

COLORADO'S URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

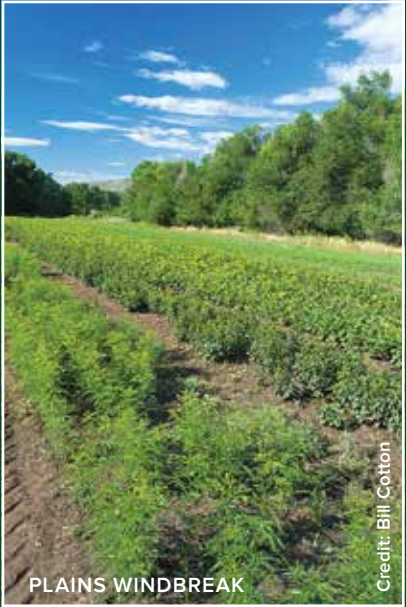
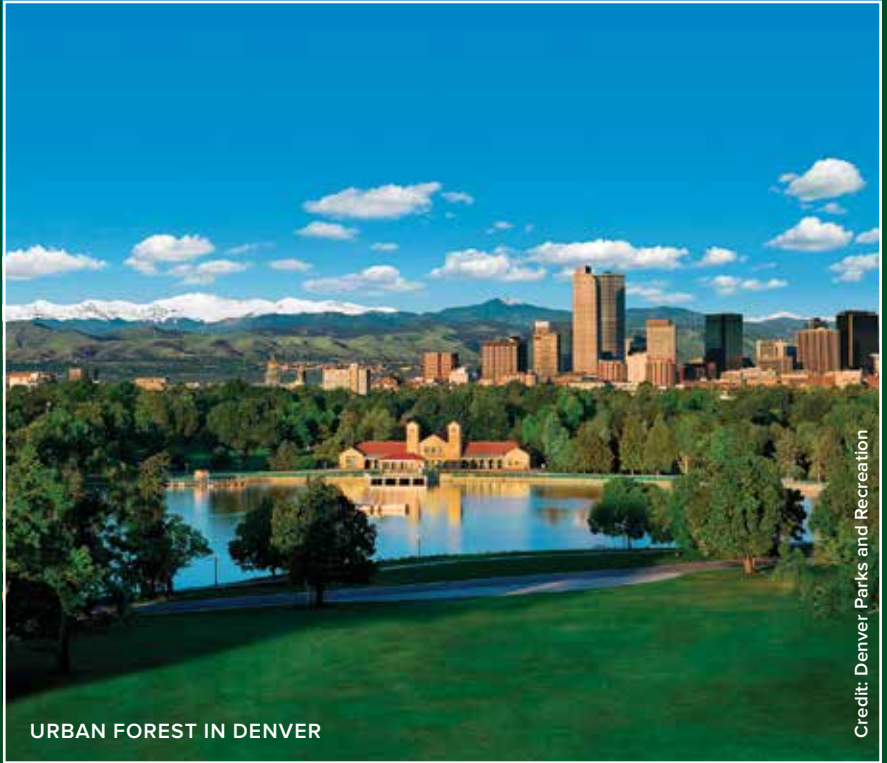
Urban and community forests are dynamic ecosystems that help clean our air and water and conserve energy. They also add form, structure and beauty to communities, reduce noise, provide places to recreate and add economic value.

Urban and community forests are threatened by their own set of insects and diseases. Strategies to cope with the introduction and spread of invasive species need to be identified and implemented prior to their introduction and establishment to best alleviate negative consequences to these forests.

Invasive forest pests such as gypsy moth and Asian longhorned beetle are most likely to be introduced into

Colorado in the future via firewood, logs or nursery stock. Existing diseases and pests in Colorado, such as the invasive insect emerald ash borer (EAB) and thousand cankers disease, need to be deterred from spreading from one region of our state to another primarily via the movement of raw wood.

EAB now poses a serious threat to Colorado's urban and community forests, where ash trees comprise an estimated 15 percent or more of all trees. The Metro Denver area alone has approximately 1.45 million ash trees, which provide an estimated \$82 million annually in services including stormwater mitigation, energy savings and increased property values.



