Urban & Community Forestry
State Coordinators and the
Role of Forest Action Plans

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Urban Forestry at the State Level

• UCF programs get base funding from the USDA Forest Service

• Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1979, Title 16, Chapter 41, Section 2105 – Urban and Community Forestry = FARM BILL

• Annual consolidated grant agreement for salaries and pass-through dollars
Requirements for Federal Funding

- At least one full time Coordinator
- Provide technical assistance to communities
- Convene a Community Forestry Council
- Create a Strategic Plan
State Coordinators

Can be housed in different state agencies:

• State Forestry
• Dept. of Natural Resources
• Dept. of Agriculture
• State Land Dept.

Can be have different scopes:

• Urban Forestry
• Conservation Education
• Forest Health
• Invasive Plants
Practical Application

- Competitive grant program
- Tree City USA program
- Yuma West Wetlands Landscape Scale Restoration
- Pest Readiness Guide for AZ & NM

Eligible applicants
- Municipalities
- Tribes
- Non-profits
- Universities
Practical Application

- Competitive grant program
- **Tree City USA program**
- Yuma West Wetlands Landscape Scale Restoration
- Pest Readiness Guide for AZ & NM
Practical Application

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Practical Application

• Competitive grant program
• Tree City USA program
• Yuma West Wetlands Landscape
• Pest Readiness Guide for AZ & NM
A U&CF Program promotes the planting, maintenance, protection, and restoration of the urban forest, with an emphasis on creating self-sustaining local U&CF programs in communities.
Forest Action Plans, unveiled...

- Farm Bill mandates a Forest Action Plan (FAP) in order to qualify for funds
- FAPs have to be reviewed every 5 years
- The responsibility for developing the FAP belongs to the State Forester and their appointed Task Group.
- Addresses 3 national themes outlined in the Farm Bill:
  1. Conserve working forestlands
  2. Protect forests from harm
  3. Enhance public benefits from trees and forests
The Mystery Revealed...

- Analyze what you have = Current and desired conditions
- What is or could cause harm = Trends and threats
- How can you protect your resources = Action items that address threats
- Who can help you do that = Opportunities, key partners
- What do you need to pull it off = Resources necessary for implementation
- Interaction with existing statewide plans:
  - Wildlife Action Plans
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans
Informing Strategic Planning

- Forest Action Plan
- Federal Priorities

U&CF Strategic Plan

Community Engagement