



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



News Notes

February 20, 2009



From the Director's Desk

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry's Role in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—also known as the “Stimulus Bill”—was signed into law. The law provides Federal financial aid to preserve and create jobs, invest in infrastructure, increase energy efficiency and investment in science, provide assistance to the unemployed, and stabilize State and local fiscal operations, among others.

The programs we manage with partners on Federal, State, and private lands will be affected by substantial funds being made available to the Forest Service through this Act. While there is, appropriately, considerable effort associated with implementing the provisions of this law as quickly as possible, it is important to take a step back and consider what this means for NA—our mission, goals, and objectives.

Here are some thoughts. First, it is important that the Stimulus Bill does not change, but rather **takes advantage** of, the basic authorities of the Forest Service and State and Private Forestry. For example, this key quote from the Conference Report accompanies the bill: “The conference agreement provides flexibility to the [Forest] Service to allocate funds among existing State and private assistance programs to choose programs that provide the maximum public benefit.”

Second, and also as mentioned in the Conference Report, the financial assistance that the Act makes available is focused not only on creating jobs, but is also intended to “create lasting value for the American public.” For NA, our approach to creating lasting public value is laid out clearly in both our Strategic Plan and our Strategic Business Plan. The goals, objectives, and annual priorities laid out in these documents are the result of thoughtful analysis and open dialogue with our partners that will guide us as we continue to work with partners to implement the Act.

Finally, it is important to remember why NA provides financial assistance. As I have stated before, and most recently in NA's new Unified Program of Work Guide, “Providing financial assistance to partners through grants and agreements is a fundamental aspect of NA's work. As stated in the NA Strategic Plan, we work to achieve our stated goals and objectives through partnerships. We contribute to partnerships by providing financial support and professional expertise. The overarching strategy for all of NA's work is influence to achieve positive tangible outcomes [for] the natural resources of the Northeast and Midwest and the partners we work with. Influence is about leverage—using a little to

achieve alot. NA is able to meet the challenge by applying its understanding of leverage. Strategically investing seed money here and applying new technology there have far-reaching effects.”

So with that, let us all work hard and thoughtfully to implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act! Let us do our part in restoring confidence in our Nation’s economy and serving the public through our work.

— Kathryn P. Maloney
Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month

Make Woodsy Smile—Get I nvolved in Sustainable Operations Locally!

Printing less and using the double-sided printing feature, turning your lights and computer equipment off when you leave the office, purchasing “greener” office supplies—there are a number of simple ways Northeastern Area (NA) and Northern Research Station (NRS) employees can pitch in to reduce our environmental footprint. **Kathryn Maloney** and Michael Rains renewed the charter for the NA/NRS Sustainable Operations Team in December 2008. The overarching purpose of this team is “to integrate sustainable operations into business practices and assist NA and NRS to comply with related executive orders and acts.” This team, chaired by **Sherri Wormstead** for FY 2009, includes a facilities representative, location representatives, and environmental footprint champions.



In addition to this Area- and Station-wide effort, the charter recognizes that, “Working at the local level, local green teams and facilities staff have significant impact and influence over the success of NA and NRS sustainable operations efforts to reduce our environmental footprint...” Several NA and NRS locations have formed local green teams that are actively pursuing a number of exciting sustainable operations efforts. Visit the NA/NRS Sustainable Operations Intranet site at http://fswweb.na.fs.fed.us/staff/Director/Sustainable%20Operations/team_naw.shtml to see if there is a green team in your office.*

Let these local leaders and efforts spark your own creative problem-solving abilities. Contribute ideas and actions to reduce energy and water consumption, reduce waste, purchase greener, and address fleet and transportation at your location.

*For more information, navigate to http://fswweb.na.fs.fed.us/staff/BusOps/Sustainability/sustops_naw.shtml and click on “Sustainable Operations Team” on the right for the NA and NRS team charter, FY 2009 action plan, and list of team members; **or contact Sherri Wormstead** (swormstead@fs.fed.us, (603) 868–7737).

For National Sustainable Operations information, navigate to <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/index.shtml>.

