

United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Eastern Region

USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region



The Year in Review
2010

Regional Forester's Message

For the Eastern Region, 2010 will be remembered as a year of hard work and rewarding accomplishments. The results are clear: land management accomplishments were up, recreation opportunities have never been better, and on-going restoration work is improving plant and wildlife habitat.

We obligated \$92 million of Recovery Act funds by the end of Fiscal Year 2010, an accomplishment that has far-reaching benefits to the land and resources in the East, as well as the contractors who did the work. Roads and road-aquatic-system crossings were improved, enhancing water quality and providing safer travel; trails were improved and historic facilities were restored providing excellent recreation opportunities; and downed trees and storm debris with the potential to cause wildfires were reduced.

Along with countless volunteers and partners, our public lands in the East are thriving as never before. We welcomed Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois on September 26, 2010 for National Public Lands Day. The Prairie's event focused on native plant restoration. Working with the public, non-profit entities, and tribes we accomplished a record 27 stewardship contracts, which allowed us to leverage resources to restore watersheds and wildlife habitat.

Eastern Region professionals provided essential expertise to national directives

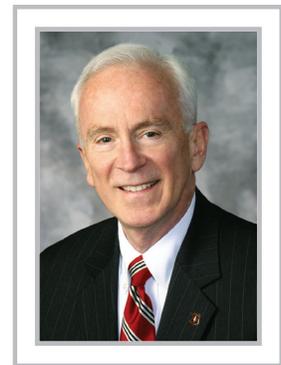
including Watershed Condition Classification and the Climate Change scorecard. Watershed Condition Classification is a nationally consistent, science-based approach to classify the condition of all Forest Service watersheds and develop performance-based outcome measures for restoration. The Climate Change scorecard will provide program balance and accountability to measure progress in response to climate change, and to ensure consistency in implementing strategy across the Forest Service.

We celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the J.W. Toumey Nursery on the Ottawa National Forest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Nursery is an essential component to the revegetation, rehabilitation, and restoration of native ecosystems in the Region. At the Nursery, native seed is extracted, cleaned, and stored, and the on-site greenhouse produces over 500,000 seedlings each year. It is an amazing resource for future habitat restoration work.

Our dedicated employees are building partnerships with communities, businesses, and sister agencies on a myriad of common objectives to have long-lasting impacts. I offer my sincere thanks to the public who partner with us to sustain and improve our national forests and tallgrass prairie. I invite you to come out and see what we have to offer!



Kent P. Connaughton



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Chief Tidwell (L), MNTP Horticulturist Eric Ulaszek (C); and Eastern Regional Forester Kent P. Connaughton (R) examine native plant seeds.

Recovery Act

We obligated \$92 million of Recovery Act (ARRA) funds by the end of Fiscal Year 2010. We created jobs in economically distressed areas by investing the money in 15 national forests and prairie, experimental stations, and research areas in 13 states. The work, completed at the highest level of safety, will have long-standing benefits to the land and resources, as well as the contractors who did the work. Many spoke well of their experience with the Forest Service and expressed gratitude for the opportunity.

We achieved significant resource benefits from a wide array of Recovery Act projects including:



Closure of Abandoned Mines – Project on the Ottawa National Forest used mules to transport equipment through rocky terrain.



Hazardous fuels reduction – Project on the Huron-Manistee National Forest reduced threat of wildfire.



Trail Maintenance – Trail that has been repaired on the White Mountain National Forest.



Road Maintenance – Project on the Superior National Forest increased accessibility & safety of travelers.



Recreation facility improvement – the South Kawishiwi Campground pavilion in the Superior National Forest received a new floor.



Watershed restoration & ecosystem enhancement– Wayne National Forest Monday Creek Project improved aquatic species passage.

WORK & ALLOCATIONS BY FOREST/PRAIRIE

Chippewa 10 projects for \$4.7 million, with two additional projects working with Northern Research Station worth \$1.1 million. The Forest partnered with native tribes to train wildland firefighters and repair roads and trails.

Chequamegon-Nicolet 19 projects worth \$6.2 million, including restoration of several historic sites and recreation areas.

