



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Forest Service funds six grants to enhance hardwood forests

PRINCETON, WVa— Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Acting Director Mike Dudley announced that the U.S. Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center will fund six projects. The selected projects encourage innovation and the sharing of processing and marketing knowledge among wood products manufacturers in the Eastern United States. The primary goal of the Forest Service grants is to keep local wood businesses globally competitive and sustainable.

"An important part of improving the health and stewardship of hardwood forests is to maintain a vibrant forest products industry that can sustainably use lower-value trees to provide locally produced wood products we use in our daily lives as well as help our citizens with their energy needs," said Dudley. "These projects also address forest health and urban wood utilization issues. Ultimately, these projects provide resources for hardwood industries to remain economically competitive in a global market."

The maximum grant amount is \$80,000. Grant recipients are required to match Federal funds, dollar for dollar. The six selected projects will collectively provide matching funds in excess of the total grant amount of \$288,257. When combined, these grants will be used to invest approximately \$629,793 into forest management and forest products businesses.

The grant recipients include:

Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (Old Town, Maine): \$70,000

North Carolina State University (Raleigh, N.C.): \$78,149 and \$28,975

University of Minnesota – Duluth (Duluth, Minn): \$10,140

Virginia Tech University (Blacksburg, Va.): \$50,993

West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV): \$50,000

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Four projects address keeping the hardwood industry economically competitive and involve wood utilization and invasive species. These four grant awards total \$227,124. The other two projects focus on developing new technologies and markets in light of invasive species. These two grant awards total \$61,133.

Projects were selected based on a number of factors, including whether the grant recipient could accomplish one or more of the following:

- 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.

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/>.

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