

# Extension Forestry at Utah State University

## Overview

Utah State University's Extension Forestry Program educates landowners and other Utahns about the management of Utah's forests. Education is needed so Utahns can realize the benefits provided by well managed forests. Our educational programs focus on:

- Rural Forestry (Utah Forest Landowner Education Program)
- Community Forestry
- Wildland-Urban Interface Forestry

## Community Forestry

Trees in towns and cities increase property values, provide environmental benefits, and build community pride. These community forest resources often fall short of their potential, however, because of poor selection, poor installation, and poor maintenance. USU Extension Forestry educates town officials, arborists, nursery professionals, and citizens on benefits and care of community trees.

## Forest Landowner Education Program

Utah's private landowners often lack information on selling timber or its value, on stand regeneration, on caring for younger forests, and on achieving other goals for their land. The USU Extension Forest Landowner Education Program (FLEP) was created by the Utah legislature in 1997. This program helps landowners make informed choices regarding forest practices on their lands. Thousands of landowners and others have received assistance and tens of thousands of acres have been positively affected by this program.

## Wildland-Urban Interface Forestry

As Utah's rural areas are developed and urban areas grow, more people build homes and other structures in native forest lands and woodlands. Such activities in the wildland/urban interface lead to problems with fire protection, construction damage to existing high value trees, and wildlife/human conflicts. USU Extension Forestry educates homeowners, public officials, and developers to help ease these conflicts.

## USU Forest Landowner Education Program Mission

Utah State University Extension's Forest Landowner Education Program provides current, unbiased, helpful information to Utah's private forest landowners and others interested in the management of forests in Utah.

## Educational Activities

Our educational approaches are designed to match client needs and desires, including the use of newsletters, fact sheets, web pages, videos, workshops, tours, and one-on-one assistance. Examples include:

**Utah Forest News Newsletter** – We produce this award-winning quarterly publication for 1,600 landowners and forestry professionals. Recent issues included stories on recognizing a good timber harvest, timber harvesting to deal with spruce beetle outbreaks, and why landowners should consider hiring a forestry consultant.

**Landowner Workshops** – Landowner workshops and field trips have been held across the state covering topics like management planning, silviculture, quality logging, forest health, timber sale contract provisions, logger education, and conservation easements. We also hold a forest taxation and estate planning workshop every other year.

**Utah Forest Water Quality Guidelines** – We cooperated with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands to develop Forest Water Quality Guidelines and helped produce technical publications and a web page explaining the guidelines to landowners and timber operators. The web page can be accessed at [extension.usu.edu/forestry/management/utfwqguide/utfwqguide.htm](http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/management/utfwqguide/utfwqguide.htm).

**Direct Assistance** – We provide forest management information directly to landowners by telephone, mail, e-mail, or on-site visits. We also work directly with towns and cities needing assistance.

**Community Forestry Workshops** – These workshops help tree care professionals improve the condition and value of Utah's community tree resources. Hundreds-of-thousands of trees and tens-of-thousands of people have been positively affected.

**Web Site** – We have several hundred pages of forestry educational materials available on our web site at [extension.usu.edu/forestry](http://extension.usu.edu/forestry).

**Multimedia** – Our award-winning video *The Missing Fires* is being used across the country to promote public understanding and acceptance of fire use. Our *Utah Tree Browser* CD helps people make better tree selection decisions, and our *Firewise Plants* CD and web page are educating citizens and professionals about landscaping in fire-prone situations.

**Cooperation** – We work with numerous agencies and organizations including the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands; Utah Farm Bureau; Utah Community Forest Council; Utah Association of Conservation Districts; TreeUtah; and USDA-Forest Service State and Private Forestry.

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