

# Colorado State Forest Service

## 2005 Annual Report

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) has experienced significant challenges over the last decade:

From the advent of catastrophic fires in the West and the ensuing National Fire Plan, to multiple, severe forest insect epidemics;

From the retirements of many of our veteran foresters, to the ensuing employment of new foresters;

From a multi-year internal examination of the organization's mission and guiding principles, to a new strategic plan unveiled in early 2005;

From the retirement in 2004 of only the second state forester to lead the agency over a 40-year period to the appointment of a new director in August 2005;

From the construction of a new headquarters building on Colorado State University's foothills campus, to finding a new home in the Warner College of Natural Resources at CSU, to a celebration of 50 years of delivering service to the citizens of Colorado.

When I joined CSFS in August 2005, I found an agency that was capitalizing on these challenges as so many opportunities, building a vision of what needed to be achieved, and realizing those achievements.

Yes, we lost some experience through our many retirements, but we gained young, enthusiastic and technically savvy foresters.

Yes, we are experiencing greater, more intense challenges than we have in the past – in the form of declining forest health and the resulting wildfire threats to community safety – but we have a strong, vital strategic plan that addresses these challenges.

CSFS has a unique role in Colorado as leaders for improving forest condition, protecting communities from wildfire, and providing healthy forested landscapes in Colorado's communities and forests. The Colorado State Forest Service Strategic Plan provides a clear focus for what we must accomplish to be successful in these efforts.

2005 was a watershed year for the many changes we have undergone and, perhaps appropriately, 2005 was also the 50th anniversary of CSFS. The tremendous accomplishments of 2005, outlined in this report according to corresponding strategic priorities, are a fitting foundation for our next half century of service.



*Jeff Jahnke, Director*

# Colorado State Forest Service Strategic Priorities

The six priorities identified in our strategic plan are grounded in a carefully considered vision of what CSFS must strive to achieve over the next few years. These priorities will enable the agency to realize what we have determined to be critical – our unique role as leaders and catalysts for improved forest condition and protection of communities from wildfire. They also enable us to focus our programs on a critical few priorities. These priorities will not change appreciably in the next few years because they are based on trends in forest condition and the relationship between Colorado's forests and communities.

The following are 2005 accomplishments within the areas of our strategic priorities.

## Strategic Priority: Fire preparedness and response

*Provide leadership in wildland fire protection for state and private lands in Colorado and reduce wildfire-related loss of life, property and critical resources.*

### Community Wildfire Protection Planning

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) represent our best opportunity to address the challenges of the wildland urban interface in a way that brings about comprehensive and locally supported solutions. CWPPs were created as part of an implementation strategy in the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

CWPPs are generally developed by local government with assistance from state and federal agencies and other interested partners.

Plans can take a variety of forms and may be as simple or complex as necessary, based on the specific needs and desires of the local community or county. While plans do not need to be overly complicated they should effectively address local forest and range conditions, values-at-risk, and priorities for action.

In 2005, we embarked upon this new strategy by creating a team within CSFS to develop ways to assist CSFS districts and communities throughout Colorado in the design and implementation of CWPPs.

The team developed guidelines in five key areas to effectively focus efforts:

- 1) Education and training in fire prevention and mitigation, and in the development of CWPPs.
- 2) Communication support to ensure consistency of messages about the importance of and minimum requirements for CWPPs, to provide samples of completed plans, and to share lessons learned in throughout the process.
- 3) Facilitation assistance for community meeting planning, to identify and communicate funding sources, and to locate sources of technical assistance for risk assessments and implementation.
- 4) Coordination, with key partners, to promote common understanding of the value of these plans in Colorado.
- 5) Development of a central database to track progress, provide copies of sample plans to communities just beginning the process, and to monitor implementation.

Also in 2005, and in partnership with Colorado State University, CSFS designed a database to track CWPPs in Colorado – whether in the planning stage, completed, or in the implementation phase. This database not only fulfills federal reporting requirements as part of our funding processes, but informs us where fuels reduction is actually occurring on the ground and where, as an agency, we need to focus future efforts to protect Colorado's at-risk communities.

