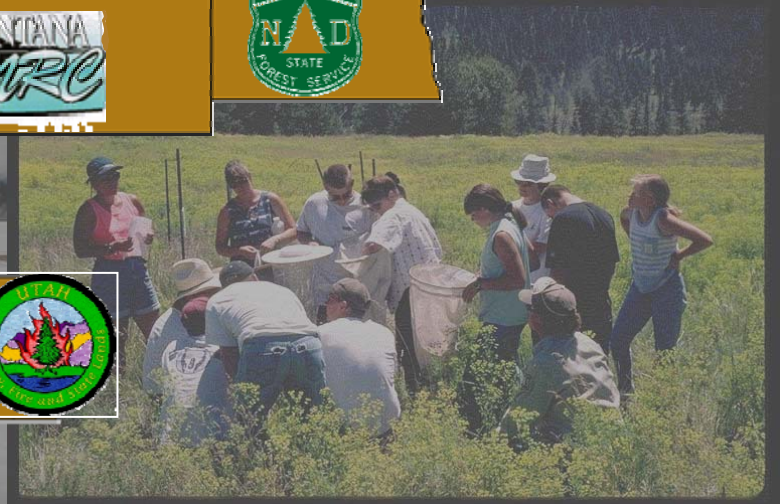


2006 Directory of Programs and Services

State & Private Forestry



Region 1 & Region 4



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State & Private Forestry

2006 Directory of Programs & Services

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Forest Health Protection Program: Insects, Disease, Noxious Weeds and So Much More

What is FHP?

The Forest Health Protection staff consists of entomologists, pathologists, foresters, other forest health specialists and technicians who have specialized skills and experience in insect and disease diagnosis and management, pesticide use and management, and knowledge about broader forest health concepts, conditions, and trends. We help people understand the effects various agents have on their forests, the alternatives they have to influence those effects, and ways that treatments can be integrated to meet multiple objectives. Services are provided through two regional programs and four field offices.

What does FHP do?

We provide services in 5 main program emphasis areas:

- ◆ **Forest Health Monitoring and Assessment** – detect and monitor insect and disease activity, changes in forest condition, and assess resilience of forest ecosystems through collection, analysis and reporting of data from permanent plot, aerial and ground surveys.
- ◆ **Forest Insect and Disease Services** – detect and evaluate disease and insect situations, provide management guidance, participate in forest planning and forest plan implementation, participate on Inter-Disciplinary teams, provide technical and financial assistance for forest insect disease suppression, prevention and/or restoration projects, and develop or apply new technology for management of forest insects and diseases.
- ◆ **Noxious Weeds Management** – detect, evaluate, suppress or eradicate introduced weeds. Provide information and assistance on herbicides and biological controls used to control noxious weeds.
- ◆ **Forest Health Education** – provide scientifically based information on forest health issues to facilitate forest resource management decisions through training, and participation in and development of a variety of information media. This includes training sessions, publications, public meetings, educational programs etc.
- ◆ **Pesticide Use and Coordination** – provide technical assistance, training and NEPA assistance related to the use of pesticides.



*Douglas-fir with MCH
pheromone capsule*

and

Key Partners and Customers

- ◆ Federal land managers
- ◆ State agencies
- ◆ Tribes
- ◆ Counties
- ◆ University and Research communities

Opportunities:

- ◆ Noxious Weeds, Insect, & Disease related technical assistance.
- ◆ Suppression, prevention and restoration funds for noxious weeds, insect, and disease management on all lands.
- ◆ Working with states to provide assistance to the general public, partners, and customers with noxious weeds, insect, and disease public education and information.
- ◆ Partnering with Resource Conservation and Development Groups, states, Tribes, and other agencies to complete joint or adjacent projects. These potential partners have access to grants through the state coop programs.

Forest Service Program Coordinators:

Vacant

Coeur d 'Alene Field Office
208-765-7342

Dayle Bennett

Boise Field Office
208-373-4227
ddbennett@fs.fed.us

Steve Munson

Ogden Field Office
801-476-9728
smunson@fs.fed.us

Vacant

Forest Health Monitoring
406-329-3521

Gregg DeNitto

Missoula Field Office
406-329-3637
gdenitto@fs.fed.us

Janet Valle

Pesticide Use & Coordination and
Cooperative Noxious Weeds
801-625-5258
jvalle@fs.fed.us

Coordinators:

Gail Durham

Nevada Division of Forestry
775-684-2513
gdurham@forestry.nv.gov

Colleen Keyes

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands
801-538-5211
colleenkeyes@utah.gov

Amy Kearney

Forest Pest Management Program
Montana Dept of Natural Resources and
Conservation
406-542-4283
akearney@mt.gov

Jeff Fidgen

Idaho Department of Lands
208-666-8624
jfidgen@idl.state.id.us

Michael Kangas

North Dakota Forest Service
701-231-5936
michael.kangas@ndsu.edu

State Noxious Weeds Program Coordinators:

Dawn Rafferty

State of Nevada
774-688-1182 ext. 269

Tina Mudd

Nevada CWMA Program Manager
775-688-1180 ext. 291

Bill Gilson

Utah Weed Supervisor's Chairperson
435-279-5258

Matt Voile

State of Idaho
208-332-8667

Slade Franklin

State of Wyoming
307-777-6959

Dave Burch

State of Montana
406-444-3140

Jeff Olsen

State of North Dakota
701-328-4756

Missoula Forest Health Protection Staff and Services

Contact	Area of Expertise
Gregg DeNitto 406-329-3637	Program management, budget, forest pathology, prevention/suppression coordination, wood import pest risk analysis, root diseases and decays.
Leah Chapman 406-329-3298	Entomology, defoliating insects, Region 1 gypsy moth program coordinator, regeneration, insects, bark beetles
Bill Cramer 406-329-3130	Laboratory and field support to professional staff.
Ken Gibson 406-329-3278	Entomology, Bark beetles.
Marcus Jackson 406-329-3282	Plant Pathology, urban tree diseases
Blakey Lockman 406-329-3189	Plant Pathology, Root diseases and foliar diseases.
Larry Meyer 406-329-3136	Aerial detection survey of forest insect and disease injury. Field support to professional staff
Scott Sontag 406-329-3323	Aerial detection survey of forest insect and disease injury; field support to professional staff
Nancy Sturdevant 406-329-3281	Entomology, defoliators, bark beetles, seed and cone insects, and biological control of invasive plants.
Kjerstin Skov 406-329-3329	Entomology Trainee

Coeur d'Alene Forest Health Protection Staff and Services

Contact	Areas of Expertise
Vacant	Program management, budget
Sue Hagle 208-926-6416	Plant Pathology, root diseases, cedar decline, ecosystem management/planning, succession modelling and Forest Health analysis, Insect and Disease Field and Management Guide Coordinator. Located in Kooskia, Idaho
Robert James 208-765-7421	Plant Pathology, nursery diseases, forest health assessment, tree improvement, root diseases.
Terri Johnson 208-373-4268	Database management and analysis, Arcview and Oracle Located in Boise, Idaho
Sandra Kegley 208-765-7355	Entomology, bark beetles, larch casebearer, cone and seed insects, nursery insects, forest health assessment, semiochemicals, white bark pine, conservation education.
Carol Randall 208-765-7343	Entomology, bark beetle hazard ratings, semiochemicals, forest health assessment, noxious weed biological control, balsam woolly adelgid, training, project learning tree, conservation education.
John Schwandt 208-765-7415	Forest Pathology, white pine blister rust, forest health assessment, root diseases, hazard tree evaluation, urban forestry, white bark pine program coordinator.
Doug Wulff 208-765-7344	Insect and disease field surveys, purchasing, safety coordinator, GPS coordination, Arcview.
Lee Pederson 208-765-7430	Entomology, bark beetles, defoliators, silviculture, Region 1 Douglas-fir tussock moth early warning system coordinator
Holly Kearns 208-765-7493	Forest Pathology, white pine blister rust, dwarf mistletoe management, root diseases, hazard tree evaluation.

