



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



News Notes

August 31, 2009



From the Director's Desk

Pinchot's "Unfinished Business"—Our Vision Then and Now!

In late July after a long day of meetings in Durham, NH, the NA Executive Team gathered in honor of the retirement of Grey Towers Director Dick Paterson. Over the course of his long and varied career, Dick made many important contributions to forest conservation in our country. In this column, I would like to highlight one contribution of Dick's that is relevant to our work in the U.S. Forest Service now, and will be for many years to come—his insightful presentation, "The Last Unfinished Business of Gifford Pinchot."

That presentation—prepared in 2007 and available on NA's Web site—described the importance of privately owned forests to our country, and the changes in Forest Service issues and tools that are shifting our focus:

- From a focus on timber famine and erosion to a focus on climate change, water shortages, invasive species, oil dependency, and loss of open space
- From a reliance on regulation to more emphasis on collaboration, incentives, carbon trading, cooperatives, and certification

The presentation concluded by identifying three major forest conservation movements in our country over time:

- (1) Conservation: Initially, public lands and agencies were pitted against industrialist use of natural resources.
- (2) Environmentalism: The next movement involved science and activism versus polluters.
- (3) Collaboration: This is the current movement—a private land conservation focus where the "good versus bad" relationship model won't work. Diverse interests must work together.

We now face many pressing, landscape-scale conservation challenges. And, as our population grows and the impacts of use increase, important landscapes draw our attention—Great Lakes conservation, Mississippi River conservation from Minnesota to the Gulf, Chesapeake Bay conservation, New York City/Hudson River watershed conservation. New solutions are possible as well, including ecosystem markets to address both climate change and water quality and quantity.



Since Pinchot's time, there are also many more government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, scientists and scientific organizations, and new technologies involved in restoring natural resources. In addition, numerous business enterprises, from small to large, are seeking ways to cut back on resource use and to engage in more sustainable "green" practices. The same can be said of individuals across our country and the globe.

It is clear that our work in NA is more critical than ever. Whether the conservation issue at hand calls for us to lead, facilitate, or participate in other ways, the knowledge, skills, and assistance we bring are truly needed. This was made clear in USDA Secretary Vilsack's recent speech in Seattle, WA, on the subject of forests. Here's an excerpt:

"The Forest Service must not be viewed as an agency concerned only with the fate of our national forests, but must instead be acknowledged for its work in protecting and maintaining all American forests, including State and private lands. Our shared vision adopts an 'all-lands approach,' requiring close collaboration with the NRCS and its work on America's private working lands."

So "Thank You" Dick Paterson for your many years of service, for your vision and insight, and for the many quality contributions you have made, such as the wonderful presentation on Pinchot's "unfinished business." We're working on it!

To see Dick's presentation, go to

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nanews/nastories/naseminars/na_seminars.shtml.

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month: Fleet Sustainability

by Sokjae Cho

Why consider fleet sustainability?

1. Increasing fuel efficiency saves MONEY. There are good tips to increasing fuel efficiency at <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml>, such as:

- Sensible driving or "Eco-Driving"—No rapid acceleration and braking, speeding, and aggressive driving, among other tips. Potential fuel efficiency increase: 5 to 33 percent improvement.
- Driving the speed limit—Fuel efficiency reduces beyond 60 mph. Potential fuel efficiency increase: 7 to 23 percent improvement.
- Remove excess weight from your vehicle—Removing excess weight can improve fuel efficiency by 1 to 2 percent for every 100 pounds.
- Vehicle maintenance—Keeping the vehicle in top operating condition can improve fuel efficiency by 4 percent.
- Keep the tires properly inflated.
- Use the recommended motor oil—This can improve fuel efficiency by 1 to 2 percent.
- Alternatives—Drive less, combine trips, car pool, use mass transit, and consider telecommuting.



2. Reduce our dependency on fossil fuel. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and Executive Order 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management) require Federal agencies to reduce petroleum-based fuel consumption by 2 percent annually. In addition, agencies are required to increase the use of nonpetroleum-based fuel (such as biofuels) by 10 percent annually.

