



# SUCCESS STORIES

REPORTING EXAMPLES OF OUR PROGRESS IN CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE



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## U.S., Canada Take Action on Lake Superior

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States was signed in 1978. Since then, a number of additions have been agreed to including one in 1989 that, among other things, called for the joint development of Lake Wide Management Plans for each of the Great Lakes.

The Binational Program to Restore and Protect Lake Superior (LSBP) was subsequently signed into agreement by the Canadian and U.S. federal governments; the Province of Ontario and the States of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

An international partnership of 26 Canadian and United States federal, state and provincial agencies, First Nations, Tribes, and associated Tribal authorities/Commissions, the Binational Program has two components: a Zero Discharge Demonstration Program, which is a unique program dedicated to the goal of zero discharge or emission of nine critical pollutants, and the Broader Program, which focuses on protection and restoration of the whole Lake Superior basin ecosystem.



*Protecting Lake Superior and its basin ecosystem is central to the binational agreement.*

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Over several years, the partners developed a Lake-wide management plan as a plan of action to assess, restore, protect and monitor the health of the Lake. This work is being implemented by the LSBP agencies individually, and through numerous.

The U.S. Forest Service-Eastern Region is a federal partner in the program with four National Forests and over three million acres within the Lake Superior basin. Invited to participate by the lead U.S. agency (Environmental Protection Agency) in the early 1990's, the Forest Service has been a partner in this endeavor for many years.

The Forest Service also provides leadership to this effort through an Interagency Agreement with the EPA. For a number of years, the Eastern Region has provided the United States Co-Chair for the Lake Superior Work Group, which is the staff planning and implementing organization of the program.

Since the Lake-wide plan was prepared, many community-based pollution prevention and awareness projects, voluntary agreements with industry, and outreach campaigns have been carried out.

Continued contaminated sediment remediation and stormwater management are being done in both the U.S. and Canada. Declines in contaminants for Herring Gull eggs and sport fish continue; and many acres and miles of stream restoration, riparian improvement, sediment control and wetland restoration have been completed.

Invasive species are a huge problem but are being addressed, such as the sea lamprey and purple loosestrife control efforts, as well as regional cooperation and planning.

A lake-wide sturgeon rehabilitation effort was established, and recovery plans were implemented for wood turtles and lynx.

*For more information contact Steve Schlobohm at (715) 685-2655*



## Partners Honored for Trail Work



*Partners and volunteers helped put the finishing touches on a 350-foot section of eroded trail on the Shawnee NF.*

The Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) presented the Back Country Horsemen (BCH) of Illinois with the group's prestigious Double Diamond Award. The award is given to the state that has completed outstanding volunteer projects and educational programs for the past year. These projects include trail construction and maintenance.

One such project was the National Trails Day held June 5. The Shawnee National Forest played host to an energetic group of volunteers and for the second year in a row the Shawnee Chapter of the BCHA brought their special brand of expertise to a tough project on the River to River Trail in the Lusk Creek Wilderness.

Many residents of southern Illinois can still remember a time when mules and horses were relied upon to do the heavy lifting around the areas' small farms and saw mills. Now, mechanization has largely forced these venerable beasts out of the harness.

Designated wilderness areas of the Forest are however, off limits to mechanized equipment. Fortunately for the Shawnee National Forest, BCHA volunteers are still interested in keeping this legacy of the draft animal alive.

On June 5, the BCHA members met to work in the wilderness just as they do every month in good weather. They teamed up with personnel of the Shawnee National Forest to haul gravel, stop erosion, stabilize trails and perform other conservation work that many people would have thought impossible without machines.

On this day, the crew put the finishing touches on a 350-foot long section of eroded trail that required the construction of a dozen log steps.

Additional trail was maintained by Forest and BCHA crews outside of the wilderness using forest equipment as well as a wagon specially modified by the volunteers to carefully apply gravel to the trail surface.

*For more information contact Marion Bunch at (618) 253-7114*

## Foundation Donates Land Adjacent to Forest

The Huron-Manistee National Forests accepted a donation of more than 270 acres of forestland from the Richard C. Devereaux Foundation. The property, valued at nearly \$600,000, is located in Crawford County, Michigan.

The donated land abuts both National Forest System lands and Michigan Department of Natural Resources lands. The land currently provides habitat for several species that are listed as Michigan State Threatened or Special Concern.

