



Northeastern Area News Notes



January 28, 2009



From the Director's Desk

Change Brings New Administration

What's Next for Green Jobs and Infrastructure?

Inauguration Day, January 20, 2009, brought a new President for our country. As we watched and read about the primaries and elections, many of us pondered and mused about changes that could happen in our government and our agency. Were you thinking that things would stay the same or were your thoughts of historic changes?

Today's economic situation in the United States provides the background for Federal and State legislatures to explore and debate economic stimulus packages of historic dimensions. There will be a call once again for the best from the U.S. Forest Service. Significant opportunities will focus on three items—creating green jobs, expanding renewable energy use, and addressing climate change. The opportunities are promising because these are leading items on the Energy and Environment agenda of President Obama. Across the 20 States and District of Columbia, approximately 700,000 jobs are based in forest industries. Even a modest stimulus could result in many new jobs!

In past times of national economic hardship, the Forest Service was called upon to provide projects and jobs for the citizens of the country. During the Great Depression, the Forest Service was a leader in accomplishing President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Through our role with the Civilian Conservation Corps, we put thousands of people to work on projects across the country. Now, in 2009, the Forest Service's response to Congress shows the agency's potential capacity to create jobs through hazardous fuels reduction (on both Federal and non-Federal land); facilities reconstruction (recreation, administrative sites, bridges, roads, dams, and fish passages, among others); and wood-to-energy grants that will focus on helping develop alternative energy through increased use of biomass resulting from restoration activities. Our partners, State Foresters affiliated through the National Association of State Foresters, have provided congressional leaders with information on projects or initiatives that would add thousands of opportunities to the green jobs potential.

The Northeastern Area is uniquely poised, due to our relationships with partners and experiences in collaborative efforts, to be successful in any of the economic stimulus responses required of the Forest Service. Our Strategic Business Plan for 2009 outlines a focus on integrating Community Wildfire Protection Plans with other forest planning programs, which provides opportunity to reduce hazardous fuels on rural private lands and forests close to urban areas. In addition, the development of an integrated program strategy to guide Federal investments and actions that help reduce the effects of emerald ash borer can assist in wood-to-energy opportunities that arise from forest restoration.



The Wood Education and Resource Center has much information for the public about increased use of biomass and alternative energy. We have much to offer, and, in concert with the States and other partners, we will work to deliver whatever is expected of us. What is certain is there will be opportunities for leadership, teamwork, creativity, and success in support of our mission and the needs of our Nation's economy.

I see great opportunity ahead for NA as I watch the developments of the new Administration and Congress, and appreciate the cooperation and counsel of the State Foresters. I'm looking forward to 2009. It may very well be a year in which we serve our country in a way that we haven't experienced—being part of an historic economic recovery that is vital to our Nation. Now that's an idea that gets me up in the morning!

Happy New Year!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip(s) of the Month

Put Your Sidewalks on a Low-salt Diet!



This time of the year, you may reach for the salt—not for your French fries—for your icy sidewalk. Deicing salt leaches into the soil, which is unhealthy for plants and can contaminate groundwater. It also goes down the drain, which contaminates local waterways. You can carefully choose a deicer product, consider its environmental impacts, and apply deicers sparingly. There are several types of deicers to choose from. Some State transportation departments are even experimenting with using beet juice (go to Ohio.com)! The table at the following link provides a summary of the pros and cons of the main ingredients of common deicing products, along with other handy tips for applying deicers (<http://www.stormcenter.com/envirocast/2003-01-01/envirocast-article4.php>). In addition, potassium chloride is often recommended because plants can take up potassium as a nutrient. Make sure to check the package directions and use deicers sparingly. As the old adage for table salt says, “A little goes a long way.”

References:

Jeff Kart, Saginaw Bay Watershed Watch, The Bay City Times:

http://blog.mlive.com/watershedwatch/2009/01/picking_the_right_deicing_prod.html National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, Envirocast Newsletter: <http://www.stormcenter.com/envirocast/2003-01-01/envirocast-article4.php> Ohio.com, “Some Ohio roads will get beet juice mix”: http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/12076086.html