Ogden Field Office Staff and Services

Contact	Area of Expertise
Steve Munson 801-476-9728	Program Management, budget, entomology, bark beetles, defoliators, gypsy moth, remote sensing, application technology, semiochemicals, and international studies.
Brytten Steed 801-476-9732	Entomology, bark beetles, defoliators, application technology, semiochemicals, and international activities
Liz Hebertson 801-476-4420	Entomology, bark beetles, noxious weeds, fire/fuels and plant pathology
Darren Blackford 801-476-9732	Entomology, bark beetles, defoliators, gypsy moth program coordinator, GPS
John Guyon 801-476-4420	Plant Pathology, plant stress physiology, interaction of stress and plant diseases, dwarf mistletoe management, insect and disease pests of aspen, pest models (FVS) and pest impact monitoring.
Valerie DeBlander 801-476-4421	Resource inventory, field crew supervision, pest management surveys and GIS/computers
Ben Meyerson 801-476-9720	Field support for professional staff, ground and aerial detection surveys.
Laura Dunning 801-476-9720	Office management coordination, procurement, and customer service.

Boise Forest Health Protection Staff and Services

Contact	Area of Expertise
Dayle Bennett 208-373-4227	Program management, budget, special technology development, international activities, bark beetles, defoliators, aerial detection surveys.
Tom Barbouletos 406-758-5219	Biological control of noxious and non-native invasive plants: collecting, releasing and monitoring biocontrol agents. Located in Kalispell, Montana.
Richard Halsey 208-373-4267	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) programming for aerial insect and disease detection survey database.
James Hoffman 208-373-4221	Plant pathology: dwarf mistletoes, rusts, root diseases, hazard tree training/evaluation, urban forestry assistance.
Kathy Matthews 208-373-4239	Aerial Detection Survey Program Coordination.
Laura Moffitt 208-373-4223	Entomology: defoliators, bark beetles, biological control of weeds
Philip Mocettini 208-373-4226	Field surveys, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), computer graphics, purchasing.
Carl Jorgensen 208-373-4225	Entomology: defoliators, bark beetles, biological control of weeds
Joy Roberts 208-373-4224	Computer/data analysis, FVS/pest models, programming, IBM system.
Dwight Scarbrough 208-373-4220	Entomology: bark beetle prevention, defoliators, biological control of weeds, conservation education.



Forest Stewardship Program

What is the Forest Stewardship Program?

The Forest Stewardship Program, established by the 1990 Farm Bill, authorizes the Forest Service, through the State Foresters and other private and public sector programs, to provide technical assistance to owners of non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) not currently under management and to those who wish to increase their management activities. The information and assistance provided to the landowner is intended to help them understand actions they might take to manage, enhance, and protect the productivity of timber, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, wetlands, recreational value, and aesthetics.

Who is eligible ?

The Forest Stewardship Program assists landowners who are not currently using a Forest Stewardship Plan or similar multi-resource management plan to guide their management practices. Landowners with existing management plans may be eligible for the program if they expand their management activities to meet the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Program.



How is the program delivered to non-industrial forest landowners ?

State Foresters and their staff deliver this program.

Key Partners:

Primary

State Foresters

Secondary

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Resource Conservation & Development Areas (RC&D)
Tribes
Landowners Organizations
Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committees
Consulting Foresters
Cooperative Extension Service

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Coordinate watershed restoration activities with State Forester's representatives and adjacent private landowners within and outside NF boundaries.
- ◆ Coordinate other land management activities with State Forester representatives and adjacent private landowners on road layout, forest management, and other activities.

Key Contacts:

Program Coordinator:

Dee Sessions

R1/R4 Forest Service
(801) 625-5189

State Coordinators:

Dan Rogers

State of Montana
(406) 542-4326

Kirk David

State of Idaho
(208) 666-8626

Tom Berg

State of North Dakota
(701) 228-5483

John Houk

State of Nevada
(775) 684-2530

Ron Gropp

State of Utah
(801) 538-5457

Forest Land Enhancement Program

What is the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) ?

The Forest Land Enhancement Program established by the 2002 Farm Bill authorizes the federal government to provide up to 75% of the funds necessary for non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners to implement practices identified in certified Forest Stewardship Management Plans in order to implement sustainable forestry practices. FLEP is a key component of the practice to establish, restore, protect, manage, maintain, and enhance the health and productivity of the non-industrial private forest lands in the United States for timber, habitat for flora and fauna, soil, water, and air quality, wetlands, and riparian buffers.

Activities include Management Plan Development, Afforestation and Reforestation, Forest Stand Improvement, Agroforestry Implementation, Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement, Forest Health and Protection, Invasive Species Control, Fire and Catastrophic Risk Reduction, Fire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation, and Special Practices.

Who is eligible ?

Qualifying non-industrial private forest landowners who own rural lands that have existing tree cover or are suitable for growing trees.

How is the program delivered to non-industrial forest landowners ?

State Foresters and their staff deliver this program.

Key Partners:

Primary

State Foresters

Secondary

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Farm Services Agency

Landowner Organizations

Consulting Foresters

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Coordinate watershed restoration activities with State Forester representatives and adjacent private landowners within and outside NF boundaries.
- ◆ Coordinate other land management activities with State Forester representatives and adjacent private landowners.

Key Contacts:

Program Coordinator:

Dee Sessions

R1/R4 Forest Service
(801) 625-5189

State Coordinators:

Dan Rogers

State of Montana
(406) 542-4326

Kirk David

State of Idaho
(208) 666-8626

Tom Berg

State of North Dakota
(701) 228-5483

John Houk

State of Nevada
(775) 684-2530

Ron Gropp

State of Utah
(801) 538-5457



Forest Resource Management Program

What is the Forest Resource Management Program ?

The Forest Resource Management Program provides technical assistance to non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners for improving management of their natural resources. It complements the Forest Stewardship Program and provides more specific services to landowners, including sample timber marking and non-cost/share thinning selection, sample timber sale contracts, insect and disease identification and management, wildlife habitat improvement, and referrals to consultants for more intense management assistance.

