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EDITOR'S NOTE - CARL WILMSEN

Leonie Sandercock¹ has suggested that struggles over urban form are ultimately struggles over belonging, and that building community through participatory processes can help instill/reinforce that sense of belonging in urban residents. The same can be said for struggles over rural landscapes. In his Voices from the Field column in this issue of *Regeneration!* Gabriel Cumming writes of using local narratives to empower community members in Macon County, North Carolina, to have a stronger voice in determining the fate of their local landscape. In her Focus column, Damayanti Banerjee suggests that dismissal of local narratives by government officials and environmentalists undermines the sense of belonging of the former residents of the Land Between the Rivers in Kentucky. In both places, communities are struggling to retain their sense of belonging by gaining a stronger role in controlling the direction of landscape change.

In both places, the sense of belonging is threatened by a sense of loss. In Macon County, the sense of loss results from rapid change in the character of community and landscape resulting from in-migration and the construction of new homes on subdivided lots. In the Land Between the Rivers (LBR), the sense of loss results from the historic removal of communities to make way for the construction of dams on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. The sense of loss entails loss of place (literal in LBR and symbolic in Macon County), and loss of control; landscape change in both places is driven by forces beyond the control of local residents. Belonging is the antithesis of loss. It encompasses attachment to place as well as participation that imparts some degree of control over decision-making and landscape management processes. In these two cases participatory research is about nurturing that sense of belonging through honoring and recording local narratives and turning those narratives into a powerful force for community control of the direction of landscape change.

¹ Leonie Sandercock, *Toward Cosmopolis: Planning for Multicultural Cities* (Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, 1998).

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THE 2006 CFRF FELLOWS

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE
2006 COMMUNITY FORESTRY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.

UNDERGRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

Dr. Thomas Alcoze, Stephanie Jackson & Philandrian Tree, Northern Arizona University, School of Forestry. Tribal Lands Wildlife and Natural Resources Inventory, Kaibab Paiute Reservation, AZ.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP

Falan Goff, Florida A&M University. Study of Highway 98, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, Apalachicola, FL.

Destiny Spruce, College of Menominee Nation. Menominee Forest Management Program, Menominee Indian Tribe, Keshena, WI.

Lottie Tucker, College of Menominee Nation. Menominee Forest Management Program, Menominee Indian Tribe, Keshena, WI.

MASTERS

Jill Braly, North Carolina State University, Forestry and Environmental Resources. Long term sustainability of bloodroot on the Qualla Boundary Lands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Qualla Boundary Lands, North Carolina.

Emily Gonzalez, Oregon State University, Forest Resources. Latino youth culture of the Central Willamette Valley: encouraging natural resource participation through participant research, Salem, Oregon.

Afton Sather-Knutson, Michigan Technological University, Social Sciences. Community response to landscape parcelization in the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan.

PRE-DISSERTATION

Julianne Hazelwood, University of California Davis, Native American Studies. The Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act, cultural resilience of Tlingit Communities and forest resource management, Alexander Archipelago, Southeast Alaska.

Scott Perez, Cornell University, American Indian Program. The role of the St. Regis Mohawk as stakeholders in watershed management of the St. Regis River, Akwesasne/St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, NY.

Lily Ray, Clark University, Geography. Toward wild-fire co-management: integrating local knowledge and preferences into fire policy in Alaska.

DISSERTATION

Gabriel Cumming, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Ecology. Addressing landscape change with rural North Carolinians: Discursive evaluation of community-based research initiatives. Macon County, North Carolina. *Gabriel was a pre-dissertation fellow in 2005.*

Annette Drewes, University of Wisconsin, Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies. Sustaining a rice culture: a landscape approach to understanding harvest and management of wild rice in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Kelly Watson, Florida State University, Geography. Tupelo forests and honey production along the Apalachicola River of North Florida, Gulf County, FL.



JAN LOWREY 1949-2006

Jan Lowrey, executive director of the Cache Creek Conservancy, died unexpectedly of a heart attack in January. Jan was our gracious host on the field trip to the Cache Creek Nature Preserve during the CFRF Workshop in California last year.

Jan started as a member of the Cache Creek governing board before being hired as a program director in the mid-1990s. He became the executive director in 1999. Jan made it possible for the Preserve to host the research projects of both Don Hankins (CFRF '04) and Shannon Brawley (CFRF '02-03). Happily, he lived to see Don get his PhD and he congratulated Shannon on passing her orals just before he passed away. His presence in our extended community will be greatly missed.

THE ACEQUIA INSTITUTE

Devon G. Peña, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington, and past faculty advisor for Vanessa Mazel, CFRF fellow '05, and Sue Johnston, CFRF fellow '02, announces the launch of The Acequia Institute.

The Acequia Institute, Instituto de la Acequia, is a private non-profit organization dedicated to collaborative research and education for environmental sustainability and social justice in acequia farming communities of the Upper Rio Grande bioregion. The Institute exists to protect and promote the acequia institution as one of the oldest forms of local democratic self-government and to nurture traditional forms of regenerative agriculture.

The institute is a grant-making organization and in the next year hopes to establish a graduate fellowship program for students conducting anthropological, historical, or legal research on Chicana/o land grant and/or acequia institutions and communities.

For more information: www.acequiainstitute.org

EASTERN OREGON COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Eva Harris, a CFRF community partner in 2000, is a founding member of the Little Canyon Mountain Working Group that recently received the BLM "Excellence in Wildland-Urban Interface Program Award."

In 2002, concerned citizens in Grant County, Oregon, approached the Prineville District of the BLM, requesting that action be taken to reduce the significant threat of wildfire danger to their homes and to the towns of John Day and Canyon City. Numerous private residences are located directly next to 2,200 acres of BLM land (Little Canyon Mountain) that have a high ratio of diseased and dying trees.

In response, a working group was formed that included staff of the city of John Day, an elected official from Mt. Vernon, private citizens and business owners representing a wide spectrum of interests and beliefs. Short and long-term solutions to the hazardous fuels situation were identified and throughout this multi-year project local landowners were actively involved in working with the Oregon Department of Forestry to create defensible space on their private property, assisted by funding from National Fire Plan grants.

"We applaud Canyon City and John Day citizens for their initiative and drive; they are the genuine recipients of this award. They recognized a dangerous situation surrounding their towns and took an active role to work with the BLM in resolving the problem. Their proactive approach is a model for other interface communities that are significantly threatened by the danger of wildland fire," said Christina Welch, Central Oregon Resource Area Manager.

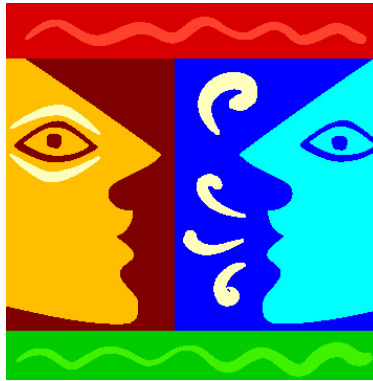


VOICES FROM THE FIELD:

DOCUMENTING COMMUNITY VOICES: HOW CAN PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH EFFECTIVELY IDENTIFY LOCAL ECOLOGICAL NARRATIVES?