3. Reduce our carbon footprint. Linked with the mandates outlined above, the Forest Service has implemented the Environmental Management System (EMS) to help manage multiple environmental issues. One environmental aspect in the EMS is Fleet Sustainability. You should have seen and taken the EMS Fleet General Training (on the NAS&PF and NRS Sustainable Operations Intranet site at

http://fsweb.na.fs.fed.us/staff/Director/Sustainable%20Operations/fltrans_naw.shtml).

Less fuel burned means lower CO₂ emissions. Many NRS and NAS&PF vehicles are 6- or 8-cylinder 4WD SUVs. The side table highlights the differences in fuel efficiency and carbon emission between 6-cylinder SUVs and 4-cylinder SUVs.



Average MPG and Emissions of some NAS&PF & NRS Vehicles

	2008 Ford Explorer (6 cylinder, 4WD)	2008 Ford Escape (4 cylinder, 4WD)	2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer (6 cylinder, 4WD)	2008 Jeep Patriot (4 cylinder, 4WD)
Combined average MPG (EPA)	15	21	16	22
Carbon emission (annual tons)	12.2	8.7	11.4	8.3
Annual petroleum consumption (barrels)	22.8	16.3	21.4	15.6

To find the carbon footprint of your fleet or personal vehicles, or for more information about fuel efficiency, go to <http://www.fueleconomy.gov> (click on “Find and Compare Cars” in the upper left).



Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Maryland Closes Broad Creek Forest Legacy Easement



Boy Scouts in central Maryland will always have a place to experience the outdoors and learn about nature. On August 13th, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service closed a 360-acre Forest Legacy easement on the Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation property, owned by the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. County and State dollars will be utilized to purchase the development rights on the remaining acreage of the 1,670-acre property. The property is located just 25 miles northeast of Baltimore and 10 miles from Interstate 95, where development pressure is extremely high.

The Scout Camp is predominately forested with the oak-hickory forest type with some unique ecological areas, including serpentine barrens and a 60-acre old-growth eastern hemlock stand. Numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals are found on the property. The State champion eastern hemlock, possibly one of the largest of all known hemlock trees, is also found on the property. The property is actively managed for recreation, wildlife, and forest products. This property is also a Certified Tree Farm that is used by more than 40,000 Scout campers each year.



U.S. Forest Service staff members **Scott Stewart** and **Mike Huneke** from Newtown Square attended the easement signing ceremony at the Baltimore Boy Scout Office. A ceremonial check for \$3,255,000 representing the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy dollars was presented to the Boy Scout Council from the State of Maryland. Mike Huneke, a Forest Stewardship Program Specialist who camped and worked at Broad Creek as a youth, commented, "It is great to know that the Boy Scouts in central Maryland will always have a place to experience nature and the outdoors forever. I am a forester today because of my experiences on that property."

A ceremonial check representing funding from the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program was presented to the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) from the State of Maryland. Attending the ceremony were (left to right) Don Van Hassent, Associate Director, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator, Maryland DNR Forest Service; Barry Bilson, Council Vice President-Forest Legacy, Baltimore Area Council, BSA; Ethan Draddy, Council Scout Executive and CEO, Baltimore Area Council, BSA; and Barry Gossett, Board Chairman, Baltimore Area Council, BSA.



Update on the Stewardship Project

The current model for Stewardship Program delivery lacks the influence and impact necessary to protect important watersheds and ensure forests are conserved on a landscape scale. Reform is necessary. Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) agree on this, so a little more than a year ago they launched the *Stewardship Project*.

The *Stewardship Project* is a 2- to 3-year effort to reform the Stewardship Program. The Program reforms envisioned will focus on (1) landscape-scale stewardship by landowners and communities; (2) effective and seamless delivery of assistance by USDA, States, and other agencies; and (3) facilitation of public-private partnerships and markets to support the financial viability of forest management.

The job of reforming the Stewardship Program is a big one, and two paths will get us there. One path will be to create significant, realistic reforms that give the Stewardship Program the impact it must have. The parallel path is getting the right decisionmakers to a place where they understand the urgency of the need for reform and are ready to say “yes” to big Program delivery changes when we ask to implement those changes.

Our most recent milestone occurred in July 2009, when the *Stewardship Project* steering committee met in Indianapolis, IN, to hone ideas about reform and begin to establish work groups to put details and actions with those reforms.

