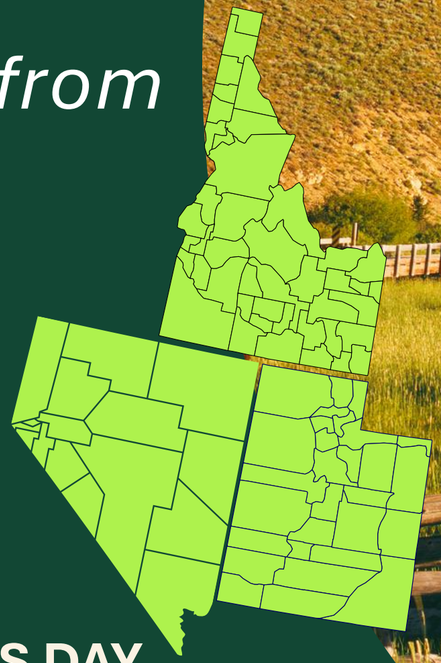
Cultivating Community Forestry Across The Rural West

Stories & Perspectives from Utah, Nevada & Idaho





ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES DAY

Partners in Community Forestry Conference 2026

November 17, 2026

Cultivating Community Forestry Across The Rural West



Lance Davisson

The Keystone Concept
+ Trees Idaho



Amy May

TreeUtah



Lisa Ortega

Nevada Plants



Emma Stammer

Trees Idaho

Stories from the rural West

- **A little bit about me and my relationship with these 3 dynamic & passionate Executive Directors** from NGO's serving communities (large & small) across the Western US

- **Be curious to learn** about the challenges our organizations face, the commonalities that we share and how we leverage partnerships, cohort org's and relationships to serve diverse and often under-resourced communities

- **Continue to grow this conversation** throughout Partners in Community Forestry 2026 in St Louis – the relationships you build will be key to your future success

- **Thank you Alliance for Community Trees!**





Lance Davisson
Founder & Principal Consultant @ The Keystone Concept
Co-Founder & Executive Advisor @ Trees Idaho
Former Chair of NUCFAC (2012-17) & President at PNW ISA (2013-18)

TREES IDAHO

- Founded in 2014 as the Treasure Valley Canopy Network, focused on Boise Metro
- Now **statewide**, expanding tree planting, care, and education across Idaho
- **Small staff, big state** - can take 10-12 hours to drive from southern to northern Idaho
- **Partnership**-driven approach to support local communities and expand our reach
- **Building capacity** for long-term urban & community forest health across Idaho



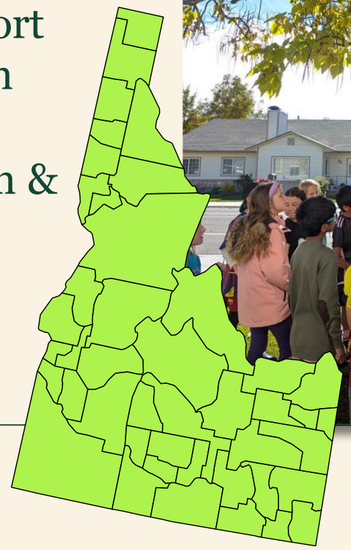
















TREEUTAH

PLANTING TREES · GROWING COMMUNITY

- Planting trees and follow up care with groups of volunteers at schools, parks, open lands
- Plentiful paid internships and part time work for people interested in joining our Team Leader Community
- Tree giveaways in low-canopy neighborhoods most in need
- Collaborative approach to getting work done with schools, tribes, community groups, muicipalities











NEVADA PLANTS COMMUNITY FORESTRY

- Started in 2021. GCLI concreted the idea. Now Plantings and giveaways statewide
- Plantings in zip codes with urban heat islands and food deserts, IRA equity
- Collaborations with cities, Tribes, communities, other organizations and businesses.
- Plantings at schools and school gardens throughout the state.
- Trees must be delivered to every rural town and Tribe!



Let’s chat!



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