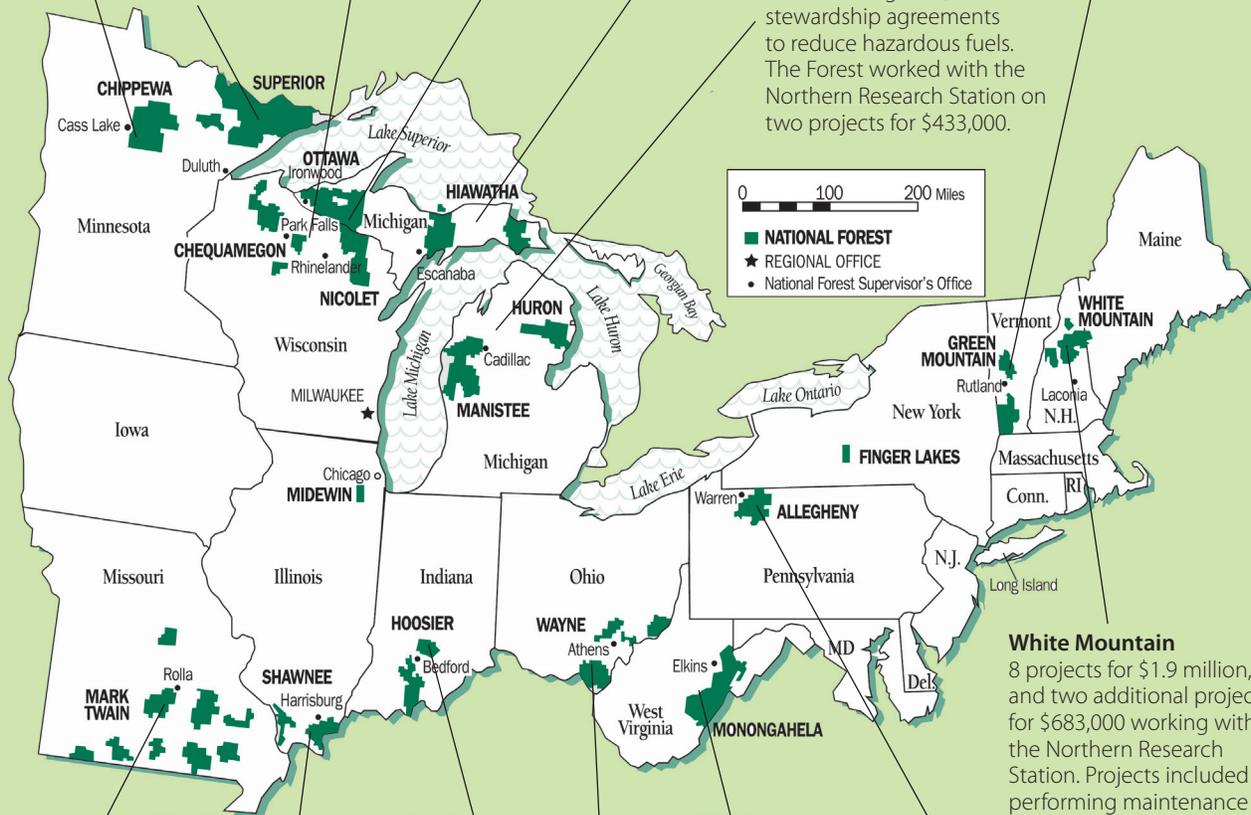
Ottawa 12 projects for \$2.88 million, including closure of 32 abandoned mines that removed potential safety hazards and improved bat habitat.

Hiawatha 15 projects for \$10.5 million, including partnering with county government to accomplish more than \$6 million of road maintenance. The Forest also worked with the Northern Research Station on two projects for \$682,000.

Green Mountain & Finger Lakes 19 projects for \$10.3 million; partnering with 14 local townships for road maintenance, and five other organizations for trail maintenance.

Superior 23 projects for \$12.8 million, including the refurbishment of historic structures and crew quarters.