GABRIEL CUMMING, PRE-DISSERTATION FELLOW 2005, DISSERTATION FELLOW 2006
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, UNC CHAPEL HILL

An important measure of success in participatory research is the degree to which the voices of community members guide the research process and are represented in the results. Such research can therefore be approached as a discursive intervention—a process that in some way changes how participants communicate about a given topic—with the dual goals of enhancing a community’s capacity for self-determination and answering a research question. Bearing this in mind, I have worked since 2001 with partners in five rural North Carolina communities to conduct research that characterizes local ecological narratives: shared stories through which community members articulate their relationship to the local landscape (see Cronon 1992, Rappaport 2000). The goal of these initiatives was to identify narratives that could help empower community members to assert more control over the fate of their local landscapes and achieve shared visions.



The initiatives’ success, then, is reflected in the degree to which we successfully invoked narratives that can build community support for collective action toward locally-desired resource management outcomes. This evaluative criterion reframes the contrast posited by Argyris and Schön (1991) between “rigor” and “relevance” in action research; rather, the rigor of these initiatives lies in the degree to which they achieve relevance. My partners and I are now undertaking such an evaluation of our work. We see this evaluation as more than an analysis of what we have done, but as a way to enhance and extend it: my partners hope that the results of the evaluation will help them to better engage fellow community members in achieving management goals. These goals and the obstacles to achieving them vary among communities, so the evaluation process also varies accordingly. The case of Macon County, where one of the initiatives took place,

illustrates how discursive evaluative methodology emerges from community context.

Macon County, NC: Reflecting on a Participatory Initiative

“God, is this Macon County? Is this where I grew up?” Wilma Anderson’s question is one that residents of this Southern Appalachian county frequently have to ask themselves. The rural landscape of this North Carolina

county is being transformed by rapid growth and fragmentation: the county’s population grew 33.5 percent from 1990 to 2003 (US Census 2002, 2005). Out-of-state residents now own 43% of the parcels in the county, which now average less than five acres in size (Macon County Tax Department 2005). Many Macon citizens are upset to see their forested mountainsides and agricultural bottomlands subdivided into luxury homesites: as Bob Scott complains, “Why should the view of the mountains for all of us be ruined by some rich cat that builds some obnoxiously huge house right on top of a ridge line?” Despite their misgivings, community members largely feel that they have no voice in decision-making regarding their local landscape. Can participatory research help enable community voices to guide land-use management decision-making? With a team of concerned community partners, I set out to explore this question through the Little Tennessee Perspectives project.

Last September at the Annual CFRF Workshop, I reported on the public process that community partners and I had just completed in Macon County—the culmination of Little Tennessee Perspectives. Our approach to discursive participatory research, which was similar to the methodology I had used in the four other study communities, was based in documentary ethnography: community members, my research partner Carla Norwood, and I conducted audio-recorded,

semi-structured interviews with fifty Macon residents about their connection to place, their perceptions of landscape change, and their attitudes toward the future. We also photographed the interviewees in places that were meaningful to them. Carla and I then coded the interview data to identify emergent narratives and used these narratives to guide the development of an audio-visual documentary. The documentary, *Macon County Voices*, combined interview excerpts with photographs to tell stories about Maconians' views of the changing landscape.

To pre-test whether our interpretation of local narratives was accurate and relevant to community members, we solicited and incorporated feedback from our community partners and focus groups. Then we presented the documentary publicly at four community meetings in August. Community members were invited to respond to the presentation through a facilitated discussion process, which culminated in developing visions for the county's future and considered ways of achieving those visions.

Both my partners and I were pleased with the success of the process: more than 300 community members took part, and many of these participants spoke out at a subsequent public hearing, calling upon the County Board of Commissioners to address the critical issues they had identified. Such

public engagement is unprecedented in Macon County: for the first time in my community partners' memories, a broad coalition of citizens was demanding that the political leadership act more aggressively to plan for landscape change.

This May, I interviewed each of my four community partners about what had happened since our public process concluded last summer, and what should happen next. Nearly a year has passed, and their outlooks have sobered considerably. The visions articulated in our public meetings received no response from the Board of Commissioners. The County Planning Board, which endorsed our project from the outset, has considered several planning measures that could address citizen concerns, but all have been tabled or stripped of any substantive provisions. A slight ma-

majority on both boards maintain that most Maconians favor unregulated development, and they refuse to listen to those who suggest otherwise. One planning board member dismissed the entire *Little Tennessee Perspectives* project (in which he himself participated), claiming that the project reflected the views only of "the kind of people who go to meetings" and was thus unrepresentative of the "silent majority" in the community. In this inverted discourse of public participation, anyone who participates in a public process is no longer deemed a legitimate constituent; instead, political leaders claim to represent only those who conveniently remain silent, and thus, uncannily, always seem to share the leaders' views.

Though the political leaders' protestations may be self-serving, they point to a real issue: how do we know whose voices have been omitted from our project? Are the narratives we identified resonant throughout the community, or are they just an artifact of the public process we undertook and the agendas that shaped that

process? Beginning with the follow-up interviews last month, my partners and I are endeavoring to answer these questions.

Evaluation as Participatory Research

As Israel et al. (2005) note, evaluative techniques employed in a participatory research project should

themselves be participatory. This means that community partners as well as researchers should shape the process and have a stake in its outcomes. In the case of *Little Tennessee Perspectives*, I am interested in testing the effectiveness of our participatory methodology at identifying ecological narratives that are broadly resonant in the community. My partners share this interest, but their goal is to be able to demonstrate enough support for the collective actions proposed by project participants to overcome the current political impasse in the county.

To serve our respective purposes, my partners and I have decided upon an evaluative approach that includes a sample survey and focus groups. Both methodologies will be used to ascertain whether the views expressed by *Little Tennessee Perspectives*

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participants are shared by non-participants. Most participants opined that community members should take collective action to determine the future of Macon County's landscape through planning measures. Do non-participants share this perspective, and if so, why? Through first inductive and then deductive coding, we have identified several distinctions among the narratives that participants referenced to justify their positions. For example, narratives grounded in lived experiences can be distinguished from those based in creed. Some narratives derive a connection to place from heritage, while others derive it from affinity. Narratives differ in their construction of individual rights and responsibilities and in their attitudes toward change. Through evaluation, we aim to test the validity of these hypothesized narrative typologies, characterize the narratives that appear to motivate most of our respondents, and compare those to the narratives that emerged from last year's public discussions.

In order to measure support for the narratives articulated by community members, our evaluative instruments will largely retain those community members' voices. Drawing upon Q-factor analysis (Martin and Steelman 2004) techniques, we will ask respondents to rank their support for a range of direct quotations from last year's project. Responses and the correlations among them will enable us to test our hypotheses. The survey will reach a random sample of community members, which is important to my partners, while the focus groups will enable more in-depth exercises; triangulating the results from different methods will strengthen our conclusions.

My community partners will use the evaluation results to inform their efforts at community capacity-building; they will draw upon the broadly-resonant narratives identified to more effectively frame their appeals to political leaders and their fellow community members. Meanwhile, I will work with my partners in the other four communities to conduct their own evaluations. While each evaluative process will reflect the unique issues and goals of the community where it takes place, comparison among them will hopefully

yield further insights into the design and evaluation of discursive, participatory research.

