CSFS volunteers started the school year with various projects around Colorado. We helped a local trails association with a chipping event on the Black Forest in the CSFS Woodland Park District, and participated in forest regeneration surveys and a forestry tour in Kremmling with the Granby District. A huge thanks to the foresters on those districts for hosting projects! Volunteers also worked alongside Rist Canyon firefighters and the CSU Alumni Association to help them clean out Fire Station Number 3 after High Park Fire damage. Also, CSFS nursery tour training was offered to volunteers in preparation for the Forestry Fair in September.

On Sept. 22, the Fort Collins District, Colorado Tree Farmers and CSFS Volunteers joined forces to offer a training and picnic for landowners and volunteer groups dealing with the High Park Fire aftermath. The day included visits with affected forest landowners and discussions about successful fuels mitigation and forest management measures to be implemented by Morgan Timber Products. Additionally, CSFS staff demonstrated best practices and tips for evaluating burnt trees, utilizing burnt material, seeding, mulching and contour log terracing. About 40 people attended the training.

The day included forestry equipment demonstrations, nursery and engine shop tours, CSU logging sports, youth activities, and some great speakers. Eighteen partner organizations participated in the fair, along with 25 volunteers and many CSFS employees.

The 2nd Annual Forestry Fair was a great success. We estimate that over 300 people attended the fair.

Above: Jamie Dahl talks to volunteers and homeowners about post-fire rehab techniques at a workshop held by CSFS volunteers and Tree Farmers.

Above: Volunteers in the Black Forest chipping slash.

Left: Kids enjoy the puppet tree show at the Forestry Fair, led by Courtney Peterson and furry friends.
Another successful year for the CSU Homecoming bonfire was possible with the help of many CSFS volunteers. Some helped gather slash for fuel in the hills while others who helped pile it on campus for the post-parade festivities.

Volunteers Brandon Opila and Joe Temple alongside CSFS Granby District foresters, Ryan McNertney and Paul Cada.

Volunteers also spent a fun day in the snow in Coal Creek Canyon on Oct. 28. CSFS Boulder District foresters and Boulder County personnel held a chipping day for locals, many of whom are doing mitigation work on their properties.

Finally, CSFS volunteers are partner with Gift of a Green Christmas, a Fort Collins-based charity that each year provides hundreds of free Christmas trees to families that otherwise would not have one. This year the charity will be cutting and delivering 300 trees provided by CSFS. CSFS volunteers will be helping to harvest and deliver the trees.

The CSFS is partnering with several other groups to complete larger scale volunteer projects on the High Park burn area. On Oct. 7 and Nov. 3, CSFS volunteers joined the Wildland Restoration Volunteers and other members of the High Park Restoration Coalition to assist with seeding, an erosion control measure, on some of the affected areas of last summer’s devastating fire. We seeded a total of 70 acres. CSFS Volunteers will continue to assist with similar projects in 2013, including some major tree planting efforts on the burn area in April.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Gift of a Green Christmas Tree Harvest @ Pingree Park, Nov. 29

Christmas Tree Cutting and Sales, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 & 2 (separate events)

Delivering Christmas trees in Fort Collins / Loveland, Dec. 8
A BIG thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the 2012 Forestry Fair such a great Success!