



Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



News Notes

January 2010



From the Director's Desk

One picture is worth a thousand words...

If one picture is worth a thousand words, take a moment and think about the powerful images you have seen in the past year. Remember the images of the crew and passengers of Flight 1549 standing on the wings of the plane as it floated in the Hudson River? Or the recent images of the earthquake damage and survivors in Haiti? What did the images say to you and how did those pictures influence you?

We are surrounded by visual images everywhere—in the news, in entertainment, in business and art. Half of human communication is visual clues and images. Pictures have been used to tell stories and record history since the dawn of time. Before written alphabets, people communicated with pictures. Primitive rock paintings depicting humans and nature are found on just about every continent and date back as far as 32,000 years ago. Evidence suggests that these drawings were not just decorations but a way of communicating with others and recording events.

Pictures level the language playing field—a smile caught in a photo is understood anywhere on the planet. Visit a foreign country and you will discover that universally understood pictures are used to communicate a variety of messages.

People can be emotionally moved and spurred to action by images. Take commercials and advertisements, for instance. If images had no impact on our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, there would be no need for Sunday circulars, gigantic billboards, or Super Bowl commercials.

Since its early years, the Forest Service has used pictures to document important moments in the history of the agency and natural resource management—beautiful images of forests and mountains, alarming images of forest fires and deforestation, scientific pictures of plants and insects, and pictures of wildlife, employees hard at work, and the public enjoying the great outdoors. We use these pictures repeatedly to help tell our story and to help the public envision and understand the vastness and complexity of the lands we manage.

And that is why we need you to help NA gather powerful images we may use to communicate our messages. The States and District of Columbia served by the Northeastern Area contain invaluable natural resources and are home to millions of people from every conceivable background and place on earth. For NA to communicate successfully with this diverse audience, we need powerful images that level the language playing field and move people to think, change behaviors, and take action.



NA's Office of Communications is sponsoring a photo contest that is open to all NA employees. We are looking for powerful photographs in three categories: Natural Resources, People and Natural Resources, and Program Related Photos. We all see the world a little differently and can help NA communicate visually by using our photographic talent to capture images that promote sustainable forest management.



The entry deadline is March 31, 2010. For more details, visit

http://fsweb.na.fs.fed.us/tickerdocs/photocontest_announcement.pdf

So, join the fun, share your best photos, and help us tell NA's stories through imagery!

Respectfully,

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director

Sustainable Operations Tip of the Month:

Pears for Pineapples: Creative solutions can have a BIG impact!

We all know that reducing our energy and fuel consumption, improving our recycling, and reducing our office waste is helping the Forest Service reduce its environmental footprint. These actions can save thousands of dollars and lessen our impact. However, there are some creative, "out of the box" substitutions that can have a big impact. Instead of always reducing and eliminating things to improve our environmental footprint, think of ways you can swap out a heavily used product or service for something greener:

- Use soy-based printer ink
- Use biobased cleaners rather than conventional cleaners
- Use biofuels or renewable fuel sources rather than petroleum (consider a biomass furnace)
- Buy FSC, Energy Star, and water-wise products
- Swap 30 percent recycled paper for 100 percent recycled paper
- Use LED light bulbs rather than conventional light bulbs



The list goes on. Anytime we swap a high-use, high-impact product for a low-impact product, we are improving our environment.

So what about those pears? Owners of a pizza shop in Portland, OR, reviewed their entire business operations with the goal of reducing the shop's impact on the environment. They reduced paper consumption, composted waste, recycled, used the pizza ovens to heat their hot water, and swapped to organic food. The one item they struggled with was a sustainable source of pineapple for their Hawaiian pizza. They took it off the menu for a short time, and were bombarded with customer complaints. They looked to a local solution—pears! By using pears instead of pineapples on their traditional Hawaiian pizza, they were able to create a delicious alternative to the Hawaiian pizza and used a local, sustainable source of fruit. Their customers were happy and the pizza shop owner saved hundreds of dollars on fruit.



What does the pizza shop have to do with our everyday operations? By thinking outside the box and considering greener alternatives rather than just eliminating an item, we can improve our environment and enjoy the fruits of our labor at the same time.

For more “out of the box” ideas, go to the [NA Sustainable Operations Intranet site](#) or the [FS Sustainable Operations Internet site](#).

Newtown Square Headquarters Office

Symposium on Ash in North America

Purdue University will host the “Symposium on Ash in North America” March 9-11, 2010, in West Lafayette, IN. The conference is designed to examine:

- The economic, environmental, and social/cultural importance of the ash species in North America.
- The current and potential effects on communities, industries, and the environment if the ash component of the landscape is reduced or eliminated.
- The tools available to conserve and manage ash species or to fill the voids left by the elimination of ash.

People interested in attending the symposium should register by February 18 to receive the early registration rate of \$140. Registration will be \$180 after this date. The University Plaza Hotel, West Lafayette, IN, has a room block under the title "North American Ash Symposium" at the rate of \$92 single or double occupancy through February 6, 2010. After this date all reservations will be taken on a space and rate available basis. Registration and links to the conference agenda, lodging, and travel information are available through the conference Web site at www.fnr.purdue.edu/ashsymposium.

The U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry provided a \$25,000 cooperative agreement for the event.

For additional information, please contact Lenny Farlee at (765) 494-2153, lfarlee@purdue.edu, or Jodie Ellis at (765) 494-0822, ellisj@purdue.edu.

St. Paul Field Office

U.S. Forest Service and College of Menominee Nation Sign Second 5-Year Partnership Agreement

On November 13, 2009, four divisions of the U.S. Forest Service—the Forest Products Laboratory, Northern Research Station, Eastern Region of the National Forest System, and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry—signed their second 5-year Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, WI.





Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding include from left to right: Tom Schmidt, Assistant Director Northern Research Station (Tom represented Michael Rains); Chris Risbrudt, Director of the Forest Products Laboratory; Kent Connaughton, Regional Forester (Kent also represented NA for Kathy Maloney); and Dr. Verna Fowler, President of the College of Menominee Nation.

The signing ceremony was attended by community members; Menominee leaders; U.S. Forest Service representatives; and the College of Menominee Nation faculty, staff, and students. This event included campus tours, refreshments, presentations, and a luncheon with traditional foods. Melissa Cook, the

College of Menominee Nation's Sustainable Development Institute Director, and U.S. Forest Service Liaison to College of Menominee

Nation Mike Dockry made presentations that described the partnership's history and accomplishments: student internship experiences, traditional nontimber forest products and indigenous wisdom research, and technical outreach to American Indian communities.

The formal partnership between the College of Menominee Nation and the U.S. Forest Service dates back to 2003 when the first Memorandum of Understanding was signed to facilitate the



Chris Risbrudt, Director of the Forest Products Laboratory, gave Dr. Verna Fowler, President of the College of Menominee Nation, a gift from the U.S. Forest Service.

development of the Center for First Americans Forestlands. This educational research center focused on sustainable forestry practices and sustainable forest products utilization on American Indian forest lands.

The Center, which is housed within the College of Menominee Nation, initiates research and provides technical assistance, education, and policy analysis to a number of stakeholder groups. These groups include American Indian tribes; American Indian forest and land managers; American Indian allottees of forested lands; American Indian reservations and communities within or adjacent to national forest boundaries; Tribal colleges and universities and other educational institutions; and the broad community of interest in forest management, products, harvest, and utilization.



The 2009 Memorandum of Understanding continues to focus partnership projects on education, research, technical assistance, and indigenous wisdom for sustainable forestry and sustainable forest products. It also expands the partnership to focus on cross-boundary natural and cultural resource management, expand the engagement of tribal communities in forest management, and develop and recruit a diverse and skilled workforce for tribes and the U.S. Forest Service.

Partnership projects over the next 5 years will focus on the opportunities and impacts that a number of issues have on American Indian communities—climate change, invasive species, water quality and quantity, green building and design, American Indian forestry, forest products utilization, values and decisionmaking, environmental economics, ecosystem services, socially responsive forest management and utilization, and training.

For more information about the Forest Service partnership with the College of Menominee Nation, please visit www.sustainabledevelopmentinstitute.org or contact Mike Dockry at mdockry@fs.fed.us or by calling (715) 799-6226 ext. 3222.



A College of Menominee Nation student plays a hand drum as part of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Forest Service and the College of Menominee Nation.

SPFO Entomologist to Speak at Black Ash Symposium

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Forest Entomologist **Steven Katovich** is scheduled to speak at the upcoming Black Ash Symposium, May 25-27, 2010, in Bemidji, MN. He will give a presentation on the history and current status of the emerald ash borer in North America. Katovich is also scheduled to discuss “SLAM,” a program designed to slow the rate of ash mortality. The Black Ash Symposium is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Chippewa National Forest. For further information visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/chippewa/Ash/index.shtml>

Two Federal Agencies Added to Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership MOU

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been informally active in the Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership from the beginning. However, they have recently become more visible partners by becoming signatories on the partnership’s memorandum of understanding (MOU). Doing so provides them with seats on the steering committee, which guides the partnership. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife Service are important partners and land managers in the MOU. The Corps manages 193,347 acres of land along the Upper Mississippi River basin from St. Paul, MN, to southern Illinois. The Fish and Wildlife Service manages 287,288 acres of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River system basins.



Morgantown Field Office

Ohio American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Project Yields Benefits for State Forests

The Ohio Woodlands Job Corps is a 2-year program managed by the Ohio Division of Forestry with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds provided through the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry. The program runs in two rounds: the first runs from September 2009 through March 2010, and the second will run from April through November 2010.

Less than 60 days after the grant was awarded, a full slate of Ohio Woodlands Job Corp participants was hired and started work. During the first round, 1,340 applicants applied for 66 positions. Eleven six-person crews are stationed on the Shawnee, Pike, Scioto Trail, Hocking, Zaleski, and Maumee State Forests.

In February 2009, the Ohio Division of Forestry applied for available ARRA funding for projects to improve woodlands on State and private land. The State received a \$4.4 million grant to create an Ohio Woodlands Job Corps. Individuals hired through the program receive 4 weeks of training in safety techniques, tree identification, wildfire fighting, and logging techniques.

Following training, corps members work to remove invasive plant species. Crews also help with forest inventory work, timber stand improvement activities, trail maintenance and construction, and tree planting activities. Because they are working on a national AmeriCorps Education Award Program-affiliated project, members are eligible to receive up to \$2,300 toward past or future technical education or college expenses.

When the program is completed, Ohio will have an increased number of timber stand improvement vendors, wildfire fighters, and potential Master Loggers. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has identified a need for timber stand improvement vendors in Ohio. Ohio is a leading State for NRCS landowner incentive funds dedicated to forest management projects. The NRCS Environmental Quality Improvement Program provides funds for landowners to plant trees, remove invasive species, and conduct timber stand improvement work.

Editor's Note

DEADLINE! The deadline for the next issue of the Northeastern Area News Notes is COB Wednesday, February 24, 2010. News articles submitted after this time and date will be published in the next month's edition. Please e-mail final articles to me, Nancy Lough at nlough@fs.fed.us.

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