A participatory research project necessarily manipulates a community's stories about itself. The result is new, synthetic interpretation of local narratives as refracted through the particular biases of the researchers and community partners involved. This interpretive process should not be avoided, but it must be acknowledged and explicitly addressed in the research process. In Macon County, my partners and I have woven together a story through Macon County Voices. In an ongoing, iterative process of public engagement, we are endeavoring to hone that story until community members feel that their voices are represented in it. I believe that, as participatory researchers, helping those voices to be heard is perhaps the best service we can offer.



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FOCUS:

EMPLACING THE “LOCAL”: IDENTITY FORMATION & SENSE OF PLACE IN BETWEEN THE RIVERS.

DAMAYANTI BANERJEE, CFRF '05, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

For the past several months I have been visiting the grounds of what was formerly known as the Land Between the Rivers, walking amongst its forested glades, serpentine roads, and tiny lakes tucked in the shady nooks scattered through the hilly landscape. I have been visiting these remote parts of the country trying to understand what it meant and still means to the long displaced residents of Between the Rivers (hereafter BTR). During one of these sojourns on a lazy summer afternoon, hot and out of breath from my long trek, I asked my community companion at the end of a long discussion on place, culture, and identity, how he would describe what BTR means to him and others living in the area. Speaking in the characteristic style I have come to associate with the people of these parts, he answered with a counter-question, “How do you express what a place means when its sounds, smell, look, and feel are so deeply imprinted in your mind and soul that it becomes part of you? When you are away from it, you ache to return. Whatever its shortcoming, this place is home and this is where we belong.”

My community companion’s response is central to my research in Between the Rivers. Hidden beneath the numerous stories of displacement and betrayal is a palpable concern for place and cultural heritage. Officially known as Land Between the Lakes (LBL), locals still refer to it as Between the Rivers in an act of resistance to the physical and symbolic displacement in the hands of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).



For the community of BTR their place was more than a piece of land. Instead, it was the interpretive frame through which they defined and evaluated their own lives, and the lives of those in their communities. Sociologists have defined sense of place as not only the ability to locate things on a cognitive map, but also the attribution of meaning to a built form (Rotenberg & McDonogh 1993). Places are social constructions, created from ascribed qualities to the existing social and material environments. Places are also constructed as people develop a shared sense of history from collectively held stories. Thus, meanings that we assign to places remain embedded in social places, are historically contingent and share common cultural attributes. This is especially the case for the community of Between the Rivers.

During one of our conversations, a community resident pointed out that identity in BTR, “... was unspoken, but clearly understood, that the commonly heard phrase ‘Between the Rivers’ was inclusive, encompassing not merely our family and farm but the neighbors and their places. Our place was an integral part of Between the Rivers. The people of Between the Rivers had managed to live in relative independence of outside influence for the entire history of this nation. Between the Rivers was our home where outsiders might visit, but where we belonged” (Interview 1).

This sense of place and cultural identity was shattered for the first time almost half a century ago when the

“How do you express what a place means when its sounds, smell, look, and feel are so deeply imprinted in your mind and soul that it becomes part of you? When you are away from it, you ache to return. Whatever its shortcoming, this place is home and this is where we belong.”

community was displaced in the wake of a dam building initiative in the name of national development. The story of the displacement of the community in the aftermath of construction of the dam and the subsequent struggle to retain access to their culture, heritage and place is the essence of my study. I came to BTR hoping to understand what place meant and still means to a community of people and how it is constructed in the discourses of the state and environmental agencies.

The sense of belonging that emerged in BTR was challenged with the introduction of the dam building projects on the two rivers in the 1960s. Building of the dams and the creation of the national recreation area in the community land contributed not only to physical displacement of these well-knit communities, but also to a loss of their heritage, history and identity. Referring to this symbolic loss of identity and the willful sidelining of the local cultures, a former resident pointed out,

“one thing which we always felt was ironic was that they said that this had to be done in the name of flood control but the permanent level of that lake is higher than the worst of the floods that we have ever got. We never understood how the management can implement flood control by permanently flooding the best farm grounds” (Interview 2).

The displacement thus remains more than physical separation from their land. For the folks of Between the Rivers, the removal from between the rivers signaled the loss of their cultural heritage and identity. Place attachments, sociologists argue, result from accumulated biographical experiences: places are associated with the fulfilling, terrifying, traumatic, exhilarating events that happened to us in place. The longer people have lived in a place, the more rooted they feel, and the greater their attachment to it (Elder et al. 1996, Paige 1996, Selznick 1996). Recent community struggles in BTR for reclamation of a sense of place,

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“Our heritage is being misrepresented in all the ‘official’ documents. In a generation we will officially have never existed and there will have never been any concerns about the management of LBL. When TVA sent federal marshals and bulldozers, people had to respond. With the bureaucratic dismissal combined with the frustrating politeness, many of our people have just thrown up their hands and all but given up. The opposition we are facing is so amorphous, there is very little to fight against” (Email communication).

For the former residents of Between the Rivers, the forced displacement over a period of three decades remains an example of government injustice and insensitivity to the concerns for identity and heritage. With the authorization for dam building in the BTR land, TVA started the construction of the Kentucky dam in 1938. Using eminent domain, TVA removed a number of families from the region or bought their most productive farm land. The community could never understand why TVA needed to flood their lands in the name of flood control. As one resident aptly pointed out,

heritage, and cultural identity is a response to this history of displacement.

The story of Between the Rivers is thus a story of place. It is a story of a community who had lived in the region for two hundred years. Located in the borders of western Kentucky and northwestern Tennessee, Between the Rivers is just what its name suggests – a sizable piece of forested land located in between two rivers – the Cumberland and the Tennessee. Prolonged geographical isolation contributed to the development of a unique culture in the region and created a sense of belonging for the community. The community of Between the Rivers was thus emplaced – with a well-defined sense of identity, culture, heritage, and belonging, which changed with the decision to dam the two rivers and convert the land in between into a preserved forest resource. Sociologically speaking, place attachments facilitate a sense of security and wellbeing, define group boundaries, and stabilize memories over time (Halbachs 1992). With the displacement of the community in the hands of TVA, the people of BTR lost this sense of security, belonging, and well-being.

For the former residents, the effect of this displace-

ment and recent attempts to commercialize the preserved land has been primarily two-pronged. On the one hand, the community residents lost all authority on their forested land that had once been their home, experiencing a shared sense of loss of identity in the process. On the other hand, recent attempts to commercialize the protected land (by formulating plans to introduce recreational activities, and attempts to wrest control over remaining cultural resources) have contributed to a further sense of distrust and loss of control over the community's own history. Yet, in their attempts to resist, the community members were unable to find support from either state (government agencies) or non-state (environmental groups) actors.