The NAASF summer meeting was held the week after the *Stewardship Project* committee meeting. Missouri State Forester Lisa Allen, the NAASF representative to the *Stewardship Project*, briefed her peers on the Project’s progress to date and future plans.

Both Forest Service and State partners will be involved in Project work groups. Their “project” is to develop the Stewardship Program reforms needed. These reforms will align very closely with the State and Private Forestry Redesign initiative, changes enacted in the most recent Farm Bill, and the Secretary of Agriculture’s vision for the Forest Service to work for the restoration and conservation of all forests, whether national or privately owned. The first Stewardship Program reforms that result will be made within 2 years.



Durham Field Office

Multistate Priority Areas to be Identified in State Assessments and Strategies

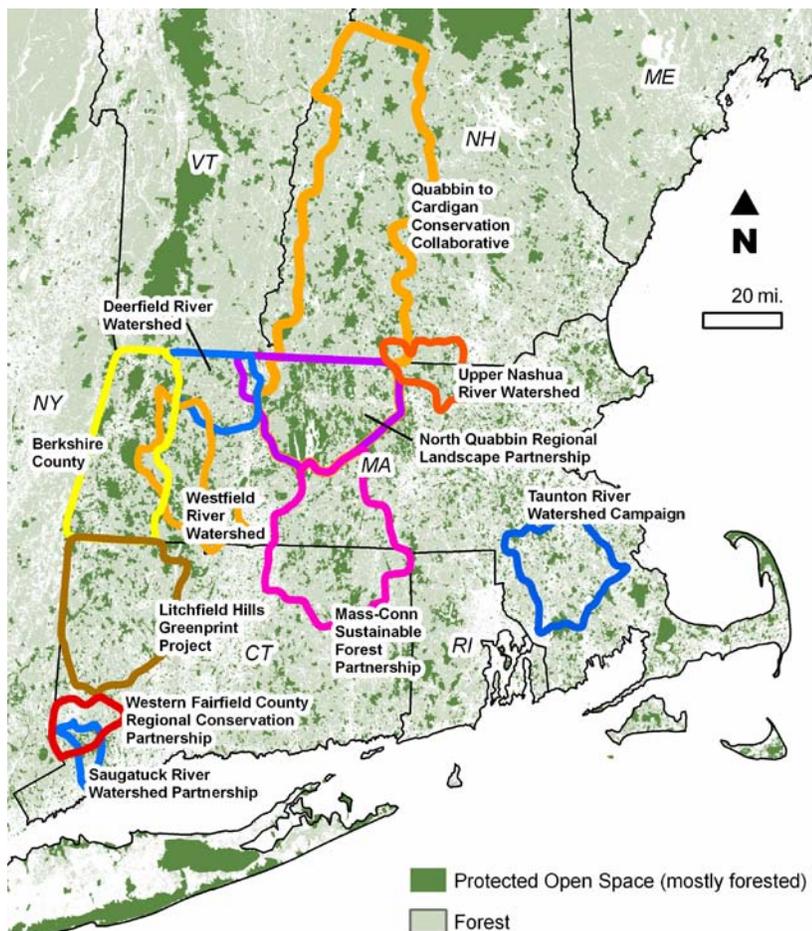
The 2008 Farm Bill requires that all States complete statewide forest resource assessments and strategies by June 2010 to be eligible to receive Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act funding. State forestry agencies are developing their State Assessments to identify key forest-related issues and priority landscape areas. States will then outline strategies for addressing these issues and areas in their long-term State Strategy.

The Farm Bill also requires State Assessments to include “any multistate areas that are a regional priority.” These may include areas where there are existing efforts, such as the Chesapeake Bay, Upper Mississippi Watershed, and the Connecticut-New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania Highlands, or new multistate areas to focus strategies for addressing the forest resource challenges or opportunities on those landscapes.

With concurrence from the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF), their Forest Resource Planning Committee (FRPC) requested that NAS&PF facilitate the identification of multistate priority areas. State planning and GIS specialists brainstormed a list of potential multistate priority areas and issues in a session facilitated by NAS&PF Office of Knowledge Management staff **Martina Barnes** and **Sherri Wormstead** at the FRPC meeting this past May. Although the emphasis was on outlining

potential priority landscape areas, the FRPC participants also discussed potential multistate issues such as carbon, forest fragmentation, and invasive species.