Huron-Manistee 16 projects for \$8.7 million, including the hiring and training of more than 40 firefighters, and two stewardship agreements to reduce hazardous fuels. The Forest worked with the Northern Research Station on two projects for \$433,000.



Mark Twain 7 projects for \$3.7 million, including more than \$2 million of road maintenance.

Hoosier 6 projects for \$2 million, including more than \$1 million of road maintenance. Also, the Forest worked with the Northern Research Station on a project for \$20,000.

Monongahela 16 projects for \$4.2 million, including more than \$3 million of road maintenance.

White Mountain 8 projects for \$1.9 million, and two additional projects for \$683,000 working with the Northern Research Station. Projects included performing maintenance on three dams and needed maintenance on a sewage lagoon.

Shawnee 9 projects for \$3.5 million, including the hiring of a trail maintenance crew and rehabilitation of a Lincoln-Douglas debate site. Also, the Forest worked with the Northern Research Station on a project for \$199,000.

Wayne 14 projects for \$7.4 million, including \$2 million for fish passage and habitat improvement.

Allegheny 13 projects for \$7.3 million, including partnering with townships and conservation associations to accomplish more than \$3 million of roads and trails maintenance. Also, the Forest worked with the Northern Research Station on two projects for \$740,000.

See the Engineering section to learn more about the Eastern Region Recovery Act projects.

Landscape Scale Conservation

The Eastern Region is working across boundaries – state, agency, public, and private– to protect and restore the 12 million acres of public lands in the East. Embracing an “All Lands, All Hands” approach has wide ranging benefits to the land, as well as the public, whether they are in local communities or big cities. We understand the importance of banding together to address issues with global significance such as climate change and the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Public lands in the East are thriving, thanks to this sensible management approach and a strong commitment from the public.

SHOWCASE LAND ACQUISITION OF THE YEAR

The Eastern Region acquired key land parcels this year that will offer national-class recreation opportunities and provide habitat for a myriad of plant and wildlife species. Of particular significance was the 893 acre land acquisition around Prickett Lake on the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan. This area includes sections of the Wild and Scenic Sturgeon River. It also contains a segment of the congressionally designated North Country National Scenic Trail which connects New York’s Adirondack Mountains to the Missouri River in North Dakota.

Specific FY 2010 accomplishments include:

- Acres Acquired = 3,152.86
- Purchase dollars spent = \$9,001,975
- Number of Land Purchases = 22



The scenic Prickett Lake on the Ottawa National Forest.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE



The Forest Service received just over \$15 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds in FY 2010. The funds were allocated between the three branches of the Forest Service, the National Forest System, Eastern Region received \$8,100,000, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry received \$6,500,000, and the Northern Research Station received \$500,000.

GLRI long-term goals are: fish are safe to eat; water is safe to drink; beaches and water are safe for swimming, surfing, boating, and other recreational activities; native species and habitats are protected and thriving; no community suffers disproportionately from the impacts of pollution; and great lakes are a healthy place for people and wildlife to live.

GLRI projects in the Eastern Region addressed these goals. Fiscal Year 2010 accomplishments included:

- Messages about aquatic invasive species and prevention reached 93.2 million people, thanks to a multi-media outreach program that included highway billboards, airport diorama light boxes, print media, radio spots, and aquarium displays;
- A comprehensive analysis of forest resources in the Great Lakes was completed;
- 3,450 acres of wetland associated uplands were protected, restored, or enhanced, including 450 acres in the Finger Lakes National Forest in New York;
- 875,000 acres of threatened and endangered species habitat were monitored;
- 11 barriers to fish passage were removed;
- 300 acres of wetlands were inventoried and assessed;
- 155.6 miles of river were re-opened to fish passage; and
- 322 acres of wetlands were restored or enhanced.



More information on GLRI is located on the interagency website at: www.greatlakesrestoration.us/.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Forest Service's strategy for dealing with climate change is based on 20 years of targeted research and a century of science and management experience. It involves restoring the resilience of forest, range, and aquatic ecosystems on the lands we manage. In the East, we are taking an active role in addressing climate change and a proactive approach to forest management.

