



NEW MEXICO STATE URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN 2008

*“ .. Developing a robust and sustainable Urban and
Community Forestry Program for Today and
Tomorrow... ”*

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

MISSION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE URBAN FOREST

STATEMENT OF NEED

CALL TO ACTION

APPENDICES:

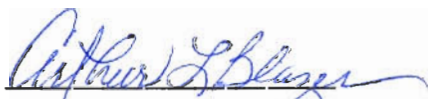
(A) ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ANALYSIS (SWOT)

(B) STRATEGIC PLANNING: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND TIMELINES

(C) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: (1) STATE FORESTER LETTER OF SUPPORT; (2) COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION; (3) PROGRAM PARTNERS AND TARGET PARTNERSHIPS; (4) NEW MEXICO URBAN FOREST COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

This Strategic Plan has been reviewed and is supported by New Mexico State Forestry Division and USDA Forest Service, Region 3.

Approved By




Arthur "Butch" Blazer
State Forester

May 29, 2008

Date

Received By



Corbin Newman
Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Region 3

June 16, 2008

Date

INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico State Forestry Division (Forestry Division), in collaboration with the New Mexico Urban Forest Council (Council) has developed this Strategic Plan for improving the health of urban forests for the benefit of our communities and the environment. **Our priority is developing a robust and sustainable Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program for today and tomorrow.** The purpose of this plan is to clearly define goals, objectives and strategies to:

- Empower local governments, citizens, and businesses with tools to grow and maintain healthy urban forests
- Assess community needs and awareness about urban forestry, and elevate the importance of urban forestry within communities and the state
- Develop partnerships throughout the state that will support and enhance efforts to accomplish program goals
- Identify key resources and funding
- Review comprehensive data and background information to make quality decisions for the future of New Mexico's urban forests
- Develop a practical and results-based implementation timeline

MISSION

The New Mexico State Urban and Community Forestry Program empowers communities to develop and sustain healthy urban forests for the benefit of current and future citizens of the state and the environment.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Healthy urban forests are essential to the quality of life throughout New Mexico and contribute to a sense of community, economic viability, environmental sustainability and healthier people where they live, work and play.
- Effective stewardship of New Mexico's urban forests and natural resources can be achieved through the collaborative efforts of stakeholders from industry, all levels of government, urban forestry professionals, local organizations, and ordinary citizens.
- Increased community awareness, outreach programs, and ongoing programs that champion the value of trees and urban forests are necessary strategies for mobilizing support and funding.
- Advocacy and urban forestry research are important to identify and acknowledge specific community needs, clearly define public policy, and assess the impact that healthy urban forests have on the environment and citizens of New Mexico.

THE URBAN FOREST

The urban forest includes any and all trees, vegetation, and associated natural resources within and around the inhabited area of a community. Urban trees include park trees, street trees, neighborhood trees, and any trees within the wildland-urban interface between communities and adjacent forestlands. The urban forest delivers tremendous value to communities and the people that live there. There are many recognized benefits of urban forests and trees within our urban environment, which include:

- Reducing soil erosion and the amount of storm water run-off
- Moderating heat intensity and conserving building energy use
- Carbon sequestration which serves to offset carbon emissions and reduce greenhouse gases

- Enhancing quality of life – studies have shown that in urban areas with trees and open spaces there is reduced domestic conflict and school violence; overall people are less stressed and exhibit better attitudes at home and in the workplace
- Increasing property values – healthy trees can increase a parcel’s value up to 15 percent, affecting home prices and municipal taxes

Urban forestry addresses the ongoing management of the urban forest for the environmental, economic, and social benefits of a community. The State UCF Program will develop a comprehensive, state-wide program to address current community challenges and plan for the long-term health of our urban forests.

STATEMENT OF NEED

Urban Forestry in New Mexico Today

In New Mexico, urban forestry is a highly under-valued mechanism for addressing critical natural resource and societal issues. The State UCF Program starts with a strong foundation in the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Program and partnership with Tree New Mexico. In order to fully utilize existing programs and partnerships, the UCF Program needs to develop a comprehensive strategy for the future that recognizes and serves our communities and their urban forests.