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Nineteen is a Lucky Number for Massachusetts

Massachusetts has set a new record in Forest Legacy Program (FLP) land protection by completing the conveyance of the greatest number of conservation easements—19—in 2½ years. On January 30, 2008, Massachusetts finished a journey begun in 2006. On that date, **Scott Stewart** received word from Massachusetts FLP Coordinator Mike Fleming that the closing of the last of 19 tracts that make up the Quabbin Corridor Connection had occurred.

The largest of the 19 tracts is 650 acres; the smallest tract is 7 acres. All in all, the total protected acreage in the project is 1,690 acres. The tracts abut and buffer other protected lands, including the Two-Mile Land Bridge Forest Legacy Project, the State-held Quabbin Reservation, three State Wildlife Management Areas, and the 3,000-acre Harvard Forest.

This feat is all the more impressive given that the Massachusetts backlog of unclosed tracts was the highest in the Nation just 3 years ago. Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program Manager **Deirdre Raimo** said of the effort, “This project represents an uncommon accomplishment. I cannot think of a more ambitious project in my time with the Forest Legacy Program.”

Northeastern Area State Forest Legacy Program Coordinator Wins Coveted National Award



New Hampshire FLP Coordinator Susan Francher shows off the Conservation Excellence Award to the audience after receiving the award from Neal Bungard.

For the second year, U.S. Forest Service regional and national Forest Legacy Program (FLP) managers have recognized a State FLP Coordinator with a Conservation Excellence Award. This year’s award was given to Susan Francher, the Northeastern Area’s New Hampshire State FLP Coordinator. **Neal Bungard** presented Susan with the Forest Legacy 2008 Conservation Excellence Award “for outstanding achievement and dedication to forest conservation.” The award presentation took place at the 2009 Society of American Foresters Granite State Division Winter Meeting on February 13, 2009, in Waterville Valley, NH. In front of more than 150 attendees, Neal described how Susan met the three award criteria. Susan provides input and guidance nationally by serving on a number of FLP task forces and teams as well as participating on the national project prioritization

panel. Susan also runs an efficient and effective program. New Hampshire has protected 215,104 forested acres (second in the Nation) from conversion to other uses using almost \$31,000,000 in FLP funds, and almost all NH projects are completed within a 2-year timeframe. Finally, Susan provides leadership and guidance to other State managers and FLP programs. She risks new procedures, is often the first to delve into a new requirement, and never hesitates to share her successes and mistakes with fellow State FLP coordinators. The Northeastern Area FLP staff is continually pointing to the success of the New Hampshire FLP, which is due in large part to the dedication and determination of Susan Francher. Upon receiving the award, Susan said to the crowd, “I am shocked and grateful for this recognition. Without the help and support of our many partners, who bring us excellent projects and

work tirelessly as project sponsors, the New Hampshire Forest Legacy Program wouldn't be the success that it is. Thank you.”

Durham Field Office

“Don't Move Firewood” Communications Meeting Held at DFO

Federal and State agency representatives from across New England met recently to discuss an important forest health issue. They talked about how the long-distance movement of firewood is contributing to the spread of invasive species, a growing concern throughout the 20 Northeastern Area States.

In all, 17 representatives from the Northeastern Area, the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, and seven State forestry and agricultural agencies took part in the meeting held January 27 at the Durham Field Office. The NA Office of Communications hosted the half-day event, assisted by the Durham Forest Health staff.

Participants concurred that regulation of firewood movement is not currently being considered as a region-wide strategy. However, effective, coordinated public communications remains an important tool in addressing the firewood movement issue.

Attendees explored ways to spread the word about the issue and shared recent successes and challenges. They took turns highlighting their recent accomplishments, milestones, and challenges in the "Don't Move Firewood" initiative. Participants also discussed plans to reach out to more target audiences and key stakeholders with important key messages. The forum included an update of the Worcester, MA, Asian longhorned beetle infestation response.

Afterward, several meeting attendees praised the event. “It was useful to get together and talk about what we are doing and what needs to be done,” said Maine Forest Service Entomologist Colleen Teerling. “We came away with some good ideas and directions.” “It was certainly a worthwhile day,” added Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation Forest Health Specialist Jay Lackey.

