



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Forest Management Guide for Bottomland Hardwoods Created by Forest Service

ST. PAUL, MINN— The U.S. Forest Service has created a Web-based guide for managing hardwood forests in the bottomlands of the Upper Mississippi River System. The guide provides extensive information about bottomland hardwood species that grow in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The *North Central Region Bottomland Hardwoods Management Guide* can be accessed on the Web at [http://nrs.fs.fed.us/fmg/nfmgb/bl\\_hardwood/index.html](http://nrs.fs.fed.us/fmg/nfmgb/bl_hardwood/index.html).

“This Web-based guide represents one of the most comprehensive resources on bottomland hardwood forest management within the Upper Mississippi River System,” said Research Fellow Grant Domke at the University of Minnesota.

The guide contains sections on ecology, silviculture, forest health, economics, management examples, and a glossary. Each section has subsections that allow users to quickly access specific information. Section links provide an overview of the material presented in the section followed by a brief description of the subsections.

Tree species that grow in bottomland hardwood forests of the Upper Mississippi River System are adapted to thrive in soils that may be saturated by water at times during the growing season. The ecology section of the guide has information about bottomland hardwood forest sites, species, and the forests themselves.

The silviculture section presents the broad range of strategies available for managing bottomland hardwood forests. Subsections in this part of the guide include assessing a forest site, regenerating bottomland hardwoods, and managing existing bottomland hardwood forests.

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The forest health section looks at how environmental factors influence the dominant tree species that grow in bottomland hardwood forests. The guide also addresses forest health concerns— flooding, winds, ice storms, fire, animal caused damage, and invasive species— for prominent tree species in the Upper Mississippi River System.

The economics section has links to State stumpage prices and a summary of the average costs of silvicultural treatments. Subsections include the non-market values of tree species, the cost of different silvicultural options, stumpage prices, and financial analysis of forest management investment options.

The management section offers examples of two different land management objectives: even-aged and uneven-aged. Each example discusses a variety of options for improving wildlife habitat, increasing tree species diversity, and managing trees for growth and yield. The subsections provide key bottomland hardwood management questions, examples of both even-aged and uneven-aged management, and information about regeneration and managing established forests.

“The Web site is an excellent information resource that pulls together current knowledge managers need to know about bottomland forest ecology and management in this region,” said U. S. Army Corps of Engineers forester Randall Urich.

“We want to continue to enhance the Web site by adding additional photos illustrating examples of forest conditions and treatments. The Web site includes a link on how to contribute photos. We are also exploring ways to have an interactive Web-based discussion on bottomland forest management successes as well as strategies that did not work as well,” said Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Watershed Forester Terri Heyer.