There is a diversity of challenges currently facing the over one-hundred and eighty communities across New Mexico, including the following:

- limited financial resources
- urban sprawl and rapid population growth
- watering restrictions and drought conditions
- declining urban forest health
- tree insects and disease
- wildfire within the wildland-urban interface

The State UCF Program can address many of these challenges by providing expertise and other essential resources for improving the health of urban forests and our communities.

National Perspective for Urban Forestry

Urban and Community Forestry Programs throughout the United States are facing significant change and uncertainty through the USDA-Forest Service (USFS), State and Private Forestry (SPF) Redesign process (Redesign). As a result of these changes, it is imperative that the State of New Mexico embrace Re-design in order to continue to offer UCF Program support to our communities.

Due to uncertainty in future National Urban and Community Forestry (National UCF) funding support, New Mexico has specific challenges to address, including:

1. Fully understand, embrace, and maximize benefits from changes to the National UCF Program.
2. Develop alternate funding and local stakeholder support for urban forestry programs statewide.

Embracing changes to the National UCF Program

The State UCF Program Manager is currently an active member of the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) Urban Committee, as the Region 3 State Representative. As a member of this committee, the State UCF Program Manager is charged with learning about the USFS-SPF Redesign and ensuring that the State Forestry Division is informed and prepared to successfully compete for federal funding through the USFS-SPF Competitive Grant process. Further creativity through cross-coordination between programs within the Forestry Division is essential to achieving this success. As the State UCF Program builds a foundation for the future, continued cooperation and coordination with local Forestry Division District Staff, other Forestry Division Programs, and USFS-SPF (R-3) is critical to ensure program success.

State UCF Program Strategy

New Mexico will define a strategy that focuses on the needs of its urban forests, how to meet those needs, and how to sustain long-term funding sources for the State UCF Program. The strategy will be anchored within these tenets:

- Cultivate and demonstrate appreciation for the social, economic, environmental and aesthetic **value of urban forests**.
- Foster **self-sustaining** community-based urban forestry programs and volunteer-based organizations.

- **Promote partnerships** that include the public and private sectors and that lead to the creation of new jobs and contribute to healthier economies.
- Stimulate additional urban forestry **funding** from traditional and nontraditional sources.
- Support **expanded research** on similar climates and communities and assess their application to New Mexico's program.

CALL TO ACTION

The state of New Mexico is poised to acknowledge the value and importance of urban forestry to the health and vitality of its communities. Through implementation of this Strategic Plan, the State UCF Program will assist and empower communities, forge partnerships, implement a successful marketing strategy and seek sustainable funding sources that will result in improved health of urban forests for the benefit of the environment and citizens of the state.

APPENDIX A
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ANALYSIS:
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
(SWOT ANALYSIS)

Strengths

Within New Mexico's UCF Program there are many **internal strengths** that have helped sustain important urban forestry advances. These strengths include:

- NM Forestry Division and Tree New Mexico (TNM) have forged a highly successful and nationally noted partnership. Since 1991, TNM has served as the State's Volunteer Coordinator under the NM State UCF Program. This partnership has become a model for other State UCF Programs around the nation and has resulted in a variety of successful urban forestry campaigns, including the following: planting over one million trees throughout the state; mobilizing thousands of volunteers and partner organizations; recognition at the national level from corporations, federal agencies, and non-profits; and successful leveraging of program dollars through a one-hundred percent funding match.
- The New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Program provides grant funding to support community tree planting projects on public lands. This program has provided over \$470,000 dollars toward planting of over 17,000 trees in communities and schools throughout the state.
- New Mexico State Forestry Division is a highly successful collaborator and has developed and maintained positive relationships with communities, large and small, throughout the state. Through these existing partnerships and future partnerships, the State UCF Program has great potential to positively impact communities and the environment.

Weaknesses

The internal weaknesses facing New Mexico's UCF Program reflect similar weaknesses of forest councils and state forestry divisions across the country – limited resources and lack of coordination of resources throughout the state. More specifically these weaknesses include:

- Limited awareness about the value of trees with a wide diversity of audiences
- Lack of statewide planning and coordination to include appropriate funding and resources to support urban forestry
- Logistical difficulties in providing services statewide
- Expansive geography with diverse climate zones and limited resources for small rural communities

Opportunities

There are several external opportunities that present powerful tactics to sustain New Mexico's urban forests. Locally, statewide, and nationally these external opportunities play a key role in defining a successful long-range strategic plan.

