

Appendix A

Wyoming State Forestry Division

The Wyoming State Forestry Division was officially formed in 1952 by the Legislature. Under State Statute the State Forester is mandated to “have direction of all forest interests and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of the State of Wyoming.” The Forestry Division fulfills this charge by providing two basic programs to the people of the state; Forest Management and protection of State Trust Lands, and Forestry Assistance.

State Trust Land Management

The Forestry Division is responsible for the management of approximately 250,000 acres of forested trust land scattered around the state. This management includes timber management and harvest, and managing our state lands for long term forest health and productivity. The division is also directly responsible for fire protection and suppression on the 3.6 million surface acres of state trust land.

Assistance Forestry

The Division is also responsible for promotion of good forest management and protection throughout the state on all ownerships. This includes input, advice, and assistance to private landowners, communities, counties, fire districts, elected state leaders, and federal land management agencies. Much of the assistance forestry program is delivered through the partnership and financial support of the USDA Forest Service and their State & Private Programs.

The Wyoming State Forestry Division currently has 48 full time and 4 seasonal employees, along with 70 Department of Corrections inmates, to deliver services to the residents of the State of Wyoming. The Division is headquartered in Cheyenne, and has field offices in Douglas, Newcastle, Casper, Riverton, Buffalo, Pinedale, and Lyman. The Wyoming Conservation Inmate Program has crews based in Newcastle and Riverton. During the summer season the Division also has a seasonal Helitack fire crew based in Casper.

Mission

To utilize science based, professional forestry practices to establish, enhance, protect, and utilize Wyoming’s forests, trees, and associated resources to contribute to the socio-economic well being of Wyoming.

Appendix B

Wyoming State Forestry Advisory Committee Members (As of September, 2007):

Bill Crapser ----- State Forester (Chairman)

Senator Gerald E. Geis ---- Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee

Representative Doug Samuelson ----- Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

Bobbie Franks ----- Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

Jim Neiman ---- Wyoming Timber Industry Association

John Blaha --- State Fire Advisory Board

Dr. Frank Galey --- Dean, College of Agriculture, UW

Xavier Montoya --- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jane Darnell --- Bureau of Land Management

Lisa Olson ---- Wyoming Community Forestry Council

Tim Pexton ---- Private Forest Landowner

Ryan Lance --- Governors Office

Andrea Erickson --- The Nature Conservancy in WY

Mary Peterson ---- US Forest Service

Vacant ----- Landowner

Wyoming State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (as of September, 2007):

Mr. James Arnold --- Wyoming State Forestry Division

Ms. Kay Hawker --- Farm Service Agency

Mr. Tom Quinn --- Forestry Consultant

Mr. Ryan Amundson --- Pheasants Forever Representative

Mr. Bill Crapser --- Wyoming State Forester

Mr. Dennis Hemmer --- Laramie County Conservation District

Mr. Sam Weaver --- Forest Landowner

Ms. Jane Darnell --- Office of Federal Lands Policy, BLM

Dr. Joseph Kiesecker, Ph.D. --- The Nature Conservancy

Ms. Donna Cuin --- U.W. Cooperative Extension Service

Mr. Buck Peterson --- Forest Industry

Mr. Duane Cook --- Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

Appendix C

Wyoming Ecoregion Descriptions

(Largely taken from WSFD, USDA, 2001, Wyoming Forest Health Report)

The following is a description of forests and forest conditions on all forested lands using non-political, ecological land divisions to gain a more complete picture of forest conditions. Map 2 depicts Forest Health Monitoring plot locations and eco-region delineations for Wyoming. Bailey's (1995) Description of the Ecoregions of the United States is used here as a hierarchical framework for logically delineating ecological regions based on their unique combinations of physiography, soil type, potential vegetation, and climate. Additional information on vegetation types was taken from Knight (1994).

