry. Program assistance includes tree-planting plans, management plans, shade tree ordinances, pest surveys, and tree-maintenance workshops.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 123
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 123
Number of hours of training provided: 3467
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 571
Number of trees planted: 9,194
Number of Tree City USA awards: 54
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 9
Number of projects and outreach to culturally diverse communities: 7
Number of community forestry workshops and training events: 14

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Utah

Program Overview

The purpose of Utah's UC&F Program is to support the establishment of locally directed tree management programs in Utah communities. A major goal is to enhance the quality of life for Utah's citizens through increasing the awareness of the benefits that community trees provide.

Utah's UC&F Program contributes to the implementation of the Utah Tomorrow Strategic Plan adopted by the Utah Legislature in 1995. Among those adopted strategies addressed through the U&CF Program are the promotion of environmental quality for air, water, and flora, and the encouragement of partnerships between those parties who manage, develop, and use renewable and nonrenewable resources. Many partnerships between Federal government, local government, and volunteer organizations contribute to the great success this program has achieved throughout the years.

In 2002, the National Arbor Day Foundation recognized 33 Utah cities as Tree City USA communities. These 33 communities represent 46 percent of the State's population, or 1,053,720 citizens, who experienced the benefits of trees.

Program Accomplishments

During 2002, Salt Lake City, UT, hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics Games. The Community Forest Partnership was formed to work with communities to plant trees at selected Olympic gateway and venue sites. The partnership supported projects in 21 communities and 8 counties. More than 5,400 volunteers contributed 23,100 hours of service to plant 4,825 trees. The \$500,000 in Federal money leveraged \$854,800 of matching contributions.

Title II Inner City funds provide grants to support projects that benefit underserved or low-income communities within Utah's largest cities or metropolitan areas. The State provided Tree Utah, a Title II grant, to develop a "Youth Employment Training and Stewardship Program" in the Salt Lake metropolitan area. This project held 2 series of classes addressing urban trees; tree planting, and tree care for 28 students of 5 intercity schools. Students participated in 2 urban plantings, the restoration of one urban riparian area by planting 100 seedlings, and the pruning and mulching of 40 street trees in urban areas. Two graduates of this program were placed in seasonal jobs assisting with the urban tree program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 64
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 40
Number of hours of training provided (approx.): 264
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 5,100
Number of trees planted: 34,800
Number of Tree City USA communities: 33

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