



Northeastern Area News Notes



August 14, 2007



From the Director's Desk

Sustainable Operations—A Call to Action

“Using this dishwasher could be equivalent to preserving a 3.4 million acre forest.” That was the headline for a full-page ad in the *New York Times* the same week that the Northeastern Area’s (NA) Executive Team met and heard about efforts to transform the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture into a “greener” organization.

Why should we be concerned? Here is a good reason: The Federal Government is the Nation’s single largest energy consumer and waster. In 2001, the Federal Government consumed about 1,400,000,000,000,000 BTU (1.4 Quad) of energy at a cost of around \$9.6 billion. This is about 1.4 percent of all energy used in the United States. American taxpayers pay \$3.9 billion annually just to heat, cool, and power the 500,000 Federal buildings and facilities. Energy consumption in government buildings has dropped 22 percent since 1985 owing to better energy management, but approximately \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars is still wasted each year in buildings alone.¹

Gifford Pinchot believed that each generation must redefine conservation. In the past several years, our society has become increasingly sensitized to the finite and sometimes fragile nature of our planet’s resources and systems, the impacts of an ever-growing population, and the very likely anthropogenic causes of global warming. Today our agency’s commitment to sustainability expands beyond the resources it is charged to protect and manage. As stewards of the land committed to a sustainable future, our challenge is to look at our ecological footprint—the resources we use and the waste we generate—and make the commitment to operate more sustainably. This can be accomplished by reducing energy use, water use, and waste production at our facilities; reducing emissions and increasing fuel efficiency in our fleet; and developing green purchasing and procurement practices. By reducing consumption and conserving energy, we reduce the ecological footprint of our day-to-day operations and help ensure that adequate natural resources remain to provide essential goods and services like clean water, clean air, carbon storage, wood fiber, biological diversity, and recreational opportunities.

Our response is growing, in many cases, from the grassroots level up—stimulated in part by an executive order, but also by a concerned workforce with a belief in the power of individual action and accountability. For example, we are now mandated by Executive Order 13423 to reduce our gasoline use by 2 percent per year over the next 8 years; use a larger number of hybrid vehicles in our fleet; and reduce our consumption of energy, water, and paper. It is up to each of us to make this a reality.

¹ Source: Department of Energy, Federal Energy Management Program



You may know that within NA, and in cooperation with the Northern Research Station (NRS), we've made some changes—reducing the number of fluorescent tubes in our overhead lighting, for example. You may not know that our Facilities staff has been collecting baseline consumption data for utilities and gasoline. For example, based on 2006 facilities utility consumption data, we estimate that NA generated 409 metric tons of carbon equivalent emissions, equivalent to the amount of carbon sequestered by 532 acres of oak-hickory forest in Pennsylvania. Some of our facilities have undertaken energy and water saving measures at offices—faucets and lavatories with low flow/low-flush units have been installed. Grey Towers is considering how it might become a model of sustainable operations—sharing its success with the agency's leadership as they visit Grey Towers for meetings and training.

To ensure that we continue to make progress in reducing consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, I have directed a small group of NA staff to form a Sustainable Operations (SO) Team. That group has developed a draft charter and workplan, which were presented at the July NA Executive Team Meeting in St. Paul. An early action initiated by the SO Team was the incorporation of Sustainable Operations into our Strategic Plan and Strategic Business Plan. The SO Team is also at work creating a Sustainable Operations Web site. All of this will be done in coordination and partnership with NRS wherever we are co-located.

In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to learn about the team and how you personally can participate. The SO Team will be Web casting across the Area to provide all staff with a briefing on the initiative and to seek your comments and suggestions. My expectation is that individual field offices will develop and implement a Sustainable Operations plan early in FY 2008, tiering from the NA Plan of Action.

What can you do in the short term? There are many easy ways to contribute! Turn off your PCs and office lights when you leave for the day. Think before you print—is double-sided printing an option? Carpool. Learn how to use your office's video conferencing equipment—and then use it.

As we begin to work toward a greener agency and society, I look forward to seeing NA demonstrate the initiative and innovation we are known for. I know I can count on you to help us show that innovation and accountability start here!

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

It's a Turn Off!

Fact to ponder: A computer left continuously running will emit 2,161 pounds of CO₂ in a year and cost \$45 a year to power (at \$0.0372 per kwh).

