



# Planners' Pages

Summer/Fall 2006

## Leading Social Change Through Forest Planning

The Northeastern Forest Resource Planning Committee (NFRPC) is pleased to announce our 2006 annual conference. This year's conference will be held September 12–14 in Hannibal, Missouri, the boyhood home of Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain!

This year's theme is "Leading Social Change Through Forest Planning." We have strived to assemble a unique blend of topics and speakers that will stimulate ideas and be of interest to both the planners and the geo-spatial workgroup.

There is also an early bird workshop on September 11: "Social Influences in the Barrel Industry."

The conference agenda and registration form are available on the NFRPC Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/planning>.

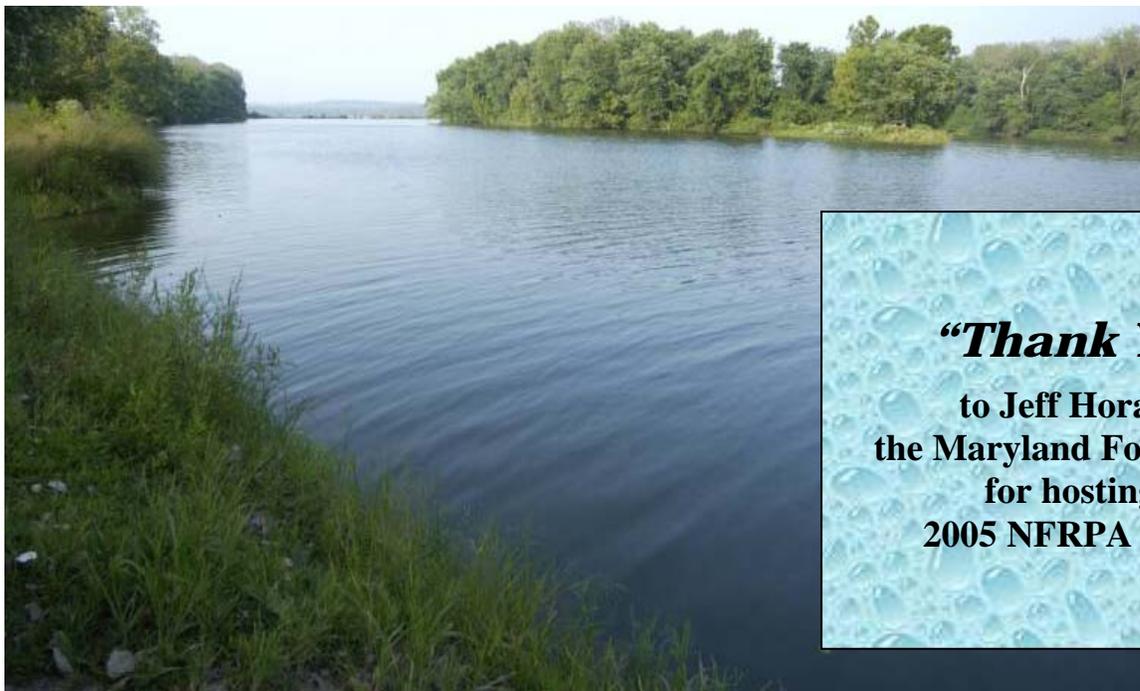
Conference registrations must be submitted by September 4. Hotel reservations must be made by August 31 to ensure conference rates.

### *NFRPC 2006 Conference*

**Hannibal, Missouri  
September 12–14**



**Leading Social Change  
Through Forest Planning**



***"Thank You!"***  
to Jeff Horan and  
the Maryland Forest Service  
for hosting the  
2005 NFRPA meeting.

## Message From the NFRPC Chair

Greetings from Pennsylvania! As planners and GIS folks, our purpose in life is to gaze into our “crystal ball” to guess, predict, analyze, map, model, forecast, and plan for the future with the end result of saving the world and its forests. I must say that I think we’re doing a fairly good job! For now, however, let me ask you to pause for a moment and focus on the present. I would like to update you on some important happenings of the past few months regarding our organization and relationship with the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF).

If you recall, last September in Annapolis we discussed briefly that NAASF was embarking on a new process for interacting with State staff organizations (Planners, Forest Resource Program Leaders, Fire Supervisors, Urban and Community Forestry, etc.). The outcome of this process is that these staff organizations are now “official” committees of NAASF. This is a good thing! Yes, there are some details and uncertainties to address, but the bottom line is that this new approach will improve our relationship and interaction with NAASF as well as the other staff committees. We now have a direct and continuous connection with NAASF. Thank you John Dorka, Ohio State Forester, for agreeing to be our State Forester rep!