Part of the reason for such contradictory identification rests in a lack of a cultural understanding of place and heritage questions in debates on environmental conservation. The state agencies involved in *Between the Rivers* had a very different perception of the issue. TVA and later the Forest Service viewed place in *Between the Rivers* through the lens of scientized knowledge of land management and forest preservation, effectively sidelining the cultural and symbolic dimensions of place attachment. Documentary evidence with the administration presents the locals as “backwards” and refers to the community as a “few individuals standing in the way of progress” thereby reinforcing negative stereotypes. Discourses on conservation within the mainstream environmental organizations also follow a “globalized” narrative. Driven by their organizational logic, the environmental groups in BTR constructed the place as a neutral background against which environmental struggles occur in response to the increasingly global treadmill logic (MacNaughten & Urry, 1998). The lack of support from either state agencies or mainstream environmental organizations thus can be attributed to a lack of adequate appreciation of local narratives in shaping human environmental relations.

While concerns of the residents of BTR for their place and cultural identity inform my research, I do not wish to present BTR as the perfect utopia. In fact, history of BTR is interspersed with stories of conflicts and contestations. The community, in other words, is



similar to any other communities - fragmented, fraught with tensions and simmering conflicts – yet, fighting for their rights to their own culture and heritage. Instead, my research addresses a broader question, one that impacts academic, policy, and movement discourse. By highlighting the existing disconnect between cultural preservation and environmental conservation in the policies of state and environmental agencies, my research suggests that emplacing sociology and enculturating environments needs to be seen as primary concerns for discourses on environment.

Indeed, attempts to emplace environments are already in place in BTR – in the form of place-based contestations involving local communities, private and local business initiatives, and local and regional environmental groups. Their inroads into globalized environmental discourses however will benefit further from a reformulation of the mainstream environmental framework.

As I wrapped up my research and said goodbye, I was reminded of a simple story of a little boy's understanding of place, community, and displacement as seen by people both inside and outside BTR. Looking back as a grown man he reminisced about his perception of an incident long ago,

“The Delta Queen, a paddle wheeled excursion boat up from New Orleans, would sometimes pull into the bay where Nickell Branch used to feed into the Cumberland River. The calliope music could be heard throughout the hills and hollows with the result that families would drop their chores, pile into automobiles, or head down through the woods on foot to the bay where the boat would be anchored. Before long a crowd would gather to take in the spectacle of the paddle wheeler, the lively music and the deck lined with wealthy tourists. People on the shore would take advantage of the impromptu gathering to visit, laugh and dance to the music. I don't know exactly when it dawned on me, but it finally did. The tourists on the big boat were lined up along the rail, taking pictures of us. The boat had not pulled into the bay for our amusement; the calliope had summoned us out of the forest for the amusement of the tourists. I don't believe I have danced since” (Nickell & King 2004).

An enplaced and encultured environmental discourse might induce him to dance again.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

REPORT LAUDS SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES OF COUNTY PAYMENTS LAW: LEGISLATION OFFERS "RADICAL MIDDLE" FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment announces the results of their two-year, nine-state study of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act.

This first-ever legislation to mandate collaboration in natural resource management is resulting in the development of a new consensus in forest management, surpassing even what some of the most optimistic supporters of the bill thought possible when it passed in 2000. The Sierra Institute for Community Environment says it offers real hope for a "radical middle" in the contentious debate over how best to manage federal forestland. Because the six-year legislation expires this year, Congress is in the midst of a debate on reauthorizing and funding it. The Bush Administration has recently made a controversial proposal to sell off some of the federal lands in order to help fund the act.

In addition to providing support for rural schools and counties, a cornerstone of the act was establishing Resource Advisory Committees or RACs—groups composed of industry, environmentalists, recreation group representatives, and government officials. These groups have been meeting to make recommendations to the federal government on projects to improve federal forestland.

In states across the West, where most of our nation's federal forestlands are located, RACs have been established to talk about how to spend money dedicated to improving these lands. As a mark of their success, thousands of projects have been approved and launched. The types of projects involved restoring watersheds and fisheries, removing noxious weeds, and fuels thinning. While some projects included more controversial activities, such as the thinning of trees, not a single project has been appealed.

The Sierra Institute found that members of the RACs,

COMMUNITY NEWS

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act con't.

while not abandoning their values or missions of their organizations, came out of their foxholes and began an earnest dialogue with each other and the land management agencies. In the process, participants listened more than ever to those they had been battling for years. Jointly, they recommended projects to improve federal forestland. One environmentalist said that if someone had told him he would approve projects he's now supported as a RAC member, he would have told them that they were "crazy."

In Mississippi, some counties in the southwestern portion of the state are able to contribute funds to allow the RAC there to operate because they've "gotten past" some of the racial problems that are still holding back nearby counties. The Forest Service working with county residents has established perhaps what is the most diverse RAC in the country.

Study authors make clear that this is a work in progress, but the successes are real—and something to be built upon. Sierra Institute director, Jonathan Kusel said, "What we're seeing taking hold is a genuine and powerful dialogue that's translating into projects on the ground benefiting the land and the people."

"The process is defining new ways groups can work together, a new middle ground," he added. Unlike simple compromise, the radical part of this process is that groups are learning from each other and with each other—with measurable improvement of federal forestland is the result.

The authors of the legislation, U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) say this about the report:

"Today's report by the Sierra Institute highlights the significant community development that's occurred nationwide because of this law," said Wyden. "Counties, timber interests and environmentalists have all come together on a range of environmental issues to ensure funding for rural communities. We've seen

that this collaborative approach works, which is why the law should be renewed."

"I greatly appreciate the time and effort that went into this study. Clearly, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act has been doing what it was designed to do - supply our communities with the resources they need to broaden their economies and provide their children with a high-quality education," said Craig. "While the program is not intended to be permanent, more time is needed for it to reach the full potential."

Senators Wyden and Craig are working on renewing the legislation before it expires later this year.

RESTORATION BLOG

Restoration is the new buzzword in the environmental community, with people all across the country and around the world working to heal nature in their own backyards and communities. Come share your restoration success stories with environmental journalist Peter Friederici on Island Press's new Restoration BLOG. On the blog, we also hope to start discussion on some of the more controversial aspects of restoration:

How much human manipulation is acceptable in pursuing a goal of more natural conditions? What should we restore ecosystems back to? Who decides? Which restoration efforts have worked and which have failed? Can we heal large-scale problems that demand international cooperation and far-sighted government leadership? How much impact can ecological restoration have at a time when the main threat to the ecosystem and the economy is the tide of global climate change?

For more information:

http://blog.islandpress.org/environmental_issues/ecological_restoration/index.html

COMMUNITY NEWS

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE LAUNCHES WEB-BASED FARM BILL FEEDBACK FORM.

Chairman Bob Goodlatte announced the launch of a web-based farm bill feedback form on the House Committee on Agriculture website to allow producers nationwide to provide input on farm policy.

The Committee is conducting field hearings throughout the country to gather feedback from producers and review current farm policy in preparation for reauthorizing the 2002 Farm Bill. The 2002 Farm Bill expires September 2007 and Chairman Goodlatte expects to begin the farm bill debate in early 2007. The Chairman intends to conduct roughly a dozen fieldhearings, as well as hearings in Washington, DC, to review federal farm policy.

The form can be accessed at www.agriculture.house.gov and clicking on the Farm Bill Feedback icon.

HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORTS IN MISSISSIPPI

Recovery efforts continue in the 300,000 acres of National Forest in Mississippi that were damaged during hurricane Katrina. To date, the ranger districts have sold 62 salvage sales for an estimated total of 259.6 million board feet of timber. As the timber is removed it will not only provide wood for rebuilding homes and businesses in the area, but also reduce the amount of hazardous fuel that increases the potential for wildfires.

For more information, updates and pictures:
www.fs.fed.us/r8/mississippi/katrina/

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Forest Service, on behalf of USDA's Council on Sustainable Development, has been working for 6 years with a network of public and private sector organizations concerned about connecting nature and people thru "smart conservation" efforts. The Conservation Fund (TCF) stepped forward to help coordinate what is now known as Green Infrastructure (GI), focusing initially on the development of a curriculum and training program for community-based conservation and development through local planning and implementation. GI training is available through the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV, and is tailored to local situations through partnership efforts.

A website with up-to-date information is hosted and maintained by TCF: www.greeninfrastructure.net/



FOREST SERVICE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES WEBSITE NOW ONLINE

The Forest Service Ecosystems Services website has recently been launched and it contains valuable information about the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the ecosystem market place, biodiversity, watershed services, carbon sequestration and research.

What are ecosystems services? Ecosystem Services are commonly defined as benefits people obtain from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, fuel, and fiber, climate, water, and disease regulation as well as pollination; soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as educational, aesthetic, and cultural heritage values as well as recreation and tourism.

For more information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/>

COMMUNITY NEWS

FOREST SERVICE EYES OUTSOURCING TWO-THIRDS OF WORKFORCE

By: Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)

The U.S. Forest Service is studying how to contract out more than two-thirds of its total workforce by 2009, according to agency planning documents released by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). Coming on the heels of Bush administration plans to sell off 300,000 acres of Forest Service land, the agency is also looking to potentially privatize large portions of its environmental, law enforcement, fire-fighting and research operations. Under the agency plans, 21,350 full-time jobs will soon be under review for possible replacement by private sector firms. The Forest Service has a total of 31,625 full-time jobs, according to Office of Personnel Management figures for FY 2003.

In 2003, an outsourcing plan of similar scope, designed to meet Bush administration outsourcing quotas prior to the 2004 election, was halted by Congressional action. Then, as now, one of the major concerns was the added cost to the Forest Service to conduct the studies and stage the competitions. In its latest proposed budget, the Bush administration is cutting back Forest Service operating funds without providing any new funds to pay for this broad undertaking. In 2003, the Forest Service spent an estimated \$360 million on studies but produced no identifiable savings.

For more information: www.peer.org

RARE AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREES DISCOVERED

A stand of American chestnut trees that somehow escaped a blight that killed off nearly all their kind in the early 1900s has been discovered along a hiking trail not far from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Little White House at Warm Springs. The find has stirred excitement among those working to restore the American chestnut, and raised hopes that scientists might be able to use the pollen to breed hardier chestnut trees.

For the full story: www.enn.com/today.html?id=10492

PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE CENTER

The Partnership Resource Center provides online resources to help communities build partnerships and effective collaboration with local and national agencies that manage the forests and grasslands in their area. The website is a joint project of the National Forest Foundation and the USDA Forest Service.

The website contains a "Working Locally" page to help people find local support and partnership information and a "Find Partners" page that connects people to partners for stewardship projects. Check out the newly updated Partnership Guide designed to help forest service employees and their partners create a successful partnership.

For more information:

www.partnershipresourcecenter.org

NEW E-JOURNAL LAUNCHED: COMMUNICATION, COOPERATION, PARTICIPATION

The Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication (INFU) at the University Lueneburg, Germany, is offering a new portal for communication on sustainable development. The e-journal "Communication, Cooperation, Participation. Research and Practice for a Sustainable Future (CCP)" is addressed to representatives in science and practice. The multi-lingual communication platform is creating a forum to discuss scientific papers and practical experiences on communication processes which engage questions regarding the future.

For more information: www.uni-lueneburg.de/infu/ccp/



COMMUNITY NEWS

CENTER FOR COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION ESTABLISHED AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University announced the donation of \$30 million to the College by Ed Warner, a CSU alum and director of the board at the Sand County Foundation.

As part of this donation, the college will establish the Center for Cooperative Conservation to enhance civic science in the service of landowners and communities as partners in land stewardship and resource conservation. The institute will feature science-based education and research through the creation of public-private partnerships that will empower communities in the United States and globally to manage and sustain natural resources while enhancing economic and social well-being. The vision, mission, and organizational objectives for the center will be developed over the next year.

For more information: www.warnercnr.colostate.edu

AEO RURAL INITIATIVE

AEO is pleased to announce that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has provided funding for three rural initiatives to be launched over the next few months. The projects will focus on Rural Policy Networks; Regional Flavor branding as a rural economic and microenterprise development strategy; and New Models for Rural Microenterprise in underserved and unserved areas. Requests for Proposals will be accepted for each of these projects. Accepted programs will receive a variety of benefits including funding, technical assistance, and peer learning opportunities.

All rural microenterprise programs are encouraged to visit AEO website:

<http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/projects/ruraldevelopment/>

For further information, contact Natalie Woodroffe, Manager of Rural Initiatives, nwoodroffe@assoceo.org Tel. 603.444.5153.

EXPANDING NATIVE OPPORTUNITY: NATIVE IDA INITIATIVE

The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, with its partners First Nations Development Institute, First Nations Oweesta Corporation, and CFED, is pleased to offer Expanding Native Opportunity: Native IDA Initiative, a comprehensive training and technical assistance program to help Native communities design and implement Individual Development Accounts (IDAs).

The Native IDA Initiative offers three-day, state-of-the-art training institutes to help Native CDFIs, tribes, or Native groups start-up, implement, and sustain IDAs in their communities. Participants in the institute also will have access to free, customized follow-up technical assistance to help implement IDAs in their communities.

For further information about the Native IDA Initiative and training institutes, please contact Jennifer Malkin at CFED, 415.495.2333 ext 103.

For more information: <http://www.cfed.org/focus.m?parentid=31&siteid=374&id=688>

AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The AFF's conservation program -- Forests for Watersheds and Wildlife -- has launched a new website as part of their outreach tools for family forest owners and others who care about managing forests in a way that's sustainable, environmentally beneficial and economically sound. The website supports a panoply of field demonstration projects, conservation handbooks and educational partnerships around the nation.

For more information: www.conservationforestry.org.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

LAURA JANE MUSSER FUND

Through its Initiative to Promote Collaborative Process in Environmental Decision Making, the Laura Jane Musser Fund will support projects by public or not-for-profit entities that undertake consensus-based activities in environmental stewardship or dispute resolution in rural areas. Applications are accepted in following two funding areas:

- 1) The Environmental Stewardship Program will support programs that work to manage resources where a broad range of community members and stakeholders are involved in both planning and implementation.
- 2) The Environmental Dispute Resolution Program will support programs that engage in a collaborative process that works to build consensus instead of confrontation, particularly where both the environmental health and economic livelihood of a community are at stake.