Action to take: Shut down your computer, monitor, all lights, and other electrical equipment before leaving your office, even if you will only be out for a couple of hours. You may wonder, "What if I leave my computer on but have a screen saver running?" Screen savers were originally designed to help protect the lifespan of monochrome monitors, which are now technologically obsolete. Most screen savers do not save energy unless they actually turn off the screen or, in the case of laptops, turn off the backlight.

Source: Ohio University. 2007. "Green" computing guide. <http://www.facilities.ohiou.edu/greenpc/>. (August 9).



Wood Education and Resource Center

Managing and Understanding the Hispanic Workforce: A Workshop for Employers in the Forest Industries

WERC and Virginia Tech's Sloan Foundation Forest Industries Center are cosponsoring a diversity management workshop designed to improve wood industry's management skills in working with the growing Hispanic workforce. The 2-day interactive workshop, scheduled for September 24–25, 2007, will focus on meeting the cultural, communication, and legal challenges associated with hiring and managing this multicultural workforce. Additional information can be viewed at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/mhwAgenda.pdf>.

Durham Field Office

Healthy Deer and Healthy Forests

White-tailed deer overabundance has emerged as a major forest health issue. As deer populations continue to increase, they are negatively affecting forest regeneration, forest sustainability, and biological diversity over very large areas. On July 30, **Bernie Raimo** and **Tom Rawinski** visited the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY, to learn more about these impacts from an expert on the subject, Ray Winchcombe, Manager of Field Research Facilities. Also attending the event were NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forestry and wildlife personnel.

Under Ray's leadership, the deer management program at the institute's 2,000-acre Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum has been a resounding success, demonstrating that a healthy deer herd and healthy forests can coexist. The success of the program is based on long-term monitoring of forest regeneration and an annual hunt utilizing DEC-issued Deer Management Assistance Program harvest tags.



Ray Winchcombe, Manager of Field Research Facilities at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, describes the institute's deer management program to a group of visiting natural resource professionals.



Morgantown Field Office

Israeli Scientists Participate in Forest Health Technology Exchange Visit



Nitza Saphir, Zion Madar, and Zvika Mendel (left to right) visit the Morgantown field office in an exchange of information on forest health programs.

Three Israeli scientists visited both the Washington Office and the Morgantown Field Office from July 30 through August 3. Entomologist Nitza Saphir and Plant Protection Department Director Zion Madar from the Jewish National Fund joined Professor Zvika Mendel from the Institute of Plant Protection in the Agricultural Research Organization, Ministry of Agriculture, to exchange information about forest health programs. The Forest Service has a long-term collaborative partnership with the Jewish National Fund.

The technology exchange focused on monitoring techniques, biological controls, and aerial suppression of invasive insects. The group spent the first few days in Washington, DC, discussing the basic organizational structure of the Forest Service, management issues, and public

involvement. The scientists then visited Catocin Mountain Park in Maryland to view hemlock woolly adelgid impacts, and another site in western Maryland to see gypsy moth impacts while en route to Morgantown.

Morgantown Field Representative **Bob Lueckel** presented information about the agency's State and Private Forestry unit, and Northern Research Station Project Leader **Kurt Gottschalk** talked about research projects being conducted at the station. Entomologists **Rick Turcotte** and **Brad Onken** gave an overview of programs to combat the spread of hemlock woolly adelgid and gypsy moth. Onken's discussion included information about gypsy moth aerial suppression efforts. **Dan Twardus** also talked about gypsy moth suppression and **Joe Cook** presented information about the gypsy moth environmental impact statement. **Ann Steketee** demonstrated digital aerial sketchmapping capabilities. **Yun Wu** talked about the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team. The group visited several infestation sites to see firsthand the impacts that hemlock woolly adelgid and gypsy moth have on natural resources.

Forester Presents Paper at International Society of Arboriculture Conference

Forester **Anne Cumming** presented a paper at the 83rd annual conference of the International Society of Arboriculture and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations held in Honolulu, HI, from July 28 through August 1. Cumming's presentation, "Large-Scale and National Urban Forest Monitoring and Assessment, was coauthored by **Dan Twardus** from the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and **David Nowak** from the Northern Research Station, and presented as part of the Urban Forestry Research Group session.