On July 10, I attended NAASF’s summer meeting to present our new charter, which was approved pending a few minor changes. Thanks to all who helped with drafting and providing guidance and input into the new charter. A couple items worth noting:

- Our name has changed. We are now the Northeastern Forest Resource Planning Committee.
- Our mission is to encourage and support forest resource planning and GIS technologies; to develop and maintain a working liaison with NAASF, the USDA Forest Service, and other appropriate organizations; and to advise and provide technical support to NAASF.
- We are comprised of two standing subcommittees: (1) Forest Resource Planning and (2) Geospatial Technologies.
- We are governed by a Leadership Team that includes a Chair, Vice Chair, Immediate Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Forester Rep, Northeastern Area Liaison, Planning Subcommittee Rep, and Geospatial Subcommittee Rep.

This structure and relationship will provide new opportunities and comes with expectations of our involvement in both NAASF and Northeastern Area initiatives. In an e-mail follow-up from the July 10 NAASF meeting, Steve Koehn (Maryland State Forester and NAASF President) indicated that developing a strategic plan for NAASF is one of his priorities. He asked us to, “Please start thinking about issues and concerns (goals and objectives) that an NAASF strategic plan should address and what types of actions would be needed to advance sustainable trees and forests in the Northeast.”

Another activity that is progressing is the criteria and indicators initiative. The indicators information system Web site will be up and running shortly, and we have begun discussions on developing a prototype for a 5-year report. If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact Constance Carpenter ([conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us](mailto:conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us)) or myself ([makeefer@state.pa.us](mailto:makeefer@state.pa.us)).

I hope each of you will be able to join us in Missouri for this year’s meeting, “Leading Social Change through Forest Planning.” Thanks to Mike Huffman for pulling together an exciting agenda. I am especially looking forward to the early bird workshop!

Sincerely,  
*Matthew J. Keefer*  
Chief, Forest Resource Planning, PA Bureau of Forestry

## A Note From the Geospatial Subcommittee

The change is official—after 2 years of graciously being invited to participate in the Northeastern Forest Resource Planners Association conference, the State forestry GIS professionals have been incorporated into the new Northeastern Forest Resource Planning Committee (NFRPC) charter as the Geospatial Subcommittee. This is very exciting because the opportunities to collaborate with our planning counterparts can continue and become more formalized to the benefit of both groups! In addition, we can continue networking with each other under the auspices of NFRPC, creating a “geospatial support system” that will improve the work we are able to do individually for our own States, and enhance the geospatial work coming out of the Northeastern States as a whole.

I encourage all of you to attend this year’s conference. Our agenda has many interesting topics that appeal to both forest planners and GIS professionals. Please consider making a poster for the conference. There is so much that we can learn from each other, and the posters are a valuable communication tool for all your amazing projects. Posters are particularly important because there is never enough time to individually discuss the myriad of projects and tasks that fill our professional lives.

Last year Kurt Swartz did an excellent job showing us his initial concept of a geospatial Web site for GIS in the Northeast. We were all enthusiastic about the idea and there was some good discussion about implementation. I have not followed up on those ideas, but I think now is the time to push forward on establishing a Web gateway for posting questions, learning about GIS work in other Northeastern States, and generally pooling our collective knowledge. Let’s aim to leave this year’s conference with the basic ideas and data necessary to get that Web site running by the end of 2006. I will be trying to contact at least one GIS person from each of the 20 Northeastern States over the next few weeks to improve our list of contacts. I encourage each of you to attend and participate at the conference, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

*Nathanael Lloyd*

*GIS Director, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation*

## Call for Posters

The Northeastern Forest Resource Planning Committee annual conference will be held September 12–14, 2006, in Hannibal, Missouri. The conference will feature keynote sessions, poster displays, and technical workshops, as well as offer an opportunity for geospatial and forest resource planning professionals from the Northeastern States a chance to meet and exchange ideas. The conference is expected to attract forest planning professionals and geospatial professionals from the 20 Northeastern States and the USDA Forest Service. We are currently soliciting abstracts for a forest resource planning/geospatial poster session.



### Poster Details

- Abstracts are still being accepted.
- Posters will be given a 4' x 6' space and must be free standing.
- Abstracts should be 150–200 words.
- Individuals may submit more than one abstract.
- To submit a poster abstract, or if you have questions, contact Nathanael Lloyd at 617-626-1381 or [nathanael.lloyd@state.ma.us](mailto:nathanael.lloyd@state.ma.us).