The application deadline is September 5. For more information: www.musserfund.org



WILDLIFE HABITAT POLICY RESEARCH PROGRAM (WHPRP)

The National Council for Science and the Environment's (NCSE) new Wildlife Habitat Policy Research Program (WHPRP) will begin accepting letters of intent on June 12, 2006. Grants will cover a variety of research areas with the general goal of improving the basis for implementation of the statutory State Wildlife Action Plans. Reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of this conservation challenge, the program will support research in law, economics, social sciences, natural sciences, and public policy.

Application is open to everyone and begins with a letter of intent due by July 10, 2006.

For more information: www.whprp.org or contact Christina Zarrella czarrella@ncseonline.org

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR – HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AUBURN UNIVERSITY

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University invites nominations and applications for the position of Assistant/Associate Professor – Human Dimensions of Natural Resources. This is a 12-month, tenure-track position, with 70% research and 30% teaching responsibilities.

The successful candidate is expected to develop a significant research program through active pursuit of extramural funding, recruitment of graduate students, and publications in high-quality refereed journals. The successful candidate is expected to develop at least one undergraduate course and one graduate course focusing on human dimensions aspects of natural resources. Review of applications will begin September 1, 2006, and will continue until a successful candidate has been identified.

For more information and how to apply: http://www.forestry.auburn.edu/employment/human_dimensions.htm

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORESTER – FUTURE FOREST LLC

Future Forest is a partnership between WB Contracting and Forest Energy Corporation. In 2004, Future Forest was awarded the White Mountain Stewardship Contract on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Northeastern Arizona. Under this contract, Future Forest is charged with managing the treatment (thinning) of approximately 5,000 to 25,000 acres of forest land per year over the 10-year term of the contract. Future Forest LLC is looking for an energetic, self motivated person to join their team. Duties include sale administration, marketing, contract administration, and other duties as assigned. Some travel will be necessary. This is a full time position with benefits. Future Forest LLC is willing to train a motivated individual and offer opportunities for career growth!

For more information and how to apply: <http://www.forestryusa.com/j-futureforest.htm>

MANAGER: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF YOUR COMMUNITY PROGRAM WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (www.iira.org) at Western Illinois University has an opening for the Manager of the MAPPING the Future of Your Community Program. The individual selected will oversee and manage all aspects of this award-winning strategic visioning and planning program.

The successful applicant will have a Master's degree in Business, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Planning, Management or other appropriate discipline with previous management, supervisory, and fiscal experience required. The position has an expected start date of September 1, 2006. Applications will be reviewed starting June 26, 2006.

For more information and how to apply: <http://www.wiu.edu/employment>.

For more information: www.mappingthefuture.org

PUBLICATIONS

COMMUNITIES, LIVELIHOODS AND NATURAL RESOURCES - ACTION RESEARCH AND POLICY CHANGE IN ASIA

Stephen R. Tyler
ITDG Publishing/IDRC 2006

This book synthesizes results from a 7-year program of applied research on community-based approaches to natural resource management in Asia. The 11 case studies featured illustrate how local innovations in participatory natural resource management can strengthen livelihoods, build capacity for local governance, and spark policy change. The lessons are derived from the application of a participatory action research framework that engaged resource users, local governments, and researchers in collaborative learning. They illustrate practical innovations to strengthen livelihoods through improved collective resource management practices and broader technology choices.

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: A SOURCEBOOK

Julian Gonsalves et al.
CIP-UPWARD/IDRC 2005

Research and development can no longer be the exclusive domain of scientists. To find sustainable solutions to development problems, a wider range of actors must be involved. It is crucial that local stakeholders provide input to the process. Participatory research and development (PR&D) offers such an inclusive model. This sourcebook provides easy access to field-tested PR&D concepts and practices. The sourcebook captures and examines PR&D experiences from over 30 countries, illustrating applications in sustainable crop and animal production, forest and watershed management, soil and water conservation, and postharvest and utilization.

PUBLICATIONS

MEXICAN AMERICANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: TIERRA Y VIDA (THE MEXICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE)

Devon G. Pena.
University of Arizona Press (2005)

Addressing the struggle for environmental justice, grassroots democracy, and a sustainable society from a variety of Mexican American perspectives, this book draws on the ideas and experiences of people from all walks of life--activists, farmworkers, union organizers, land managers, educators, and many others--who provide a clear overview of the most critical ecological issues facing Mexican-origin people today. Peña provides an environmental history for both sides of the border and shows how contemporary environmental justice struggles in Mexican American communities have challenged dominant concepts of environmentalism.

NATURES RESTORATION: PEOPLE AND PLACES ON THE FRONT LINES OF CONSERVATION

Peter Friederici
Island Press: 2006

Across America and around the world, people are working to help nature heal itself. In Bermuda, a man single-handedly grows thousands of trees on a small island to restore nesting habitat for a rare seabird. In Illinois, legions of volunteers replant prairies in the shadows of freeways. In Virginia, a farmer works to bring back the mighty American chestnut. What drives these individuals? How did their passions come about, and what are the implications for restoring the environment? *Nature's Restoration: People and Places on the Front Lines of Conservation* is a lyrical look at these and other examples of ordinary citizens aiming to return sizable tracts of the American landscape to nature, and to health. They've found success in preserving rare species, reversing negative ecological trends, and promoting greater intimacy with nature.

WILD HARVESTS FROM SCOTTISH WOODLANDS: SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES OF CONTEMPORARY NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS. EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND: FORESTRY COMMISSION

Marla Emery, Suzanne Martin,
and Alison Dyke (2006)

From a member of the House of Lords in his castle to an unemployed gentleman in a fisherman's cottage, from a biology teacher on the outskirts of Dumfries to a young farmer on the Black Isle, collecting non-timber forest products (NTFPs) is a source of joy and satisfaction for many in contemporary Scotland. In the autumn of 2004, as part of the Wild Harvests From Scottish Woodlands project, more than thirty people were interviewed about the wild edibles, medicinals, and craft materials they collect and the part that collecting plays in their lives.

As a group, research participants mentioned 208 NTFPs derived from 97 vascular plants and 76 fungi and other non-vascular species. Edibles uses were most common, followed by beverages, craft, garden and medical uses. Most NTFP gathering is for personal and family use, followed in importance by gifts, informal economy, and barter. Gatherer profiles are used to illustrate that with commercial collection, often 'the sums don't add up', but the importance of NTFP collection for personal and cultural identity, social cohesion, public health and happiness is vast.

The results suggest there is potential for active management of NTFPs in public and private woodlands as well as some cautions. A number of recommendations for policy, practice and future research are made.

Available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/website/forestresearch.nsf/ByUnique/INFD-5WBLHH

PUBLICATIONS



COMMUNITIES AND CONSERVATION: HISTORIES AND POLITICS OF COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

J. Peter Brosius, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing,
Charles Zerner
AltaMira Press (2005)

The environmentalists in this collection offer an in-depth analysis and call to advocacy for community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). Their overview of this transnational movement reveals important links between environmental management and social justice agendas for sustainable use of resources by local communities. In this volume, leaders describe their model programs; the countermapping movement and collective claims to land and resources; legal strategies for gaining rights to resources and territories; biodiversity conservation and land stabilization priorities; and environmental justice and minority rights.