FORESTS ON COLORADO'S PLAINS

Colorado's plains are a unique grassland prairie ecosystem and include riparian forests along river corridors, agroforestry windbreaks, recreational area plantings, and community forests in cities and towns.

Windbreaks and living snow fences are extremely important in eastern Colorado. Here, the wind blows often and hard with little deterrence across the relatively flat terrain. Strategically placed, planted windbreaks greatly reduce wind speeds around targeted areas, such as homesteads, roads, barns, feedlots, corrals and crop fields.

Windbreaks block blowing snow, reduce heating and cooling costs, buffer sounds, provide moderated temperatures for livestock and reduce soil erosion. They also provide excellent habitat for many wildlife species, especially when a fruit-producing shrub row is added.



ABOUT THE COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Every year, the CSFS helps treat more than 20,000 acres of forestland, and assists thousands of landowners and hundreds of communities to help improve forest health. As the lead state agency providing forest stewardship and management, fuels reduction and wildfire mitigation assistance, the CSFS offers a variety of programs and services. Please visit www.csfs.colostate.edu or contact your local CSFS office for more information.



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COLORADO FOREST FACTS

AN OVERVIEW OF COLORADO'S FOREST ECOSYSTEMS, FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS



COLORADO FOREST FACTS

Credit: Ron Cousineau, CSFS

SNOWMELT FROM COLORADO WATERSHEDS PROVIDES WATER TO 19 STATES.

COLORADO FORESTLAND OWNERSHIP

Decisions regarding the management, use and condition of Colorado's forests are complicated by a mosaic of public and private ownerships ranging in size from less than a single acre to several million acres.

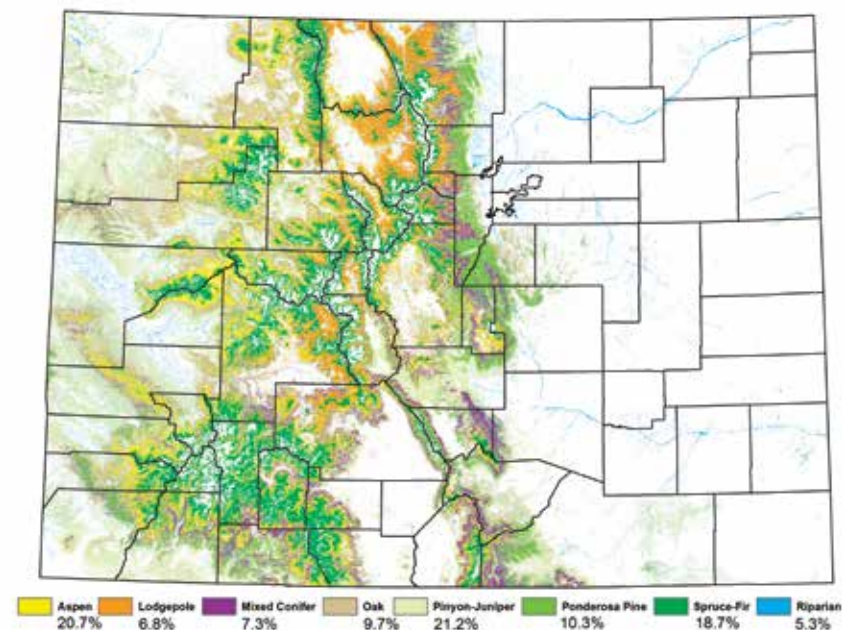
COLORADO FORESTLAND OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT



COLORADO'S FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Forests and woodlands cover 24.4 million acres in Colorado. Within these forested landscapes are several predominant tree species, the majority of which are coniferous or cone-bearing evergreen trees, rather than deciduous trees that seasonally shed their leaves. Each forest type requires different management strategies to achieve resilient, healthy forest conditions.

