



NORTHEASTERN AREA STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY NEWS NOTES



June 2010



From the Director's Desk

Climate Change and Forest Health: Embracing a Complex Challenge

We are very aware of how complex natural resource conservation has become over the years in the face of growing challenges. The potential impacts of climate change on forest resources pose additional threats and add complexity to existing issues such as invasive pests, forest fragmentation, wildfires, and water quality.

References to climate change are now common throughout the media. Many natural resource specialists in both public and private sectors are increasingly involved in discussions on how to assess, adapt to, and mitigate potential effects. The newly formed NA Climate Change Team, with our partners, has nearly completed a strategic framework reflecting priorities set in the statewide forest resource assessments and strategies and tiered to the national strategy of the U.S. Forest Service.

Likewise, the Forest Health Protection Program of Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry is developing strategies for climate change that are tiered to the Northeastern Area and national climate change strategies. Their common approaches are to **assess** current risks, vulnerabilities, and gaps in knowledge and policies; **manage** for resilient ecosystems through adaptation and mitigation strategies; and **engage** internal and external partners to collaborate in all aspects of our efforts, including decisionmaking.

As we **assess** forest health, it is important to capitalize on the monitoring methods and tools we currently have to track trends and changes in disturbance agents and forest conditions that could be attributed to or accelerated by changes in climate. It will be equally important to use past and ongoing trends to filter out changes in disturbances and forest conditions that are known to be unrelated to climate change. Our analyses must be sound and conducted with transparency as we work to ascertain how forests change due to climate change. We also need to ensure we use the results of our evaluations to influence investment and other management decisions.

How we work with partners to **manage** forest health must reflect our collective experiences and shared goals. We will help forests adapt to and mitigate the potential effects of climate change to maintain their resilience and vigor, reduce tree mortality, and restore areas from losses. Sustainable forest management practices can help ensure the



continued provision of critical ecosystem services (water, wildlife habitat) while potentially enhancing carbon storage in wood products.

We may also draw on our experience to conserve genetic diversity in areas that are particularly vulnerable. Decisions to support seed collections of American chestnut, American beech, American elm, ash species, and butternut serve as models for how genetic conservation efforts may facilitate forest transitions. We have already begun and will continue to **engage** with our partners to discuss options to assess and manage threats and challenges related to climate change in the face of uncertainty.

As we address potential climate changes through sustaining the health and vigor of the Nation's forests, we will collaborate with partners to share decisionmaking, ensure transparency, and evaluate our effectiveness. The Northeastern Area fully engages with partners to solve problems and implement strategies that keep forests healthy and sustainable. We encourage discussions with and among partners about climate change concerns in sustainable forest management.

Respectfully,

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tips for the Month

People's Gardens – Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities

When Abraham Lincoln founded the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1862, he called it "The People's Department" because its work "touches the life of every American every day." To commemorate President Lincoln's bicentennial, Secretary Vilsack launched "The People's Garden" Initiative in 2009.

The vision for The People's Garden Initiative is to provide an opportunity for people to learn, or teach others, how to nurture, maintain, and protect landscapes that sustain us.

"Our hope is that with The People's Garden, we not only have USDA facilities expand garden opportunities but [that] people and communities take a look at churches or schools or even vacant lots... converting them into something that may be trash ridden today but could be a beautiful garden tomorrow."

—Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack

Growing food has always been a collaborative effort among people that has nourished bodies and minds, sustained families, and fed nations for thousands of years. Gardening success mostly hinges on providing the right growing conditions—adequate space, sunlight, water, and nutrients. This can be a challenging, but very rewarding, endeavor. Space should not be the limiting factor when deciding whether or not to pursue gardening. Look around your yard, workplace, and neighborhood—there are many spaces that can support a garden or at least a container of your favorite vegetable.



Use space and objects in your surroundings for gardening. This can reduce the solid waste you generate, add diversity to landscape plantings, and put fresh vegetables on your plate. Explore using throwaway containers as planters; replacing high-maintenance, nonnative landscape shrubs with berry bushes; or using window boxes for herbs and cherry tomatoes. The only limiting factors are your imagination, energy, and desire.

A People's Garden at the USDA headquarters in Washington, DC, demonstrates a commitment to connecting with communities, promoting good health through good food, and conserving the Nation's environment. The garden utilizes urban wood waste from the District of Columbia in its raised beds and is a gardening model for the thousands of DC visitors every day.

There is a wealth of sustainable gardening ideas and vegetables sprouting up in unexpected places. These include the bed of a 1986 Dodge half-ton pickup truck in Brooklyn; a rooftop garden in the Bronx; and container gardens at the headquarters for the Northern Research Station and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry in Newtown Square, PA, where employees can nibble on fresh produce at lunch.