How is the program delivered to non-industrial forest landowners ?

State Foresters and their staff deliver this program.

Key Partners:

Primary

State Foresters

Secondary

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Farm Services Agency

Cooperative Extension Service

Consulting Foresters

Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Coordinate activities with your State Forester's representatives and adjacent private landowners on a watershed basis
- ◆ Assist State Foresters in landowner group training

Key Contacts:

Program Coordinator:

Dee Sessions

R1/R4 Forest Service

(801) 625-5189

State Coordinators:

Dan Rogers

State of Montana

(406) 542-4326

Kirk David

State of Idaho

(208) 666-8626

Tom Berg

State of North Dakota

(701) 228-5483

John Houk

State of Nevada

(775) 684-2530

Ron Gropp

State of Utah

(801) 538-5457

Cooperative Watershed Program

What is the Cooperative Watershed Program?

The Cooperative Watershed Program has three basic purposes:

- ◆ Preventing damage from erosion, floodwater and sediment;
- ◆ Furthering the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water;
- ◆ Furthering the conservation and proper utilization of land.

Key Partners:

- ◆ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ State Soil Conservation Commissions
- ◆ Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ◆ Local communities.

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands

Opportunities to utilize these programs are limited due to lack of current funding. However, the authorities that are in place provide an important foundation if funding becomes available in the future.

Primary Contact for Region 1 – Region 4:

Dee Sessions

Federal Program Manager

(801) 625-5189

Other USDA CostShare Programs

What are the Other USDA CostShare Programs?

Conservation Reserve Program - through Farm Services Agency (FSA)

Provides cost/share and technical assistance to landowners for tree planting of highly erodible cropland to improve soil and water resources

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - through NRCS

Provides cost/share and technical assistance to landowners to improve soil and water resources, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat.

How is the program delivered to non-industrial forest landowners ?

State Foresters and their staff deliver this program in conjunction with other state agencies.

Key Partners:

Primary

State Foresters

Secondary

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

Farm Services Agency

State Game and Fish Departments

Cooperative Extension Service

Consulting Foresters

Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Landowner organizations

Tribes

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Work with State Foresters and other above agencies to coordinate activities within and outside National Forests to implement conservation practices on a watershed basis.

Key Contacts:

Program Coordinator:

Dee Sessions

R1/R4 Forest Service

(801) 625-5189

State Coordinators:

Dan Rogers

State of Montana

(406) 542-4326

Kirk David

State of Idaho

(208) 666-8626

Tom Berg

State of North Dakota

(701) 228-5483

John Houk

State of Nevada

(775) 684-2530

Ron Gropp

State of Utah

(801) 538-5457

Forest Legacy Program

(FLP)

What is the Forest Legacy Program ?

The FLP conserves and retains private forest lands of regional or national significance that are threatened with conversion to non-forest uses. The program assures traditional uses of private forestlands and public values are protected for future generations. The purposes of Forest Legacy easements are to prevent fragmentation and conversion of productive forestland, maintain traditional land uses, and protect significant environmental values on private lands.

Who is eligible ?

All owners of private forest land within a designated Forest Legacy Area are eligible to apply for enrollment of interests in their lands in a states's Forest Legacy Program. It is important to note, however, that participation of any landowner in the Forest Legacy Program must be entirely voluntary. Participation also requires preparation of a Forest Stewardship Plan for the proposed parcel.

Landowners have the option of donating a conservation easement or fee-title through the program or applying to have an easement or title purchased through the program.

How is the FLP delivered to the non-industrial private landowner ?

The program is implemented through the State's Lead Agency, which is usually the State Forester or other State natural resource agency.

Key Partners Include:

Primary

State Foresters
Other State natural resource agencies
State Forest Stewardship
Coordinating Committees

Secondary

Numerous land trusts and conservation organizations
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tribes
Forest Industries
Landowner organizations

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

The Forest Legacy Program provides another tool for State and Federal land management agencies to help protect important parcels of privately-owned forested lands. Forest and Grasslands can

- ◆ Provide the State Lead Agency with timely information regarding key private forest lands that are threatened with conversion to non-forest uses.
- ◆ Coordinate with the State Lead Agency in implementing the National Forest System land exchange program and the Forest Legacy Program, with emphasis on key watersheds.



Key Contacts:

Program Coordinator

Dee Sessions

R1/R4 Federal Program Manager

Ogden, UT

(801) 625-5189

State Coordinators:

Steve Knapp

State of Montana

Helena, MT

(406) 444-4717

Ann Price

State of Utah

Salt Lake City, UT

(801) 538-5540

Kirk David

State of Idaho

Couer d' Alene, ID

(208) 666-8626

John Houk

State of Nevada

775-684-2530

Forest Taxation Program

What is the Forest Taxation Program?

The Forest Service and the State Foresters work as partners to:

- ◆ Conduct biennial federal tax conferences, providing technical training to natural resource professionals who work with non-industrial forest landowners and CPA's, and to a limited extent – the landowners themselves.
- ◆ Provide timely, accurate information about such topics as forest taxation, estate planning, and tax incentives.
- ◆ Engage federal tax experts to share information and to conduct tax conferences.

Key Partners:

Primary

State Foresters

Secondary

State landowners associations

Consulting Foresters

Cooperative Extension Service

State Tax departments

Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&Ds)

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Become more knowledgeable about tax incentives for private landowners to consider, when encouraging sound management practices on private lands.
- ◆ Share Forest Service tax publications with private landowners

Key Contact:

Margie Ewing

R1/R4 Program Manager

(406) 329-3539

Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources Program

What is the Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources Program ?

The Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetic Resource Program:

- ◆ Provides high quality seedlings for reforestation and afforestation from known seed sources for plantings on State and private lands.
- ◆ Provides timely information and technical assistance to landowners for proper planting and care of seedlings.
- ◆ Establishes genetically superior certified seed orchards for future plantings on State and private lands.
- ◆ Supports current technology transfer between the Forest Service, the State Foresters and others.

How is the program delivered to non-industrial forest landowners ?

State Foresters and their staff deliver this program.

Key Partners:

Primary

State Foresters

Secondary

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
Forest industries
Cooperative Extension Service
Forest Service nurseries
Nursery associations
Universities
Tribes
Resource Conservation & Development Councils
Consulting Foresters

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Knowledge exchange with the partners.
- ◆ Sharing of genetically improved seedlings for establishing certified seed orchards.
- ◆ Participation in tree improvement organizations, such as the Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative.

Key Contacts:

Program Coordinator:

Dee Sessions

R1/R4 Forest Service
(801) 625-5189

State Coordinators:

Dan Rogers

State of Montana
(406) 542-4326

John Houk

State of Nevada
(775) 684-2530

Ron Gropp

State of Utah
(801) 538-5457

Kirk David

State of North Dakota
(208) 666-8626

Tom Berg

State of Idaho
(701) 228-5483

Economic Action Program (EAP)

The traditional Rural Community Assistance (RCA) and Forest Products Conservation and Recycling (FPC&R) programs come under the broader Economic Action Program. For fiscal year 2006, no funding was appropriated for the RCA or FPC&R programs and funding for the general EAP program was for specific congressional earmarks and for a national woody biomass utilization grant program. This grant program is being administered by the Technology Marketing Unit at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI. Therefore, the focus for the EAP program will be to administer existing grants, assist in promoting the national woody biomass utilization grant program, promote forest products technology and to position the region and our partners to be ready to utilize increased funding in biomass utilization, if Congress appropriates the funds.