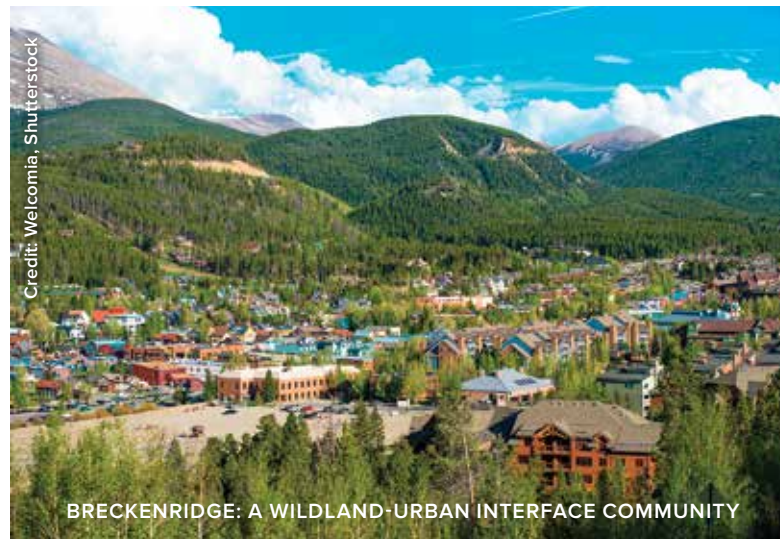
COLORADO FOREST TYPES



COLORADO'S WILDLAND- URBAN INTERFACE

The wildland-urban interface, or WUI, is any area where man-made improvements are built close to, or within, areas of flammable wildland vegetation, and where there is a high potential for loss due to wildland fire. In 2012, Colorado's WUI encompassed more than 6.6 million acres and contained more than 2 million people.

Homeowners, landowners and communities bear the ultimate responsibility to help protect themselves, their property and their local values at risk from the threat of wildland fire. As residents living in fire-adapted ecosystems, there are many tools available to help communities become more resilient and fire-adapted themselves.



COLORADO'S FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

More than 90 percent of forest products used by Coloradans are imported from outside of the state. The Colorado Wood Utilization and Marketing Program (CoWood) strives to improve the quality of life for Colorado's forest products producers, consumers and forest users by being Colorado's leading innovator for forest products information, service, education and outreach.

The Colorado Forest Products™ (CFP) Program, administered by the CSFS, is a companion campaign to Colorado Proud™ and results in increased awareness about the state's forest and wood products industries. More than 140 businesses in our state manufacture products made from Colorado wood.



COLORADO'S FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES

Native forest insects and diseases are necessary to the ecological functioning of forests. Outbreaks of tree-killing bark beetles, for example, often target trees in mature, overly dense forests. They can set the stage for the replacement of old, stagnant forest stands with young, vigorous ones. These outbreaks, on the other hand, also can impact many of the values that humans place on forests, including timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation and watershed protection. From 1996 to 2016, nearly 3.4 million acres of Colorado's pine forests were impacted by the mountain pine beetle, and spruce beetle caused mortality on another 1.7 million acres.

ANNUAL FOREST HEALTH REPORTS: [CSFS.COLOSTATE.EDU/CSFSPUBLICATIONS](https://csfs.colostate.edu/csfspublications)



COLORADO'S LARGEST WILDFIRES BY ACREAGE

Colorado's 10 largest wildland fires have all occurred since 2002:

2002 HAYMAN FIRE – 138,114 acres

2013 WEST FORK COMPLEX (West Fork, Windy Pass and Papoose fires) – 109,632 acres

2012 HIGH PARK FIRE – 87,250 acres

2002 MISSIONARY RIDGE FIRE – 71,739 acres

2008 BRIDGER FIRE – 45,800 acres

2011 BEAR SPRINGS/CALLIE MARIE FIRES – 44,662 acres

2016 BEAVER CREEK FIRE – 38,380 acres

2002 BURN CANYON FIRE – 31,300 acres

2002 MOUNT ZIRKEL COMPLEX – 31,016 acres

2002 TRINIDAD COMPLEX (Spring, Fisher/James John fires) – 25,919 acres in Colorado (33,000 acres overall)

Grass fires from the Eastern Plains excluded.