Eastern Region representatives were actively involved in Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science activities on climate change, carbon and bio-energy. One highlight project of this partnership is the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's (Wis.) climate change response framework.

Launched in 2009, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's climate change response framework project had some major achievements in 2010. These included: design to provide information and resources in order to adapt ecosystems to changing climate; mitigate carbon emissions; respond to climate change impacts across boundaries; and rapidly incorporate science and monitoring information into management activities. A Shared Landscape Initiative workshop was held February 2010, to discuss climate change affects on the landscape and the importance of a cooperative response from land-owners, the public, and Forest Service. A major outcome of the workshop was the formation of a shared landscape working group, representing diverse perspectives.

In addition, a number of Eastern Region employees completed a 40-hour training session in Advanced Climate Change topics. These trainees set out to share their knowledge and engage fellow employees and the public in discussions on climate change and its implications on forest management.

More information about the Forest Service's involvement in climate change is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc>.



STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS

In 2010, the Eastern Region had a record number of stewardship contracts 27: a two-fold increase from 2009. This meant a record number of acres treated – an increase from 3,015 in 2009, to 8,630 in 2010.

Stewardship contracting allows the Forest Service to partner with federal, state, and local government agencies, tribal governments, non-government organizations, and the public on resource improvement projects. Each project or group of projects is incorporated into an Integrated Resource Contract (IRC), which allows for the trade of goods for services. An IRC includes forest product removal (goods) and restoration projects (services), which are off-set by the value of the goods. Stewardship contracting helps achieve land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs, including contributing to the sustainability of rural communities and providing a continuing source of local income and employment.

The Eastern Region's successful stewardship contracting program in 2010 resulted from exceptional efforts on the Chequamegon-Nicolet (Wis.), Hiawatha (Mich.), Hoosier (Ind.), and White Mountain (N.H.) National Forests. Another milestone was three forests entered into stewardship agreements with the National Wild Turkey Federation for the first time. They were the Huron-Manistee (Mich.), Mark Twain (Mo.), and Allegheny (Pa.) National Forests.

Protecting Resources in the East

By working with partners and concerned citizens, we are establishing cooperative practices to address emerging threats to forests that extend beyond geographic boundaries. Projects range from reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire to reducing the impact of white nose syndrome in threatened bat species. In working together, we will strengthen our efforts to protect the plants and animals that depend on a healthy ecosystem.



Mingo Job Corps Student firefighter performs cold training during mop-up operations.

FIRE & AVIATION MANAGEMENT

Key highlights of the Aviation and Fire Management program in 2010 were job creation, wildfire protection planning for communities, and fuel treatment effectiveness. The latter includes reducing fire intensity and employment of safer fire suppression actions.

Eastern Region national forests partnered with various Job Corp Centers to provide wildland fire training and experiential learning opportunities for students. Upon completion of training, Job Corp students had the opportunity to be a part of crews that handled prescribed burning, fuels reduction, and wildfire suppression work. A number of these fire-trained students have been enrolled in the Student Career Experience Program.

Hazardous Fuels Accomplishments

- Through the use of Wyden Authority – a tool that allows the Forest Service to enter into project agreements with other organizations to reduce the risk of natural disasters where public safety is threatened – six national forests contributed to fuels reduction activities on adjacent non-federal lands.
- A total of 139,644 acres of hazardous fuels have been reduced with appropriated funds.
- Recovery Act funded the reduction of an additional 21,938 acres of hazardous fuels.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES: TIMBER & BIOMASS

Despite this year's challenging economic conditions, the health of 36,697 acres of forest was improved and 664,435 hundred cubic feet of timber – valued at \$34,424,418 – were sold. Thirteen percent of all timber volume sold contributed to the country's need for wood products.

A substantial challenge facing forest managers is the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems in the midst of increased changes to the climate. One option for adaptation and mitigation is woody biomass utilization. Woody biomass is the material from trees and woody plants, including limbs, needles, and leaves that are by-products of forest management. Biomass removal combined with forest management activities resulted in 251,430 green tons for bio-energy and 86,421 green tons for bio-based products.

