



Partners

The NACD Forest Resource Committee has 17 advisors that meet with us for three days each August.



Charles Holmes
Chair - NACD Forest Resources Comm.

Their input helps shape NACD policy, helps steer our projects and keeps us up-to-date on agency and organizational programs. Many of their programs have impact on the landowners we serve and often impact district activities. Some districts provide

stewardship plans for state foresters. Other districts provide urban forestry services, and with the fire issue in the West, districts have the opportunity to become deeply engaged in the community wildfire protection planning process.

As I noted to our readers over a year ago, we switched our newsletter focus to woody biomass because of the fire issue. Since that time woody biomass has taken on a different focus as a source of energy and bio chemicals.

The National Woodland Owners Association, one of our advisors, focuses on biomass in its most recent magazine. We are inserting this magazine for your enjoyment along with this issue of Forestry Notes.

NWTF's Women in the Outdoors Program

A recent survey conducted by the National Wild Turkey Federation has shown that one in five women are interested in hunting and four out of five are unaware of programs that teach outdoor skills. This presents a great opportunity for the NWTF and State Conservation Districts to work together to involve women in outdoor activities.

Women who learn about natural resource conservation and outdoor activities can teach these values to their children, ensuring that conservation will have champions for generations to come.

The NWTF has such a program called "Women In The Outdoors." The mission of the Women in the Outdoors program is to provide exciting and hands-on outdoor learning for women ages 14 and older. The goals of the program are to teach the importance of managing our wildlife, forests, and other natural resources; increase participation in outdoor-related activities; and to share hunting traditions.

Through NWTF's Women In The Outdoors program, millions of women across the country are discovering that camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, shooting, canoeing, boating and bird watching are fun, relaxing and a great way to spend family time.

Women can learn these skills at events being held throughout the United States. The



Bonnie Booth and trophy gobbler.

NWTF's state and local chapters offer one-day events that are low cost, will fit into busy schedules, and are hosted at some of the most beautiful outdoor education sites in the country. The combination of sponsorship and local NWTF chapter support make it possible for the NWTF to offer these educational programs at low cost to participants.

The Women in the Outdoors membership has increased from 1,300 in 1998 to nearly 40,000 today. Each participant of an event becomes a member of the NWTF's women's program. As part of their annual \$25 membership, women receive the Women In The

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Grant SWCD Uses Title II Grants to Remove Invasives

The Grant Soil and Water Conservation District in Oregon has used a variety of grant sources to help clear juniper and invasive weeds from several ranches in a basin region. The efforts, referred to as the Upper South Fork John Day River Watershed Restoration Project, have cut 3,073 acres of juniper, and sprayed 4,448 acres of noxious weeds over the past three years.

Grant SWCD has secured Title II US Forest Service grants, part of the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000" as well as significant sums from the US Fish and Wildlife Service through its Partners for Wildlife Program, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). In all, Grant SWCD has worked with more than \$725,000

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The Brown ranch (above) was infiltrated with juniper before receiving assistance from Grant SWCD (Submitted photo).

South Dakota

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (GFP) offers many programs to private landowners that are directed at increasing wildlife populations by enhancing their survival, reports the Beadle Conservation

District, promoter of the program.

The woods habitat component of the private lands program assists with plantings that are large enough

to ensure wildlife survival in the worst possible winter weather and provides year round cover from predators. Most of the wildlife species of interest live on the ground, and woody habitat is designed to create cover at ground level.

To provide the best cover possible, only low growing trees and shrubs are planted in most wildlife shelterbelts. However, to accommodate alternate objectives such as providing farmstead wind protection, GFP program guidelines allow for 1 or 2 rows

of tall trees to be planted, in some shelterbelts.

The annual deadline for submitting applications for cost share is November 1st of the year preceding the scheduled planting of the woods cover. If applications exceed planting goals, applications will be ranked according to the potential wildlife benefits of plantings and funding will be allocated from highest to lowest ranked plantings until funding is exhausted.

Woody Habitat Program Guidelines

1. GFP reimburses producers 75% of costs incurred for planting woody habitat for wildlife. Payments are issued each year in October.

2. The maximum GFP payment per producer per year is \$3000 unless at least one shelterbelt to be planted is 8-12 rows wide and at least 3 acres, then the payment maximum is \$4000.

3. Woody wildlife planting criteria are as follows;

a. At least half of all rows planted must be either shrub, cedar, or juniper rows.

b. Woody plantings that are less than 3 acres and less than 9 rows wide may only contain shrubs and mid sized trees.

c. Shelterbelts that are at least 3 acres may include 1 or 2 rows of tall trees as long as at least 4 rows of shrubs and/or mid sized trees are planted immediately adjacent to each side of the tall tree row(s).

4. Eligible practices include costs incurred for: trees and shrubs, planting of trees and shrubs, fabric weed barrier, installation of fabric weed barrier.

Application for GFP woody habitat can be made through SD Department of Agriculture foresters, Conservation District offices, conservation officers, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service offices. Demand for these programs is such that funding is reserved for producers that are not involved in any type of fee hunting operation. However, producers retain and may regulate all hunting access privileges on enrolled lands.

