

# Sustainable Forests Partnership

A newsletter about sustaining communities and forests.

## The Importance of Forests to People

The Sustainable Forests Partnership (SFP), with Michigan State as the lead institution, developed metrics for measuring “The Importance of Forests to People” Montreal Process Indicator 44. Twenty six focus groups with 202 participants were conducted. Communities and individuals were selected based on geographic region, race/ethnicity, age, and urban/rural residence. While the

results cannot be generalized to the U.S. population as a whole, results indicate forests are important to Americans in a number of ways and they have multiple concerns about the future of forests. Participants consider forests important for many reasons, including spiritual values, physical and psychological health *continued page 2*



Trees and forests provide many benefits to urban and rural residents. Photo courtesy of Stockphoto. All rights reserved.

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### Special point of interest:

- SFP Annual meeting  
Date: June 7, 2011  
Time: 4:45 PM  
Location: ISSRM Conference, Madison, Wisconsin

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## Educating Forest Landowners about Stewardship Principles

SFP received a multiple phase grant from the US Forest Service to develop state-specific educational materials explaining how specific practices and strategies relating to the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators can help achieve stewardship goals.

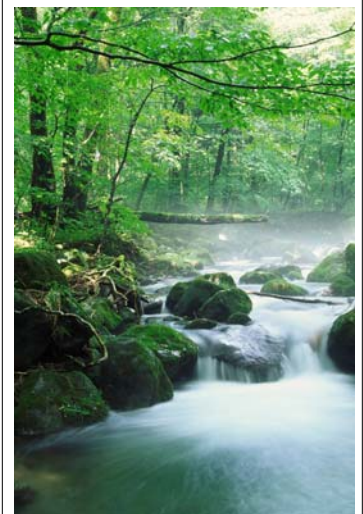
Virginia Tech and Cornell University completed Phase II of the project in spring 2010. Cornell developed a webinar series focused on six forest stewardship principles and explored how forest landowners adhere

to these principles. The project also evaluated educational and communicative effectiveness of the webinars. The webinars can be viewed at <http://www.sustainablewoodlands.info/> For additional details on webinar effectiveness and adoption of stewardship principles, contact Shorna Allred at [srb237@cornell.edu](mailto:srb237@cornell.edu).

A multi-institutional partnership including Virginia Tech created a Virginia forest owners guidebook with steps for investing in the

sustainability of their forests. Training of forest owners including underserved forest owners and peer-to-peer planning was conducted to assist participants in serving as sustainable forestry ambassadors. For additional details contact John Munsell at [jfmunsel@vt.edu](mailto:jfmunsel@vt.edu).

All project materials can easily be replicated by other states and are available at <http://sfp.cas.psu.edu>.



## Importance of Forests, *continued*

benefits, quality of life, aesthetics, tranquility, watching and enjoying wildlife, wilderness experiences, and relaxation. Forests may also be appreciated through films or television.

The full report is available in the 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests at <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/>.

To learn more about the project, contact Maureen McDonough at [mcdono10@msu.edu](mailto:mcdono10@msu.edu).

## Dual-Title Degree in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment (HNDRE)

Penn State now offers a dual-title intercollege program emphasizing an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to managing natural resources. The program is available to Ph.D., M.S., or M.A. graduate students in anthropology, energy and mineral engineering, forest resources, geography, recreation, park and tourism management, and rural sociology.

To pursue the dual-title intercollege degree, students must be admitted through one of the existing HDNRE programs. Since its inception, six Ph.D. and two M.S. students have graduated with the HDNRE dual-title degree. Eighteen graduate students are currently enrolled in the program. To learn more, select Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment at <http://sfr.psu.edu/graduatestudents/joint>.

## Institution Updates

### Alabama A& M University

Hosted a Green Living Expo featuring urban gardens. It was an opportunity to talk to local environmental experts and pick up valuable information on becoming an eco-friendly consumer.

### Auburn University

Created a new sustainability minor offered university wide and plan to offer a new natural resources management degree in fall 2011.

### College of Menominee Nation

The college is conducting a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Benchmarking the college's energy consumption is underway with the assistance of the US EPA's Energy Star program. Sustainability indicators at CMN are being identified with the combined efforts of the student and campus sustainability advisory groups.

### Cornell University

Stewardship principles webinar series had 500 participants. Participants took a test after the webinar. Test results indicate participants have increased knowledge and awareness of sustainable forest management principles. They also are interested in pursuing additional information on the topic.

### Michigan State University

Created a new sustainability minor offered university wide for all degrees.

### Oregon State University

Working with Oregon Department of Forestry to assess Oregon's forest policies

using Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators.

### University of Idaho

Idaho is working with the U.S. Forest Service on a bio-regional plan for sustaining forested communities.

### University of Vermont

Forestry building renovations will make it platinum lead certified. Renovations include FSC certified lumber and a green roof with three ecosystems. The university offers a wooden bowl turning class that includes an introduction to forestry and trees.

### Utah State University

Working closely with Michigan State University to refine the Importance of Forests to People indicator report.

### Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

New program trains realtor on forestry and encourages them to distribute packets to individuals purchasing rural land. Packets contain information on active forest management, tree identification, and who to contact.



Forests and rangelands provide unique habitat in the intermountain west region of the United States.  
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