In fiscal year 2010, the Department of Energy (DOE) completed six biomass project feasibility studies on the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri. The Forest is exploring the possibility of using biomass heating and/or combined heat and power (CHP) at their office facilities. The studies were a facet of a recent partnership between the Forest Service, Department of Interior, and DOE. The three agencies initiated a national working group to develop power generation and thermal application projects that could use biomass generated from national forests.



Bat affected with white-nose syndrome.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

Geomyces destructans, the fungus blamed for the onset of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats, spread into Canada and farther across the U.S. in 2010. The Eastern Region has been an active participant in the development of the National White-Nose Syndrome Response Plan for State, Federal and Tribal agencies. The Region assisted state wildlife agencies with similar plans, as well as research scientists in gathering genetic samples from bats for various projects geared towards finding ways to manage and control white-nose syndrome. In 2010, we completed the following projects:

- Continued the collection and analysis of baseline maternity season populations on 14 National Forests using echolocation recording devices;
- Repeated 1995- and 2007-era surveys in New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire to assess bat population changes after onset of white-nose syndrome in the Northeast;
- Relocated Northern long-eared bat roost trees in New Hampshire for a 15-year assessment to determine how their structure and suitability changed;
- Constructed a bat-friendly gate on a Shawnee National Forest cave where the public was ignoring cave closure orders established for the protection of endangered species;
- Collected fungal swabs from the skin and fur from bats in New York, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana for analysis of the presence of *Geomyces destructans*

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Forest Service and its partners implemented a variety of projects that benefited 34 federally threatened or endangered species. Some highlights include:

American Burying Beetle	Released 78 additional pairs onto National Forest System lands as part of a 5-year reintroduction effort
Canada Lynx	Closed and decommissioned roads to maintain or restore habitat security
Cheat Mountain Salamander	Increased coarse woody debris on the forest floor and enhanced soil moisture through the installation of a specialized irrigation system
Clubshell and Northern Riffleshell	Prevented the spread of non-native invasive zebra mussels into occupied habitat through boater outreach and boat and/or boat trailer inspections
Eastern Massasauga	Improved wetland habitat along the Little Manistee River and enhanced habitat and prey populations through prescribed burning
Gray Bat	Repaired a breeched bat-friendly gate and closed illegal off-road vehicle trails around a cave
Gray Wolf	Monitored status of territories through howling surveys and roadside track surveys
Indiana Bat	Protected hibernating individuals from human disturbance by constructing bat-friendly gates on cave entrances, and enhanced summer roosting and foraging habitat by creating snags and ephemeral wetlands in known maternity areas
Karner Blue Butterfly	Restored savanna habitat by reducing woody tree and shrub density and increased nectar sources through seed collection, propagation and planting
Kirtland's Warbler	Utilized a combination of timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and planting to ensure availability of early successional Jack Pine habitat
Mead's Milkweed	Eliminated competition by reducing encroachment of woody shrubs and trees around the population
Piping Plover	Protected nesting habitat and active nests through patrols and public outreach
Running Buffalo Clover	Removed non-native invasive plant species in areas around occupied habitat and took action to ensure appropriate light levels are maintained around the populations
Shale Barren Rockcress	Removed non-native invasive species (Tree of Heaven and Autumn Olive) from occupied habitat



A scenic wilderness area on the White Mountain National Forest.

REGION RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS WILDERNESS STEWARDS

In New Hampshire, the White Mountain National Forest Wilderness Team received the Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool Leadership group award for basic principles of wilderness stewardship. The minimum tool concept involves the use of traditional or primitive tools to keep wilderness areas in their natural, wild state. The group was recognized for their dedication in meeting Wilderness Stewardship Challenge goals and emphasizing the use of traditional tools to accomplish tasks. Recent projects have included removing a suspension bridge, replacing a bridge and reconstructing facilities with cooperation and assistance from partners including the New Hampshire Conservation Corps, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Student Conservation Association.