The team also successfully submitted a State Fire Assistance grant to target five varied communities throughout Colorado. The grants will assist these diverse communities in ways they identify as critical, including: risk assessment; community and group facilitation; educational programs; and, technical assistance. Planning efforts will be closely tracked to determine how communities initiated the planning process, who was involved, how risks were assessed, and what difficulties the communities encountered. The "lessons learned" through this process will enable CSFS to more



effectively help the many communities in Colorado that wish to protect the values they believe to be at risk.

While there are still few completed CWPPs in Colorado relative to the number of communities that are at risk from wildfire, the team worked closely with partners around the state to help the process begin. Two very diverse areas, Santa Fe Ranch Estates near Trinidad and Lake County Fire Protection District, completed their plans and implementation has begun. Many communities have expressed interest in starting their own plans and the momentum is gaining around the state. The CWPP team expects a very busy 2006.



*Homeowners at Santa Fe Ranch Estates meet with CSFS District Forester, CK Morey, during a tour of their subdivision.*

## Wildfire Training

The 2005 Great Plains Wildfire College took place in January at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado. It was extended an extra day to offer more intermediate and advanced wildland fire courses. More than 600 people from 30 US states and Canada attended the College. Many agencies were represented including state fire departments, CSFS, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and many other local and state agencies. Colorado fire departments, including volunteers, attended with assistance provided by the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) cost share grants.

The Colorado Wildfire Academy brought more than 1000 participants to Montrose in June 2005. The event was a great success for attendees and for the

host community – the Academy brought an estimated \$500,000 to the community of Montrose.

## Strategic Priority: Healthy, diverse and sustainable forest conditions

*Ensure healthy, diverse and sustainable forest conditions on a meaningful scale throughout Colorado.*

### Forest Pest Management

A variety of insect and plant species are significantly impacting Colorado forests and other resources. Many invasive species also have the potential for impact if left undetected and uncontrolled. CSFS foresters are actively involved in pest detection and control activities.

#### Forest Insect & Disease Aerial Survey

In most forest types, the number of trees and acres impacted by forest pests, especially tree-killing bark beetles, continued to increase in 2005. This trend has been evident since 1996 and has been exacerbated by Colorado's recent drought. The USFS Rocky Mountain



*Mountain pine beetle infestation and mortality in Grand County.*

Region Forest Health Management staff and CSFS foresters join in a cooperative aerial survey to fly a grid pattern every year to monitor forest pests. The CSFS entomologist and foresters from our district offices have become proficient in mapping areas impacted by a variety of pests.

### **Bark Beetles**

Vast numbers of trees are being killed by various bark beetles across Colorado's forested landscape. CSFS field offices were deluged with requests in 2005 for information and site visits from landowners whose trees already have been impacted or are threatened by bark beetle infestations. Interaction with diverse community-based groups became the most feasible means to respond to these requests. Foresters provided many hours of technical assistance about bark beetle prevention and suppression at group meetings.

As bark beetles spread into new areas, a variety of land management agencies formed a partnership, not only to deal with the present situation, but to develop a long-term forest management plan to reduce potential for future wide-spread infestations. The Northern Bark Beetle Cooperative, a coalition of local, state and federal agencies, began in 2005 under CSFS leadership.

A cooperative, aggressive forest management approach between Colorado State Parks, Colorado State Land Board, and CSFS has been initiated to address the impacts of bark beetles at the Colorado State Forest near Walden. Forest health prevention and suppression funding provided through the USFS helps support this initiative. Ongoing activity will demonstrate how managing for healthy forests can address commodity, as well as recreational, aesthetic, and other amenities provided by our forested public lands. Aggressive bark beetle prevention and suppression activity began on other state lands as well.

### **Gypsy Moth Survey**

The CSFS entomologist oversees a state-wide detection survey for the gypsy moth each year. You may have seen a small, green, triangular box fastened to a utility pole or tree in your neighborhood. This box contains a chemical called a pheromone which attracts the male moth in search of the flightless female. If a moth is detected, further detection and eradication activities are implemented in that area.

The gypsy moth is plain-looking insect that people would not notice if it were not for its caterpillar stage. A female moth lays a cluster of eggs on or near a tree and each egg mass can hatch up to a thousand tiny caterpillars with a ravenous appetite for tree leaves. They feed on over 500 species of trees and shrubs.

Though no moths were detected in any of the 1500 traps spread across Colorado in 2005, there have been moths detected in past surveys. When this occurred, CSFS, in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Agriculture Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey and local communities, used traps and bio controls to eradicate the moth in the areas in which it was detected. Funding through the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection and Quarantine program helps support this program.



## Tamarisk

In 1997, Colorado designated tamarisk as a noxious weed; sale of the species was banned in 1998. The Colorado Department of Natural Resources has estimated 55,000 acres are infested with tamarisk in Colorado.

Due to the plants' secretion of salts, and the deposition of salty plant litter, surrounding soil conditions change to a saline environment over time. This change in soil condition kills existing native vegetation and severely restricts any future native plant growth. Due to the impact on the riparian ecology and increased risk for wildland fire due to the high flammability of tamarisk plants, CSFS foresters have become involved with many local cooperative watershed initiatives to address tamarisk and riparian plant community health. Northeast Colorado Tamarisk Task Force, the Dolores River Tamarisk Action Group, and Tackling Tamarisk on the Purgatoire are examples of these local coalitions.

Other noxious plants, such as Russian olive, are dealt with in conjunction with tamarisk in these important riparian areas.

## CO Wood

*CO Wood is a partnership of CSFS, Colorado State University, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Products Lab*

Positive indicators emerged in 2005 for businesses working to improve the health and resiliency of Colorado's public and private forests. Colorado's Wood Utilization and Marketing Program (CO Wood) succeeded in supporting Colorado's business upgrades to their manufacturing and marketing capacity in 2005. New round wood peeling and precision doweling capacity, and new dry-kiln installations are examples of new product and market investments made by Colorado's forest products businesses with the technical assistance provided by CO Wood staff and our partners.

Biomass utilization continued to be a program priority in 2005, as public and private forest managers were faced with identifying outlets for the low value biomass removed from forest health, restoration, and fuels reduction treatments. To meet this challenge, CO Wood staff worked to expand facility heating and commercial co-firing applications using wood biomass. Revenues from

the utilization of wood biomass in facility heating and co-firing markets have returned \$200/acre towards the cost for conducting forest treatments.

To expand our forest biomass utilization to a statewide level, CO Wood staff is completing a biomass supply survey in order to more precisely quantify both the timing and location of the supply of woody biomass. This information will help identify potential locations for new or expanding forest products businesses, generate ideas for new products and markets, and help businesses more accurately assess transportation costs from treatment area to their processing site.

Finally, CO Wood staff hosted a wood utilization training session for foresters with CSFS and the USDA Forest Service. The two-day session, held in Fort Collins, included exposure to fundamentals of wood, its properties and performance, as well as providing insights on utilization and marketing opportunities available for Colorado's wood products economy.

CO Wood also produced an interactive CD on sawmill improvement. Based on a 2004 short course, the interactive CD contains fundamental principles of improving a sawmill's process and financial performance and can be used a valuable training tool for business managers and their employees.

More details on our wood utilization and marketing program services, staff contact information, technical resources, and news of upcoming events and activities can be found by visiting the CO Wood website at [www.colostate.edu/programs/cowood](http://www.colostate.edu/programs/cowood).

## CSFS Foresters are Technical Services Providers for Farm Bill Programs

Foresters are now available in each of our 17 district offices as Technical Services Providers to assist landowners with approved contracts to implement forestry/agroforestry practices funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, or the Conservation Reserve Program.

Technical Service Providers (TSP) are individuals, private businesses, non-profit organizations, or public agencies outside of the USDA that help agricultural producers apply conservation practices on the land.

The TSP system was part of the 2002 Farm Bill to help reimburse landowners who wish to hire non-USDA professionals for their Farm Bill program-related technical assistance. More information on the TSP system is available at: <http://techreg.usda.gov/>

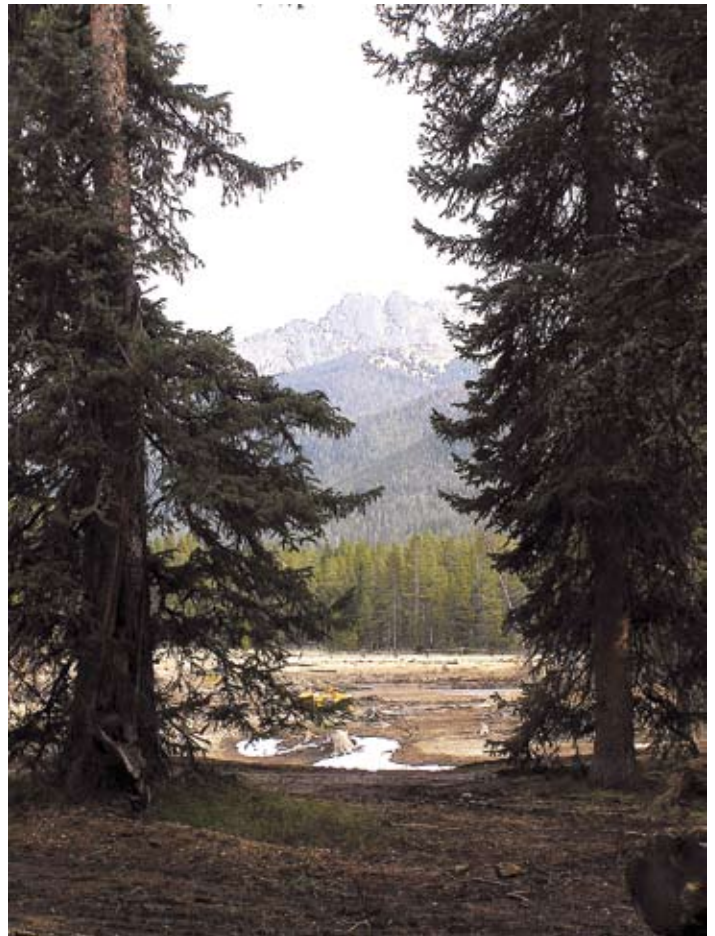
## Colorado Forest Legacy Program

Development in Colorado's forested areas poses an increasing threat to maintaining the integrity of our state's valuable forest lands. Intact forest lands provide timber products, wildlife habitat, soil and watershed protection, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities. However, as these areas become fragmented and disappear, so do the benefits they provide. While local governments often guide development away from the most sensitive areas through traditional land use controls, such as zoning and performance standards, sometimes these measures are not sufficient to fully protect our forests.

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) supports efforts to protect private forest lands that are determined to be environmentally, economically, and socially critical. Colorado's FLP is a partnership between CSFS and the USDA Forest Service (USFS) to identify and help conserve environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forest uses. The federal government may fund up to 75 percent of program costs, with at least 25 percent coming from private, state or local sources. Colorado GoCo funds, private funds, local land conservation organizations, and others commonly partner to provide this funding match.

To maximize public benefits, the program encourages and supports the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands in the form of conservation easements. These legally binding agreements transfer a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect additional values.

In 2005, Congress approved 1.5 million dollars to fund the purchase of a conservation easement covering a portion of the Banded Peaks Ranch through FLP. The ranch is located in the San Juan Mountains southeast of Pagosa Springs, Colorado. When completed, the



*Development in Colorado's once rural areas can lead to forest fragmentation.*

purchase of this easement will be the third Colorado Forest Legacy Program project to help conserve and protect our private forest lands.

FLP easements already in place in Colorado protect a total of 541 acres under two ownerships – one in Clear Creek County near Interstate 70, and the other in Douglas County near Interstate 25.

## Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

*The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership is a collaborative effort of the Colorado State Forest Service, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, and local communities to reduce hazardous fuels.*

Launched in 2003, the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) has gained a reputation — and recognition — for its collaborative successes. The continuing work of the FRFTP Roundtable, the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans,



research, educational outreach, and the successful implementation of fuels reduction projects involving multiple partners defined the Partnership in 2005. Most importantly, though, is the fact that the Partnership has treated 51,886 acres during its first two full years of operation.

### Roundtable Recommendations

The Roundtable met quarterly in 2005 to discuss a long-term vision for the future of Colorado's Front Range forests. The Roundtable is comprised of more than 30 representatives from county, state, and federal agencies; local governments; non-governmental environmental and conservation organizations; the academic and scientific communities; and industry and

user groups. Working groups were formed to discuss research findings on forest health, fire risk mitigation, natural resource policy, and economic issues. The working groups recruited additional subject-matter experts to participate in their meetings to ensure that they examined all major aspects of the issues. Meetings were well attended, discussion was lively, and debate was sometimes contentious. In the end, this produced findings and recommendations that will be shared with a wide variety of stakeholders via a published report scheduled for release in May 2006.

One of the most significant findings in the report pertains to the number of acres on public and private land that requires some type of intervention to restore forest health and reduce fire risk. The Roundtable estimates that approximately 1.5 million acres of forest on the Front Range may need treatment, and more than half of those acres are on private land.

The Roundtable has identified several initiatives and recommendations that, if implemented, will provide additional resources for forest treatments, reduce treatment costs, drive local leadership and planning, and establish common priorities for forest treatments. For the complete report, visit [www.frftp.org/roundtable.htm](http://www.frftp.org/roundtable.htm).



*FRFTP outreach efforts, such as demonstration tours, focus on informing others of wildfire risk and forest health issues.*

### Research and Project Demonstration Tours

Agencies involved with the FRFTP engaged in numerous outreach and technology transfer programs to inform and engage decision-makers, landowners, local communities, and others about fire risk reduction and forest health issues on the Front Range. These included two congressional tours; one in Estes Park that highlighted collaborative fuels reduction projects on public and private land on the northern Front Range, and one at the Manitou Experimental Forest that focused on mastication research, development of a Teller County CWPP, and fuels mitigation projects on adjacent public and private lands.

The FRFTP also partnered with the Rocky Mountain Research Station to host a Landscape Treatment Optimization Workshop that was attended by more than 50 representatives from land-management agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations. The workshop, which focused on ecological modeling and fire behavior treatment optimization, included a two-hour implementers' session during which participants discussed a 92,000 acre project that incorporated the ecological models presented earlier in the day.

## Implementation

As a result of successful collaboration among agencies and private landowners, 24,908 acres were treated on the Front Range in 2005, bringing the total number of acres treated under the auspices of the FRFTP to 51,886 in two years. CSFS treated 9,284 acres on state and private land, the Pike National forest treated 7,900 acres, the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests treated 6,729 acres, and the National Park Service treated 995 acres. Planning was completed on an additional 24,083 acres of federal land, and 14,144 acres of state and private land.

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership continues to find success through collaboration that fosters support for fuels reduction projects resulting in fire risk mitigation and forest restoration.



*When landowners and community members understand the significance of wildfire and forest health issues, they will more likely be proactive in reaching solutions.*

## Strategic Priority: Education, communication, outreach, policy

*Address the growing public demand for information and promote informed decision-making on natural resource issues by positioning CSFS as a recognized point-of-contact for Colorado on credible forestry and wildland fire information, expertise and technical assistance.*

## Collaboration/Knowledge Transfer/Social Science

Over the past few years, CSFS has become increasingly aware of the value of applying collaboration, human dimensions (social science) and knowledge transfer research to our efforts to restore forest health and protect communities from catastrophic wildfire. While we have always worked one-on-one with landowners to provide technical assistance, these new pursuits will enable us to do more than simply deliver information to large groups of constituents. We believe we will increase our effectiveness by moving greater numbers of landowners and community members from aware-

ness of declining forest health and wildfire risk to acting positively upon that knowledge.

For many years, we disseminated information relatively statically—fact sheets, brochures, and other publications—believing that this would engender necessary on-the-ground accomplished. But delivering facts without facilitating an understanding of their significance did not lead to large-scale improvement of forest conditions.

Knowledge transfer and education research tells us that information ≠ education ≠ communication ≠ knowledge ≠ wisdom. People move along a continuum from awareness of an issue to then acting on that issue. CSFS expects to facilitate positive action through our collaborative work with researchers, communities and partners.

Collaboration at a local level is critical because every community is different, social and cultural values vary from place to place, and local stakeholders have considerable knowledge of their environs and have much to contribute to the decision-making process. The more people have a genuine role to play in this process, the more they will “buy in” to implementing necessary fuels reduction activities and insect and disease prevention strategies that affect extensive areas.

These efforts are also crucial to CSFS for many reasons. Our current forest health issues are much more extensive than our staffing capacity to address them. We



have also learned that when individuals understand a problem, and contribute relevantly to solutions, meaningful, timely, on-the-ground activities can be implemented.

We have many related projects planned for 2006 that will continue to enhance our efforts with homeowners, communities and our partners to build collaborative networks throughout Colorado.

## A new website

CSFS recognizes the need for current, credible forestry and wildland fire information. We also recognize that more people are using technology to find that information. In 2005, the agency dedicated considerable energy into gathering all of our extensive forestry and wildland fire information, expertise, and technical assistance into one place – and designing a new website to contain that information. Look for the site in 2006: [www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS).

## Strategic Priority: Critical agency relationships

*Enable CSFS to foster and/or maintain credibility and thrive in a changing administrative and political environment through increased emphasis on building and maintaining relationships with the Governor's Office, Colorado State University, Colorado Department of Natural Resources and other key local, state and federal partners, and by meeting the needs of those partners through quality service.*

## Colorado Department of Natural Resources

The Colorado State Forest Service provides staff support to the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry per legislation passed in 2000. As the agent for the Division of Forestry, CSFS monitors the health of all forests in the state, including national and private forests. The Division of Forestry is headed by the State Forester, with advice and assistance from the Forestry Advisory Board. A yearly report on the health of



*The 2005 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests highlights the ecology of aspen forests.*

Colorado's forests is produced by the Colorado State Forest Service for the Division of Forestry.

The 2005 Report on the Health of Colorado's Forests highlights the ecology and management of the state's aspen forests and provides an expanded insect and disease update, with a particular focus on the mountain pine beetle and spruce bark beetle outbreaks currently spreading throughout Colorado's central mountains. Both sections of the Report underscore the need to address forest management in a proactive, rather than reactive, manner. To access the full report, go to [http://www.colostate.edu/depts/CSFS/05csfs\\_report.pdf](http://www.colostate.edu/depts/CSFS/05csfs_report.pdf).

## Partners for wildlife

CSFS, in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), completed pile-burning at the Owl Mountain State Wildlife Area in Jackson County.

The piles are a result of a 42.4 acre clear-cut that was harvested in 2004-2005, which was conducted as a wildlife enhancement and mountain pine beetle reduction project.

Both CDOW and CSFS initiated the management project to control insects and diseases, stimulate desirable wildlife plant species, and actively promote and harvest forest products. Project goals include: maintaining thermal and hiding cover for deer and elk; improving forage opportunities for wildlife; reducing fuel loads in lodgepole pine stands; reducing future losses from insects and disease; maintaining species and age class diversity; and maintaining appropriate stocking levels by thinning young stands.

## Warner College of Natural Resources

In October 2005, Colorado State University President Larry Edward Penley announced that CSFS would begin reporting directly to the Dean of Warner College of Natural Resources (WCNR) – an acknowledgment of the close ties our agency has with the faculty and educational mission of this College. This reflects the historic and vital partnership between the CSFS and WCNR. In fact, CSU's first Forestry professor, Burton O. Longyear, was the first Colorado State Forester. Former State Forester Jim Hubbard, as well as approximately one-half of current CSFS foresters, are WCNR graduates.



*Pile burning at the Owl Mountain State Wildlife Area in Jackson County.*



## Strategic Priority: Foundations for Effective Program Delivery:

*Maintain an effective foundation of administrative, planning and development functions that provides the agency with the resources, direction and support needed to remain focused on strategic priorities and to deliver the services and programs essential to Colorado.*

## Strategic Plan

In 2005, with the arrival of a new director, CSFS revisited our new Strategic Plan and further aligned our strategic priorities to accomplish our mission: *to provide for the stewardship of forest resources and to reduce related risks to life, property and the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.*

The six priorities were streamlined to more fully address trends in forest condition and the relationship between Colorado's forests and her communities

## New location and an anniversary

The CSFS state office relocated from the Forestry Building on Colorado State University's main campus to a new building on the foothills campus in July 2005. The move co-located CSFS state office staff with our fire equipment shop and seedling tree nursery, as well as with one of our district offices.

CSFS celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a dedication of the new building on October 13, 2005. The building is named for CSFS's state forester emeritus, Thomas B. Borden, who led the agency from 1959 to 1984. Current State Forester, Jeff Jahnke, Tom Borden, and previous State Forester Jim Hubbard opened the building with a ceremonial tree planting of a blue spruce.



*From left, current State Forester Jeff Jahnke, previous State Forester Jim Hubbard, Colorado State University President Larry Edward Penley, and State Forester emeritus, Tom Borden at ceremonial tree planting at new CSFS building.*

## Strategic Priority: Organizational environment:

*Cultivate and sustain an organizational environment that promotes the development and retention of core skills needed to achieve strategic priorities and delivery of programs; that recognizes and values employees' critical role in agency accomplishment; and that allows employees to meet their full potential in providing excellent public service.*

## Professional development

CSFS recognized that, with the retirement of many of our seasoned foresters, critical skills were being lost to the agency.

We began to evaluate which core skills are necessary to achieve the agency's strategic priorities and devise a plan for ensuring that those skills are both maintained and available.

As part of the annual work planning process, each supervisor is responsible for working with those under

their supervision to establish a plan outlining the employee's short and long-term professional development goals.

In 2005, various strategies were developed to ensure professional development of our employees to achieve and maintain these critical skills.

A forester task book was developed in 2005 outlining a process through which CSFS employees can work with their supervisor and other agency personnel to obtain critical knowledge and skills.

Also in 2005, planning began for an annual, week-long training academy. Training academy topics include: safety, computer skills, supervision, forest management, community forestry, GIS technology, silviculture, forest management, smoke management and fire qualifications, and how to collaborate with partners and communities.

While CSFS foresters from throughout the state attend annual training academies, professional development programs are also offered regionally and updates of

additional training opportunities, available through partners and others, are distributed on a quarterly basis.

## Foresters help with Katrina recovery

Although CSFS is generally known for its stewardship of Colorado's environment through forestry outreach and service, the majority of our employees undergo training for emergency response throughout the nation as well as in Colorado.

A few CSFS employees responded to the 9/11 disaster and to the recovery of the Space Shuttle Columbia after that tragedy in 2003.

In September 2005, CSFS employees assisted with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in Louisiana and Texas. The personnel in Texas helped manage four separate evacuee facilities in the area including the former Kelly Air Force Base and Lackland Air Force Base.

## Key Annual Indicators

27,993	Acres under stewardship/forest management plans
3,188	Landowner assists
1,097,000	Seedling trees distributed in Colorado
647	Forest Agriculture inspections
280,759	Mountain pine beetle trees positively identified
962	Firefighters trained
342	Are You FireWise training participants
49	Counties following annual operating plans
2,014	Wildfires occurring on nonfederal lands
14,446	Wildfire acres burned on nonfederal lands
1,961	Prescribed fire acres completed
266	Communities receiving direct technical assistance
93	Tree City USA communities
836	Classroom teachers trained in Project Learning Tree
2,603	Volunteer hours

## Financial Statement

Expense	
Salaries	6,840,550.86
Benefits	663,961.61
Travel	379,923.60
Operating	4,603,994.37
Capital	552,824.63
Indirect/Utilities	1,839,404.80
Total Expense	\$14,880,659.87
Revenue	
State Funds	3,965,859.76
Cash	2,368,767.64
Federal Funds	8,546,032.47
Total Revenue	\$14,880,659.87
Fire Incident Reimbursements	
Expense	\$2,298,097.78
Revenue	\$2,298,097.78
<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>129</b>