KDKA News in Pittsburgh recently announced *yourgardenshow.com*, a new Web site for gardeners. This site serves as a Facebook for gardeners where users can create their own page, add pictures and videos, ask questions, and share information with other gardeners. The site's gardening encyclopedia also provides access to thousands of varieties of plants and vegetables so you can learn when, where, and how to grow them.

So what are you waiting for? There are still at least 90 days left in the growing season. To learn more about The People's Garden Initiative or draw upon an abundance of innovative and sustainable gardening experience, visit these Web sites:

<http://www.usda.gov/peoplesgarden>

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/ss/09/peoples_garden.pdf

<http://civileats.com/2009/07/24/drive-through-a-truck-farm-grows-in-brooklyn/>

<http://www.yourgardenshow.com/>

Morgantown Field Office

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Mourns Loss of Two Morgantown Employees

On June 21, a Cessna 210 carrying **Dan Snider**, 30, **Rodney Whiteman**, 46, and pilot Patrick Jessup of New York State crashed at the Lock Haven, PA, airport, killing all three. They were conducting aerial pest surveys. The plane was coming in for a landing when it struck a utility pole, a house, and several vehicles.

Dan Snider, Biological Science Technician, was 30 years old and had 9 years of service with the Forest Service. Dan began working for the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station in May 2001 as a student intern Biological Science Technician while attending





North Carolina State University-Raleigh. He worked extensively on the Longleaf Restoration Project on the coastal plain of North Carolina.

In 2005 Dan transferred to the Northeastern Research Station as a Forestry Technician (Research) in the Disturbance Ecology & Management of Oak-Dominated Forests Research Unit. During this time, Dan responded to Hurricane Katrina as part of a U.S. Forest Service Chain Saw Crew assisting with recovery operations. Dan transferred to his current position in November 2007 as a Biological Science Technician (Forest Pests) with the Morgantown Field Office of Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. Dan worked extensively in the Forest Health Protection Group in cooperation with State partners on invasive insect and pest detection surveys in Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

His work included pest surveys for gypsy moth, hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and Sirex wood wasps. He had received extensive training as a Forest Service employee in Geospatial Information, Advanced Firefighting Training, and Interagency Incident Business Management, and was working on certification as an Aerial Survey Technician. Dan leaves behind wife Elizabeth and son Lee, who reside in Pentress, West Virginia.



Rodney Whiteman, Forester, was 46 years old and had worked for the Forest Service for 24 years. After graduating from Penn State University, Rod began working for the U.S. Forest Service in 1986 as a Forestry Technician with the Northeastern Research Station working on oak-dominated forest research projects. In 1987, he transferred to the Morgantown Field Office, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry as a Forester in the Forest Health Protection Group. Over the years, he became an expert in all aspects of gypsy moth suppression projects on all Federal lands in the Mid-Atlantic States.

In addition to his work on the gypsy moth suppression project, Rod worked extensively as a firefighter and was certified as a Firefighter Type 2, Single-resource Helicopter Manager, and Faller B. He served as the Morgantown Field Office Aviation Officer and Trainer. Recently, Rod also served as the Invasive Plant Coordinator working extensively on Tree of Heaven mitigation projects in Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

Rod was an avid runner and a member of the Road Runners Club. He enjoyed trapping, hunting, and fishing. He leaves behind wife Megan, who resides in Morgantown, and a daughter Haley.

Beech Bark Disease Training Held for Allegheny National Forest Personnel

Beech bark disease (BBD) has decimated most mature American beech within the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. A low percentage of resistant trees, however, remain disease free within this area. Resistant trees offer the best potential for



maintaining American beech as a forest species. Identifying and retaining these trees will provide an available source of geographically based genetic material that can be used to develop resistant seedlings.

On June 9 and 10, **Alan Iskra** and **Rick Turcotte** presented a workshop on beech bark disease for District Foresters and Silviculturists on the Allegheny National Forest. The workshop was attended by 37 Forest personnel and covered identification, biology, and selection criteria for field crews to use to retain potentially resistant beech. Currently, a multistate proposal has been submitted to look for resistant beech trees across five Mid-Atlantic States. Training will be provided to States, and surveys will involve locating the best American beech candidates for BBD resistance located in a variety of geographically distinct areas.

Forest Silviculturist Andrea Hille was thankful for training to increase the knowledge of their marking crews in identifying resistant American beech. She has already received reports from some seasonal employees about potentially resistant beech trees. Hille said, "The training was well done, and our employees learned quite a bit from it (despite a nearly continuous downpour on Wednesday, which we were certain was Al's fault!)."