Woody Biomass Utilization Grant

The Woody Biomass Utilization Grant program seeks proposals that would create markets for small diameter and low valued trees removed during forest thinning and/or other restoration projects.

Improved utilization and expanded markets for biomass material can help reduce forest restoration costs by increasing the value, creating incentives, decreasing business risks, and helping remove economic and market barriers for using small-diameter trees and woody biomass.



Of special interest are projects that accelerate the adoption of technologies employing woody biomass and small-diameter materials. This grant also aims to create community based enterprises through marketing activities and demonstration projects and to also establish small scale business enterprises to make use of biomass and small-diameter materials. Such projects will improve forest health and help vitalize rural communities whose forest-based economies have suffered in recent years.

Forest Products Technology

The Forest Products Technology promotes the efficient use of wood fiber, particularly small diameter trees and other woody material thus extending the useful life of forest products and improving the use of wood and fiber wastes. It also stimulates the development and manufacture of value-added forest products.

The benefits of the Economic Action Program are:

- ◆ Stronger local economies through diversified forest product markets and local value added products.
- ◆ Restored watersheds and forest and grassland ecosystems. Turn “waste” wood into energy and wood products.
- ◆ Rebuilding or improving upon good community working relationships.
- ◆ Capacity building within rural communities.

Key Partners for Economic Action programs include:

- ◆ National Forests and Ranger Districts
- ◆ Local and State non-profit and for-profit corporations, including forest product primary and secondary manufacturers and Resource Conservation and Development Areas, other forest products specialists, state use and marketing specialists
- ◆ State universities and colleges
- ◆ Indian Tribes
- ◆ State and local governments, including State Departments of Commerce, State Foresters, and State Economic Development Departments
- ◆ USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI
- ◆ Other federal agencies
- ◆ Small Business Development Centers (SBDC’s)
- ◆ State Rural Development Partnerships

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands

- ◆ Efficient use of unused or under-used small diameter wood fiber – a solution for forest health, wild fire, and ecosystem restoration issues.
- ◆ Technical assistance and advice for planning and implementing projects for use of bio-fuels in generation and co-generation projects, manufacture of products such as composite plastics and laminates, use and manufacture of engineered structural systems using small diameter material, and other uses or products from small diameter and other woody material.
- ◆ Marketing forest products technology for sustainable rural economic development.
 - Identifying customer problems and needs and linking them to appropriate technologies and CF programs
 - Communicating problems and needs to FPL and other researchers where technologies do not exist
 - Raising customer awareness to opportunities and technical solutions to problems
 - Commercializing technology through teams and partnerships

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands (continued)

- ◆ Training, demonstrations and workshops for people in rural forest-based industries on technical advances in technologies for forest products and efficient uses of woody material that help forest managers meet forest management objectives and rural communities develop sustainable businesses.
- ◆ Linking community planning, projects, and values more closely with natural resources and forest planning

Economic Action Program Coordinators:

Scott Bell

USDA Forest Service, Northern & Intermountain
Regions, State & Private Forestry

Phone: (801)625-5259

sbell@fs.fed.us

David Atkins

USDA Forest Service, Northern & Intermountain
Regions, State & Private Forestry

Phone: (406) 329-3134

datkins@fs.fed.us

Fuels for Schools

What is Fuels for Schools?

In partnership with the Bitter Root RC& D and the 5 State Foresters in Idaho, North Dakota, Montana, Nevada and Utah, we have devoted a portion of our National Fire Plan Economic Action Program funding to help rural school districts convert to biomass heat.

What does Fuels for Schools do?

Using technology that has been well established in the Eastern United States, the Fuels For Schools Program provides grant funding and technical assistance for conversions to biomass heat. The program benefits landowners by developing small, consistent local markets for wood waste removed in hazardous fuel reduction projects. It benefits communities by replacing potentially hazardous emissions from open burning with clean burning wood fired furnaces that compare favorably to today's oil, natural gas or propane systems. And it benefits schools by lowering fixed heating costs by 50 percent!



In Phase 1 of the Fuels For Schools program, we have funded over a dozen feasibility studies and selected 5 demonstration sites to receive grants for construction. Our first demonstration project is complete—it started heating Darby, Montana's three schools in October of 2003. The remaining demonstrations will be built in the summer of 2004 in Ely, Nevada, Bonners Ferry & Council, Idaho, and Bottineau, North Dakota.



In Phase 2 of the program, we are continuing to fund feasibility studies, and State Foresters and State & Private Forestry are granting funds to construct biomass heating systems in schools throughout our 5-state area. This operational phase will continue through 2008 as we secure other funding sources. In Phase 3, we will transition from a public/private partnership to phase out public funding as the program becomes self-sustaining.

Key Partners:

- ◆ State Foresters in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Nevada and Utah
- ◆ Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
- ◆ USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory
- ◆ Local public school districts, school superintendents, principals, and school boards
- ◆ State, local and private landowners implementing fire hazard reduction projects
- ◆ National Forests' District & Forest line officers, and fire & interdisciplinary team staffs.

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

This program provides a tremendous opportunity for the Forest Service to facilitate solutions to a mix of problems that are common to rural communities throughout our regions. The Fuels for Schools program addresses:

- ◆ The desire of community and neighboring landowners to treat forested acres in the wildland-urban interface,
- ◆ The establishment of a commercial, sustainable-scaled use for previously non-merchantable material,
- ◆ The creation of new jobs in the woods and in the community,
- ◆ The opportunity to save the rural school district 50% in annual heating costs,
- ◆ The added benefits of reducing dependency on non-renewable, fossil fuels,
- ◆ Much cleaner burning of materials from slash piles, and
- ◆ An expanded natural resource-based curriculum for students, for
- ◆ A solution that is a winner from every angle.

District Rangers can visit with their local school boards and help facilitate this opportunity.

Program Coordinators:

For more information or to seek funding or technical assistance in your community, visit www.fuelsforschools.org or contact one of the program managers:

David Atkins

USDA Forest Service, Northern & Intermountain
Regions, State & Private Forestry
Phone: (406) 329-3134
datkins@fs.fed.us

Mike Tennery

Idaho Department of Lands
Phone: (208) 659-3752
ffsidaho@adelphia.net

Rob Ethridge

Montana Department of Natural Resources &
Conservation
Phone: (406) 542-4303
rethridge@state.mt.us

Jackson Bird

North Dakota Forest Service
Phone: (701) 328-9945
W.Bird@ndsu.nodak.edu

Rich Harvey

Nevada Division of Forestry
Phone: (775) 684-2507
rharvey@ndf.state.nv.us

Dave Schen

Utah Division of Forestry,
Fire & State Lands
Phone: (801) 538-5504
daveschen@utah.gov

Tom Coston or Kit Sutherland

Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
Phone: (406) 363-1444
bitterrootcd@cybernet1.com

Urban and Community Forestry

What is the Urban and Community Forestry Program?