Following the meeting, there are now plans to staff a multiagency "Don't Move Firewood" booth at the upcoming Northeast Campground Association conference in March.

Forest Service Participates in Project Learning Tree Revision Workshop

Several Forest Service employees attended a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop to revise the *Forest Ecology* and *Focus on Forests* high school modules. The group reviewed the current modules and looked at opportunities for improving the modules and addressing the needs of educators. Module additions include more information about monitoring forest resources, invasive species, and forest health. Durham Field Office employee **John Parry** presented the i-Tree software program as a tool for monitoring in urban and community settings. Clare Long and Rod Wilson (White Mountain National Forest), Amey Bailey and Lindsey Rustad (Northern Research Station), and **Susan Cox** (Northeastern Area) joined PLT State coordinators and facilitators from New Hampshire, New York, Maine, Colorado, and Oregon. Clare and Susan also attended a facilitator workshop the previous day on PLT's newest high school module—*Global Connections: Forest of the World*.

Good Forestry in the Granite State

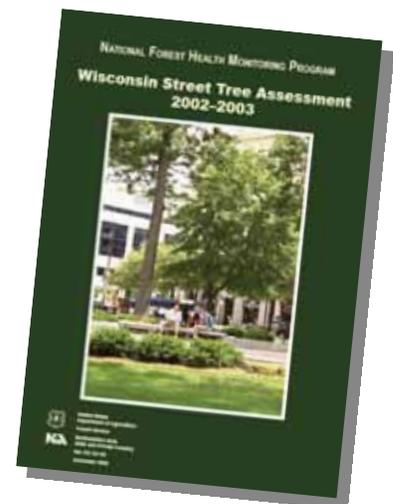
Susan Cox is serving on the steering committee that is revising the publication *Good Forestry in the Granite State*. The original publication was published in 1997 and has become somewhat dated due to changes in forest issues. The revision will include new sections on ecosystem services and forest stewardship planning, and an expanded forest health section that will include invasive species. The team has completed public listening sessions at the 2009 New Hampshire Farm & Forest Exposition and a February 13 meeting of the Granite State Division of the Society of American Foresters. Comments and progress of the revision can be viewed at the Good Forestry WIKI (www.goodforestry.org). Other Forest Service employees serving on the steering committee include Bill Leak and Mariko Yamasaki (Northern Research Station) and Chris Mattrick (White Mountain National Forest). **Dennis Souto** (Northeastern Area) is serving on the forest health technical committee.

Morgantown Field Office

2002–2003 Wisconsin Street Tree Assessment Report Available Online

In 2002, the U.S. Forest Service cooperated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to initiate an assessment of street trees in urban areas throughout the State. The Forest Service has produced a report from information gathered during the assessment.

Street-side assessment plots were established at 891 locations in urban areas throughout Wisconsin. Data were collected to describe the structure and characteristics of street trees, and to estimate their functions and values. The project established a baseline that can be remeasured in the future. The remeasurements will allow the U.S. Forest Service and Wisconsin DNR to learn about changes in the structure and function of the street tree component of the urban forest and what caused them.



The assessment results show that Wisconsin's street trees are dominated by Norway maple, green ash, honey locust, and littleleaf linden.

The project examined street tree crown condition, crown density, and the presence of damage on the roots, trunk, or branches as indicators of forest health. Only 2 percent of Wisconsin's street trees had crown dieback that exceeded thresholds of concern.

Urban street trees provide many benefits that contribute to improved air and water quality, aesthetics, and the quality of life for people who live, work, and travel in urban areas. Wisconsin's urban trees provide important benefits that include carbon storage and sequestration as well as pollution removal.

Visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/detail.cfm?id=9110> to view the entire report.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is **noon, Wednesday, March 25, 2009**. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final articles to Deborah Muccio at dmuccio@fs.fed.us.

Please remember:

- **Send text separate from photos and graphics.**
- **Include captions for all images.**
- **Do not place images in Word or PowerPoint.**

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103
<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>

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