Species of plants identified on the property include: Allegheny or sloe plum, rough fescue and Hill's thistle.

Due to the location of the "Devereaux" property, the Forest intends to manage the lands within the semiprimitive nonmotorized prescription.



*Richard C. Devereaux Foundation donated land adjacent to the Forest.*

*For more information contact Kenneth Arbogast at (231) 775-5023*



# AmeriCorps Crew Aids Allegheny



*The AmeriCorps Team spent six weeks working on the Allegheny NF.*

When the Assistant Project Director for AmeriCorps/National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) approached the Allegheny National Forest during the summer of 2003 for potential project proposals, the Forest jumped at the opportunity. Based on the Civilian Conservation Corps, the AmeriCorps/NCCC deploys teams throughout the nation to complete environmental, educational, public safety and disaster relief projects.

And for six weeks this summer they are on the Allegheny.

A letter of intent to submit a proposal was sent in November. A list of possible projects was compiled and submitted to the organization in January. The Allegheny was selected in March, and is now the proud hosts of a crew of nine AmeriCorps/NCCC members.

Led by Christopher Lindstrom, the team has been working at constructing a stone staircase at the Minister Valley Trail and trail maintenance in Tracy Ridge. After this project is completed, the crew will work at removing fencing within the Bradford Ranger District.

“It has been so rewarding to see the day to day accomplishments on the Minister Valley and Tracy Ridge trails,” said AmeriCorps/NCCC team member Minna Tran. “The fact that our trail maintenance and rock staircase will be used by visitors for decades to come makes the work completely worthwhile.”

Fellow crewmember Lindsay Elliott added, “I love working and hiking in the Allegheny National Forest. This forest is different from others that I have visited because of the amount of diverse activities going on.”

Their Capital Region Campus staff believes that this is the most strenuous project that any of their crews has taken on. But the crewmembers are more than talented. Between them, they speak five languages; have an outstanding knowledge of computers, and backgrounds in landscaping and construction.

In addition, all members of the NCCC team have completed 120 hours of AmeriCorps training, are certified in American Red Cross Disaster relief, CPR, First Aid, Wildland firefighting and chainsaw operations, just to name a few.

The NCCC crew is not just here to work though. On weekends, crewmembers plan to hike and canoe in the many recreation areas offered on the Allegheny to truly experience the opportunities they will help give others.

“This project has been a life changing experience from which I have gained an interest in back packing and trail work” Elliott said.

Crew member Brandi Day asserted that, “I now have a greater understanding for the outdoors and wildlife, and I will encourage others to be responsible when recreating.”

Members of the AmeriCorps complete 1700 hours of service during a 12-month period, and in turn receive money toward their educations. All members are between the ages of 18 – 24 and live on one of five campuses throughout the United States when not on location completing projects.

During the eight months prior to arriving on the Allegheny, the team helped build homes for single-mothers in Virginia, planted seedlings and trees in Washington, D.C., and organized \$1 million worth of Christmas toys for the Salvation Army in Washington, D.C.

Before working with the AmeriCorps for a day, Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliot said it “is a great privilege to have them on the Forest.” After working with them he added, “they show a great determination to do the best they can. Their enthusiasm for their work and their dedication to helping the environment is inspiring. The Allegheny is ecstatic to have them here, helping the Forest.”

*For more information contact Janeal Hedman at (814) 723-5150*



## Urban Connections Targets Detroit

The Eastern Region took another dramatic step forward in its community outreach efforts this month with an historic meeting that outlined the purpose and objectives for the latest city—Detroit.

Urban Connections Program Manager Daryl Pridgen provided an overview of the Forest Service and the Urban Connections program at the main branch of the Detroit Public Library on June 16.

Lurine Carter, the director of Children's Youth Services, as well as 24 Children's Branch Youth Coordinators, attended the meeting.

During the presentation, Daryl introduced Wayne State Community College student DeAndre Oliver. As a Student Conservation Association (SCA) Diversity Program Intern in the Forest Service, Oliver gave some "presence" as Urban Connections moves into the Detroit area. Oliver is working as a liaison to the three Michigan National Forests (Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee) for Urban Connections this summer.