- Locally, there are potential funding sources from industry, foundations, private companies and others that will be identified and approached. Several funders should be targeted, specifically those interested in under-served communities, youth-related environmental projects, forestry research, urban forestry, and environmental health. These external funding sources need to be leveraged to off-set any changes in the National UCF funding levels.
- Statewide, there are large numbers of untapped stakeholders that have the expertise and influence to provide critical support for expanding and sustaining New Mexico's UCF program. These stakeholders include corporate and small business leaders, tree and non tree-related Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), educational and research institutions, hospitals and healthcare providers, community organizations and leaders, elected officials, municipal and transportation planners, developers, and tree care professionals.
- Nationally, there is a growing recognition about the importance of the environment and natural resources. This national dialogue has set the stage to encourage citizens and elected leaders to take a closer look at the health of the urban forest and its impact on their lives.

Threats

The external threats to New Mexico's UCF Program are both short-term and long-term. How these threats are managed against our ability to innovate and capitalize on external opportunities is important to the program's long-term viability.

- Changes and volatility in the National UCF Program. In the short-term is New Mexico prepared to address the new direction of this national program? In the long-term, New Mexico must avoid primary dependence on funding provided by the National UCF Program which may continue to decline.
- Long-term, sprawl and poor urban planning could pose a serious and substantial threat to urban forests. Can we impact appropriate legislation and ordinances for "smart growth"? Can we identify, track, and quantify the impact to our urban forests? Can we sufficiently maintain adequate resources to successfully respond to insect and disease infestations, extended drought conditions, and the threat of wildland fire in the wildland-urban interface?

- What natural disasters could impact the fragile ecosystem in our urban forests? We have learned from the devastation of other catastrophic natural events that most communities do not include urban forests in their emergency planning. These types of natural events can have far-reaching consequences especially when trees and forests are not properly maintained.

Challenges

With all of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified, there are additional challenges that the State UCF Program will be prepared to address. These challenges include:

- The ability to serve a culturally diverse population, rooted in an extensive history. New Mexico's culture embraces 22 Native American communities and roots in Hispanic heritage dating back to Spanish exploration and colonization during the 16th and 17th centuries.
- The ability to serve a diversity of communities from urban to rural. The majority of the state population resides within the Greater Albuquerque Area with additional population centers scattered throughout an expansive state. Unique challenges face both our large population centers and rural communities.
- Limited financial resources and poverty in many of the outlying towns and villages throughout the state.

APPENDIX B

STRATEGIC PLANNING: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND TIMELINES

Strategic Planning: Focus Areas

Our strategic planning will guide us toward important and powerful outcomes over the next five, ten or more years. This process allows us to identify our priorities, goals, necessary resources, action plans, and benchmarks to measure progress.

Additionally, flexibility is expected and welcomed in this process to allow for changes, adjustments, and new insights to aptly respond to changes in conditions and circumstances. This strategic plan will be evaluated annually by the State UCF Program Manager and Urban Forest Council and adjustments to goals and priorities will be made as necessary.

The following six focus areas have been identified:

1. Assessing Community Needs
2. Developing and Sustaining Community Based Urban Forestry Programs
3. Developing New Partnerships
4. Expanding Funding Resources to Support Programs Statewide
5. Marketing and Community Outreach
6. Landscape Scale Management

1. Assessing Community Needs

Understanding a community's concerns helps to pinpoint gaps in services, resources, and changing demographics. Statewide, New Mexico communities have diverse challenges impacted by economic factors, topography, rate of population growth, climate, and the availability of infrastructure systems. Every community is unique and by listening to their individual concerns we can collaboratively develop programs that produce results.

Goal: Assess the individual community needs of New Mexico's cities, towns and villages as they relate to the urban forest. Use this assessment to define the State UCF Program role in serving communities.