More communities throughout the West are taking an interest in the trees and vegetation that line their Main Streets, shade their city parks and provide windbreaks for their schools' playgrounds and athletic fields. The State & Private Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program provides tools for the State Foresters and Forest Service employees to support rural residents' interest in their communities' forests. This program:

- ◆ Provides a comprehensive urban forestry program to establish, maintain, and/or improve trees and forests within communities, thereby enhancing the quality of life of the people.
- ◆ Improves public awareness of the importance of trees.
- ◆ Fosters volunteer participation in community forestry projects and programs.
- ◆ Provides technical and cost/share assistance to communities for implementing community tree programs.
- ◆ Assists communities in gaining Tree City-USA status.

How is the program delivered to interested communities?

State Foresters and their staff provide the primary delivery of this program.



Key Partners:

Primary

State Foresters

Secondary

State Community Forestry Advisory Councils
State League of Cities organizations
Nursery associations
Tribes
Volunteer organizations
Community tree boards
Forest Service volunteers
Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&Ds)

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Assist communities in starting and/or operating community tree boards.
- ◆ Help prepare requests for proposals for cost/share community tree projects.
- ◆ Become involved with communities to implement community tree projects.
- ◆ Provide technical assistance to establish and maintain community trees.
- ◆ Assist communities in attaining Tree City-USA status.

Key Contact:

Program Coordinator:

Margie Ewing

R1/R4 Program Manager
(406) 329-3539

State Coordinators:

Kelley Gundale

Missoula, MT
406-542-4284

Meridith Perkins

Salt Lake City, UT
801-538-5505

Dave Stephenson

Couer d'Alene, ID
208-666-8621

Jackson Bird

Bismark, ND
701-328-9945

Susan Stead

Reno, NV
775-684-2506

Resource Conservation and Development Partners

What is RC&D?

The Resource Conservation and Development Program, better known as RC&D, engages people to identify and solve human, economic, and environmental problems in their communities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. NRCS provides funds for a coordinator and gives other support for each RC&D area. But it is the local council and volunteers that make each RC&D area unique.

What do RC&D's do?

- ◆ Land Conservation - Protecting the resource base and finding the best ways to use it.
- ◆ Water Management - Protecting and enhancing ground water supplies and improving water quality, agricultural water management, and flood control.
- ◆ Community Development - Establishing and improving community services, facilities, and infrastructure. Preparing feasibility studies; creating or improving recreational areas; and developing, improving, and promoting historic sites and tourist attractions.
- ◆ Encourage the best use of forest lands and resources and also create and expand forest-related industries with a focus on expanding markets and creating jobs.
- ◆ Environmental Enhancement Projects - Conserving energy; creating and improving fish and wildlife habitat; developing and improving wetland habitat; and safely utilizing waste.
- ◆ Working with the Forest Service and State Forester, provide critical local facilitation to establish Community Fire Plans and assist in implementing the National Fire Plan on private and state lands within the interface.

Who Is Involved in an RC&D and How do they work?

Most RC&D Councils are non-profit corporations, comprised of local citizens and agency employees that represent sponsoring organizations, which include county governments, soil and water conservation districts, towns, water districts, and other nonprofit groups as well as communities, ranchers and farmers, and businesses. Most members have a mutual interest in helping with economic development and resource conservation projects in primarily rural areas.

Key Partners:

This program is administered through NRCS in conjunction with non-profit RC&D Associations. Key partners include:

- ◆ National Association of RC&D Councils
- ◆ Forest Service
- ◆ County and town governments
- ◆ Environmental organizations
- ◆ State Economic Development agencies
- ◆ State Tourism departments
- ◆ National Association of Conservation Districts
- ◆ State Commerce Departments
- ◆ State Foresters

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Co-leaders with RC&D organizations in planning and implementing rural development and environmental programs and projects across all ownerships in a county or counties within an RC&D area.
- ◆ Cooperate and coordinate numerous activities with RC&D's to improve economic and environmental conditions. RC&Ds can leverage scarce financial resources into needed project support.
- ◆ National Forests and Grasslands may build MOUs and cost-share agreements to gain community interest and support for natural resource projects. RC&Ds can coordinate natural resource projects among various interests across boundaries.
- ◆ Non-profit groups can operate with great flexibility in many arena's where federal agencies are restricted. Partnering with non-profits increases an agency's capacity to serve customers.

Key Contact:

Margie Ewing

R1/R4 RC&D Program Coordinator
(406) 329-3539

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
Coordinators

IDAHO

Idaho RC&D Association (IRCDCA)

Kent Rudeen, President
2860 Cold Creek Road
American Falls, ID 83211
Phone: 208-221-1010
Krudeen@dcdi.net

BEAR RIVER RC&D

Scott Ferguson
1860 North 100 East
North Logan, UT 84341
Phone: 435-753-3871 (34) Fax: 435-755-2117
Scott.Ferguson@ut.usda.gov

CLEARWATER RC&D

Daniel R. Pierce
220 E. 5th St., Rm 212 B
P.O. Box 9576
Moscow, ID 83843
Phone: 208-882-4960 (4) Fax: 208-883-4239
Dan.Pierce@id.usda.gov

HIGH COUNTRY RC&D

Steven W. Smart
263-1/2 E. 4th N.
Rexburg, ID 83440
Phone: 208-356-5213 (5) Fax: 208-356-7240
Steve.Smart@id.usda.gov

MID-SNAKE RC&D

Julie Thomas
1441 Fillmore St., Suite A
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-733-5380 (3) Fax: 208-734-5138
Forest Service Phone: 208-737-3262
Forest Service Fax: 208-737-3236
Julie.Thomas@id.usda.gov or jathomas@fs.fed.us

PANHANDLE LAKES RC&D

Kim E. Golden
7830 Meadowlark Way, Suite C - 1
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
Phone: 208-762-4939 Fax: 208-762-9859
Kim.Golden@id.usda.gov

SOUTHWEST IDAHO RC&D

Bill Moore
132 Southwest 5th Ave.
Meridian, ID 83642
Phone: 208-888-1890 (4) Fax: 208-888-1536
swidrcd@idahorcd.org

THREE RIVERS RC&D

Paula A. Jones
1551 Baldy St., Suite No. 2
Pocatello, ID 83201
Phone: 208-237-4628 (4) Fax: 208-237-3412
Paula.Jones@id.usda.gov

WEST CENTRAL HIGHLANDS RC&D

Russel E. Manwaring
1805 Highway 16, Room 2
Emmett, ID 83617
Phone: 208-365-4475 (4) Fax: 208-365-7183
wchrcd@idahorcd.org

WOOD RIVER RC&D

Polly Huggins
215 University Drive
Gooding ID 83330
Phone: 208-934-4149 (4) Fax: 208-934-4327
Polly.Huggins@id.usda.gov