COMMUNITIES AND FORESTS: WHERE PEOPLE MEET THE LAND

Robert G. Lee & Donald R. Field
Oregon State University Press (2005)

Communities and Forests documents the shift from scientific forestry to community forestry. The editors note that the traditional science-based, state-controlled model for managing forests ignores the voices of those affected by the use of forest resources. They suggest that science-based forestry is giving way to an alternative approach, one in which nature, economy, society, and culture are considered integral elements of the human-forest relationship.



THE COMPLEX FOREST: COMMUNITIES, UNCERTAINTY, AND ADAPTIVE COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

Carol J. Pierce Colfer
RFF Press (2005)

The Complex Forest systematically examines the theory, processes, and early outcomes of a research and management approach called adaptive collaborative management (ACM). An alternative to positivist approaches to development and conservation that assume predictability in forest management, ACM acknowledges the complexity and unpredictability inherent in any forest community and the importance of developing solutions together with the forest peoples whose lives will be most affected by the outcomes.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: LINKING LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES

Mark Benedict & Ed McMahon
Island Press (2006)

With illustrative and detailed examples drawn from throughout the country, Green Infrastructure advances smart land conservation: large scale thinking and integrated action to plan, protect and manage our natural and restored lands. From the individual parcel to the multi-state region, Green Infrastructure helps each of us look at the landscape in relation to the many uses it could serve, for nature and people, and determine which use makes the most sense. In this wide-ranging primer, leading experts in the field provide a detailed how-to for planners, designers, landscape architects, and citizen activists.

PUBLICATIONS

HOW TO LOBBY AT INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

Felix Dodds & Michael Strauss
Earthscan Publications (2004)

Essential guide for all those involved in international meetings including NGOs, companies, industry associations professional groups, trade unions and other intergovernmental staff who are trying to influence the agendas of international agencies and meetings. The guide will take you through preparing your ideas, consulting with others, helping to understand how governments prepare and how to understand the terms used in these meetings.

TO LOVE THE WIND AND THE RAIN: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Dianne Glave & Mark Stoll
University of Pittsburgh Press (2005)

This book is a groundbreaking and vivid analysis of the relationship between one race and its surroundings. The essays in “To Love the Wind and the Rain” focus on three major themes in connection to African Americans: the rural environment; the urban and suburban environments; and the notion of environmental justice. Meticulous in their research, the contributors cover such subjects as slavery, hunting, gardening, religion, women, and politics.



RESEARCH METHODS FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE: A PROJECT-BASED APPROACH

Randy Stoecker
Sage Publications (2005)

Everyone is a member of a community, and every community is continually changing. To successfully manage that change, community members need information. Research Methods for Community Change: A Project-Based Approach is an in-depth review of all of the research methods that communities use to solve problems, develop their resources, and protect their identities.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE: INVASIVE FOREST PESTS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THREE RECENT INFESTATIONS MAY AID IN MANAGING FUTURE EFFORTS

This report evaluates the federal response to three invasive forest pests--the Asian longhorned beetle, the emerald ash borer, and the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. Specifically, GAO describes the status of efforts to eradicate these species, the factors affecting the success of those efforts, overall forest health monitoring programs, coordination and communication of the three pest response efforts, and USDA's use of panels of scientific experts to aid in the response efforts.

www.gao.gov/new.items/d06353.pdf

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE: WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT: UPDATE ON FEDERAL AGENCY EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A COHESIVE STRATEGY TO ADDRESS WILDLAND FIRE THREATS

This report provides information on the progress that the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have made over the past year in developing a tactical plan outlining the steps and time frames needed to complete a cohesive strategy for addressing wildland fire threats and the agencies' efforts to address the challenges GAO believes they are likely to face as they develop this cohesive strategy.

www.gao.gov/new.items/d06671r.pdf

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE: WOODY BIOMASS USERS' EXPERIENCE PROVIDE INSIGHTS FOR ONGOING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ITS USE.

The federal government is placing greater emphasis on thinning vegetation on public lands to reduce the risk of wildland fire. To help defray the cost of thinning efforts, it also is seeking to stimulate a market for the resulting material, including the smaller trees, limbs, and brush—referred to as woody biomass—that traditionally have had little or no commercial value. As GAO has reported in the past, the increased use of woody biomass faces obstacles, including the high cost of harvesting and transporting it and an unpredictable supply in some locations. Nevertheless, some entities, such as schools and businesses, are utilizing the material, potentially offering insights for broadening its use.

For the full report:
www.gao.gov/new.items/d06694t.pdf

SMART GROWTH SHAREWARE: CD ROM PROVIDES LIBRARY OF RESOURCES

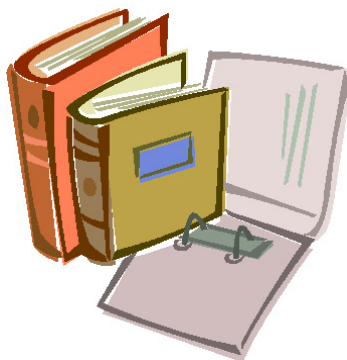
Smart Growth Shareware is a CD ROM that contains a library of smart growth resources for everyone interested in creating livable, well-planned communities. The CD contains road-tested presentations and materials by local and national leaders and organizations; immediately downloadable publications and fact sheets; and web site links to over 100 additional resources. Topics: Introduction to Smart Growth; Costs of Sprawl and Benefits of Smart Growth; Transportation and Air Quality; Building Communities: Housing, Brownfields, and Infill Development; Public Health; Planning and Development; Land Conservation and Water; and Images.

Copies of the CD can be obtained for free at www.smartgrowthamerica.org/.

NEW FAO RESOURCE: PARTICIPATORY PROJECT FORMULATION

A basic course on Participatory Project Formulation is now available in the About Section of FAOs Participation Website. The course explains the key concepts which will enable you to make better use of this website and will allow users to learn how to apply the different participatory approaches and methods in the formulation of projects.

Please visit or download the course by clicking on the link below:
www.fao.org/participation/english_web_new/content_en/about.html





CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

JULY 2006

Announcing the VII International Shortcourse in Agroecology 2006

July 2-15-, 2006

Matagalpa, Nicaragua

“Agroecology, Community and Action: Integrating Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Rural Landscapes” This two-week shortcourse features a synthesis between the science of Agroecology and a Participatory Action-Research approach. Our approach integrates experiential and academic learning through a combination of field trips, lectures, readings and discussions. In Matagalpa, Nicaragua the coffee cooperatives have agreed to share their experiences and offer a living case study. This course will be taught in Spanish, so fluency is required.

For more information: www.agroecology.org/short-course/index.html, email course@communityagroecology.net, or contact the course organizer, Dr. Chris Bacon at Tel. 831-459-3619, Fax. 831-459-2867.

Advances in Threat Assessment and their Application to Forest and Rangeland Management

July 18-20, 2006

Boulder, CO

The conference will explore the latest information on environmental threat assessment and management. The conference will include scientific and case study sessions, oral and poster presentations, and panel discussions. This conference is designed to encourage meaningful exchange among those developing new knowledge and tools for threat assessment and those responsible for managing forests and rangelands. Scientists and educators, policymakers, property owners, land managers, and students are among those invited to attend.