Shirley Parker, the Equal Opportunity Assistant on the Huron-Manistee National Forests, presented outreach and recruitment information. Parker described the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) and the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). Informational CDs and brochures were handed out to the attendees.

The assembled audience expressed interest in learning more about the on-line AVUE job application process, along with posters containing the Internet address of USAJOBS that can be displayed in their libraries.

There was a general discussion, as well as a question and answer period following the presentations. The topics covered were: staging career fairs attended by Forest Service representatives at the libraries; sharing outreach and recruitment material with the main library and all 24 branches; four community workshops to be planned for the Main Library over the next year; and Forest Service informational displays on the first and third floor of the main library prior to the July 30 conclusion of the Summer Reading Program that 1600 city youth participate in.

A Smokey Bear drawing was held at the conclusion of the presentations and pictures from the event will be posted on the Detroit Public Library website.



*Shirley Parker, Lurine Carter, and Daryl Pridgen at the Detroit Public Library.*

*For more information contact Daryl Pridgen at (414) 944-3590*

## Forest Employee Details to Region 8 Civil Rights



*Erik Taylor benefited from his detail to Region 8 Civil Rights.*

Outdoor Recreation Planner Erik Taylor of the Huron-Manistee National Forests' Mio Ranger District recently completed a detail as the primary college recruitment liaison for the Forest Service's Region 8 Civil Rights Unit, with the Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La.

Taylor provided assistance in areas of student recruitment, counseling, and mentorship. This included advising students on career choices within the Forest Service and the Student Career Employment Program (SCEP), Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) opportunities, employment opportunities for non-traditional students, and counseling students in career development.

Taylor interviewed students, matching their academic and personal goals with positions compatible with USDA-Forest Service objectives. He also collected information on potential Urban Forestry students, determining whether USDA-1890 National Scholars Program scholarships and/or employment program entrance could be offered. He further managed the \$109,000 Multicultural Workforce Strategic Initiative budget; and participated in Region 9's Title VI & VII Compliance Review.

*For more information contact Mark Curtiss at (231) 775-2421*



# Vesuvius Iron Furnace Receives Official UR Designation

The Vesuvius Iron Furnace area has been officially recognized as an Historical Underground Railroad site by the Friends of Freedom Society. A marker was presented by State Coordinator Cathy Nelson and Beverly Gray, Regional Coordinator for the Southern Region.

The new marker was dedicated during the Wayne National Forest's Grand Reopening of Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area on May 24. The historical marker was placed in front of the Vesuvius Furnace and unveiled by members of the Forest Service and partners from the Friends of Freedom Society.

This is the first Historical Marker on the Wayne National Forest. The marker was placed to acknowledge the furnace as a site on the Underground Railroad.

"Heritage resources hold clues to the past, enhance our landscapes, provide links to living traditions, and help transform a beautiful walk in the woods into an unforgettable encounter with history," said Dave Holland, national Forest Service Director of Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness.

He went on to say: "As the Forest Service strives to maintain and restore the health of our watersheds and ecosystems, heritage resources provide insights into the past that have bearing on sustainability."

The Ohio Underground Railroad Society, part of the Friends of Freedom society, has documented over 800 Underground Railroad sites throughout Ohio. The Friends of Freedom Society is a grassroots, all volunteer non-profit organization in Ohio. Their sole purpose is to research, identify, document and preserve Underground Railroad sites throughout Ohio.

Cathy Nelson, President Emeritus of Friends of Freedom Society, spoke to the audience explaining: "The massive iron ore ruins in southern Ohio hold a unique story in the history of the Underground Railroad. The Vesuvius Furnace and other area furnaces employed free blacks, enabling them to seek a better way of life.

"However, they also gave shelter to runaway slaves seeking freedom. Their voices whispered the hopes and dreams of liberty, while their footsteps led them on a perilous journey into the dense, isolated forests."

Nelson added: "It is fitting that the Wayne National Forest celebrates the courage, struggle and perseverance of these unsung heroes in their continued effort to care for the land and serve the people."

The marker inscription reads: "Vesuvius Iron Furnace is one of 69 charcoal iron furnaces in the Hanging Rock Iron Region. This 100-mile long region extends from Greenup County, Kentucky, to Hocking County, Ohio. Built in 1833, Vesuvius began production using the cold blast method to produce iron. In 1863, this furnace was the first to experiment and adopt the revolutionary hot blast method. Vesuvius Furnace produced 10 tons of iron each day until its final blast in 1906. Today only this stack remains, but in its prime, Vesuvius Furnace supported hundreds of workers and their families and played a key role in the early iron industry.