## Forest Stewardship Program's Spatial Analysis Project Northeastern States Progress—Fall 2006

The Forest Stewardship Program's Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) is well underway, with statewide assessments expected to be completed for all 20 Northeastern States by December 31, 2006. See the map to the right for the current status of development.

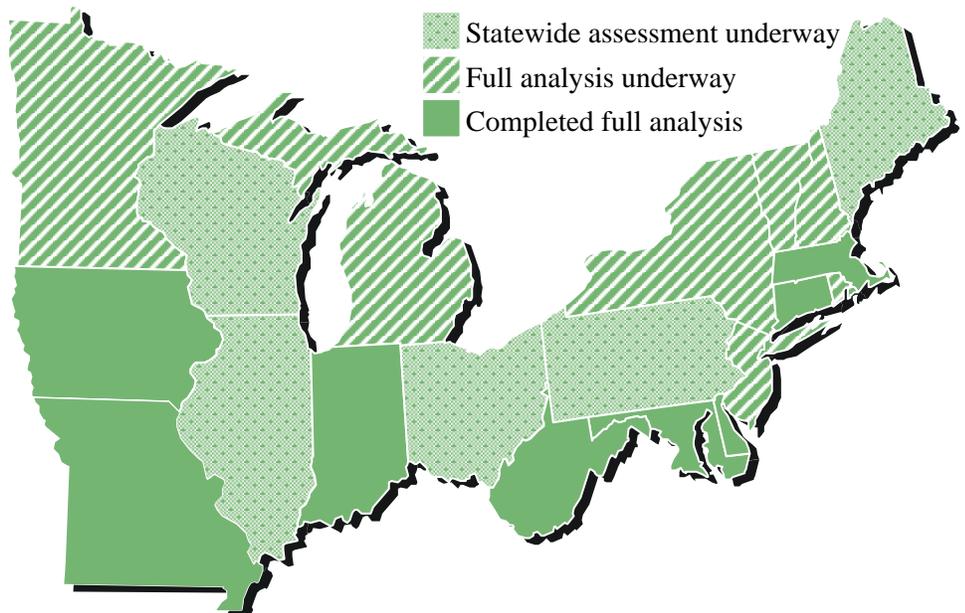
The Upper Mississippi Watershed Forestry Partnership is the first group to use SAP results on a regional basis to evaluate forest conditions within the Upper Mississippi River watershed. More specifically, SAP has helped the partnership to identify high-priority

areas for riparian reforestation, to promote water quality protection, and to identify potential focus areas for bird conservation efforts. This regional effort is nearing completion. A similar regional assessment of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is planned for early 2007. Initially this will include only States served by the Northeastern Area, but it will expand to include Virginia as its statewide assessment becomes available.

On a State-specific basis, several State forestry agencies are already leveraging their ability to determine their important forest resource areas (those eligible areas that would benefit most from the Forest Stewardship Program and associated cost-share incentive programs). States with the capabilities to do so recently reported their Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) accomplishments spatially, analyzing the extent to which those accomplishments were carried out in important (high-potential) forest resource areas. Iowa has used SAP results to inform lawmakers concerning outstanding needs for implementing prescribed Stewardship Plan activities, and to guide discussion with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as indicated from this excerpt of their success story: "Utilizing information gathered and developed through the Spatial Analysis Program in conjunction with Forest Inventory and Analysis data and information on the economic importance of Iowa's forest resource, a forest management proposal was presented to Iowa's Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) subcommittee. The EQIP subcommittee rejected the proposal to set aside a portion of the State's EQIP allocation and target it to forest management practices. However, they did encourage that individual counties set aside a portion of their EQIP allocation to address special resource concerns such as forest management. This encouragement led to several counties targeting EQIP dollars to forest management and reforestation practices on private land. One county alone earmarked and allocated over \$40,000 to address their forest resource concerns."

Several States have expressed interest in using SAP results to guide their workforce planning efforts as they relate to the strategic delivery of the Forest Stewardship Program. For the first time, they are able to determine the balance of their workload, the extent to which the Forest Stewardship Program has been delivered throughout the State, and the need to align their workforce with the resources, as indicated by the distribution of important (high-potential) forest resource areas in their State.

*By Barbara Tormoehlen and Tom Luther*



# State Announcements

## Indiana Pursues Certification

---

Indiana is in the process of certifying its State Forest System (150,000 acres) through SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). At the same time, Indiana's private forest land tax reduction and management program (Classified Forest Program) is seeking certification through the American Tree Farm System (500,000 acres). The audit process of these programs is expected to be completed in January 2007. For information, contact Ben Hubbard, Certification Project Manager, at [bhubbard@dnr.in.gov](mailto:bhubbard@dnr.in.gov) or 317-232-4114.