In Michigan, the Huron Manistee National Forests were acknowledged for Outstanding Stewardship of River Resources by the 2010 National Wild and Scenic River Awards. The group was recognized for their exemplary leadership and performance in protecting river values on five designated wild and scenic rivers. Through their ongoing collaborative and cooperative efforts with a range of partners, Forest leadership and staff have successfully protected and enhanced visitors' experience and the character of the setting.



Canoeing the wild & scenic Au Sable River in the Huron Manistee National Forests.



Eastern Region 2010

People & Communities

The Eastern Region embraces many unique ways of connecting people to the land. Whether it's through—outreach to constituents in urban areas, encouraging youth to Get Outdoors through innovative programs, or providing a plethora of recreational opportunities – we are engaging the public in natural resource management. We are also making an impact on local communities. For example, we once again exceeded targets for working with small and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses in fiscal year 2010. We also expanded our commitment to recruiting and retaining employees by the work that we do and atmosphere we promote.



(top) Local constituents gather Forest Service information at Milwaukee's National Get Outdoors Day event. (middle) Forest Service Conservation Education interns share natural resource information with local youth. (bottom) Youth participating in Boston's Nature Explorer Program.

URBAN CONNECTIONS

The Eastern Region's Urban Connections program mission is to build and foster relationships with urban stakeholders. This involves sharing information and encouraging understanding and involvement in the stewardship of our nation's forests. In 2010, Urban Connections collaborated with Eastern Region forests/prairie, Research, State and Private Forestry, and over 120 partners in Detroit, Boston, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago, to directly reach over 37,000 urban constituents. Messages shared with these constituents included natural resource management, outdoor recreation opportunities, and the value of public lands and stewardship.

In addition to ongoing Urban Connections programs, such as Greenfield Village in Detroit, the Urban Tree House Program in Milwaukee, and the Center for Youth and Families program in Boston, many new projects were initiated this year. Highlights include:

- **Detroit:** along with the Northern Research Station, organized an Emerald Ash Borer presentation for Detroit residents and partners, which resulted in the Northern Research Station utilizing one of the Detroit locations as a study site for Ash tree recovery.
- **Boston:** reached over 5000 youth through the Nature Explorer Program and the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Reading Program, developed with the Boston Center for Youth and Families, Boston Public Library, White Mountain National Forest, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forest, and Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry. The Nature Explorers collaboration transformed kids into explorers by providing them with binoculars, telescopes, and bug jars during field trips to the Boston Harbor Islands, arboretums, and other local green spaces. Reading program participants collectively read over 2,000 books on nature and science from the Boston Public Schools Summer Reading Guide, and was rewarded with a variety of Smokey and Woodsy items from the National Symbols Cache.
- **Milwaukee:** shared information on the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest, outdoor recreation, water conservation, climate change and natural resource careers at Gathering Waters Fest, a National Get Outdoors Day event on Milwaukee's Lakefront. Over 30 partners participated in the event attended by over 3,000 people.
- **Minneapolis:** worked with Minnesota National Forests, Research, State and Private Forestry, the U.S. Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wilderness Inquiry, and hundreds of local organizations to connect urban families to the natural world through the Wilderness Inquiry Program. The program works with urban families to erase fears of the outdoors and builds skills to grow future stewards of our public lands.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers in the East contributed a total of 114,719 hours to regional projects. The work accomplished by these dedicated people equals a cost savings to the Region of \$2,391,060. A large part of our volunteer program is youth-hosted work groups, including crews from the Department of Corrections, Student Conservation Association, State Conservation Corps, and the American Hiking Society. An example of one successful effort was:

- In April 2010, 38 Missouri Science & Technology students assisted the Mark Twain National Forest to get the popular Red Bluff Recreation Area ready for spring visitors and recreationists. The volunteers contributed 480 hours valued at \$9,700.

Volunteers assisted in restoring watersheds, providing quality recreation, improving wildlife and fisheries habitats, and sustaining healthy ecosystems and communities. Across the Region, volunteers stepped up and made a difference!

