Urban and Community Forestry…

Working Together to Cultivate Green Infrastructure

Regional Tree and Shade Summit

Phoenix, Arizona
March 9, 2011

Presentation Scope

Provide a general description of the State and Private Forestry Branch of the Forest Service

Describe the Federal and State Relationship

Provide an overview of the Urban and Community Forestry Program

Describe how current threats and trends create challenges and collaborative opportunities

Describe other programs we can consider as we work together

Believe it or not - the Forest Service Does Have Urban Programs and Interests!

1. Cooperation with State Forestry Departments was established by law in 1911
2. Numerous laws covering various assistance programs were passed over the years, but in 1978, a more comprehensive Act was passed
3. The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a variety of cooperative programs to protect and manage nonfederal forest lands
4. These are called State and Private Forestry Programs

Our Partners: State Foresters

ARIZONA 19 66 FORESTRY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS FOUNDED 1920

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

NORTH DAKOTA N D STATE FOREST SERVICE

FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Colorado State FOREST SERVICE

NORTH CAROLINA FOREST SERVICE N C

KENTUCKY DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Pennsylvania DCNR FORESTRY

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION OF FORESTRY

NEW MEXICO STATE FORESTRY

CAL FIRE

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act

Assists advancement of forest resources management

Improves and maintains fish and wildlife habitat

Protects forestland from conversion to other uses

Creates the Urban and Community Forestry Program

Urban & Community Forestry

Urban and Community Forestry Program enhances the livability of towns, communities, and cities by improving the stewardship of urban natural resources.

The program provides technical and financial assistance to help improve the livability of cities and communities through managing urban forest resources to promote a healthy ecosystem.

This is a way to get up close and personal with urban residents regarding the provision of ecosystem services

Connecting Ecosystem Services to Urban Centers

Green Infrastructure…an interconnected network of natural areas and other open spaces that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions (clean air, water, and a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife).

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Watershed and Stream Corridor Connections

Stream channel stabilization and riparian restoration can reduce erosion and turbidity while improving habitat. Some concepts are similar to those of Green Infrastructure.

The practices are expected to reduce stress on traditional water drainage infrastructure. A variety of treatments in a watershed or stream channel can directly connect urban residents to ecosystem services.

Ongoing efforts - Community Forestry Applications of Green Infrastructure

Las Cruces Smart Growth project and 2010 Green Infrastructure (GI) / Low Impact Development (LID) workshop

Albuquerque Arid GI-LID workshop – March 22-23, 2011

Continue to develop relationships for planning and implementation of GI that can "make our communities better":

- **EPA**
- **Municipalities and municipal organizations**
- **Citizen, non-profit and industry groups at local and state levels**

Threats and Vulnerability

In the last 100 years, the U.S. population has tripled to about 300 million. By 2050, it is projected to be just under half a billion

Forests are being permanently converted to non-forest uses at a rate of 1million acres per year

In the U.S. 44 million acres of private forestland are estimated to be at risk from housing development by 2030

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Climate Change – Western Perspectives

It is now widely accepted that the interior western United States has recently experienced higher temperatures than other parts of North America. Arizona is consistently warmer than many other areas when comparing the last decades' average temperatures to the past 100 year average. While the global average temperature has risen one degree Fahrenheit over the past 150 years, Arizona and other parts of the Southwest have risen more than two degrees F.

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Other Funding Sources

Conservation Innovation Grants – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Rural Development Loans and Grants

Competitive Allocation Grants

Arizona Community Challenge Grant Program

Community Forest and Open Space Program

Establishes a grant program to provide federal matching grants to help local governments, tribes, or NGOs acquire private forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and are intended to provide public benefits to communities.

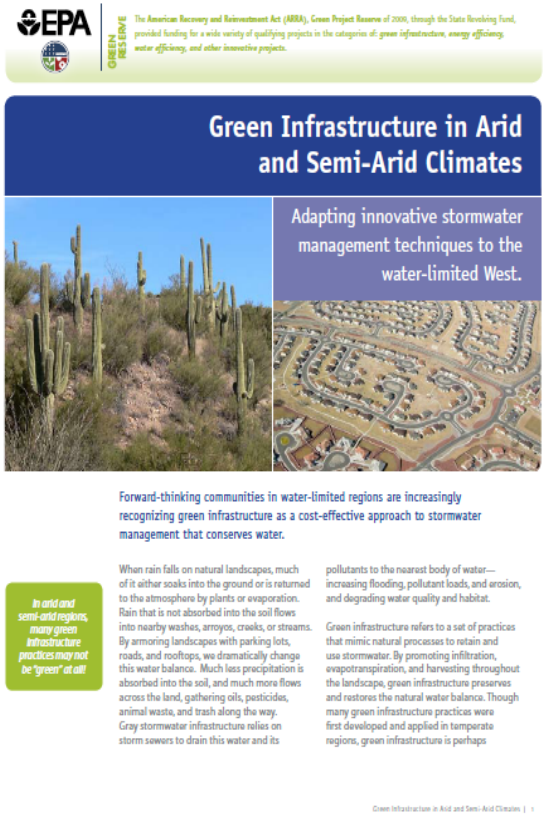
Up to 10% for administration and technical assistance and is subject to appropriations