MONTANA

Montana RC&D Association
Dave Kascht - President
Federal Building, Rm 443,
10 East Babcock
Bozeman, Mt. 59715
Phone: 406-587-6794
Fax: 406- 587-6761

BEARTOOTH RC&D

Meta Loftsgarden
P.O. Box D
604 West Front
Joliet, MT 59041
Phone: 406-962-3914
Fax: 406- 962-3995

BITTER ROOT RC&D

Kit Sutherland
1709 N. First St.
Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: 406-363-5450
Fax: 406-363-5011

CENTRAL MONTANA RC&D

Monty Sealey
P.O. Box 656
Roundup, MT 59072
Phone: 406-323-2755
Fax: 406-323-1548

EASTERN PLAINS RC&D

Michael Carlson
123 West Main
Sidney, MT 59270
Phone: 406-433-5024
Fax: 406-433-5306

HEADWATERS RC&D

Judie Tilman
305 W. Mercury
Butte, MT 59701
Phone: 406-782-7333
Fax: 406-782-9675

NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA RC&D

Dennis DeVries
P.O. Box 919
Shelby, MT 59474-1641
Phone: 406-434-9161
Fax: 406-434-2718

NORTHWEST REGIONAL RC&D

Sue Wight
905 West 9th
Libby, MT 59923
Phone: 406-293-8885
Fax: 406-293-3222

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN RC&D

Josh Keller
502 South 19th Avenue, Suite 105
Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone: 406-582-5700
Fax: 406-582-5855

NEVADA

WESTERN NEVADA RC&D

Dan Kaffer
PO Box 3543
Carson City, NV 89702
Phone: 775-883-2292
Fax: 775-883-5348

HIGH DESERT RC&D

Teri Knight
5820 S. Pecos Rd., Bldg A, Suite
400
Las Vegas, NV 89120
Phone: 702-262-9047
Fax: 702-736-7415

DaKa DOYABE RC&D

Gerald Miller
2002 Idaho St.
Elko, NV 89801
Phone: 775-738-8431
Fax: 775-738-7229

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota RC&D Association, Inc.

Helen Schatz, President
400 West Brandon Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503-0221
Phone: 701-223-8165
Email: hdschatz@bis.midco.net

James Schmidt – RC & D Program Manager

220 East Rosser
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58501-1458
Phone: 701-530-2074

WILLISTON BASIN RC&D

Jeffrey Roel
22 E. Broadway, Box 697
Williston, ND 58802-0697
Phone: 701-774-1382 Fax: 701-774-1363
Email: willrcd@nd.usda.gov

LAKE AGASSIZ RC&D

Jay T. Mar
417 Main Avenue
Fargo, ND 58103
Phone: 701-239-5373 Fax: 701-235-6706
Email: jay.mar@nd.usda.gov

UPPER DAKOTA RC&D

Allan Pfliger
4215 Burdick Expressway East
Minot, ND 58701
Phone: 701-839-8297 Fax: 701-838-8955
Email: allan.pfliger@nd.usda.gov

SOUTH CENTRAL RC&D

Carol Peterson
210 10th St. E, Box 903
Jamestown, ND 58401
Phone: 701-251-1696 Fax: 701-252-4930
Email: carol.peterson@nd.usda.gov

NORTHERN PLAINS RC&D

Jill Haakenson
512 4th Street
Devils Lake, ND 58301
Phone: 701-662-7956 Fax: 701-662-4172
Email: jill.haakenson@nd.usda.gov

DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D

Wayne Markegard
919 S 7th St., Suite 306
Bismarck, ND 58504
Phone: 701-250-4222 FAX: 701-250-4221
Email: wayne.markegard@nd.usda.gov

RED RIVER RC&D

Paul Wellman
516 Cooper Ave
Grafton, ND 58237
Phone: 701-352-0127 Fax: 701-352-3015
Email: paul.wellman@nd.usda.gov

DAKOTA WEST RC&D

Jared Andrist
40 1st Ave. W., Suite 204
Dickinson, ND 58601-5103
Phone: 701--225-8721 Fax: 701-530-2103
Email: jared.andrist@nd.usda.gov

UTAH

BEAR RIVER RC&D

Scott Ferguson
1860 North 100 East
North Logan, UT 84341
Phone: 435-753-3871 (7) Fax: 435-755-2117
Email: Scott.Ferguson@ut.usda.gov

GREAT SALT LAKE RC&D

Jeff Williams
1030 West 5370 South, Suite 100
Murray, UT 84123
Phone: 801-263-3204 ext: 104
Email: Jeff.Williams@ut.usda.gov

CASTLELANDS RC&D

Wayne Urie
PO Box 1114
1120 North Des Bee Dove Road
Castle Dale, UT 84513-1114
Phone: 435-381-2300 ext: 103
Fax: 435-381-9656
Email: Wayne.Urie@ut.usda.gov

COLOR COUNTRY RC&D

Vacant
2460 W. Highway 56, #5
Cedar City, UT 84720
Phone: 435-586-7449
FAX: 435-586-7249

DINOSAURLAND RC&D

Vacant
240 W. Hwy 40 (333-4)
Roosevelt, UT 84066
Phone: 435-722-0884 ext: 102
FAX: 435-722-9065

UINTA HEADWATERS RC&D

Barbara Carey
2210 South Highway 40, Suite B
Heber City UT 84032
Phone: 435-657-1465
FAX: 435-654-0371
Email: Barbara.Carey@ut.usda.gov

PANORAMALAND RC&D

Linda Lind
340 North. 600 East
Richfield, UT 84701
Phone: 435-896-8965 (42)
FAX: 435-896-2002
Email: Linda.Lind@ut.usda.gov

Natural Resource Conservation Education

What is the Natural Resource Conservation Education Program?

The Natural Resource Conservation Education Program enhances existing local, State and Federal education programs and strengthens partnerships between education organizations and natural resource managers by:

- ◆ Increasing the awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of natural resources and ecosystems.
- ◆ Helping develop critical thinking skills needed to recognize the complexity of resource issues and make realistic choices.
- ◆ Encouraging individual responsibility for conserving natural resources and using them wisely.

Key Partners Include:

- ◆ State Foresters are our primary partners. S&PF Natural Resource Conservation Education fund are granted to the State Forester to support each State's conservation education efforts.
- ◆ Education associations
- ◆ National Forests
- ◆ Other federal agencies targeting forest visitors, youth, and urban communities

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands

- ◆ Partnership with state foresters in developing a quality program on Natural Resource Conservation Education
- ◆ Funding for both State and National Forests is very small. Coordinating between the two agencies helps leverage funds.

