

Northeastern Forest Resource Planning Committee

Eastern Region Update
Sam Emmons
Regional Planner
September 13, 2006

I'll Discuss

- Plan revision in R9
- National Initiatives
- Our R9 Strategic Framework for Courageous Conservation

Plan Revisions Complete

- Midewin NTP – 2001
- Chequamegon-Nicolet – 2004
- Chippewa – 2004
- Superior – 2004
- White Mountain – 2005
- Mark Twain – 2005
- Wayne - 2005

Plan Revisions Complete

- Hoosier – 2006
- Green Mountain – 2006
- Shawnee – 2006
- Ottawa – 2006
- Hiawatha – 2006
- Huron-Manistee – 2006
- Finger Lakes – 2006
- Monongahela – 2006
- Allegheny – January 2007

Common Issues

- ATV use
- Roadless Inventory and Wilderness Recommendations
- Timber suitability and volume
- Early successional habitat
- Need for and tool used for ecological restoration

Appeals

- Mark Twain - 11
- Wayne - 2
- Hoosier - 1
- Green Mountain - 4
- Ottawa - 5
- Hiawatha - 6
- Huron-Manistee – 5
- White Mountain – 0

Litigation

- Superior NF Plan - Roadless inventory, Management indicator species, Endangered Species, Effects on BWCAW

2005 Planning Rule

- Nature of the Decision
 - Final agency decision?
 - No standards – only guidelines
 - General suitability – not prohibitions
 - Still waiting for the categorical exclusion

Environmental Management Systems

- Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
- Chequamegon-Nicolet
- Wayne
- Developing Regional Strategy

Sustainable Forestry Certification

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Field Test and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Gap Analysis
 - Allegheny NF
 - Chequamegon-Nicolet NF

Rules, Rules, Rules

- 2005 Planning Rule
 - Directives
 - Litigation
 - Interpretation and use
- State Petitioning Rule – 11/13/2006 due date
 - Wisconsin – yes
 - Illinois – yes
 - Maine – yes
 - West Virginia - no
- Travel Management Policy
 - Motor Vehicle Use Map
 - Provisions for Parking, dispersed camping, game retrieval

Courageous Conservation: A sustainable future, a legacy of restoration

- Path to the Future: Five “Audacious Goals”
- Achieve by 2015
- Result of
 - Futuring
 - Forest Plan revision Niche statements

Protecting Ecosystems across Boundaries

- Cooperatively manage at the larger landscape level
 - Restore forests and wetlands
 - Acquire lands for various benefits
 - Reduce effects of invasive species
 - Reduce risk of catastrophic wildland fire
- Opportunities
 - Eastern coal mining region
 - Great Lakes
 - Connecticut River
 - Mississippi River
 - Ohio River Valley
- Partner with Research and S&PF

Connecting Citizens to the Land

- Three fold increase in work done through assistance of volunteers and partners
- Enhanced environmental education
- Expanded “Urban Connections” program
- Closer work with S&PF

Walking the Talk for Sustainability

- Leader in implementing national policy on green certification and environmental management systems
- Demonstrate sustainability
 - Procuring “green” products
 - Constructing “green” facilities
 - Using alternative energy systems
 - Having an energy-efficient FS fleet

Revolutionizing Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Deliver Cost-efficient, easy-to-use, information systems
 - Facilitate work at multiple scales
- Expand collaboration with Research, S&PF, Other Regions
 - Conservation education
 - Managing non-native invasive species
 - Working in urban areas
 - Meet annually with other units in the east

Being an Employer of Choice

- A diverse workforce recognized as the source of operational excellence
- Recruiting and developing courageous leaders in conservation
- Nurture a cultural change in the region
- Provide ongoing training and development
- Reward employees who take risks and provide great leadership toward our goals