Following a process the NAASF agreed to in July 2009, FRPC members are discussing potential multistate areas and issues with their State agency staff and program specialists this month. By September, the NAS&PF Field Representatives and State Assessment and Strategy Contacts will facilitate dialogue with State Foresters on multistate areas and issues. Throughout the process, NAS&PF will provide area-wide coordination across its field offices and U.S. Forest Service regions, as requested by the States.

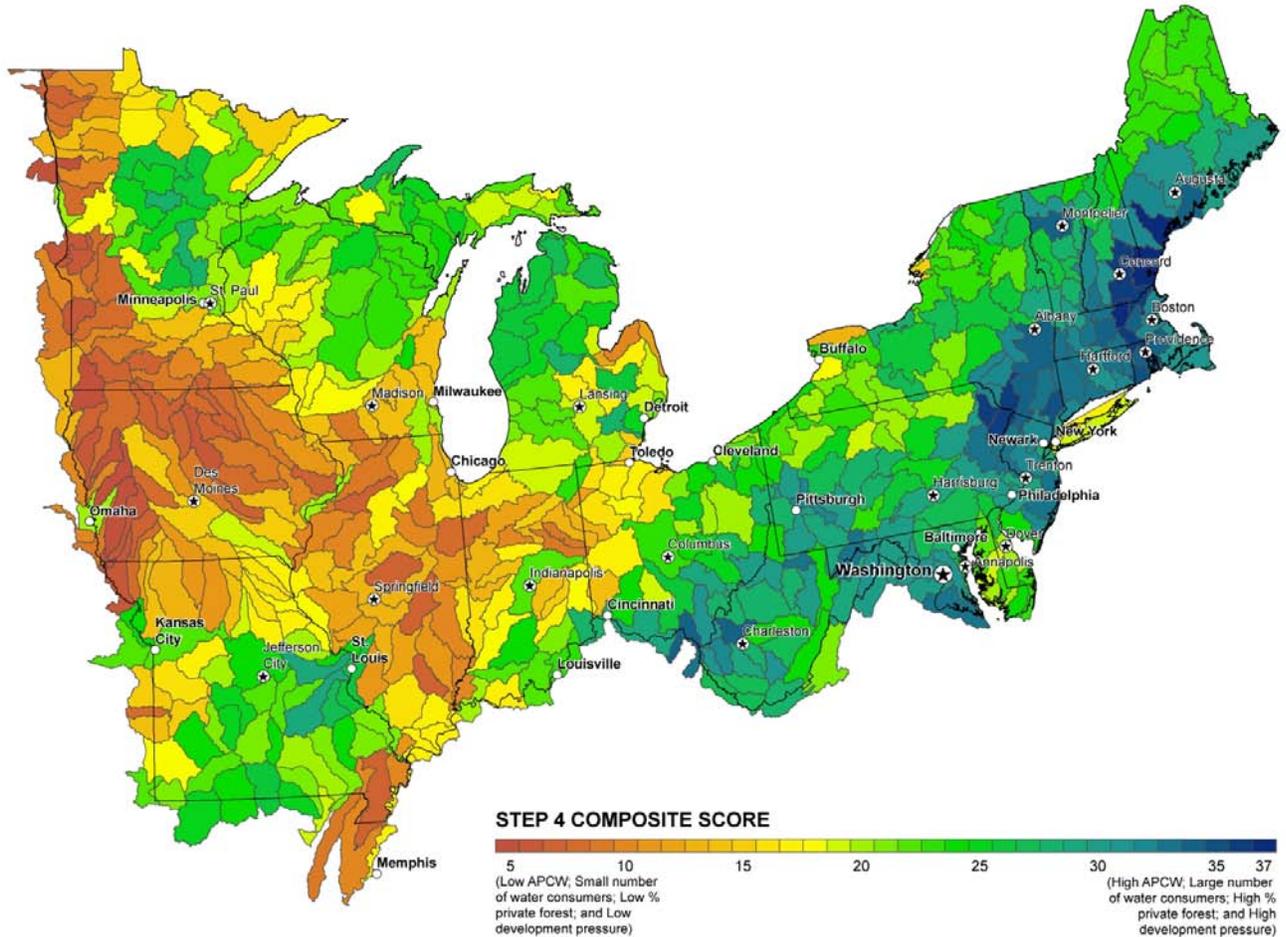


This map shows areas in the New England region where wild land and woodland protection efforts are being made.