Properly Recycle Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are energy efficient and a cost-effective alternative to traditional incandescent lamps. According to the EPA, CFLs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than traditional bulbs. It is important to know that CFLs contain a small amount of mercury that is released into the environment if they are discarded in the trash. According to the EPA, “Once in the environment, mercury can be converted to an organic form that accumulates in living organisms and contaminates the food chain. To prevent the release of mercury, fluorescent light bulbs should be taken to a recycler before they break. Recyclers can recover the mercury and other components for reuse.” You can easily recycle CFLs at Home Depot stores and increasingly at other locations. Several U.S. Forest Service offices also offer CFL recycling—check with your facilities staff. Even though CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, their use actually presents “an opportunity to *prevent* mercury from entering the air, where it most affects our health. The highest source of mercury in the air comes from burning fossil fuels such as coal, the most common fuel used in the United States to produce electricity. A power plant will emit 10 milligrams (mg) of mercury to produce the electricity to run an incandescent lamp compared to only 2.4 mg of mercury to run a CFL for the same time.” In addition, with proper recycling, virtually all components of a CFL can be recycled. The mercury can be separated and reused in new fluorescent light bulbs or other mercury-containing devices.



photo credit: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Reference:

U.S. EPA Web site: Mercury-Containing Light Bulb Recycling:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastetypes/universal/lamps/index.htm>

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

One Small Step for Missouri is One Giant Step for NA's Forest Legacy Program

The Missouri purchase of a 154-acre parcel thrust the Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program (FLP) to 100 percent of its 20-State accomplishment goal. There are now FLP projects in all 20 Northeastern Area States. The FLP is a completely voluntary program—not only is land acquired from willing sellers, but States have to volunteer to join the FLP as well. The 20 Northeastern Area States joined the FLP from August 5, 1993, when Massachusetts was approved, through August 5, 2005, when Ohio and Missouri were approved.

Missouri recently closed on a 154-acre parcel, its first acquisition with FLP funding. The parcel, known as LaBarque Creek, is located in Jefferson County in the eastern part of the State adjacent to Young State Forest. The State purchased the property from the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center (The Center), which was founded in 1971 by noted naturalist Marlin Perkins (of Wild Kingdom fame) and others. The Center's mission is the preservation of the wolf and other canids. In fact, many of the wolves reintroduced into the wild by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were bred at this facility. Why did The Center sell the parcel? The previous owner of the property would only sell the parcel in its entirety; therefore, The Center purchased more than it needed or could afford. The parcel Missouri

purchased was not critical to the mission of The Center. Missouri, however, was very interested in protecting the parcel because of its strategic location adjacent to Young State Forest.

This acquisition brings total Forest Legacy Program accomplishments to 1,712,240 acres of protected land—1,168,324 of those acres (68 percent) are in Northeastern Area States. “The interesting history of the [Missouri] parcel makes this point in NA FLP history all that more memorable,” said **Deirdre Raimo**, NA FLP Manager.

Number One Forest Service Official Visits Tree Farm #1

Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell accepted an invitation from Forest Legacy Program (FLP) partners to visit the 2,500-acre Tree Farm #1 fee purchase project in Adams County, PA, on November 16, 2008.

Tree Farm #1, which is anticipated to receive an allotment of FLP funding in 2009, is currently the last remaining large block of private forest land in the area. The property contains the headwaters for a cold-water fishery and has historically been managed for pulpwood. A group of six nonprofit partners, four State personnel, and three Forest Service personnel accompanied Chief Kimbell on a tour of the project. Kathryn Conant, National FLP Leader, was pleased to have an opportunity to highlight a high-quality FLP project for the Chief and show the FLP connection to the Forest Service Open Space Conservation Strategy. As Conant remarked, “Tree Farm #1 highlights all the key elements of the FLP—strong partnerships, local support, and State leadership.” Northeastern Area Director **Kathryn Maloney** had planned on attending but was not able to join the tour.



Forest Service Chief Kimbell (center) and Forest Legacy Program partners take time out for a group photo on the Tree Farm #1 proposed Forest Legacy Tract. Pictured from left to right are Kristen Sykes, Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC); Susan Arnold, AMC; Mike Eschenman, PA DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation; Kathy Decoster, Trust for Public Land (TPL)—Eastern Forest Partnership; Dick Mountford, Land Conservancy of Adams County; Gene Odato, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry; Peg Polichio, U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Kathryn Conant, USFS; Chief Gail Kimbell, USFS; Dan Sakura, The Conservation Fund (TCF); Dan Devlin, PA State Forester; Todd McNew, TCF; Rachel Billingham, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry; and Tim Decoster, USFS. Not pictured: Mike Kusko, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry. (Photo taken by Kathy Odato)

Please Welcome Michael Huneke, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator

Michael Huneke graduated from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a dual B.S. degree in Resources Management and Environmental Forest Biology in 1992. In 1993, Mike began working as a Watershed Forester for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service in Harford and Cecil counties, Maryland. During this time, Mike established some of the first landscape level riparian restoration projects in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In 2002, Mike became the Project Manager for the Harford Cecil Project with the DNR

Forest Service and worked to oversee the delivery of all of the Maryland Forest Service programs in the two-county area, including Stewardship, Fire, Urban Forestry, Information and Education and State Forest Management. Mike has a strong background in Project Management, Forest Stewardship and Fire and he is currently qualified as a Division Supervisor.

