



Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC)

Promoting sustainable utilization of hardwoods

Description:

In cooperation with partners, the Wood Education and Resource Center in Princeton, WV, offers technical expertise and information to businesses, States, and others, on topics such as efficient wood processing, utilizing pest-damaged timber, green building, and wood energy. The center owns a 43,000-square-foot rough mill and 12,000-square-foot wood shop. These facilities historically have been leased to a wood products manufacturing business, to provide local jobs and opportunities to improve worker skills. Legislation directed the Forest Service to assume leadership of this former Robert C. Byrd Hardwood Technology Center in 1999.

Key Issues:

- American hardwood manufacturers are struggling to remain competitive in the face of global competition and high operating costs.
- Expansion of markets and processing efficiencies improve the forest product industry’s viability and profit margins, thus creating or retaining jobs, or both.
- Collaboration within the forest products industry helps individual businesses to keep pace with a rapidly changing environment.

Accomplishments:

- Prepared more than 120 prefeasibility studies for facility owners throughout WERC’s service territory, generating significant project savings for facilities that converted to wood energy.
- Administered the 2016 Wood Innovation Funding Opportunity, which encouraged the expansion and creation of wood markets and products for trees in and near National Forests.
- Expanded the WERC Web site to provide information about successful applicants for the Wood Innovation Funding Opportunity, for Statewide Wood Energy Teams, Wood-to-Energy grants, and Wood Products grants.
- Continued outreach efforts to industry and communities by providing over 15 industry-related workshops, training sessions, webinars, and webcasts. Topics included wood energy, urban wood utilization, firewood business and processing, and small sawmilling techniques. Two webcasts addressed the specific needs of the urban forestry community pertaining to market development and utilization of trees affected by insects and diseases.

Budget History:

Wood Education and Resource Center

FY 2013 Enacted	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Annualized Continuing Resolution	FY 2016 President’s Budget
\$960,000	\$960, 000	\$960,000	\$960,000

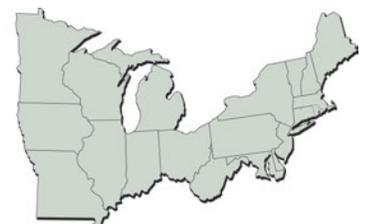
Direction:

WERC addresses the key issues by promoting sustainable wood processing, market development, job creation, and woody biomass utilization across the 35-State eastern hardwood region.

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