Key Contacts for Program:

Program Coordinator:

Forest Service Margie Ewing - Regions 1 and 4
Phone: (406) 329-3230
Fax (406) 329-3132
Email: mewing@fs.fed.us

State Coordinators

Idaho Dave Stephenson
Phone: (208) 666-8621
Email: dstephenson@idl.state.id.us

Montana Robert Moler
Phone: (406) 542-4326
Email: rmoler@state.mt.us

Nevada Rich Harvey
Phone: (702) 684-2507
Email: rharvey@ndf.state.nv.us

North
Dakota Glenda Fauske
Phone: 701-228-5446
Email: gfauske@sendit.nodak.edu

Utah Maggie Shao
Phone: (801) 538-5505
Email: margaretshao@utah.gov

State Fire Assistance

What is State Fire Assistance?

The State Fire Assistance program provides financial and technical support directly to the States, to enhance firefighting capacity, support community-based hazard mitigation, and expand outreach and education to homeowners and communities concerning fire prevention. The program requires a 50-50 match by the State—the delivery system is through the State Forester.

As a result of the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the hazardous fuels (HF) reduction component is a major part of the SFA program. The HF application and selection process is managed by the Western States Fire Managers. The HF fuels component, along with most other fuels mitigation funds provided by federal agencies and the state is coordinated through a collaborative inter-agency effort.

Benefits of the State Fire Assistance Program:

- ◆ Complements federal firefighting forces to optimize fire protection across ownerships.
- ◆ Complements hazardous mitigation efforts across ownerships to reduce risk to communities.
- ◆ Enhances local fire protection entities capability and capacity (training, equipment, preparedness, and education).
- ◆ Provides a fire protection training link to volunteer fire departments.
- ◆ Engages communities and homeowner to recognize interface fire hazards and to provide opportunities to develop local solutions.



Key Partners:

Primary

- ◆ State Foresters in ND, MT, ID, NV and UT

Secondary

- ◆ State Emergency Management Agencies
- ◆ State Fire Marshals
- ◆ Other Federal Agencies
- ◆ Grazing Associations
- ◆ Tribes
- ◆ Rural Fire Departments
- ◆ Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Coordinate fire prevention, fire preparedness, pre-suppression, hazard mitigation, and suppression activities with State Foresters and local cooperators.
- ◆ Provide training opportunities for local fire departments and mutually assist each other in wildland suppression activities.
- ◆ Work locally with communities and cooperators to identify opportunities to work with each other, especially in the wildland-urban interface.

Program Coordinators:

Nevada and Utah

Forest Service Program Coordinator
Ken Kiser
(801) 625 – 5264
kkiser@fs.fed.us

Idaho, Montana and North Dakota

Forest Service Program Coordinator
Cathy Scofield
(406) 329 - 3409
cscofield@fs.fed.us

State Coordinators:

Nevada

Nevada Division of Forestry
Mike Dondero
(775) 684 – 2500
mndondero@ndf.state.nv.us

Idaho

ID Department of Lands Program Manager
Brian Shipllett
(208) 666 - 8650
bshipllett@idl.state.id.us

Utah

Utah Department of Natural Resources
Tracy Dunford (Acting)
(801) 538 – 5502
tracydunford@utah.gov

Montana

MT Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation Program Manager
Tim Murphy
(406) 542 – 4304
timurphy@state.mt.us

North Dakota

North Dakota Forest Service Program Manager
Mike Santucci
(701) 328 – 9946
Mike.Santucci@ndsu.nodak.edu

Volunteer Fire Assistance

What is the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFA)?

The delivery system for the VFA program is through the State Forester. The program provides financial, technical, and other assistance to rural communities with a population of less than 10,000 matched on a 50-50 basis either by the state or community.

Benefits include:

- ◆ Available funding to renovate equipment obtained through the Federal Excess Personal Property program
- ◆ Improved fire protection capabilities and capacity in rural areas, to protect lives, property, and other rural investments.
- ◆ Improved effectiveness of fire protection in wildland urban interface areas.
- ◆ Complements state and federal firefighting forces by optimizing fire protection across all ownerships.
- ◆ Complements the Rural Fire Assistance program provided by the Bureau of Land Management.

Key Partners:

Primary

- ◆ State Foresters in ND, MT, ID, NV and UT

Secondary

- ◆ State Emergency Management Agencies
- ◆ State Fire Marshals
- ◆ Rural Fire Departments
- ◆ RC & D's

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

Forest Service personnel work with local fire departments to identify ways to increase their collective capacity and capabilities. Provide coordinated training opportunities to mutually assist each other as appropriate. Examples include shared training opportunities and mutual aid agreements.



Program Coordinators:

Nevada and Utah

Forest Service Program Coordinator
Ken Kiser
(801) 625 – 5264
kkiser@fs.fed.us

Idaho, Montana and North Dakota

Forest Service Program Coordinator
Cathy Scofield
(406) 329 - 3409
cscofield@fs.fed.us

State Coordinators:

Nevada

Nevada Division of Forestry
Mike Dondero
(775) 684 – 2500
mdondero@ndf.state.nv.us

Idaho

ID Department of Lands Program Manager
Brian Shiplett
(208) 666 - 8650
bshiplett@idl.state.id.us

Utah

Utah Department of Natural Resources
Tracy Dunford (Acting)
(801) 538 – 5502
tracydunford@utah.gov

Montana

MT Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation Program Manager
Mike Weiderhold
(406) 542 – 4206
miweiderhold@state.mt.us

North Dakota

North Dakota Forest Service Program Manager
David Geyer
(701) 328 – 9985
David.Geyer@ndsu.nodak.edu

Federal Excess Personal Property

What is the Federal Excess Personal Property Program?

This program is administered by the USDA Forest Service and SGA with delivery through the State Forester. The program is currently going through a change including a new Memorandum of Agreement between the USDA Forest Service and the Department of Defense.

The FEPP program re-utilizes excess federal property obtained from military and other federal sources for use in rural and wildland firefighting. This equipment is loaned by agreement to State Forester who can in turn, loan it to local firefighting organizations. It is also available to State Forester's to utilize within the state fire program, including FEPP aircraft. The state has the option to complete the "build-up" or require the local recipient to complete the work.

Benefits include:

- ◆ Enhanced State and local fire protection capabilities by providing important equipment at a fraction of the cost of purchasing new or used.
- ◆ Complements the State Fire Assistance Program and the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fire protection across all ownerships.



Key Partners:

Primary

- ◆ State Foresters in ND, MT, ID, NV and UT

Secondary

- ◆ State Emergency Management Agencies
- ◆ State Fire Marshals
- ◆ Rural Fire Departments
- ◆ Other Federal Agencies
- ◆ Military Organizations
- ◆ Grazing Associations in North Dakota
- ◆ Counties

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

Forest Service personnel can assist by identifying excess property that may be used by State and local fire organizations, and by encouraging local fire departments to pursue needed equipment through this program.

