



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Forest Service to Host Workshop on Responsible Wood Procurement Program

PRINCETON, WVa—The U.S. Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) in Princeton, W.Va. will host a 1-day workshop, *Tools for Advancing the National Wood Flooring Association's Responsible Procurement Program*, on January 4, 2012. Workshop presenters will share tools that wood buyers can use to ensure that the wood they bring in comes from sustainable and socially responsible sources. These tools were developed during a project that was partially funded by WERC. The workshop may also be of interest to forest landowners who want a better understanding of the green products movement.

Workshop presenters include Richard Donovan, Senior Vice President and Chief of Forestry for Rainforest Alliance, who will share information about the market and regulatory forces that are driving the wood industry towards using responsible wood sources for their forest products. Don Finkell, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Anderson Hardwood Floors, will also discuss the origins and purpose of the National Wood Flooring Association's Responsible Procurement Program.

Jason Grant from Jason Grant Consulting will present elements and resources of the procurement program, and Michael Martin, CEO of the National Wood Flooring Association, will present information about expanding this program now and in the future.

The workshop is cosponsored by WERC, the National Wood Flooring Association, and the Rainforest Alliance. There is no registration fee to attend the workshop. For more information or to register, contact Jason Grant at Jason@jasongrantconsulting.com.

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WERC is located in Princeton, WVa. It is administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. The Center works with the forest products industry on sustainable forest products production in the 35 States of the eastern hardwood forest region. WERC provides state-of-the-art training, technology transfer, networking opportunities, applied research, and information. Visit www.na.fs.fed.us/werc for more information.

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