In July of 2008, Mike left the Maryland DNR Forest Service after 15 years of service to take a position as the U.S. Forest Service Military Conservation Projects Coordinator stationed at the Army Environmental Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. In December 2008, the Interagency Agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the Army was terminated and Mike was reassigned to Newtown Square to serve as the Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator for the Northeastern Area.

Mike is active in his church and community at home in Whiteford, MD, and serves as a Firefighter and EMT with the Whiteford Volunteer Fire Department. Mike enjoys spending time with his wife Su Ann and four children, Carmen, Jacob, Abbey, and Tyler.

Durham Field Office

Storm Response Initiative Presented to Massachusetts Tree Care Professionals

The Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association (MTWFA) held their annual meeting January 6 and 7, 2009. More than 150 tree wardens and other tree care professionals battled a winter storm to hear about the latest in tree care issues, including the Asian longhorned beetle. **John Parry** from the Durham Field Office gave a presentation about a new Storm Response Strike Team initiative developed by the Forest Service in the Southern Region. The process recruits, trains, and deploys urban foresters and arborists to storm-damaged areas to help conduct tree damage assessments. The Northeastern Area has a cooperative agreement with the MTWFA to conduct a pilot project to bring this initiative to our area.

Maine's Forest Working Group Receives 2008 Two Chiefs' Partnership Award

The Maine Forest Working Group has been honored for its unique approach to landowner education and was among four group winners of the third annual Two Chiefs' Partnership Awards presented by the Federal government and announced December 8, 2008. The group was honored nationally along with groups from South Carolina, Washington State, and Michigan. Three individual award winners were also announced.

The Two Chiefs' awards are presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to recognize exemplary employees and projects from the Forest Service, NRCS, State forestry agencies, and conservation districts who have worked collaboratively to support conservation and forest stewardship.



Roger Monthey gives a presentation to the Maine Forest Working Group in Presque Isle, ME.

The Maine Forest Working Group (FWG) is a highly effective partnership composed of the Maine Forest Service; Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine; NRCS; U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Durham Field Office; University of Maine Cooperative Extension; Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development Area; and consulting foresters. This exemplary group has developed an effective and inexpensive educational model that has directly reached over 400 landowners that collectively own more than 10,000 acres of forest land.

The FWG helps promote agroforestry, alternative forest products, and forestry issues throughout Maine by educating forest landowners about opportunities beyond traditional forest management. In Maine, agroforestry refers to working forests that provide income from nontimber and specialty forest products or provide conservation benefits such as air and water quality, erosion control, fish and wildlife habitat, energy biomass and fuel, recreation, and aesthetics. Since 2002, this group has held a 2-day, statewide agroforestry conference and at least two regional workshops per year in locations from Presque Isle to Sanford. Topics have included “Nontimber Forest Products and How to Identify Marketing Opportunities,” “Achieving Your Vision for Your Forested Lands,” and “Keeping your Woodlot and Making it Profitable Too!” What distinguishes this effort from traditional forest stewardship outreach is the ability to reach and educate nontraditional forest owners.

Maine is the largest of the six New England States, and with a forest cover of 89 percent, it is also the most forested of the 50 States in the Nation. Approximately 100,000 individual private forest landowners own one-third of Maine’s 5.5 million acres of forest. Privately-owned forests provide many public benefits. Roughly 40 percent of all the wood used in Maine’s forest product industries comes from privately-owned forest lands. Maine’s privately-owned forests also help protect wildlife habitats, provide places of recreation, and keep open spaces natural.

Morgantown Field Office

Helen Butalla, Long-time Morgantown Employee, Retires



Helen Butalla relaxes in her new West Virginia rocking chair during her retirement celebration.

Friends and family gathered at Archie’s in Morgantown on January 7 to celebrate the retirement of Helen Butalla. Helen retired from the Forest Service after serving 36 years in the Washington Office and the Northeastern Area. Over the course of her career, she was involved in many projects, including NPST (National Pest Suppression Tracking), Gypsy Moth Digest, WebDET, and WinDET.

Many colleagues from the Morgantown Field Office and the Area shared food and fond memories of working with Helen, and presented tokens of appreciation for her contributions over the years, including a beautiful blue and gold West Virginia rocking chair.

Special Ceremony Held at West Virginia State Capitol for State's First Forest Legacy Property

West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III held a signing ceremony at the State Capitol along with State Forester Randy Dye on January 12 to mark the protection of the State's first Forest Legacy property. The Forest Legacy Program purchases conservation easements (development rights) on properties that still allow the landowner to continue owning and managing the land as working forest. These easements ensure that land will not be developed, but will remain forested forever.