For more information: www.forestencyclopedia.net/encyclopedia/threats

2006 Soil & Water Conservation Society Annual Conference

July 22-26, 2006

Keystone, CO

The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, along with a broad cross-section of other interest groups, to explore current issues in natural resource management and planning.

For more information: www.swcs.org/en/swcs_international_conferences/2006_international_conference/

XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology “The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalizing World”

July 23 – 29, 2006

Durban, South Africa

Continental issues of global concern will be discussed. Durban provides the international social science community with an opportunity to encounter a society in transition, reconstruction and development.

For more information: www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/

2006 North American Prairie Conference

July 23-26, 2006

Kearney, NE

The theme of this year’s conference is invasive species. For more information: <http://NAPC2006.org/>

Rural Sociological Society - 69th Annual Meeting

July 28-31, 2006

Louisville, KY

“Perils and Promises of Globalization: Difference, Resistance, and Possibility” Poster, paper, panel and session proposals are due February 1st. Papers for the Graduate Student Paper Competition are due April 15th.

For more information: www.ruralsociology.org/annual-meeting/2006/index.html

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS



SEPTEMBER 2006

Alliance for Community Trees Annual Member Conference “Urban Forest Advocacy - Growing Possibilities”

September 7-9, 2006

Pasadena CA

ACT’s Annual Member Conference is the place to meet other nonprofit and community organizations engaged in urban forestry. From top-notch volunteer programs to the best tree fundraisers, ACT’s member network has great ideas you can bring home to improve your community. This year, ACT is teaming up with our partner California ReLeaf to host the biggest grassroots urban forestry day ever on September 7. After that, stay for the California Urban Forests Conference, jointly organized by ACT, California ReLeaf and the California Urban Forests Council on September 8 and 9.

For more information: <http://actrees.org/>

Who Will Own the Forest? Summit

September 11 -13, 2006

Portland, OR

Don’t miss this premier biennial event on shifting forest ownership and its implications for the forest and investment sectors. Forestry companies are selling their timberland throughout the United States and the world, in response to increasing pressure for shareholder return, competition in the global market place and consolidation in the industry. There are huge ramifications for not only the forest products industry but also forest management, biodiversity, forest integrity and forest-dependent communities.

For more information: wfi.worldforestry.org/wwotf3/

30th annual Public Land Law Conference: The Law of Ecosystem Restoration: National Policy Implications of the Clark Fork River Basin Natural Resource Damage Program

September 25-27, 2006

Missoula, MT

The Public Land & Resources Law Review proudly presents the 30th annual Public Land Law Conference, held in beautiful Missoula, Montana. The conference will focus on the history, successes, and continuing challenges of implementing this national program in Montana’s Clark Fork River Basin. Keynote Speaker: Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

For more information: www.umt.edu/publicland/Conference.htm

OCTOBER 2006

National Land Conservation Conference Land Trust Alliance Rally

October 12-15, 2006

Nashville, TN

Don’t miss your chance to be a part of the dynamic and rich educational program for the 19th Land Trust Alliance Rally! More than 1,700 land trust professionals, volunteers, board members, public agency staff, attorneys and land conservation advocates are expected to attend this four-day educational and networking conference.

For more information: www.lta.org/training/rally.htm



CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

NOVEMBER 2006

Place Matters 2006 - A Creative Planning Collaborative for Sustainable Communities

October 19-21, 2006

Denver, CO

Place Matters, an initiative of the Orton Family Foundation, is a living laboratory where a national network of creative practitioners come together to learn, share, inspire and seed innovation in place, collectively elevating the art and science of planning for vibrant and sustainable communities.

For more information: www.placematters.org/

The Ecological Restoration Institute: Conserving and Restoring Frequent Fire Landscapes of the West: Linking Science, Collaboration and Practice

October 24-26, 2006

Flagstaff, AZ

This conference will bring together land managers, stakeholders, and scientists to enhance participants' skills in integrating science, collaboration, and management practice.

For more information: www.eri.nau.edu/cms/content/view/740/952/

Society of American Foresters National Convention: "Our Woods: Wild and Working"

October 25 - 29, 2006

Pittsburgh, PA

The conference will include: Cutting-edge forest science relevant to practical applications in the field, case studies and success stories on practical application of science, adaptive management examples from forest practitioners, on-the-ground workshops. Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai, will address the Thursday general session.

For more information:
www.safnet.org/natcon-06/index.cfm

3rd International Fire Ecology & Management Congress

November 13-17, 2006

San Diego, CA

The Third Fire Ecology and Management Congress provides a week long focus on the science and technology that are the basis for the management of wildland fire. The theme of the opening plenary session is "Changing fire regimes: Context and consequences," featuring invited speakers who will further explore this topic that is so significant for fire management. Topics will range from fire effects on vegetation and wildlife, fire in a landscape context, fuels management, and post fire rehabilitation, to the latest technology for predicting and monitoring fire. An exhibit will showcase new products, technology, and tools.

For more information:
<http://emmps.wsu.edu/firecongress>.

2007

**American Society for Environmental History
Living on the Edge: Human Desires and
Environmental Realities**

February 28 - March 3, 2007

Baton Rouge, LA

The program committee for the American Society for Environmental History invites panel, paper, and poster proposals for its March 2007 meeting. Proposals may address any area of environmental history, but the committee specifically solicits submissions examining perceptions of risk and social responses to environmental disasters and the idea of living on the edge: edges of danger, edges of continents, edges of poverty, and the space between history and other disciplines.

Deadline for submission of proposals: July 1, 2006.

To submit a proposal, go to www.h-net.org/~environ/ASEH/conferences.html

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS



2007

**Society for Applied Anthropology
67th Annual Meeting**

March 27 - 31, 2007

Tampa, FL

Applied anthropology in the 21st Century faces challenges to contribute meaningfully and in a sustained way to understanding complex and recurring global struggles. The theme of “Global Insecurities” is both expansive and focused, designed to invite intellectual discussions and practical applications from our colleagues worldwide.

All abstracts must be received by October 15, 2006.

For more information: www.sfaa.net/sfaa2007.html

**Association of American Geographers
Annual Conference**

April 17-21, 2007

San Francisco, CA

We anticipate over 3,000 paper and poster presentations featuring the latest geographic research and scholarship, ranging across the full breadth of the discipline. The San Francisco region also offers opportunities for exceptional field trips on geographic topics from the physical to the human to the oenological.

Deadline for papers, posters and presentations is October 26, 2006.

For more information: www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SF2007/index.cfm

**13th International Symposium on Society and
Resource Management (ISSRM)**

June 17-21, 2007

Park City, UT

The theme for the 2007 symposium is Landscape Continuity and Change - Social Science Perspectives and Interdisciplinary Conversations. Primary sub-themes: contributions of social science to environmental and natural resource management, Planning from community to regional scales, landscape implications of social and economic change, social and economic implications of landscape change.

For more information: www.usu.edu/iasnr/issrm2007/