Great Plains-Palouse Dry Steppe Province (Great Plains) This province encompasses the majority of the eastern one-third of the state. Also known as the shortgrass/mixed-grass prairie or American steppe, the Great Plains province elevations range from 3,200 feet near the northeastern border to 6,000 feet at the foot of the Front Range. Rolling hills, badlands, and plains characterize the topography of this province. The lack of forested environments is due mainly to the rain shadow effect of the Rocky Mountains to the west. Evaporation exceeds precipitation during most of the growing season. Average annual precipitation is about 20 inches, mostly coming in the form of winter snow and sporadic spring and summer thunderstorms.

The vegetation of the Great Plains province is composed primarily of grasses and forbs; forests are limited. Common grass and forb species include blue grama, buffalograss, needle-and-thread-grass, pricklypear cactus, and scarlet globemallow. Forested areas include scattered stands of ponderosa pine mixed with juniper and Douglas-fir along the ridges, and ponderosa pine and bur oak along the margins of the Black Hills. Riparian zones in this province are sporadically forested by linearly arranged cottonwood stands. Much of the Great Plains has been altered by agricultural and urban uses, and therefore may not reflect the native plant communities described for this province.

Intermountain Semidesert Province (Semidesert)

The Intermountain Semidesert province covers the largest portion of the state. This province includes valleys, also known as intermontane basins, which range in elevation from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. There is little variation in temperature or precipitation across the Semidesert province. Annual precipitation is about 15 inches per year and is fairly evenly distributed through the seasons. Evaporation rates are high and wind is a nearly constant element. The vegetation of the Semidesert province is composed primarily of sagebrush, greasewood, rabbitbrush, and a variety of bunch grasses. Riparian zones are lined with cottonwoods, shrub-form willows, and sedges. Forests are somewhat scarce. Limber pine and juniper are the most common trees of these high and dry basins, although lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and aspen may occupy relatively moist northerly aspects of Semidesert ranges.

Southern Rocky Mountain Steppe-Open Woodland-Coniferous Forest-Alpine

Meadow Province (Southern Rockies) This province is composed of the major ranges of the Wyoming portion of the Rocky Mountains. More than surrounding states, the ranges of this

province are widely separated by large intermontane basins. The highest peaks top 13,000 feet and the valley floors range from 5,500 to 7,000 feet. Climate is highly variable, depending on local topography. In general, valleys are warmer and drier, with annual precipitation of 15 to 25 inches per year. Higher mountain ranges are typically much cooler and annual precipitation often exceeds 40 inches. Much of the moisture comes as winter snow.

The flora of this region is also highly variable. Due to differences in elevation, aspect, soil types, rainfall, and evaporation rates, mountain vegetation resembles a largescale mosaic of conifers, few hardwoods, and mixed shrubs and grasslands. This province represents the most forested portion of the state. Rocky Mountain forests are often described in terms of vegetation zones; with spruce, subalpine fir, and whitebark pine dominating the highest forested elevations; lodgepole pine, aspen, and Douglas-fir in the middle montane zone; and ponderosa pine, limber pine, and juniper defining the lowest forested zone. There are often exceptions to these zonal rules based on aspect and the occurrence of some less common forest types.

Black Hills Coniferous Forest Province (Black Hills) The Black Hills is a region of relatively low mountains averaging 3,000 to 7,000 feet in elevation. The province is divided by the Wyoming and South Dakota state line. Precipitation ranges from 15 to 26 inches, usually as winter and spring snow. The dominant tree species is ponderosa pine, however, there are limited stands of white spruce and paper birch from the north; green ash, hackberry, American elm, and bur oak from the east; as well as other common western species like aspen and lodgepole pine. Fauna include elk, mule deer, white tail deer.

Percent Forest Type by Ecoregion

	Great Plains	Southern Rockies	Semidesert	Black Hills
Juniper	20	40	40	--
Spruce-Fir	--	100	--	--
Aspen	--	100	--	--
Lodgepole Pine	--	94	6	--
Ponderosa Pine	50	20	--	30
Oak	100	--	--	--
Douglas Fir	--	80	20	--
Limber Pine	--	80	20	--