"The men who owned the furnaces were called ironmasters, and many played another significant role in history. Many of them were strong abolitionists and supported the Underground Railroad. The furnace complexes provided safe houses and money for the movement of slaves seeking freedom. The secret routes that the runaway slaves followed lie along the same roads as southern Ohio's iron furnaces. With the help of the ironmasters, other families and supporters of the Underground Railroad, hundreds of escaped slaves reached their ultimate goal: FREEDOM."

The marker is located at the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area, 6.5 miles north of Ironton, Ohio, off of State Route 93.



*The Vesuvius Iron Furnace on the Wayne NF was official recognized as an historical site on the Underground Railroad.*



# GPS Equipment Tested Under the Forest Canopies on the Hoosier NF

During the week of June 7, the Hoosier National Forest was visited by eight equipment-laden visitors. They came to use the Hoosier's GPS Hardwood Test Course to measure the response of numerous GPS receivers beneath a hardwood forest canopy.

The visitors, part of the National GPS Steering Committee, were from numerous federal agencies including the USDI's Geological Survey and National Park Service; and the USDA's Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Agricultural Research Service.

They were assisted locally by Dale Weigel, Forester, North Central Research Station, and Bob Stone, Engineering Technician, Hoosier National Forest, both located at Bedford, Indiana.

Weigel explained that the group was not testing the equipment per se, but rather comparing how different GPS units worked under various forest canopies.

"As I recall, they'd already been to Idaho or Montana, and were testing the equipment in Oregon and in Puerto Rico," Weigel said. "Eventually they will be able to make regional recommendations on which equipment works best in different parts of the country."

The equipment—Plugger; Plugger 2; Garmin V; Garmin 76S; CSI Super Max; Trimble XR, XT, and Geo3; and Thales Mobile Mapper—was examined at seven points on topography ranging from ridge tops to side slopes to the bottom of a ravine.

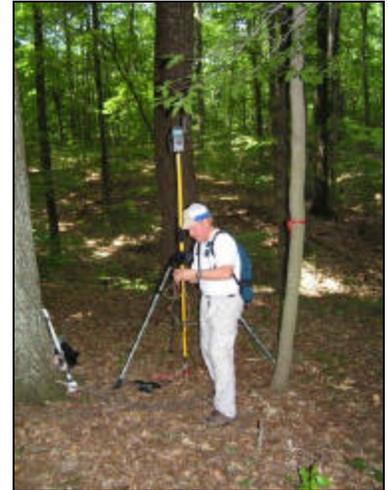
The results will be combined with tree data recorded at each point by Weigel and Stone to provide an ecosystem model of how well the receivers work beneath a hardwood forest ecosystem in the eastern United States. Weigel said they provided the team with 1/5 acre plot inventories for each of the plots where they tested the equipment.

This data allows them to analyze the effects of vegetation density on the ability of the equipment to perform in different vegetation types.

"Some of the equipment was similar to what we currently use on the Forest," said Weigel. But this GPS equipment has capabilities beyond just determining a location on the ground.

"With the better models, we can map trails, roads, and vegetation projects quite accurately. They also allow you to input data that will be easily cross-walked into our GIS system."

Weigel was pleased to be part of the GPS project and said it was fascinating to see the different configurations of equipment being used on the Hoosier NF.



*Karl Brown of the U.S. Geological Survey tests his equipment beneath the Hoosier forest canopy.*

*For more information contact Teena Ligman at (812) 277-3579*





# White Mountain Stream Restoration

The White Mountain National Forest is demonstrating conservation leadership through a stream restoration project on a four-mile section of Great Brook in Stoneham, Maine. The fisheries program is specifically focusing on how fallen trees change both the appearance and function of mountain streams.

As forests grow older, we can expect to see more wood in our streams. However, high loadings of large wood may take as long as another 50 to 100 years. That process is being accelerated at Great Brook by physically adding wood to the streams.

After several different approaches to improve stream habitat, the focus has shifted to a more passive approach to restoration: dropping wood in the stream channel and letting the high water flows do the rest of the work.