(top) Volunteers at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center's National Public Lands Day event. (bottom) Volunteers on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Job Corps

We are working with 14 Job Corps Centers in both Regions to transition qualified graduates into permanent Forest Service positions. Program highlights for 2010 include: nine students were added to the Forest Service's workforce as permanent employees; Recognition from the National Jobs Corps and African American Strategy Group for the Region's role in placing students in career positions; and partnering with the Rocky Mountain Research Station to hold the first "Natural Resources Science Camp," introducing students to careers in Research & Development.

SCEP & STEP

The Eastern Region continued its commitment to building a skilled and diverse workforce through its Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) and Student Temporary Experience Programs (STEP). SCEP and STEP assist college students with employment opportunities within the Forest Service in positions related to their academic fields of study. In these positions, they gain valuable hands-on work experience. In 2010, 20 SCEP students and four STEP students were selected. Eight students received their degrees and are now in permanent full-time positions within the agency.



Blackwell Job Corps Students pose by stairway they constructed at the JW Toumey Nursery.



Native American Youth participating in Project Venture North on the Superior NF.

MORE KIDS IN THE WOODS

In an effort to reconnect youth with the outdoors and promote a healthier lifestyle, the Forest Service has a program called, "More Kids in the Woods." This program provides youth with meaningful hands-on experiences on public lands.

In 2010, the Superior National Forest received \$20,000 in More Kids in the Woods funding for the local, "Project Venture North." Project Venture North is an initiative that enhances and expands ongoing efforts to get Native American youth (ages 11-13) outdoors in Northeastern Minnesota. Although these youth live near public lands – they lack the skills and support to use them. The hope of this program is to develop a renewed commitment to the land, to their culture and community, and initiative to stay in school. The Superior partnered with Project Venture North, YMCA Camp Widjiwagan, St. Louis County Indian Education Consortium, Bois Forte Band of Ojibewam and the local school district in order to make this program a success.

TRIBAL RELATIONS

The Eastern Region's tribal relations program saw significant advancements in 2010; including:

- A Programmatic Agreement - years in the making - on Heritage Resources Management on the Chippewa National Forest was signed by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Forest, and other signatories. This and other agreements allowed the Forest to facilitate a total of \$708,482.92 in funding to the Ojibwe Tribe to implement projects and deliver services on the Forest.
- The Shawnee National Forest and WSIU, the broadcasting arm of Southern Illinois University, hosted the first volunteer workday aimed at cleaning and maintaining trail segments used by the Cherokee Nation during the Trail of Tears. Nineteen volunteers, four Forest Service employees, and two WSIU employees spent time cutting logs and picking up branches and litter from the site. When the crew finished, a little under one mile of woody debris had been cleared from the trail.
- The Zaagkii Wings & Seeds Program celebrated the culmination of three successful years in 2010. Specific program accomplishments include: planting and distribution of over 26,000 native plant seeds; transplant of hundreds of native plant seedlings; construction and painting of 36 bee houses and 18 butterfly houses; and assistance in building a native plant greenhouse near Lake Superior. The Zaagkii project has been a huge success for the Ojibwe youth, Forest Service employees, and the area's natural resources.



(top) Partners in the Zaagkii Wings & Seeds Program pose in front of the completed native plant greenhouse. (bottom) Ojibwa youth paint mason bee houses they built as part of the Zaagkii project.



RECREATION

The Eastern Region is the most geographically, ecologically, and socially diverse region in the country. Most of the Region's forests and prairie are within a day's drive of half the country's population. Throughout the Region are unique places to recreate, with activities including viewing wildlife, hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing, camping, and bicycling.

The visitation estimate for the Eastern Region was 16.1 million in 2010. We invite you to come explore your national forests & grassland and see what we have to offer! For more recreation information, visit: www.fs.fed.us/recreation/.

Engineering

Engineering accomplishments in 2010 were outstanding. Engineering specialists across the Region worked across boundaries and units to accomplish projects with long-standing benefits. These projects included: road and trail repair and maintenance; reparation of roads damaged by storms and natural disasters; replacement of culverts for improved aquatic organism passage; restoration of historic facilities; and sustainable development of administrative buildings and recreation sites. Members of the Region's Technical Services Team worked with partners to implement innovative new techniques and sustainable designs to move us forward in the realm of "greening" the Region. Field specialists worked with contractors to implement numerous Recovery Act projects that will have long-standing benefits.