Wood Education and Resource Center

Corrected News Release: U.S. Forest Service Awards Over \$1.4 million to Enhance Hardwood Forests

CORRECTION TO U. S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area's May 3, 2010 News Release No. MFO-01-10 (U.S. Forest Service Awards Nearly \$1 million to Enhance Hardwood Forests):

Additional funding has allowed the Forest Service to expand the number of awarded grants from 16 to 24 projects. The additional funded projects are in Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

PRINCETON, WVa— Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Director Kathryn Maloney announced that the U.S. Forest Service is awarding more than \$1,444,000 in grants to 24 competitively selected projects. The grants encourage innovation and the sharing of processing and marketing knowledge with wood products manufacturers in the Eastern United States. The primary goal of the grants is to keep local wood businesses globally competitive and sustainable.

"An important component of improving the health and stewardship of hardwood forests is to maintain a vibrant forest products industry that has the ability to sustainably utilize lower-value trees for products that will assist our citizens with their energy needs as well as provide locally produced wood products used in our daily lives," said Maloney. "These projects will help advance the use of woody biomass for energy, and support the adoption and expansion of forest products and their markets from our eastern hardwood forests. The agency is also committed to reducing the impacts of climate change through funding projects in green building/certification and carbon sequestration. These projects ultimately



provide resources for hardwood industries to remain economically competitive in a global market."

Selections were based on a number of factors, including consideration of whether the project or grant recipient could:

- Maintain the economic competitiveness of primary and secondary hardwood industries.
- Increase knowledge and information about how the hardwood industry can contribute to the green building movement.
- Increase the knowledge, information, and promotion of how carbon sequestration (storage) by wood products can provide a competitive edge to a sustainable hardwood industry.
- Develop technology and markets to address urgent issues on a global or domestic scale, such as sanitizing wood packaging materials and developing markets for unexpected increases in wood volume from pest outbreaks or weather events.
- Increase the sustainable use of woody biomass to meet our Nation's needs for energy and raw materials.

The maximum grant amount is \$80,000. Grant recipients are required to match Federal funds, dollar for dollar. The selected projects will provide matching funds in excess of this requirement, totaling \$1.7 million. Collectively, these grants will be used to invest approximately \$3.1 million into forest management and forest products businesses. The 24 grant recipients include:

Alliance for Green Heat (Takoma Park, Md), \$63,224
Biomass Thermal Energy Council (Washington, D.C.), \$58,933
Dovetail Partners, Inc. (Minneapolis, Minn), \$21,600, \$19,500
Hardwood Publishing Company, Inc. (Charlotte, N.C.), \$80,000
Illinois Conservation Foundation (Springfield, Ill), \$65,000
Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry (Brownstown, Ind),
\$70,000
North Carolina State University (Raleigh, N.C.), \$79,699
Northeast Forests, LLC (Thendara, N.Y.), \$50,000
Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Penn), \$73,959
Rainforest Alliance (New York, N.Y.), \$68,496
Regents of the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, Minn), \$43,996
Sustainable Forest Futures, Inc. (Concord, N.H.), \$75,000
Sustainable Resources Institute, Inc. (Crystal Falls, Mich), \$27,000
Timber Resources (Catawba, Wisc), \$48,500
University of Tennessee (Knoxville, Tenn), \$30,250
Virginia Tech University (Blacksburg, Va.), \$79,655, \$79,256, \$70,322, \$61,681,
\$59,531, \$53,468



West Virginia University Research Corporation (Morgantown, WV), \$70,042
Woodwork Career Alliance of North America (Nellysford, Va), \$75,000

Twelve projects address maintaining the economic competitiveness of the hardwood industry with grant awards totaling \$853,654. Five projects focus on woody biomass as a domestic energy source with grant awards totaling \$267,716. Three projects focus on urban wood utilization with grant awards totaling \$133,000. Two projects deal with green building/certification with \$95,496 in grant funds. One project receiving \$43,996 pertains to the transfer of invasive insects through firewood. One project receiving \$30,250 pertains to carbon sequestration. The selected projects competed with many other worthy proposals. All proposed projects combined were seeking \$3.6 million in Federal funds.

Funding is provided through the U.S. Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center, located in Princeton, WV, and administered by the agency's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry organization. The Center's mission is to work with the forest products industry toward sustainable forest products production for the eastern hardwood forest region. The Center provides state-of-the-art training, technology transfer, networking opportunities, applied research, and information. For more information, visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/>.

Editor's Note

DEADLINE! The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is COB Thursday, July 29, 2010. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final articles to me, Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us.

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