Federal Excess Personal Property Program Coordinators:

Nevada and Utah

Forest Service Program Coordinator

Ken Kiser

(801) 625 – 5264

kkiser@fs.fed.us

Idaho, Montana and North Dakota

Forest Service Program Coordinator

Cathy Scofield

(406) 329 - 3409

cscofield@fs.fed.us

State Coordinators:

Nevada

Nevada Division of Forestry

Mike Smith

(775) 684 – 2519

mwsmith@forestry.nv.gov

Idaho

ID Department of Lands Program Manager

George Riffle

(208) 666 - 8664

griffle@idl.state.id.us

Utah

Utah Department of Natural Resources

Murl Rawlins

(801) 560-7783

mrawlins@utah.gov

Montana

MT Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation Program Manager

Duane Erickson

(406) 542 – 4273

derickson@state.mt.us

North Dakota

North Dakota Forest Service Program Manager

John Christianson

(701) 228-3700

John.Christianson@ndsu.nodak.edu

Grants Administration ~ Technical Assistance & Implementation

Members of the State & Private Forestry Staff Can Assist You in:

- ◆ Completing applications for grant assistance
- ◆ Requesting reimbursements
- ◆ Administrative support for record keeping
- ◆ Clarification of technical terminology

Who We Help with Grant Administration:

- ◆ Communities
- ◆ Forests or Grasslands administering the grants
- ◆ States
- ◆ Tribes
- ◆ Non-profit organizations
- ◆ Universities and colleges

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands

- ◆ Training available on grants and cooperative agreements
- ◆ Call-when-needed resource for information on:
 - Regulations and authorities
 - Matching requirements
 - Form requirements

Grant Administrators

Dorothy Sharp
Phone (406) 329-3542
FAX (406) 329-3132
Email dsharp@fs.fed.us

Lynne Sholty
Phone (406) 329-3003
FAX (406) 329-3132
Email lsholty@fs.fed.us

Tribal Government Relations

What is the Tribal Government Relations Program?

Tribal Relations exists to assist line and staff officers in the Forest Service to

- ◆ Fulfill the unique relationship and obligation the United States Government has with federally recognized Indian tribes, and to
- ◆ Assist in the development and implementation of Forest Service interests in establishing a mutual and beneficial partnership with our American Indian neighbors.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for partnership building opportunities with Tribes to facilitate economic development assistance through State & Private programs.

The goals of Tribal Relations are to assist Forest Service Line and Staff officers:

- ◆ Maintain a governmental relationship with federally acknowledged tribal governments
- ◆ Implement our programs and activities honoring and fulfilling legally mandated trust responsibilities on National Forest System lands
- ◆ Administer programs and activities to address and be sensitive to traditional Indian religious beliefs and practices, and
- ◆ Provide research, transfer or technology, and technical assistance to tribal governments.

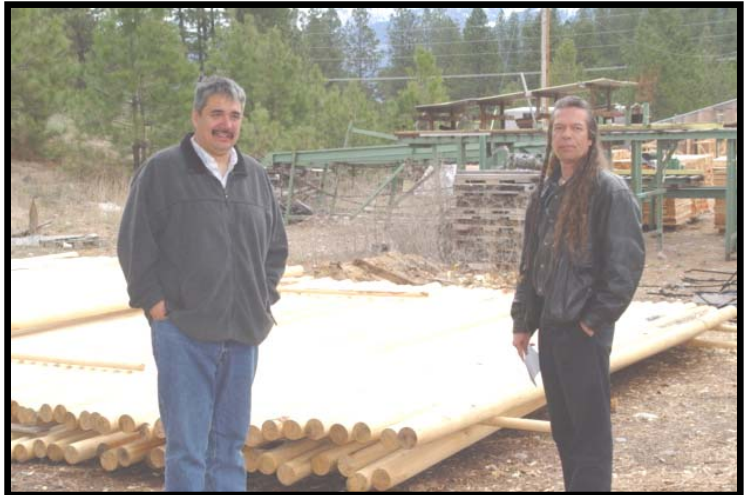
Services Provided by the Program Include:

The Tribal Government Staff Assistant provides assistance in three primary areas, including:

1. **EDUCATION/TRAINING.** This includes developing and presenting training on Forest Service responsibility in the federal and tribal relationship such as Treaty Workshops, and in Protocol and Consultation with Tribal Governments.
2. **RESEARCH.** Assistance can be provided in researching tribal claims or positions, historical Indian claims or requests regarding NFS lands, and to better understand current issues and policies.
3. **TECHNICAL SUPPORT and ADVICE.** Tribal Relations Program Managers can help Line and Staff Officers better understand current events and emerging issues, and provide advice regarding official correspondence with Tribes, political relationships between Tribal governments, in drafting planning documents, and when creating MOU's or MOA's with Tribes or planning interagency activities.

Key Partners Include:

- ◆ Tribal Governments
- ◆ Forest Supervisors
- ◆ District Rangers
- ◆ State Foresters
- ◆ Other Federal Agencies



Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

National Forests are the primary interface with federally acknowledged tribes. The following is a brief list of opportunities that can develop by utilizing the Tribal Relations Specialists.

- ◆ Broadening the knowledge of FS employees regarding the wide range of tribal government interests;
- ◆ Coordination of efforts to address tribal government concern among effected FS programs;
- ◆ Assessing priorities at the National and Regional level and developing methods to address them.

Key Contacts for Region 1 and Region 4:

VACANT
(406) 329 – 3348
Missoula, MT

Diana Yupe
(801) 625 – 5370
Ogden, UT
dyupe@fs.fed.us

Legislative Affairs & Marketing

What is the Legislative Affairs & Marketing Program?

Legislative Coordination

- ◆ Build relationships with State and national Congressional staffs to ensure they realize how State & Private Forestry programs can benefit their constituents.
- ◆ Coordinate Congressional visits and write briefs for Regional Foresters/State Foresters to promote State & Private Forestry programs in the West.
- ◆ Arrange field tours for Congressional members, our partners and State & Private Forestry staff members.
- ◆ Work with Western Forestry Leadership Coalition promoting West-wide issues.
- ◆ Provide information on State & Private Forestry programs and accomplishments for hearings on forest health, economic action programs, noxious weeds, etc.

Marketing Coordination/Communications

- ◆ Provide training regarding marketing as a tool.
- ◆ Design marketing strategies for the staff groups and programs.
- ◆ Work with local media - newspapers, TV, etc. - to tell our story and share our successes.
- ◆ Design and prepare communication materials and State Fact Sheets.



Key Partners and Customers:

Congressional delegations from Montana, Idaho, Nevada, North Dakota, and Utah

- ◆ State Foresters and their staffs in all five states
- ◆ National Association of State Foresters
- ◆ Council of Western State Foresters - Legislative Director
- ◆ Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
- ◆ Western Board of Directors - Regional Foresters and State Foresters
- ◆ Washington Office - S&PF leadership, legislative affairs & national leadership
- ◆ Regional Foresters, and Forest and District level employees within National Forest System and Research
- ◆ RC&D Coordinators and Rural Community Assistance Teams

Opportunities for National Forests and Grasslands:

- ◆ Gain knowledge of Congressional delegation in 5 States - what they value and will support – and knowledge of S&PF programs, partners to assist, and ideas on how and where to engage.
- ◆ Technical assistance and advice on marketing strategies

Program Coordinators:

Nan Christianson

(406) 363-7113

nchristianson@fs.fed.us

Angela Farr

(406) 329-3650

afarr@fs.fed.us