



NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
180 Canfield St, Morgantown WV 26505



Phone: 304-285-1503; Fax: 304-285-1505; Web Site: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>

Date:	June 12, 2008	Release No. MFO-20-08
Contact:	Steve Milauskas phone (304) 487-1510	E-mail: smilauskas@fs.fed.us
	Scott Page phone (828) 565-4167	E-mail: spage@haywood.edu
	Devin Wanner phone (304) 285-1596	E-mail: dwanner@fs.fed.us

Haywood Community College Awarded Grant by U.S. Forest Service

PRINCETON, WVa— Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Director Kathryn Maloney announced the awarding of more than \$1.5 million in grants to 23 competitively selected projects. The grants from the U.S. Forest Service 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.

Haywood Community College in Clyde, N.C., received a \$77,522 grant to re-establish a regionally recognized training program of specialized short courses and workshops for the forest products industry. The college will develop and offer courses based on training needs identified in a recent industry survey.

Specific courses being proposed include: hardwood lumber grading, log grading and scaling, band saw fitting and benching, guided saw maintenance, band saw grinder alignment and operation, sawmill operation, edging and trimming, planer alignment and maintenance, planer setup, dry kiln operation, small business management, and workforce management. The college will hold courses at the former sawmill site of the Wood Products Program facility at Haywood.

When announcing the selected grants Maloney said, "A vibrant forest products industry is vital to sustaining healthy hardwood forests. These grants will assist American-based forest products industries remain competitive in the global market place. The projects selected this year address a diverse spectrum of industry needs including economic competitiveness, woody biomass utilization, urban wood utilization and invasive species control, and education."

MORE

Through the grant program, WERC develops partnerships with state forestry agencies, universities, the forest industry, and others to advance workforce skills and resource management opportunities. The funds awarded by WERC are leveraged with partner contributions to initiate projects. The 23 projects selected this year provide matching funds in excess of \$1.9 million.

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

- Maintain the economic competitiveness of hardwood industries.
- Bring information and technology to existing and emerging businesses that develop and manufacture wood products.
- Bring marketing and business-related skills to existing and emerging wood products businesses.
- Encourage the adoption of new technology to improve competitiveness and profitability.
- Provide support and key information to entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.
- Address global issues and assist communities and industries facing threats from invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer.
- Increase the use of woody biomass for domestic energy use.

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 works with the forest products industry toward sustainable forest products production for the eastern hardwood forest region. It 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/>.

###