West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III signs paperwork for the State's first Forest Legacy property.

West Virginia's first Forest Legacy project involved the acquisition of a conservation easement on 764 acres of productive forest land in Hampshire County in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. The parcel is located along the South Branch of the Potomac River, which will help protect drinking water quality for Washington, DC, and help clean the Chesapeake Bay. The property also has numerous caves with a long history of use by Native Americans and Confederate soldiers. The landowners actively manage the property to provide multiple benefits with guidance from a management plan. Morgantown Field Representative **Bob Lueckel, Deirdre Raimo, and Karen Sykes** attended the ceremony.

St. Paul Field Office

Kiln Operators Stay Ahead of Wood-damaging Insects

St. Paul Field Office entomologist **John Kyhl** met with members of the Great Lakes Kiln Drying Association in St. Cloud, MN, and presented information about wood-destroying beetles and invasive insects that may affect kiln driers. More than 40 attendees from companies in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and as far away as Indiana and Arkansas were greatly interested in using kilns to manage invasive insects as well as methods to identify and manage insect-damaged wood.

Slowing the Movement of Exotic Pests

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry joined personnel from APHIS and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to train U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection staff members at ports of entry in northern Minnesota. The training focused on the risk of movement of exotic forest insects on lumber and in shipping containers. Large quantities of lumber from Canada and shipping containers from Asia enter the United States at customs stations in Grand Portage and International Falls, MN. St. Paul Field Office entomologist **John Kyhl** gave a presentation about nonregulated, native insects such as bark beetles and phloem borers that may be transported on poplar, pine, and spruce logs bound for mills in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Relationship building among these agencies benefits cooperative efforts to protect the health of forests in the United States.



Wood Education and Resource Center

WERC-Supported Project Focused On International Competitiveness: An Update



Al Steele and others affiliated with the Woodwork Career Alliance met in Washington, DC, to plan for national manufacturing skills standards.

A nationally significant project initiated at the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in 2003, which it continues to support, remains on track to provide key services to woodworkers. Access to highly qualified workers, long a concern of forest products manufacturers, has taken on new urgency as the pace of plant closings in the United States has accelerated. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, “There is a growing gap between the worker skills that are needed in the future and the skills that younger workers bring to the job.”

Recognizing the implications of an unskilled workforce on international competitiveness, WERC first assembled national leaders from woodworking industries, education, and the

industry trade press in September 2003 to discuss recommended responses. Based on results of that meeting, WERC released a Request for Proposals to conduct an assessment of the potential for developing and implementing national wood manufacturing skills standards. The value of skills standards is aptly described by the PMA Educational Foundation: “Skills standards communicate the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities required for successful work performance. Skills standards define a common language of quality and work expectations for employers, employees, job seekers, job advancers, educators, trainers, and labor representatives.”

While noting that there have been failed attempts to develop woodworking skills standards in the past, that the costs of development are very high, and that it had taken other manufacturing sectors many years to develop successfully functioning skills standards programs, the benefits were deemed sufficiently compelling to overcome the reservations of a typically very conservative group of industries. Once convinced, skills standards proponents from diverse and sometimes competing wood industry associations and the educational community began the long journey together to develop skills standards.

In 2007, following several other steps to lay the foundation, organizers chartered the Woodwork Career Alliance of North America (WCA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to develop and deliver the skills standards to workers in secondary wood industries throughout the United States working for kitchen cabinet manufacturers, architectural millworkers, furniture manufacturers, and others. Relying heavily upon volunteers from industry and the educational community, the WCA has drafted and released sample skills standards for a subset of manufacturing functions and developed other major components of the program.

Morgantown Field Office employee **Al Steele**, who began the effort with the others while at WERC in 2003, continues his association with the group.

At a meeting in the Washington, DC, area from January 13 to 15, WCA officers, board members and staff; Steele; and other invited guests met to “light the fuse” and begin the detailed planning for another major step in the skills standards process known as credentialing. The group assessed the likely “best fit” credentialing approach and defined major elements, including internal and external communications,



standards refinement, program delivery, and partnership development. Facilitation and guidance for the process was provided by “the Communicators,” a consulting group that has guided national and international groups from many disciplines (for example, computer engineering, aeronautics, and medical) through certification and credentialing processes. The program is designed to be self sufficient and fully functioning by 2013.

EDITOR’S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Wednesday, February 18, 2009**. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month’s edition. Please e-mail final articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us.

Please remember:

- **Send text separate from photos and graphics.**
- **Include captions for all images.**
- **Do not place images in Word or PowerPoint.**

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