“By observing how trees naturally fall, move, and lodge against boulders and other trees along our streams, we can then mimic the process at project sites,” White Mountain NF Fisheries Biologist Mark Prout explained. “Downed wood in these mountain streams may have more influence on habitat than people think, providing nutrients for aquatic insects and fish, and hiding cover that brook trout prefer.”

Some research suggests storage of these organics can buffer the effects of acid rain.

Habitat conditions have been mapped for the watershed and a long term monitoring program has been established for the Great Brook stream project. For several weeks a year, over a five-year period, wood will be added to the stream and its floodplain.

“By accelerating the process we can demonstrate to the public and other resource management agencies the benefits of allowing these processes to occur,” Prout said. “Monitoring stream morphology, wood movements, instream habitat types, wild trout populations, and aquatic invertebrates before and after management treatments allows us to learn what we can expect from future wood loadings to streams.”

When the treatments are completed, habitat conditions will be evaluated to determine the changes in both aquatic insect communities and fish abundance.

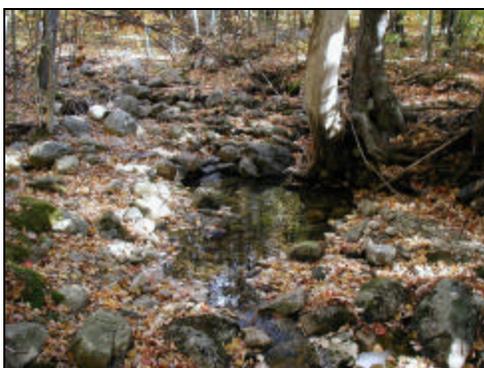
The White Mountain NF is focusing these types of projects on watersheds where the risk to roads and infrastructure is low.

Although wild brook trout are still common in the United States, the historic range of this coldwater species is shrinking. Over the next several decades threats of climate warming, acid rain, and urbanization may further reduce the range of the species.

The White Mountain NF plans to accelerate wood loadings in 10 percent of its watersheds over the next 15 years in a continuing effort to provide high quality coldwater stream habitat.



*Following the restoration work, the Great Brook took on a more natural appearance.*



*Prior to the work, the stream was void of the fallen trees essential for maintaining a healthy aquatic habitat.*

*For more information contact Colleen Mainville at (603) 528-8796*





# Forest Honors SCSEP For Her Community Service Efforts



*Honored SCSEP Carol Giammerino (left) with her supervisor on the Forest, Melody Fleig.*

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's Washburn Ranger District awarded Senior Community Service Employee Program (SCSEP) enrollee Carol Giammerino with a polar fleece throw embroidered with the Forest logo for her work at the Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency food shelf, a hosted SCSEP position.

This agency distributes food and other items to those in need for Bayfield County of northwestern Wisconsin.

One of the goals of the Department of Labor's Title V, SCSEP program, is providing valuable on-the-job training for the enrollee. This job training assists and promotes the transition to private sector or other unsubsidized future employment.

The Northwest Wisconsin Community Service Agency is greatly enhancing Carol's training experience by giving her the opportunity to work on a variety of job tasks. Her daily job duties

are divided between two hours of time distributing food to families and three hours of administrative work.

She utilizes record keeping skills as she prepares end-of-month reports, accounts of records, and tracks financial inventoried items of Federal Commodities, funds used to purchase food, and donations. Customer service skills are used for assisting families with application forms, verification of income, family size, and residence.

Carol's supervisor, Melody Fleig, says, "Carol adds her own personal touch to her job. She prepares a monthly cookbook from her research on-line for specific recipes for the abundant Federal Commodities.

"In addition, she goes beyond her duties to assist me with ordering food. A challenge of this job she faces is change. I see her work with me to transition and resolve problems as they come forth."

At a District Safety meeting in April 2004, Carol explained the program of work for the food shelf and their funding. In speaking to the Washburn Ranger District employees, Carol demonstrated a sincere passion for her job and working with those in need of assistance.

Through Carol's contact with the District Social Club, the Washburn District employees have traditionally donated canned goods and other non-perishable items to the food shelf to enhance not only several area families' Christmas dinners, but also most recently their Easter dinner.

*For more information contact Holly Kulinski at (715) 362-1354*

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