Cumming presented data from an urban forest health monitoring pilot study that began in 1999 as a national Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) initiative. Cumming described the products from



the study and discussed the utility of statewide inventories. This project, designed to be implemented nationally, is an example of a national forest health monitoring database that provides not only information about urban forest structure and function at a given point in time, but also estimates of change over time. Development and implementation of the pilot study involved the collaborative efforts of many agencies and programs. Personnel from the Northeastern Area; FHM; Forest Inventory and Analysis; the Urban and Community Forestry Program; and the Northern, Southern, and Rocky Mountain Research Stations have worked cooperatively with State forestry and agriculture agencies. As of January 2007, Tennessee, Colorado, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Indiana, Maryland, and Massachusetts had participated in the pilot study.

The International Society of Arboriculture is a worldwide professional organization dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation for trees and promoting research, technology, and the professional practice of arboriculture. Visit www.isa-arbor.com for more information about the organization and the conference.

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations promotes the coordination of and international cooperation in scientific research related to forests and trees for the well-being of forests and the people who depend on them. For more information about IUFRO, visit www.iufro.org/discover.

i-Tree Training Held in New Jersey

The Davey Tree Expert Company, Rutgers University, the New Jersey Forest Service, and the Forest Service's Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry hosted a 2-day i-Tree training session at the Cook/Douglass Campus in New Brunswick, NJ, on June 12–13. **Donna Murphy** planned the training with Scott Maco of the Davey Tree Expert Company, who was also a featured speaker. Other speakers included Jerry Bond of the Davey Resource Group, Dave Bloniarz of the Northern Research Station, and Mike Alonzo of Casey Trees.

i-Tree is a suite of software tools that helps users identify and manage the structure, function, and value of urban tree populations. Training participants were provided with step-by-step processes for analyzing ecosystems using the Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) Model and conducting a street tree analysis using the Street Tree Resource Assessment Tool for Urban Forest Managers (STRATUM). The training session also covered compatible software utilities, including the Mobile Community Tree Inventory (MCTI), Storm Damage Assessment Protocol, Tree Inventory PDA Utility, and Sample Inventory Generators.

The 2-day workshop targeted State, regional, and municipal urban foresters and local urban forestry leaders interested in new tools to better manage urban forest resources. Over 30



Duff McCully (left) and Brian Henry (center) of the DC Urban Forestry Administration, and Al Iskra gain some practical field data collection experience using hand-held computers.



participants attended the workshop, including State urban forestry personnel from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, and the District of Columbia, as well as professionals from the nonprofit sector, municipal representatives, students involved in urban forestry related curricula, and professionals from private industry.

St. Paul Field Office

Forest Service Chief Visits Northeastern Area, St. Paul Field Office



Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell visited the St. Paul, MN, offices of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and the Northern Research Station on August 1. The visit included a meeting and lunch with all employees and presentations on NA and NRS initiatives, including emerald ash borer (EAB), hybrid poplar plantings, climate exchange, biomass, the Upper Mississippi River Watershed, and water quality/watershed restoration.

Mark Abrahamson (left) and Stephanie Visker (right) of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture EAB program demonstrate the bark peeling process to look for evidence of EAB during a presentation for Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell (center, left) and Northeastern Area Director Kathryn Maloney (center, right).

Forest Legacy Dedication Protects 1,660 Acres of Minnesota Forest

The Forest Legacy Program joined partners from The Trust for Public Land, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Liila Forest Products, the Minnesota Forest Legacy Partnership, and others in celebrating the protection of 1,660 acres of forest land in Itasca County, MN, in Grand Rapids August 8.

The event recognized the efforts of U.S. Representative James Oberstar, U.S. Senators Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar, the Forest Service, Minnesota State legislators, Minnesota DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten, the Blandin Foundation, landowner John Rajala, and other private conservation partners who made the protection of this land at Sugar Hills possible, preserving it as working forest.

Speaking at the event, Mark Rey, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, noted that Minnesota has been a leader in the Forest Legacy Program. “The greatest environmental threat that confronts us today is fragmentation and development of forests, farmlands, and ranches. This exacerbates efforts in fire management, air and water



quality, and habitat for endangered species,” Rey said. “More than 2 million acres of private land have been protected under easements since 1992.”

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, September 19, 2007**. Please e-mail 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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11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
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