Objectives	Strategies	Active participants	Target Accomplishment Date
Develop a statewide Community Classification Structure (Appendix C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Further develop classification structure, in order to clearly identify need, based on community attributes (geography, elevation, topography, etc.) ○ Utilize classification structure to set priorities and track progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program 	Winter 2008
Assess community needs throughout the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and utilize opportunities to survey communities ○ Utilize local State Forestry District expertise to identify community needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program ○ Forestry Division, District personnel 	Winter 2008

	<p>and priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visit with individual community leaders and citizens to determine current conditions and future needs 		
<p>Define roles and responsibilities of State UCF Program in serving community needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review information gathered from community assessments ○ Define program specific role in serving communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program ○ NM Urban Forest Council (Forest Council) ○ Tree New Mexico ○ Tree Planting Advisory Committee for NM Forest Re-Leaf Program 	<p>Spring 2009</p>

2. Developing and Sustaining Community Based Urban Forestry Programs

The State UCF Program will foster self-sustaining, community-based urban forestry programs. Informed and engaged individual citizens, communities, and local governments will ensure cost-effective urban forestry programs.

Goal: Provide communities with the resources and knowledge necessary to sustain community-based urban forestry programs.

Objectives	Strategies	Active participants	Target Accomplishment Date
Provide support and resources for existing urban forestry programs and for communities interested in developing a program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop list of priority communities ○ Utilize UCF Program Volunteer Coordinator to provide resources and assistance to priority communities ○ Develop and publish an “NM Community Guide for Urban Forestry” ○ Promote National Arbor Day Foundation “Tree City USA Program” ○ Involve local Forestry Division District personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program and local District Personnel ○ Forest Council ○ Local community partners (i.e. ISA Certified Arborists, Master Gardeners, Keep NM Beautiful & local “Clean and Beautiful” organizations, etc.) ○ Tree New Mexico 	<p>Spring 2008, Begin implementation</p> <p>Spring 2009, Assess progress and effectiveness</p>
Improve and expand the NM Forest Re-Leaf Program to better serve communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand fundraising efforts ○ Update Tree Planting Advisory Committee (TPAC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program and local District personnel 	<p>Spring 2008, Begin implementation</p> <p>Spring 2009, Assess progress and</p>

	<p>membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve program marketing ○ Involve Forestry Division District personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TPAC members 	effectiveness
Develop recognition tools for communities that exhibit exemplary efforts to promote and maintain healthy urban forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Augment Tree City USA recognition tools ○ Recognize small rural communities ○ Recognize tribal communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program ○ Forest Council 	<p>Winter 2008, Develop plan</p> <p>Summer 2009, Implement recognition program</p>
Develop a Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide funds to assist with: developing local urban forestry programs (staffing needs, plan development, inventory, etc.) – match required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program ○ Forest Council 	<p>Winter 2008, Develop plan</p> <p>Summer 2009, Implement grant program</p>

3. Developing New Partnerships

A successful UCF Program in New Mexico relies heavily on public and private partnerships. By providing leadership and engaging our partners, the State UCF Program can promote and sustain local urban forestry programs, educate communities and citizens, and have a positive impact on our urban environment.

Goal: Develop strategic, collaborative partners from across the state

Objectives	Strategies	Active participants	Target Accomplishment Date
Develop working partnerships with communities on a local government and citizen level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet with interested communities and citizens ○ Utilize opportunities to assist interested communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program and local District personnel ○ Tree New Mexico 	Spring 2008, Begin implementation with ongoing development
Further develop list of target partnerships (Appendix C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involve program partners who will elevate the importance of urban forestry and provide insight into how the State UCF Program can better serve communities ○ When appropriate, augment Forest Council membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program and local District personnel ○ Forest Council 	Spring 2008, Begin implementation with ongoing development

4. Expanding Funding Resources to Support Programs Statewide

The current annual budget for the State UCF Program is approximately \$266,000; of which, over 85% is federally funded. This funding provides for:

- Staffing (\$180,000): one permanent staff person, the State Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, and one Volunteer Coordinator contract;
- Program implementation (\$86,000).

The future horizon for Federal funding support is uncertain, and therefore showcases a significant funding need for continuation and expansion of the program.

Goal: Increase funding for ongoing urban forestry, tree care and maintenance statewide.

