

# WYOMING STATE FORESTRY DIVISION

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**Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Committee**

**September 10, 2024**

**Kelly Norris, Wyoming State Forester**



# Wyoming State Forestry Division



State Forestry is part of the Office of State Lands and Investments. The State Forester is mandated to “have direction of all forest interests and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of Wyoming”

## Wyoming State Forestry Mission:

- **Conserving** working forests by promoting sound forest management practices.
- **Protecting** forest resources and other values against wildfire and forest health threats while preparing to manage new forests.
- **Enhancing** benefits through improved management of Wyoming’s varied forest resources in communities, riparian areas, and mountain ranges.

**Values: Conserve. Protect. Enhance.**

## 3 Areas of Program Implementation:

- State Trust Land Management
- Fire Management
- Assistance Forestry





# Wyoming State Forestry Division

## State Trust Lands:

- Approximately 263,000 acres are considered to be forested. Estimate approximately 170,000 acres of timber lands available for harvesting across the State.
- In FY 2024, State Forestry sold 3.5 MMBF of timber on 918 acres of State Trust Lands.
  - Generated \$97,192 in revenue
  - 1 post-fire salvage timber sale on State Trust Lands went no bid
- State Forestry has an active thinning program on State Trust Lands. In FY 2024, we contracted 1,287 acres of forest health thinning.





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## Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Program Update



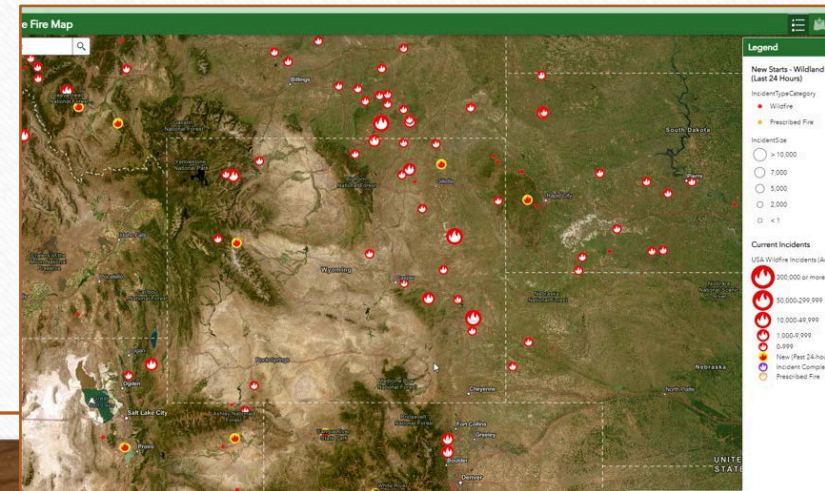
- Currently, State Forestry has 20 active USFS agreement, across 6 National Forests and 2 Regions. We also have 3 active BLM agreements. These agreements total 9.2 million in funding.
- GNA Staffing: Consists of 4 full-time GNA foresters, 1 GNA seasonal forester, and 1 program manager.
- In FY2024, Sold 6.3 MMBF of timber on 1,631 acres. Approx. 2,795 acres of service contract work was completed – fuels mitigation, aspen enhancement, NEPA surveys, and thinning projects.
- Program Highlights:
  - Expanded program to include a new GNA forester position in the Shoshone NF
  - Conducted first service contract for NEPA wildlife surveys
  - Sold Roughneck Timber sale – 1,400 acres to South and Jones Sawmill

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## Fire Management:

- All 23 Wyoming Counties participate in the Emergency Fire Suppression Account (EFSA)
- 15 EFSA approved wildfires in 2024.
  - 3 FMAG approved wildfires
- Initial attack has been average to above average for the fire season. Most fires have been lightning caused fires.
- As of September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024:
  - Wyoming Helitack: 57 missions, 187.7 flight hours
  - SEATs: 49 fires, 275 sorties, 55,080 gallons
  - Smokebusters: 26 wildfires in 9 Counties
- Wyoming State Forestry interactive fire map located on State Forestry's website – Fire Management
- **Fire season is not over!**





**CONFERENCE DETAILS**

SEPTEMBER 26-27  
MAIN CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 25  
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS  
Limited Availability  
• Plant Health Care  
• Tree Climbing Basics

**WTA 2024 CONFERENCE**  
BUILDING RESILIENT CANOPIES

CAMPLEX FRONTIER HALL, GILLETTE, WY

REGISTER NOW

To Get the Early Bird Discount!  
\$50 off Main Conference and  
\$10 off Pre-Conference Workshop Tickets

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## Assistance Forestry:

- In 2024, WSFD was awarded 4.7 million in grant funding through the US Forest Service state and private program to deliver cooperative forestry assistance programs.
- A new Grants and Agreements Specialist position was added and filled to manage/administer the increasing amount of federal grants and Good Neighbor Authority agreements.

## Rural Forestry:

- **2024 Wyoming Landowner the Year:** Jack and Celia Corson, Belle-Otte Ranch, Inc
- Munger Mountain Phase 3 Forest Legacy Project

## Fuels Mitigation:

- Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG): Awarded 6 Community Wildfire Protection Plans = \$849,500
- Community Assistance Funds Adjacent to NF (CAFA): 3 fuels projects = \$899,475

## Community Forestry:

- Wyoming Tree Academy Conference – September 26-27 @ CAMPLEX, Gillette, WY

## Forest Health:

- Included a mid-season forest health report from aerial survey program.



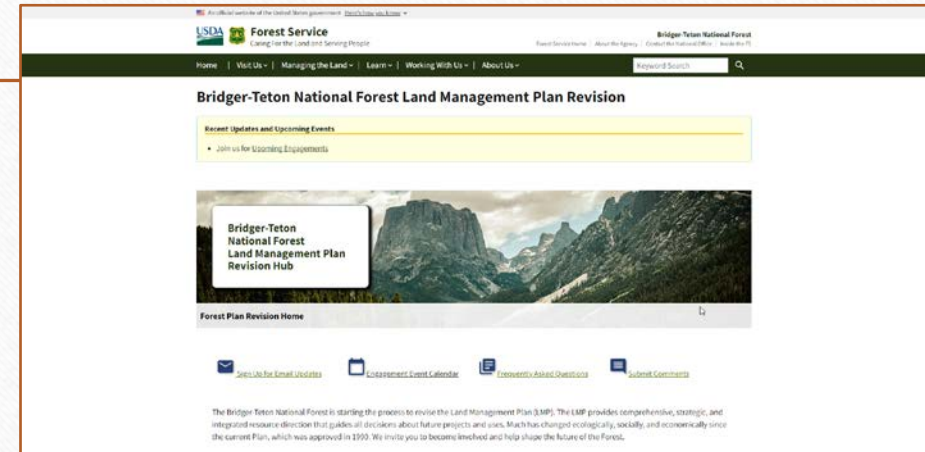
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## US Forest Plan Revisions: Still in beginning phases

- Black Hills Forest Plan: Final assessments completed.
  - Lidar data is being processed. Field data is completed and is going through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit – University of Wyoming. Still on track to have all products available spring 2025.
- Bridger-Teton Forest Plan: Draft assessments will be available for review this fall.
- Medicine Bow-Routt Forest Plan: Revision start date has been pushed back a few years due to capacity issues with the National Old Growth Amendment.

## National Old Growth Amendment

- Currently, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is out for public comment. Public comments are due September 20, 2024 with a planned Record of Decision to be signed January 2025.
- State Forestry Leadership Team was created with State Forestry, WCCA, WACD, additional state agencies, and the Governor's office to create support, consistent communication, and help develop comments.



# Thank you!

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