RECOVERY ACT & OTHER FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2010, over \$37 million in Recovery Act, Legacy Roads & Trails (CMLG), and Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) dollars funded more than 70 contracts for road, trail bridges, and major culvert projects. Fifty percent of the projects removed existing deteriorated or undersized culverts, and replaced them with structures which improved and restored passage for aquatic organisms. Other funded projects included survey, design and repair of damaged bridges and replacement of deficient bridges. The Region provided oversight and monitoring of these funds and associated projects.

Recovery Act funded 13 contracts for over \$2.1 million of work on 33 dams throughout the Region. Work included dam removal, routine maintenance, construction of access roads, and reconstruction of existing dams.

- One project was the Lefferts Pond Dam rehabilitation project on the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont. Lefferts pond is a popular recreation area on the Forest.
- Another project was reconstruction of the Tipsaw Recreation Road in the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana. The road accesses a seven-mile hike/bike trail system, boat ramp, beach/picnic area, and five camping areas. This important roadway had fallen into serious disrepair due to inappropriate use and ineffective drainage systems.



(top) Before: Prior to replacement the dilapidated North Light Creek Bridge on Grand Island in the Hiawatha NF, built in early 1900's, was closed. (middle) After: Thanks to Recovery Act funds local contractors installed the new North Light Creek Bridge. (bottom left) The Lefferts Pond Dam on the Green Mountain National Forest after re-construction. (bottom right) Tipsaw Recreation Road project on the Hoosier National Forest.

“GREENING” THE REGION

The Region reduced greenhouse emissions in 2010 by:

- purchasing 4 hybrid vehicles – bringing our total to 44 vehicles; and
- purchasing 44 Flexible Fuel Vehicles – bringing Regional total to 183 vehicles.

Administrative buildings throughout the Region got retro-fitted for energy efficient lighting, increased insulation, biomass boilers, solar energy development, and low-flow water fixtures. Thanks to these energy saving updates, six facilities are in the process of becoming Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified. And, the Kawishiwi Ranger District Office in the Superior National Forest (Minn.) received Silver LEED certification; the first in the Region.

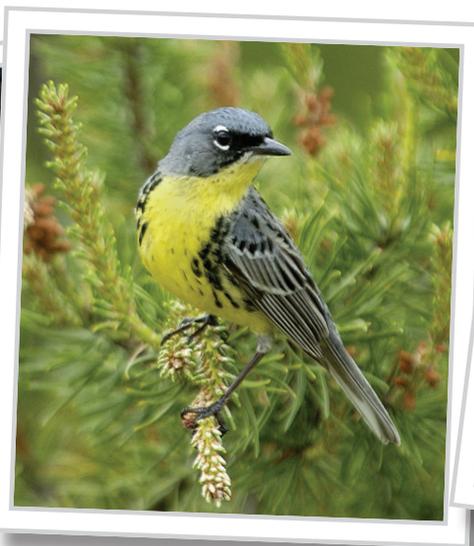
Through Recovery Act funds, the Wayne Headquarters’ Office in Athens, Ohio, placed additional solar panels on their roof. As of September 30, 2010, the entire solar system has reduced 65 tons/130,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, eliminating approximately 63.9 tons of coal that would have been burned to generate an equivalent amount of electricity.



Solar panels on the Wayne Headquarters’ Office roof.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- Visit the Eastern Region’s website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/r9>
- Follow us on twitter at: http://twitter.com/usfs_r9
- Share in our successes by visiting our Success Story Reporting System at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/
- While you are there, sign up for our subscription service and receive regular e-mail updates!



(left) Wakeley Lake boardwalk in the Huron Manistee National Forests in Michigan. (middle) Threatened & Endangered Species the Kirtland’s warbler. (right) Dolly Sods Wilderness Area in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia.