



North Carolina Forest Stewardship News

Winter
2012

BEASLEY BECOMES FIRST WOMAN TO EARN NCFA'S TOP AWARD

RALEIGH, NC (OCTOBER 27, 2011) – Dianne Beasley, the Internal/External Affairs Director for the North Carolina Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, was presented with the North Carolina Forestry Association's Outstanding Service to Forestry Award at the association's 2011 Annual Meeting that was held in Wilmington in October. The award is presented annually to someone who has demonstrated long term service and contributions to forestry in North Carolina and the NCFA. Beasley is the first woman to earn this honor, which has been awarded since 1977.



NCFAs Pres. Jeff Hanks (l) and Dianne Beasley (r)

"Dianne has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for years promoting forestry in North Carolina with excellent results," stated NCFAs Vice President Bob Slocum. "She has proved to be a vital link between the Forest Service, the NCFA, the legislature, and other environmental organizations in our state. She has been an active member of our association throughout her career. We appreciate her efforts and are pleased to present her with this award."

Beasley has previously received the NCFA's Outstanding Communicator of the Year Award in 2002 for, as one member of the NCFA's Public Affairs Committee stated, "providing a soft, yet effective voice for forestry on a daily basis."

Beasley personally championed the "First in Forestry" license plates that are now on the roads across North Carolina. These attractive plates, which Beasley

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provided artistic input, not only recognize North Carolina as the birthplace of American Forestry, but a portion of the sales of these license plates provides funds to North Carolina's Educational State Forests and other forestry education projects. These plates are available at all DMV sites across the state.

Other communication initiatives include the placement of promotional luncheon placemats in the cafeteria of the North Carolina General Assembly, the production of a legislative poster that features each member of the North Carolina General Assembly on a forestry background, and the promotion of forestry during Forestry Day in the Legislature.

In addition to serving as chairman of the NCFA's Public Affairs/Legislative Committee, she currently serves on the NCFA's Board of Directors, the annual meeting planning committee, and is an advisor to the Friends of Forestry Political Action Committee.

While Beasley is a keen promoter, more importantly, she is an excellent administrator, working diligently to ensure that the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) is fully equipped to handle the many challenges that face the agency on a regular basis. The NCFS is regarded as one of the top forest services in the nation. The NCFS's mission is to develop, protect, and manage the multiple resources of North Carolina's forests through professional stewardship, enhancing the quality of life for our citizens while ensuring the North Carolina's forests stay healthy, productive and beautiful for generations to come.

Dianne and her husband, Bruce, reside in Wilson, NC, but previously lived in Raleigh, NC. Dianne is the former Dianne Wall of Clayton, NC. Bruce is President of the Wilson Chamber of Commerce and is from Fountain, NC. Their daughter, Louise, and son, Jamey, live in Raleigh, NC.

DuPont named one of nation's top 5 state parks by Outside Magazine

By [Jessica Goodman](#)
Times-News Staff Writer

Outside Magazine has named DuPont State Recreational Forest one of the five best state parks in the country, citing "80 miles of world-class mountain biking trails, including several miles of superb granite slab riding."

The New Mexico-based magazine ran an article in June announcing the top picks. The article also mentioned the great concentration of falls in DuPont from Triple Falls and Hooker Falls to Bridal Veil Falls.

"The parks were chosen for their uniqueness, and world-class recreational opportunities," Outside writer Greg Melville said in an email Thursday. "There's really nowhere else like it in the country."

Kent Wilcox, president of the Friends of the DuPont Forest, agreed with Melville.

"What really makes DuPont unique is, for the most part, all of those trails are multi-use," Wilcox said. Hikers share the trails with mountain bike riders, equestrians and fishermen.

"Sometimes it can be overlooked because DuPont is one of many outdoor gems in Western North Carolina, and it's so much smaller than the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Pisgah National Forest," Melville added.

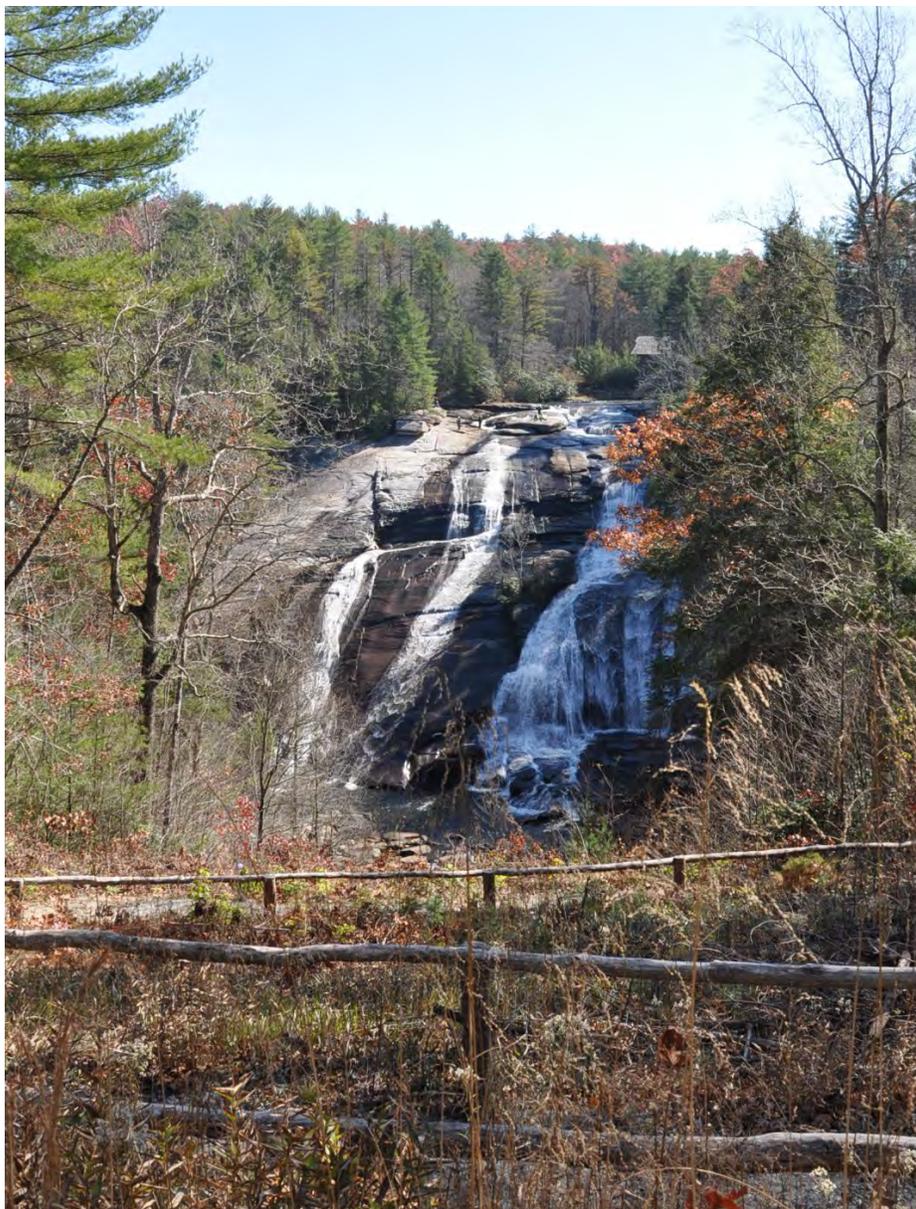
Wilcox said the parking lots are, for the most part, on the fringes of the state forest, keeping most cars outside the forest itself.

The annual Tour de Falls event, took place on Sept. 24 and 25, 2011, and gave people who cannot hike into the forest a chance to see the falls, thanks to a shuttle that takes riders to four waterfalls.

Friends of DuPont organizes the tour, which typically draws 800 to 1,200 visitors. The event began at 9 a.m.

David Brown, supervisor for the forest, estimated that the forest had 179,000 visitors in 2010, and visitation appeared to be on track for the same in 2011. He welcomes the magazine's promotion of DuPont because it brings tourism to the area.

"It's good we can help draw people to Western North Carolina," Brown said. For more information, visit www.dupontforest.com.



NOTE: DUPONT IS ACTUALLY A STATE FOREST AND NOT A STATE PARK

New USDA Study: Wood is the Greenest Green Building Material ***Expected to Have Major Impact on Sustainable Wood Markets Driven by Growing Green Building Sector***

Washington, D.C. – The [American Forest Foundation](#) (AFF) welcomed a new study from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) showing that wood is truly *the* green building material, with environmental benefits that dwarf other common building materials.

The new study analyzed a life-cycle assessment of green building materials and found that growing, harvesting, transporting, manufacturing, and using wood produces less air pollution – including greenhouse gasses – than concrete, steel, and other material options. The [USDA press release](#) regarding this study is [available online](#).

“Giving the green light to wood as the green building material should dramatically impact the market for sustainably grown wood in this country,” said AFF President Tom Martin. “Healthy forests need healthy markets, and the green building market is expected to grow to a \$173 billion industry by 2015. Secretary Vilsack is a champion for working family forests, and understands their importance to America’s rural economies.”

The [announcement by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack](#) emphasized the value of credible third-party certification systems, including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®, the Forest Stewardship Council®, and the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) certification in verifying sustainability.

ATFS, a program of the American Forest Foundation, is the largest and oldest sustainable family woodland system in America, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards. Its network of Certified Tree Farmers produce sustainably managed, locally grown wood on more than 26 million acres.

Using wood products in building construction can have significant environmental and economic benefits – in particular supporting jobs in rural communities.

Wood products manufacturing supports at least 25 percent more jobs per unit produced than materials such as steel and concrete. Currently, the use of forest products supports more than one million jobs and contributes more than \$100 billion to the nation’s gross domestic product.

The analysis highlighted that wood sequesters carbon even after a building is constructed. And, sustainable forest management also means young, growing forests sequester carbon through new forest growth.

“Forest products are an example of where good for the economy is also good for the environment,” said Jad Daley, Climate Program Director for the non-profit Trust for Public Land. “America’s forests and forest products sequester 13 percent of our carbon emissions each year and provide countless other public benefits, like clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Strong forest products markets will help keep family forests economically prosperous and maintain these important environmental benefits.”

The new study follows [a letter sent in May 2011](#) [PDF] by more than 40 conservation and forest industry organizations. The letter applauded Secretary Vilsack for the USDA’s green building strategy, and urged the sort of continued leadership seen today. The letter said, “strong markets for wood products, stimulated by green building strategies, like yours, are an essential element for keeping working forests as forests and protecting America’s landscapes.”

The American Forest Foundation® (AFF) works on-the-ground with families, teachers and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect our nation’s forest heritage. A commitment to the next generation unites our nationwide network of forest owners and teachers working to keep our forests healthy and our children well-prepared for the future they will inherit. AFF’s [sustainable woodland system](#) helps family forest owners meet stringent third-party standards for managing more than 26 million acres of forestland. AFF works with tens of thousands of teachers every year, giving them a peer-reviewed, award-winning environmental education curriculum through [Project Learning Tree®](#). For more information, visit www.forestfoundation.org.

Agriculture Secretary urges prioritizing wood in green buildings

The authors of *Science Supporting the Economic and Environmental Benefits of Using Wood and Wood Products in Green Building Construction* reviewed the scientific literature and found that using wood in building products yields fewer greenhouse gases than using other common materials.

"This study confirms what many environmental scientists have been saying for years," said Vilsack. "Wood should be a major component of American building and energy design. The use of wood provides substantial environmental benefits, provides incentives for private landowners to maintain forest land, and provides a critical source of jobs in rural America."

The Forest Service report also points out that greater use of life cycle analysis in building codes and standards would improve the scientific underpinning of building codes and standards and thereby benefit the environment. A combination of scientific advancement in the areas of life cycle analysis and the development of new technologies for improved and extended wood utilization are needed to continue to advance wood as a green construction material. Sustainability of forest products can be verified using any credible third-party rating system, such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council or American Tree Farm System certification.

"The argument that somehow non-wood construction materials are ultimately better for carbon emissions than wood products is not supported by our research," said David Cleaves, the U.S. Forest Service Climate Change Advisor. "Trees removed in an environmentally responsible way allow forests to continue to sequester carbon through new forest growth. Wood products continue to benefit the environment by storing carbon long after the building has been constructed."

The use of forest products in the United States currently supports more than one million direct jobs, particularly in rural areas, and contributes more than \$100 billion to the country's gross domestic product.

"In the Rockies alone, we have hundreds of thousands of dead trees killed by bark beetles that could find their way into the building supply chain for all types of buildings," said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "Taking a harder look at wood as a green building source could reduce the damages posed by future fires, maintain overall forest health and provide much-needed jobs in local communities."

The U.S. Forest Service report identifies several areas where peer-reviewed science can contribute to sustainable green building design and decisions. These recommendations address the following needs for use of wood as a green building material:

- Information on environmental impacts across the lifecycle of wood and alternative construction materials needs to be updated and revised;
- Green buildings codes and standards should include adequate provisions to recognize the benefit of a lifecycle environmental analysis to guide selection of building materials; and

A lack of educational, technology transfer, and demonstration projects hinder the acceptance of wood as a green building material.

Research recently initiated by the wood products industry in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory will enable greater use and valuation of smaller diameter trees and insect and disease-killed trees. Research on new products and technologies has been initiated including improved cross-lamination techniques and the increased use of nanotechnology.

These developments are especially important amidst a changing climate because forest managers will need to increasingly thin densely forested areas in the coming years to reduce the impacts from longer and more severe wildfire seasons. Continued research of wood-based products and technologies will contribute to more environmentally responsible building materials and increased energy efficiency.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

USDA Announces CRP General Sign-up

Landowners and Producers Will Have 4-Week Window Beginning in March to Enroll

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 2012—Acting Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS) Michael Scuse announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up, beginning on March 12 and ending on April 6. CRP has a 25-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

"It is USDA's goal to ensure that we use CRP to address our most critical resource issues," said Scuse. "CRP is an important program for protecting our most environmentally sensitive lands from erosion and sedimentation, and for ensuring the sustainability of our groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. As always, we expect strong competition to enroll acres into CRP, and we urge interested producers to maximize their environmental benefits and to make cost-effective offers."

CRP is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Producers with expiring contracts and producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP. Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis. Currently, about 30 million acres are enrolled in CRP; and contracts on an estimated 6.5 million acres will expire on Sept. 30, 2012.

Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers and selections made from that ranking. FSA uses the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage;
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching;
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion;
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period;
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and
- Cost.

Over the past 25 years, farmers, ranchers, conservationists, hunters, fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts have made CRP the largest and one of the most important in USDA's conservation portfolio. CRP continues to make major contributions to national efforts to improve water and air quality, prevent soil erosion by protecting the most sensitive areas including those prone to flash flooding and runoff. At the same time, CRP has helped increase populations of pheasants, quail, ducks, and other rare species, like the sage grouse, the lesser prairie chicken, and others. Highlights of CRP include:

- CRP has restored more than two million acres of wetlands and two million acres of riparian buffers;
- Each year, CRP keeps more than 600 million pounds of nitrogen and more than 100 million pounds of phosphorous from flowing into our nation's streams, rivers, and lakes.
- CRP provides \$1.8 billion annually to landowners—dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs; and
- CRP is the largest private lands carbon sequestration program in the country. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation, CRP sequesters carbon in plants and soil, and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. In 2010, CRP resulted in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

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APPROPRIATIONS: Green groups go to bat for federal conservation dollars

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Environmental groups ratcheted up calls for Congress to protect conservation programs as it tackles 2012 budget bills and contemplates longer-term cuts to reduce the federal deficit.

At a media event and roundtable on Capitol Hill, groups highlighted what they say are small but crucial investments in land, water and wildlife that will pay huge dividends in jobs, recreation revenue and healthier ecosystems. Protected wetlands and forests not only succor wildlife but also save billions of dollars by helping filter water supplies and prevent floods for thousands of downstream communities, they argued.

Mark Tercek, president of the Nature Conservancy, said conservation spending accounts for roughly 1.26 percent of the federal budget.

"Spending on nature and conservation didn't cause the deficit and cuts to nature and conservation can't solve the deficit," Tercek said at an event at the National Press Club.

His group is part of the new 1,000-member coalition America's Voice for Conservation, Recreation and Preservation, which formed following last spring's budget battles that resulted in steep conservation cuts and a policy rider that stripped the president's ability to protect wild lands.

"The federal budget cannot and should not be balanced disproportionately on the backs of conservation, outdoor recreation and preservation," the group said in a letter to leaders in Congress.

While much of the groups' focus is on the 2012 budget, members are also lobbying the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to support conservation and renewable energy investments as it seeks \$1.2 trillion in savings over the next decade (E&E Daily, Oct. 19).

"If you're not taking a look at what the supercommittee is doing, you're potentially missing out on what could be a grander deal that affects discretionary funding levels for many years to come," said the Wilderness Society's Alan Rowsome.

Many, if not most, of the conservation programs the groups are pushing enjoy broad bipartisan support from lawmakers including House appropriators who hold the government's purse strings. The problem, fiscal con-

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In 2011, USDA enrolled a record number of acres of private working lands in conservation programs, working with more than 500,000 farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and prevent soil erosion. Moreover, the Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net, and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency, and resourcefulness of our producers.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

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servatives say, is that lawmakers can only spend what budget leaders have allocated.

"I personally would like to see more funding for [the Land and Water Conservation Fund]," Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that funds Interior and the Forest Service, said at a summer markup. "The problem is we just don't have the money."

But with Congress' budget agreement this summer to raise the federal debt ceiling, House appropriators may now have a larger allowance for the next fiscal year.

Here are some of the places conservation groups would spend the money if they had their way:

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund** -- The 47-year-old program is a top priority for most environmental groups. Funded by offshore oil and gas revenues, LWCF supports the acquisition of high-value lands that consolidate landscapes, improve visitor access and streamline land management. A portion of the money is used to purchase conservation easements from property owners who agree not to develop their lands. Other money helps states improve urban recreational opportunities. The House this year proposed less than \$100 million for the program in 2012, compared to roughly \$350 million in the Senate. Both fall well short of the Obama administration's request of \$900 million, the fund's maximum authorized yearly amount, which has rarely been reached.
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act** -- Enacted in 1989, the program is a staple for waterfowl advocates and clean water groups. Each federal dollar spent on NAWCA must be matched by \$1 or more from non-federal sources and is often met by \$2, \$3 or \$4. More than 2,000 NAWCA projects have helped conserve more than 26.5 million acres of habitat across North America. The fund was given \$38 million in 2011, a 20 percent dip from 2010, according to Ducks Unlimited. The House proposal this summer would cut current funding roughly in half for fiscal 2012, while the Senate has proposed \$36 million. Obama requested \$50 million.
- **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration** -- The Forest Service program established by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) in 2009 authorizes up to \$40 million annually for landscape-scale forest restoration projects more than 50,000 acres in size. In the program's first year, 10 competitively selected projects reduced forest fuels and wildfire risk on nearly 155,000 acres, created about 1,550 jobs and produced more than 535,000 tons of woody biomass for energy production, Bingaman said. Both the Senate and House have proposed \$30 million for the program in 2012.
- **Legacy Roads and Trails** -- The Forest Service program funds the removal of decaying, unmanaged and under-maintained roads. Many of the agency's 300,000 miles of roads threaten to cause erosion that can muddy streams, harm endangered salmon and compromise drinking water for downstream users. Critics warn the roads also fragment habitat for elk, grizzlies and other wildlife and argue the program is a job creator. "The same type of people you need to build a road are the people you need to take them out," Rowson said. Congress in 2010 provided \$90 million for the program -- nearly double the Obama request -- but recently cut that figure in half in the 2011 continuing resolution. The Forest Service is proposing to bundle the program into a larger integrated forest management fund. The Senate and House have proposed \$45 million and \$35 million for road decommissioning, respectively, in fiscal 2012.
- **National Landscape Conservation System** -- The Bureau of Land Management program is the nation's newest collection of protected public lands and totals some 28 million acres of wilderness, national monuments, conservation areas, wild and scenic rivers and other designated lands. Congress made the program permanent in 2009, and supporters say funding is crucial to complete management plans, conduct archaeological

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inventories and protect resources from looting. Obama asked for a \$15 million funding boost in 2012, which would bring the program to \$78 million, according to the Conservation Lands Foundation. The House proposed \$20 million to fund the program's national monuments and conservation areas, half of the Obama proposal. The program has its critics among fiscal conservatives. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) calls it a poster child for bureaucratic excess and proposed defunding it entirely in February before yanking the bill from the floor.

- **National Wildlife Refuge System (operations and maintenance)** -- A recent analysis by refuge supporters argued the Fish and Wildlife Service's 150-million-acre system needs at least \$900 million in annual operations and maintenance funding. Funding increased from 2008 to 2010 but was cut back slightly in 2011. The Senate proposed \$483 million for 2012, a slight decrease from current funding. The House proposed \$455 million, a \$47 million cut, which the agency this year warned could force the closure of a quarter of its 550 refuges, Rowsome said. The system's operations and maintenance backlog has steadily grown over the past decade, exceeding \$3.35 billion today. In response, House lawmakers have proposed restricting the agency from purchasing new lands and designating new refuges without congressional approval.
- **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation** -- The FWS program helps states protect species and their non-federal habitats. The program is important, supporters say, because half of all endangered or threatened species spend part of their lives on privately owned lands. The program, which requires states to match 25 percent of federal costs, took a severe hit in the House's 2012 proposed budget, which would drop funding from \$60 million to less than \$3 million. The Senate proposed nearly \$48 million, still well short of Obama's \$100 million request.
- **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants** -- The program helps prevent species from becoming endangered by funding conservation needs including research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring for state wildlife management plans. The House proposed \$22 million next fiscal year, nearly two-thirds below current funding levels. The Senate proposed \$64 million, still shy of the president's \$95 million request. "This program is of immense importance to state fish and wildlife agencies and would have grave consequences to the conservation of at-risk fish and wildlife if it were substantially cut," said the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies' Teaming With Wildlife director Mark Humpert.
- **Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program** -- A core component of Obama's Great Outdoors Initiative, Forest Legacy provides matching funds to assist states in conserving private working forests critical to wildlife and recreation. Conservation easements with willing landowners target high-value forests threatened by land conversion. The administration is asking Congress to bump its \$76 million in current funding to \$135 million in 2012. Funding comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- **Farm bill conservation title** -- Programs include the Wetlands Protection Program, the Grasslands Reserve Program and the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Collectively, the conservation title encourages farmers and forest land owners to take steps that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, mitigate the threat of flood damage and support wildlife, according to the Nature Conservancy, a key supporter of the programs. Funding for the programs was cut significantly during the House's work on the Agriculture appropriations bill in June.

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E&E Publishing, LLC
 122 C St., Ste. 722, NW, Wash., D.C.
 20001.
 Phone: 202-628-6500. Fax: 202-737-
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One million acres of southern forests protected from destructive insect

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28, 2011 – The U.S. Forest Service announced that the agency has protected one million acres of forest through its Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program.

The milestone was reached this fall, on private land in New Kent County, Va.

The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program spans 13 states and crosses boundaries from privately owned land to state and national forests, aiming to prevent future outbreaks and losses. More than 13,000 individual landowners have participated in the program, together with hundreds of loggers and contractors across the South, to improve the health of southern forests.

“The millionth acre is a tribute to healthy forests throughout the South, both here in these woods and throughout the regional landscape,” said Arthur “Butch” Blazer, USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment. “Preventing infestations by the southern pine beetle takes cooperation on a grand scale, and today we honor everyone who contributed—every acre and every effort.”

Major southern pine beetle outbreaks have occurred every eight to 12 years, historically. The most recent outbreak affected more than a million forested acres and resulted in an estimated \$1.5 billion worth of timber loss. When it ended in 2002, the Forest Service calculated that more than 8.4 million acres of southern forestland were susceptible to the next outbreak, which led officials to take preventative action. Another outbreak could lead to even greater devastating losses for the region and for individual landowners.

“It’s a native insect, but the southern pine beetle is the most destructive forest pest in the South, both in economic and ecological impacts,” said Robert Mangold, director of Forest Health Protection at the U.S. Forest Service. “The prevention program is a proactive way to sustain and strengthen forest resources.”

The Forest Service established the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program in 2003 as a comprehensive strategy to manage losses from the pest by reducing the stress to forests through good forest management. The program was developed through close cooperation with state foresters and national forest managers. Their strategy is proactive and broad—to increase the resiliency of pine forests across the South, crossing ownership boundaries and land uses.

Because the average forest landowner in the South owns 17 acres, officials said a landscape approach targeting small tracts was the right prescription. The work is accomplished through state forestry agencies and forest thinning programs.

Landowners who participate in the program are likely to continue growing trees; which translates into clean air and water, less erosion, healthy habitat for wildlife and scenic forests for all to enjoy.

The millionth-acre milestone was reached on private land in New Kent County, Va. as a result of the Logger Incentive Program developed by the Virginia Department of Forestry. This program makes treating small forests for southern pine beetle economically viable by paying loggers directly for their work on small (5- to 25-acre) pine stands.

Carl Garrison, State Forester for Virginia said, “Without this program, hundreds of Virginia landowners could have suffered tremendous losses on thousands of acres of forest land.”

For State summaries and additional information:

Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/spb>

Turning slash piles into soil benefit

By Sally James

News & Information



Jenny Knoth, UW
Traditional burn of slash pile.

Your next bite of an organically grown apple may hold within it a tiny bit of a Washington forest.

Students at the University of Washington have teamed up on a startup that promises to turn slash piles of forest refuse into biochar, a crumbly charcoal-like product for farmers that helps their soil hold water and nutrients. Biochar is not technically a fertilizer, but often improves yield for farmers.

“Wine growers, organic farmers and gardeners of all sorts are part of the market we are targeting,” said Jenny Knoth, a doctoral student in [forest resources](#) in the [UW College of the Environment](#). The [National Science Foundation](#) chose the project, and Knoth as key student leader, for their [Innovation Corp](#) announced Oct. 6.

After a stand of trees is harvested, the stumps and other woody debris not useful for the sawmill are collected into what are called “slash” piles, and typically burned in place because hauling the tons of material is not practical. It takes money and staff to burn the piles, and the burning produces more smoke than the new method designed by Knoth and her collaborators.

“This new product helps us manage an expensive problem,” explained principal investigator [Dan Schwartz](#), chair and Boeing-Sutter professor of the [department of chemical engineering](#) and adjunct professor of [materials science and engineering](#). Landowners are required to clear slash before a timber sale can close. “It is a radically simple and low cost way to turn slash piles into a source of jobs and income,” Schwartz said.

Knoth, with other team members, developed the new low-technology solution called the C6 Systems blanket, which covers and accelerates the pile’s gradual conversion into char. The blanket is designed to limit the oxygen flow to the burning pile. Lowering the oxygen getting into the pile changes the chemistry from combustion to pyrolysis. Pyrolysis describes organic material burning with low oxygen into a char.

The process can take one day for a small pile or longer for larger piles. Slash on US Forest Service and tribal lands has been offered for pilot study locations for the students.

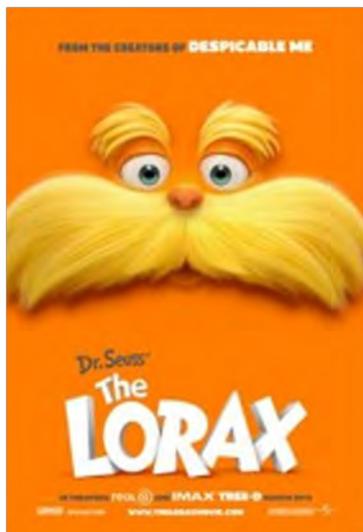
The biochar is estimated to sell for \$1,500 per ton as a soil amendment to ecologically conscious gardeners and landscapers as well as organic farmers, Schwartz said. “This could transform what is a big problem and money sink into a money-making and job-producing engine for landowners, while helping to improve soil conditions and reduce smoke.”

NSF chose this project as one of 21 nationally for a \$50,000 grant to help boost the team of five students who have worked for months to develop a business plan. The project links people across the UW campus from forestry, chemical engineering and the [Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#). Within six months, the NSF hopes the startup will prove itself ready to grow to higher commercial level.

“If we keep science in our labs, we are only doing half the work,” Knoth said. She hopes to see the team’s company, C6 Systems, become a viable commercial seller of biochar. As a child, Knoth grew up around people in the forest industry and says: “I grew up talking board feet at the dinner table.”

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US Forest Service, Ad Council launch a series of PSAs featuring Dr. Seuss 'The Lorax



Washington, D.C., Dec. 20, 2011 — In an effort to encourage children to spend more time outdoors and reconnect with nature, the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council announced that they are joining Universal Pictures to launch a series of public service advertisements featuring characters and footage from Universal and Illumination Entertainment's upcoming 3D-CG feature *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*.

Initially launched in 2009, the *Discover the Forest* campaign aims to encourage children and their families to get outside and experience the many benefits of nature. The goal of the campaign is to instill a life-long love for nature in children. Created pro bono by Universal Pictures, the new English and Spanish television, radio and outdoor PSAs feature the Lorax, a symbol of forest conservation, to encourage children to explore and enjoy nature everywhere and become lifelong stewards of the forest and its beauty.

More than 245 million Americans live within 100 miles from a national forest or grassland. However, children in the U.S. spend fifty percent less time outdoors than they did twenty years ago, according to the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Research shows that children who play outside have lower stress levels and more active imaginations, become fitter and leaner, develop stronger immune systems and are more likely to become environmentally conscious in the future.

"If the parents or family members can help in getting them there, we promise to provide children with some of the most beautiful natural playgrounds you'll find anywhere," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "Our nation's forests and grasslands offer kids adventure and exercise while instilling a lifelong appreciation for our great outdoors. We're confident that the Lorax will help bring many new faces into our forest."

All of the PSAs encourage children and their parents to visit www.DiscoverTheForest.org (or www.DescubreElBosque.org) where they can find ideas for outdoor activities, an interactive map tool — powered by Google and Nature Find™ — that enables users to search for nearby forests and parks, as well as downloadable activities for them to print and take with them when they visit.

"These new PSAs and campaign materials are a wonderful extension of our efforts with the U.S. Forest Service to motivate children to spend more time outdoors," said Peggy Conlon, president and CEO of the Ad Council. "We are grateful to Universal Pictures for partnering with us on this clever and fun campaign to encourage children and families to discover the joys of nature."

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Another key mentor for the project was Jeffrey Canin, a former entrepreneur in residence at the Center for Commercialization at the UW. He has worked with several bioenergy and energy projects as they seek to transition technology from the bench to the marketplace.

This latest project follows earlier work by Schwartz. He leads the NSF-funded [Bioresource-based Energy for Sustainable Societies](#) program at the UW. The bioenergy program brings forest resource and engineering students in to the field to solve problems that real land managers face. His students have founded or co-founded five technology companies, all of which continue to operate.

Besides Knoth and Canin and Schwartz, other team members of C6 include Kenneth Faires, Derek Churchill, Nate Dorin and John Tovey, III.

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The Ad Council and the Forest Service will promote the new PSAs through a multifaceted social media effort on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Visit the campaign's online communities at [facebook.com/DiscoverTheForest](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheForest), [YouTube.com/DiscoverTheForest](https://www.youtube.com/DiscoverTheForest) and twitter.com/cheecker.

The new PSAs are in addition to the campaign's current parent-targeted ads, which encourage families to "unplug" and experience the forest, and are being distributed to approximately 33,000 media outlets nationwide. Per the Ad Council's model, all of the ads will air and run in advertising time and space donated by the media. Since the campaign's inception, media outlets have donated more than \$48.6 million in time and space for the campaign.

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax is an adaptation of the classic tale of a forest creature who shares the enduring power of hope. The animated adventure follows the journey of a 12-year-old as he discovers the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. Danny DeVito lends his vocal talents to the iconic title character of the Lorax, while Ed Helms voices the enigmatic Once-ler. Also bringing their talents to the film are Zac Efron as Ted, the idealistic youth who searches for the Lorax, and Taylor Swift as Audrey, the girl of Ted's dreams.

USDA Forest Service Press Release: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2011/releases/12/lorax.shtml>

2011 PRESCRIBED BURNING AWARD WINNERS

The North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council Annual Meeting provides the opportunity to recognize prescribed burners. The 2011 award winners were:

N.C. Prescribed Fire Council Burner of the Year - Jim Gray



The NC Prescribed Fire Council has progressed over the years from a small team of professions discussing challenges with prescribed burning to a formal Council with bylaws, several hundred members, and science-based annual meetings. This past year the Council took another major leap as it was incorporated and approved by the IRS as a 501 c. 3 nonprofit organization. Although the visions for the Council to become incorporated and to hold nonprofit status were held by many Council leaders and members, one person alone did the lion's share of the work to actually make it happen. That person went beyond expectations by meeting with attorneys and accountants to tease through the legal requirements to establish incorporation and nonprofit status. This dedicated prescribed burner also established the Council's first bank account and opened it with an initial deposit using his own money. Week after week and meeting after meeting your first ever Council treasurer has communicated with professionals, the Council Board, and even the IRS to ensure that the Council is on solid financial and legal footing so that the mission of the Council can be carried out. Finally, this same dedicated individual has labored tirelessly to raise money for the Council by suggesting creative ideas for fund raising, pushing membership dues, and dogging everyone of us to bid on silent auction items and buy raffle tickets. For his leadership and expertise and for his untiring dedication and commitment to the NC Prescribed Fire Council, it is with pleasure that we award Jim Gray the Prescribed Burner of the Year Award!

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NC Forest Service—Montgomery County, District 3



- Scott Maynor - County Ranger
- Jason Haywood - Asistannt County Ranger
- Jay Strider - Assitant County Ranger
- Tommy Gaddy - Equipment Operator
- Tom White - Service Forester

These individuals have made a committed effort to encourage the use of prescribed fire as a way to improve timber stands, reduce wildfire hazard, and enhance wildlife habitat. This effort has been directed toward private, industrial, and non-profit conservation landowners throughout the whole of Montgomery County while still providing a rapid response to emergency situations. Their advocacy for the essential fire management of longleaf ecosystems is a prime example of the knowledge and understanding they display of the benefit of fire to improve the health and vigor of longleaf forests along with associated plant and animals such as pitcher plants, native grasses, and fox squirrels.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission—Sandhills Game Land Management Team



- Bill Parsons - Management Biologist,
- Chris Jordan - Wildlife Forester
- Brady Beck - Wildlife Biologist
- Lincoln Sadler - Technician Supervisor
- Lee Criscoe - Wildlife Management Technician
- Michael Huffman - Wildlife Management Technician
- Jake Marquess - Wildlife Management Technician
- Rupert Medford - Wildlife Management Technician
- Brian Smith - Wildlife Management Technician
- Doug Dawkins - Seasonal Burn Technician
- Jimmy Richardson - Seasonal Burn Technician
- Dakota Hunter - Seasonal Burn Technical
- Justin Tuttle - Seasonal Burn Technician

This award recognizes individuals or teams of employees within the Division of Wildlife Management for significant contributions in the implementation and promotion of prescribed fire as a natural resource management tool.

The prescribed burn crew on Sandhills Game Lands is comprised of dedicated workers who strive to implement the prescribed burn program as safely and effectively as possible. The crew burns on average 15,000 acres per year. Approximately 5,000 are burned during the domant season and 10,000 acres treated during the growing season. Their leadership is second to none in executing the prescribed burn program in a safe and effective manner. The long history of using prescribed fire on the Sandhills has helped all fire managers with WRC better understand the science of fire management and how it is applied to wildlife and forest management.