Forests, Water and People Analysis Now Available Online

The Forests, Water and People analysis is now available online at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/fwp_preview.shtm, along with associated State maps and factsheets for all 20 States served by Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry.



Step 4 map shows development pressure on forests and drinking water supplies.

In the Northeast and Midwest, approximately 50 to 75 percent of the population relies on surface water as the source of its municipal drinking water, and more than 52 million people receive clean drinking water from nearly 1,600 community water systems. These water supplies are largely protected by private forest lands. This analysis identifies these water supplies and the forests that protect them. Ground water and certain land use threats to water quality beyond traditional land use were beyond the scope of the analysis.



Morgantown Field Office

Morgantown Field Office “Greens Up” Entrance

Members of the Morgantown Green Team planted an assortment of annuals and perennials to spruce up its main entrance and Annex building. The plants were donated by a local greenhouse that was clearing space for new inventory.

Green Team member **Denise Binion** said of the project, “The plants were end-of-season castoffs that were salvaged from a local greenhouse. What appeared to be worthless, unsellable plants are now healthy and thriving in the Forest Service flowers beds. That’s what made it a neat Green Team accomplishment—getting free plants for the grounds while saving the plants.” Other members that helped with the planting included **Devin Wanner, Karen Felton, Melissa Emerson** (in photo to the right), and **Mary Prout**.



The group planted Cleome or spider flower (*Cleome hasslerana*), shade-loving and New Guinea impatiens in a variety of colors, and French marigolds (*Tagetes patula*). They also planted some perennial cat mint (*Nepeta x faassenii*) as a ground cover to attract butterflies and bees.

In April, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack challenged offices across the Nation to follow the Washington Office in creating “People’s Gardens.” The Morgantown Field Office will continue to improve its gardens in this spirit.

Gypsy Moth Spraying Project Conducted in Maryland and Pennsylvania

The Morgantown Field Office worked with the National Park Service, Department of Defense, and Summit Helicopters to treat 2,192 acres for gypsy moth suppression in May 2009. The project included sites at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Catoclin Mountain Park, Site R, and the Appalachian Trail. **Rod Whiteman** was the Contract Officer Representative/Project Coordinator, and **Karen Felton** and **Bill Oldland** provided assistance on the project.

Both Gypchek and *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk) were used for gypsy moth treatment. Gypchek and Btk were applied on 1,022 and 1,170 acres, respectively.

The spray project had two objectives: prevent noticeable defoliation from occurring on more than 20 percent of the treatment area, and reduce the residual gypsy moth population below the treatment threshold on at least 90 percent of the treatment area.

Whiteman recently completed defoliation surveys to gauge the effectiveness of the treatment. No defoliation was detected in any of the treatment areas, and defoliation in the project area was



substantially reduced from last year. The effectiveness of the treatment was aided by a widespread collapse of gypsy moth populations caused by the fungal pathogen *Entomophaga maimaiga*. The fungal pathogen is more prevalent during wet, cool springs such as the spring of 2009.

Whiteman and other Morgantown Field Office staff will return to the treatment areas during the fall season to conduct egg mass surveys.

St. Paul Field Office

St. Paul Employee Helps Teachers Investigate River Systems



Minnesota teachers examine a floodplain forest adjacent to the Mississippi River.

As part of Hamline University's 2009 Rivers Institute, **Teri Heyer** of the St. Paul Field Office helped classroom teachers investigate the differences between upland and floodplain forests. The institute focused on two Minnesota river systems: the Mississippi and the St. Croix. Over a 1-week period, teachers investigated the diversity of terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species in river habitats, and were shown how river exploration meets the State's science and literacy teaching standards. Sessions were held at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Parks. Teachers were encouraged to bring their students back for hands-on, wet, muddy, and fun science exploration at a State Park.

Editor's Notes

DEADLINE! The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is noon, Wednesday, September 23, 2009. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please continue to e-mail final articles to Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us.

The Northeastern Area News Notes are published monthly by:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