Community Forestry and Green Infrastructure in Arizona

Potential for funding support – projects and individual community support

Assistance with identifying challenges and offering information and solutions

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Energy Conservation


EPA GREEN RESERVE

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Green Project Reserve of 2009, through the State Revolving Fund, provided funding for a wide variety of qualifying projects in the categories of: green infrastructure, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and other innovative projects.

Green Infrastructure in Arid and Semi-Arid Climates

Adapting innovative stormwater management techniques to the water-limited West.

Forward-thinking communities in water-limited regions are increasingly recognizing green infrastructure as a cost-effective approach to stormwater management that conserves water.

In arid and semi-arid regions, many green infrastructure practices may not be "green" at all!

When rain falls on natural landscapes, much of it either soaks into the ground or is returned to the atmosphere by plants or evaporation. Rain that is not absorbed into the soil flows into nearby washes, arroyos, creeks, or streams. By armoring landscapes with parking lots, roads, and rooftops, we dramatically change this water balance. Much less precipitation is absorbed into the soil, and much more flows across the land, gathering oils, pesticides, animal waste, and trash along the way. Gray stormwater infrastructure relies on storm sewers to drain this water and its pollutants to the nearest body of water—increasing flooding, pollutant loads, and erosion, and degrading water quality and habitat.

Green infrastructure refers to a set of practices that mimic natural processes to retain and use stormwater. By promoting infiltration, evapotranspiration, and harvesting throughout the landscape, green infrastructure preserves and restores the natural water balance. Though many green infrastructure practices were first developed and applied in temperate regions, green infrastructure is perhaps

Green Infrastructure in Arid and Semi-Arid Climates | 1

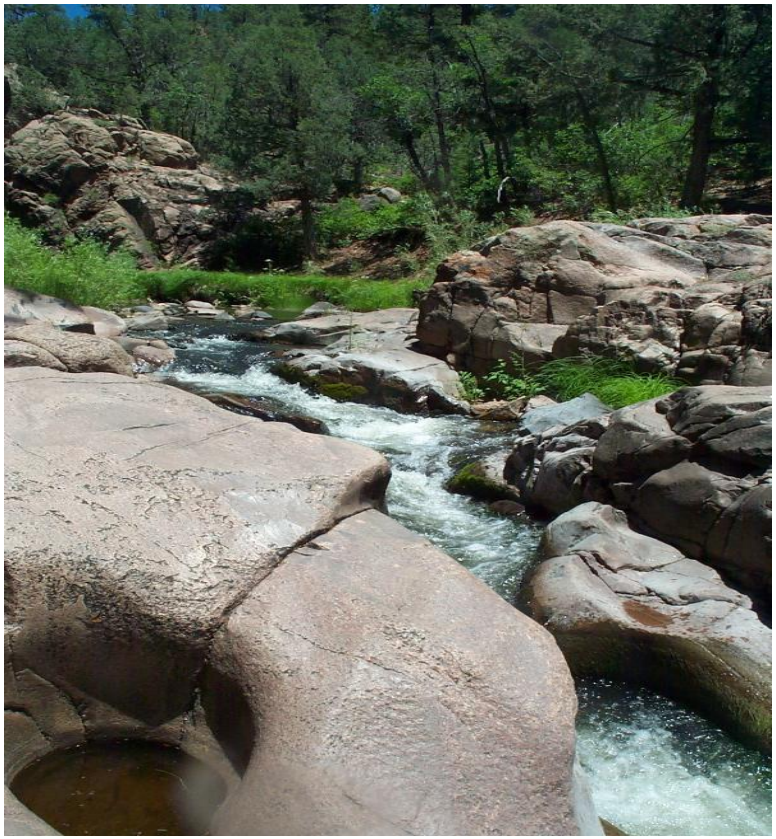
SUMMARY

The Urban and Community Forestry Program has broad authorities and some flexibility to be used in a variety of ways.

- **Outreach and Education**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Volunteer Coordination**
- **Funding Assistance**

It is State led and can compliment Green Infrastructure Initiatives which interface with other Units of Governments and Organizations

Thank You!



Macario Herrera

USDA Forest Service

Cooperative Forestry Program Manager

333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Phone: 505-842-3344

macarioherrera@fs.fed.us