## Iowa Plan of Action

---

A report titled "Forests and Prairies Resources—a Plan of Action for 2001-2006: to Sustain and Expand" is available at <http://www.iowadnr.com/forestry/pdf/vision01.pdf>.

## Maine 2005 Reports

---

Maine's "2005 Biennial Report on the State of the Forest and Progress Report on Forest Sustainability Standards" is available at [http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/pubs/pdf/2005sof\\_full\\_rpt.pdf](http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/pubs/pdf/2005sof_full_rpt.pdf).

## Maryland State Forest Assessment, Forest Legacy Assessment of Need, and More

---

Maryland's Strategic Forest Assessment is available at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/planning/sfla/index.htm>.

Maryland is also in the process of revising its Forest Legacy Assessment of Need. The draft maps can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/aonfl062806.asp>.

A report titled "Forest Production, Industry, and Forest Retention Assessment in Maryland," developed by Lloyd Irland, is available at [http://agroecology.widgetworks.com/data/files/pdf/1077145814\\_89267.pdf](http://agroecology.widgetworks.com/data/files/pdf/1077145814_89267.pdf).

## Massachusetts Ecoregional Assessment

---

The Berkshire Ecoregional Assessment focuses on the physical and natural resources of the five ecoregions within the Berkshire area of western Massachusetts. It is designed to inventory and assess the current state of the area's natural resources, identify major issues related to management of those resources, and identify opportunities and recommend courses of action for improving forest and other resource management in the Berkshire ecoregions. More information is available at <http://www.mass.gov/envir/forest/>.

## Oregon Certification Study and Sustainability Indicators

---

Oregon published a study completed by the Pinchot Institute to determine how the State could develop a certification standard recognized by the international Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. The full report can be accessed at:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/FRP/RP\\_Home.shtml#PEFC\\_Study\\_of\\_Oregon\\_Forestlands](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/FRP/RP_Home.shtml#PEFC_Study_of_Oregon_Forestlands)

An advisory committee to the Oregon Board of Forestry will be presenting recommendations for Oregon Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management at the Board's September 6 meeting. Nineteen indicators across seven Oregon sustainable forest management strategies are proposed. More background information and the committee's report can be found at:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE\\_PLANNING/Sustainable\\_Forest\\_Indicators\\_Project.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/RESOURCE_PLANNING/Sustainable_Forest_Indicators_Project.shtml)

## Pennsylvania Enterprise-Wide Information System

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry has contracted with the Sanborn Map Company for the development of an enterprise-wide forest information management system. They are currently conducting the user needs assessment and the systems review and design phase of the project. For more information, contact Shawn Lehman at 814-364-1397 or shleman@state.pa.us.

## Rhode Island Forest Resources Management Plan

The Rhode Island Forest Resources Management Plan was completed in March 2005. It is available at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/assessment/> or on CD. For more information or to request a CD, contact Bruce Payton at 401-647-3367 or bpayton@ridem.necoxmail.com.

## Wisconsin Statewide Forest Plan

Wisconsin completed a Statewide Forest Plan in 2004. It is available at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/look/assessment/swfp/FinalPlan.htm>. For more information, contact Mark Heyde at 608-267-0565 or heydem@dnr.state.wi.us.

# Congratulations...

**Honored  
with the  
2005  
Crystal Ball  
Award**



**Jeff Horan  
Maryland DNR  
Forest Service**

### **NFRPC 2006 Executive Committee**

*Chair*—Matt Keefer (makeefer@state.pa.us)

*Vice Chair*—Mike Huffman (mike.huffman@mdc.mo.gov)

*Immediate Past Chair*—Jeff Horan (jhoran@dnr.state.md.us)

*Secretary*—Susan Francher (sfrancher@dred.state.nh.us)

*Treasurer*—Larry Pedersen (pedersel@michigan.gov)

### **Northeastern Area (NA) Liaison**

Constance Carpenter (conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us)

### **State Forester Rep**

John Dorka (John.Dorka@dnr.state.oh.us)

**Web site:** <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/planning>

### **Criteria and Indicators Steering Committee**

#### **State forest planners**

Chair—Jeff Horan (MD)

Dan Devlin (PA)

Susan Francher (NH)

Larry Pedersen (MI)

Clarence Turner (MN)

#### **NA staff**

Constance Carpenter

Margaret Miller-Weeks

Sherri Wormstead