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Colorado State Forest Service
Volunteer Newsletter December 2010

Greetings, CSFS Volunteers!

Happy Holidays! I am happy and very excited to be the new experiential learning coordinator for CSFS and the Warner College of Natural Resources (WCNR). Through this full-time, permanent position, I will continue to coordinate and expand our CSFS Volunteer Forest Steward Program! Additionally, I will be assuming some of Bob Sturtevant's former duties, which include working with forestry-related student groups on campus, assisting with a Forestry Field Practices course, and collaborating with WCNR students and faculty to offer experiential learning opportunities.

Thanks so much for your patience through our recent transition period. We had a very productive summer and early fall season; now things are starting to move forward again. In August we traveled to the Uncompahgre Mesas Forest and collaborated with other volunteers and organizations to conduct ecological monitoring. We also made some big contributions to the Foothills Campus by pulling weeds from seedling tubes at the CSFS Nursery and gathering seeds to plant this fall. Volunteers even assisted with the Foothills Campus Workday on August 20th.

In early September we attended a landowner workshop at the Tahosa Boy Scout Camp in Ward. Our CSFS volunteers were instrumental in making the event a success. They interacted with important stakeholders and kept the workshop running smoothly and safely. As an added bonus, they were able to see a variety of harvesting and processing equipment in action and interact with the operators.

A few volunteers came in weekly this fall to help me to complete projects in and around the office. We kept them busy harvesting seeds at the nursery and weeding seedling rows. Even Alex's dog helped to pull the weeds!



Volunteers Jeff and Alex picked seeds at the nursery.



Jeff, Boyd and Bob take a well-deserved break during the Foothills Campus Workday.



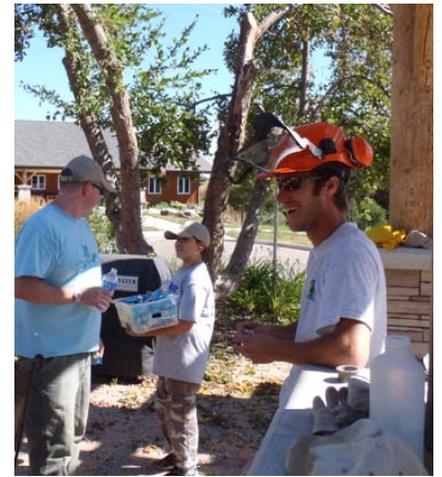
Many volunteers and organizations collaborated to perform ecological monitoring on the Uncompahgre Mesas Forest.

The CSFS Volunteer Forest Steward Program joined forces with Colorado Tree Farmers to put on a Beetle Buster Training for Larimer County in September. We hope to get crews out soon to help interested landowners find and identify beetles on their properties, and help spread the good word about forest management! Special thanks to Wes Rutt for all of his efforts in putting together this training! We recently received a Larimer County Environmental Stewardship award for his efforts.

Volunteers conducted post-thinning ecological monitoring, for the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) in support of the Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative in September. Work was done near the 2002 Hayman Fire at the Manitou Experimental Forest. Volunteers stayed at the Manitou Lodge for two nights and enjoyed a weekend of forest inventory and fellowship.

The new 12" Morbark chipper arrived in August and we have now had two successful employee training sessions. Watch for volunteer opportunities this spring to use this awesome piece of equipment to accomplish good forest management.

Lastly, special thanks to Jeff Linehan and Mr. and Mrs. Keralis for helping the CSU Society of American Foresters student group with their firewood fundraiser. Unfortunately, our December trip to Pin-gree Park was cancelled due to a Winter Weather Advisory.



It was a family affair, as my little brother AJ distributed refreshments at the Foothills Campus Workday.



Cliff, Ryan and Karen picked a tough job in a shady spot at the Foothills Campus Workday.



Forest inventory with CFRI on the Manitou Experimental Forest.



Boyd trains the Larimer County Beetle Busters. (Photo by Pete Barry)



A room full of Beetle Busters in training!

Visit our website to learn about upcoming events, and please share this site with others to help us recruit:

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/volunteers.html>

Looking Ahead to 2011

We currently are preparing for a winter full of recruitment and training, and will be reaching out to new Volunteer Forest Stewards. We plan to hold orientation and training this winter and spring and will send details as soon as they are available. Also on the agenda for 2011 will be an S212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws class for volunteers interested in chainsaw use.

We will make a major effort to collaborate with natural resource groups within CSU and to have a greater impact across the state. Additionally, we will be renovating the volunteer website, pursuing grants and additional funding, developing internship opportunities within the CSFS for WCNR, and increasing other collaborations with the college and CSU. If you would like to be involved in any of these projects or simply contribute ideas, please contact me!

I look forward to working with all of you in the months ahead as we continue to develop the Volunteer Steward Program and many of the other opportunities affiliated with this fun and rewarding new position. If you have volunteer project ideas, please feel free to contact me anytime.

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UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENTS:

- Workday: Location TBD, Jan. 15, 2011
- Activating our Beetle Buster Crews: Ongoing!
- Volunteer Forest Stewards Orientation: Feb. '11
- S212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws class: TBD



CSFS employees getting to know the new chipper, which will be used by volunteers in 2011!



CSU students pull weeds as part of Ram Serve.



A well-deserved potluck after a morning of work at the Foothills Campus Workday.



Thanks for all of your volunteer efforts in 2010!

