



Eastern Region 2010

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.