Objectives	Strategies	Active participants	Target Accomplishment Date
Seek opportunities for additional funding through USFS-SPF Competitive Allocation Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target suitable landscape-scale projects that incorporate urban forestry and adjacent forested lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program, Forest and Watershed Health Office, local District personnel ○ USFS Region 3 State and Private Forestry staff 	September 2008(FY 09 Competitive Grant submittal)
Develop a strategy for seeking future NM State base-program funding support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NM Forestry Division budget development ○ Outreach to community partners and organizations that support program goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program and Division Management 	August 2008
Document current UCF Program funding sources, track accomplishments and associated expenditures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide a baseline to be used for future planning and program development 	Forestry Division, UCF Program	Spring 2009, Initial review and assessment with ongoing development
Create and maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF 	Spring 2009,

<p>“UCF Program Supplemental Funding Resource List”</p>	<p>to communities to support local urban forestry programs and efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilize to identify funding gaps and target future funding sources 	<p>Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest Council 	<p>Initial development completed with ongoing development</p>
<p>Further collaboration between State Forestry Programs to ensure efficient and effective funding sources are secured to implement State UCF Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and utilize opportunities for collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program, Forest and Watershed Health Office, local District Personnel 	<p>Ongoing</p>

5. Marketing and Community Outreach

Marketing is an effective tool to respond to marketplace factors and support program strategies. Today's complex and fast paced marketplace highlights the benefits of strategic collaborations, branded messaging, influencing consumer behavior, and leveraging limited funding.

Goal: Develop a marketing and community outreach plan to communicate the value that the urban forest provides for communities and the environment.

Objectives	Strategies	Active participants	Target Accomplishment Date
Develop and publish an "NM Community Guide for Urban Forestry"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gather partners critical to ensuring that guide will serve communities throughout the state ○ Utilize appropriate materials and information from similar publications in other states ○ Utilize a professional marketing consultant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program and local District Personnel ○ Forest Council 	<p>Summer 2008, Develop plan and begin development</p> <p>Winter 2009, Complete project and publish Community Guide</p>
Promote urban forestry through media outlets and community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and utilize opportunities to highlight urban forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division UCF Program, Public Relations Coordinator, and local District personnel ○ Forest Council 	Spring 2008 with ongoing development
Actively participate in implementation of the Western Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involve local urban forestry advocates in WFLC "Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division UCF Program 	Spring 2008, Advocacy Group developed

Leadership Coalition (WFLC) “Marketing Strategy for Urban and Community Forestry in the West” (dated 1/11/2007)	Group”		
Implement focused marketing to decision-makers at the local, state, and national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Showcase the value of healthy urban forests ○ Create and publish fact sheets ○ Advocate to legislators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program ○ Forest Council 	Fall 2008
Develop NM Forestry Division, UCF Program website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a clearinghouse of UCF information and resources for communities and citizens in NM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division, UCF Program 	Summer 2009
Develop outreach and education materials focused on serving the needs of community-based urban forestry programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop and publish pamphlets for: NM UCF Program and NM Forest Re-Leaf ○ Develop and implement Arbor Day materials and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Division UCF Program ○ Forest Council 	Fall 2009

6. Landscape Scale Management

It is important to understand and recognize the value of the interconnectedness of our urban forests, the adjacent forested lands, and the rangelands surrounding communities. In managing this landscape as one system, there is immense opportunity to improve the health of our natural resources and the communities that rely on them. With a diversity of challenges facing our communities and natural resources, the State UCF program is well poised to serve a vital role in improving the health of our communities.

Goal: Develop landscape-level management strategy statewide

Objectives	Strategies	Active participants	Target Accomplishment Date
Align goals of State UCF Program Strategic Plan with NM State Forest and Watershed Health Strategic Plan and NM Forestry Division Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilize opportunities to include urban forestry components and community participation in landscape scale projects (i.e. 319 Grant opportunities, USFS-SPF Competitive Allocation Grants, etc.) 	Forestry Division, UCF Program, local District Personnel, and NM Forest and Watershed Health Office	Spring 2009, Assess progress and effectiveness while utilizing opportunities as they arise

APPENDIX C: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

STATE FORESTER LETTER OF SUPPORT



Bill Richardson

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Reese Fullerton

Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Arthur "Butch" Blazer

Division Director

Forestry Division



April 1, 2008

Distinguished Members of the New Mexico Urban Forest Council,

I invite you to join with the New Mexico State Forestry Division and our State Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program in adopting this Strategic Plan. Together we will collaborate to raise awareness of the values that urban forestry provides for the health and vitality of our communities and citizens. With renewed enthusiasm and a common vision, we together will bring resources into our state that will address many of the challenges that our communities face and create opportunity for improved health of our environment and people.

The State Forestry Division is committed to sustaining a state-wide vision and will rely on your support to develop and sustain partnerships, promote the value of our program, and assist in providing our communities with the tools to develop and maintain local UCF Programs. The success of our program is reliant on your continued support and enthusiasm, which in turn, will show the State of New Mexico that maintaining and enhancing urban forests within our communities can truly improve the vitality of our communities and the health of our people.

As continued Federal funding for this program is in question, your participation has never been more imminent. I commend you on your commitment to the State UCF Program and to the people of our state. I can assure you that the State Forestry Division is committed to sustaining this vision and anxious to work with each and every one of you to serve our communities and citizens.

Sincerely,

Arthur "Butch" Blazer

New Mexico State Forester

COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION

Communities within New Mexico are very diverse in population density, culture, and geography. In order to focus the State UCF Program on providing resources and support for these diverse communities, they are categorized as follows. *These categories are organized based on their unique culture and organizational structures that may or may not be capable of supporting a local urban forestry program, but will be considered as communities that the State UCF Program will strive to serve:*

- Municipality – Maintains central government structure that should be capable of supporting an urban forestry program. *(currently 102 communities)*
- Tribal Communities – Maintains tribal government structure that may or may not be capable of supporting an urban forestry program. These governments maintain unique cultural values and very diverse organizational structures that may include individual pueblos and in addition the surrounding land base *(currently 33 communities: 19 pueblos, 2 Apache communities; and 12 communities within the Navajo Nation)*
- Government Military Base – Maintains a form of government that should be capable of supporting an urban forestry program. *(currently 3 communities)*
- Un-incorporated Area – Entity may or may not be capable of supporting an urban forestry program. *(currently 55 communities)*

The progress of these communities is tracked by the State UCF Program based on their geographical location, defined by the boundaries of the six NM Forestry Division Districts: Bernalillo, Capitan, Chama, Cimarron, Las Vegas, and Socorro. Within each district, the State UCF Program Manager works with local district staff to implement the State UCF Program.

PROGRAM PARTNERS AND TARGET PARTNERSHIPS

PROGRAM PARTNERS

NM State Forestry Division	Tree New Mexico (TNM)
USDA - Forest Service, Region 3	Think Trees New Mexico
NM Urban Forest Council	NM Municipal League
NM Forest Re-Leaf, Tree Planting Advisory Committee (TPAC)	
Village of Ruidoso	City of Albuquerque
City of Roswell	Curry County
International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)	Trees of Corrales
New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)	NM State Land Office
Public Utility Company of New Mexico (PNM)	

TARGET PARTNERSHIPS

NM Association of Counties (NMAC)	Community Planners
Landscape Architects	Business Community
Native American Community representative	
Representative from New Mexico Schools	
Land Conservancy Organization	
New Mexico Region Council of Governments	
Water Departments at State and Local level	

NEW MEXICO URBAN FOREST COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP (SPRING 2008)

Suzanne Probart, Tree New Mexico (current Council Chair)

Jane Westenberger, retired USFS

Butch Blazer, NM State Forester

Kim Kostelnik, NMSF Bureau Chief

Lance Davisson, NMSF Urban Program

Jim Freeman, Consulting arborist

Jim Norwick, NM State Lands Office

Nick Kuhn, City of ABQ Urban Forester

Paul Bryan Jones, consulting arborist (Taos)

Macario Herrera, USFS S&PF-R3

Ben Welch, NM Municipal League (City of Gallup)

Joshua Rosenblatt, City of Las Cruces

Andrew Lisignoli, Trees of Corrales

Ken Smith, Roswell Parks and Recreation Department

Rick Delaco, Village of Ruidoso

Lynn Atwood, Carlsbad Realtor

Wendy Kent, NM Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

Connie Harrison, Curry County