For the program's complete details contact the Beadle CD, 605/352-2998.

Branching Out

Grant SWCD Uses Title II Grants ... continued from page 1

on the watershed restoration efforts.

In 2003, the district commissioned ABR Incorporated Environmental Research and Services to do an assessment of the watershed. ABR will also complete Project Effectiveness Monitoring of the area in accordance with a monitoring plan.

"Not only is (an assessment) a strong feature when you apply for grants," said District Manager Ken Delano, "but it has a real benefit to have another set of professional eyes look at the watershed, evaluate conditions and make sure our choice of treatments line up with what would be a general consensus of professionals of what's needed in the watershed."

The district also contracted with Neilson Natural Resources Consulting for ranch management and seeding plans for each of the seven private ranches involved in the project. The plans prioritize the acres that can naturally re-vegetate with desirable species of forage and ground cover and provide a tool for grazing management.

In 2003, the first phase of the project dealt with \$159,000 in funds. That money, said Delano, took care of some juniper removal, weed control and conifer removal from aspen stands. OWEB funds purchased an open bottom arched culvert and footings which were later installed by the Malheur National Forest to replace an existing undersized fish passage barrier culvert.

The district received more than \$350,000 in Title II grant funds for work in 2004 but did

not get funded in 2005. Grant SWCD has roughly \$150,000 remaining for project work this year. Those dollars are budgeted for touch up weed control and project area seeding. A 2006 grant was successful and a 2007 application is submitted. These funds will target riparian fencing, off-site stockwater facilities and fish barrier culvert replacements.

"We've been very fortunate to have significant funds to put toward a huge problem in that particular watershed," said Delano.

One way in which Grant SWCD has been able to use its money efficiently is through aerial seeding. The district contracts with a local helicopter pilot, who has a small helicopter that can fly close to ground to do a relatively efficient job of broadcast seeding. He is also equipped with GPS to do a precise job.

"He can cover a lot of acres in a day and it becomes relatively inexpensive to treat rough terrain," said Delano, who estimates seeding costs between \$12-15 per acre.

Delano gives much of the credit for the success of the Upper South Fork John Day River Watershed Restoration Project to the landowners.

"This project is a huge benefit to them, but it's a public benefit, too" said Delano. "Without the concern and perseverance of the private landowners to stay in these projects year after year we wouldn't be able to do the watershed enhancement in that basin that we have."

One of those landowners is Phil St. Clair,

who also happens to serve as chairman of the Upper South Fork Watershed Council. More than 250 acres of St. Clair's ranch have been treated so far at an approximate cost of \$42 per acre. Said St. Clair, "The Grant SWCD has a good track record in the state of Oregon. I brag about them all of the time."

Delano has been encouraged by the results of the weed control efforts and believes there might be reason to do more of it in a basin region the district has been cleaning up for years.

As far back as 1988, Grant SWCD has been improving conditions in the 389,000-acre basin. It has completed stream bank stabilization, put in a significant number of miles of riparian protection fencing and rebuilt diversion dams for fish passage. Grant SWCD spent the better part of \$1 million on those efforts, according to Delano. Now the district hopes to continue to clean up the invasives throughout the region, depending on how effective their recent efforts prove to be.

"We will have enough information to tell us that the juniper treatment is providing more water on a significant level to the watershed flow functions and then we'll try to go on with more juniper control and try to build it into everybody's work plan on the private lands," said Delano.

For more information on this project, contact Ken Delano at 541/575-0135 extension 105, or email him at kendelano@centurytel.net.

Jefferson SWCD uses two foresters to its advantage

Forest management challenges vary across the country. One constant regardless of the region seems to be the battle to control invasive species. Another is the struggle to meet the needs of all of the landowners in a given region. In New York State, a conservation district relies on the expertise of two staff foresters to address these and other issues.

Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, located on the northwestern border of the state, has had the foresters on staff for the past six years. This has allowed the district to tackle more ground, said District Executive Director Brian Wohnsiedler, who is also a forester.

"It's allowed us to reach out to additional landowners that we wouldn't have serviced for Farm Bill and New York State Ag Nonpoint Source Control projects and programs," said Wohnsiedler. "It's also advantageous to reach out to non-industrial forest landowners because they make up a large percentage of the non-developed land in the county."

Both foresters are active in timber management, he said, and help maintain the 6,000 acres of public forest property the district oversees. Said Wohnsiedler, having Gary Eddy and Nick Tibbetts on board helps Jefferson SWCD do more trail work in that forest land.

Jefferson SWCD aids local landowners

with forest management plans. Eddy said the district has been involved in the USDA Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program since 1999.

"It's really been taking off in the last couple of years," said Eddy. "As timber prices have gone up, and people have become more aware of timber theft and forest issues, our calls have gone up from about two or three a year to 25 or 30."

One reason why the district has been sought out to help has been a decline in the number of available state foresters, said Eddy. Jefferson SWCD does work with area state foresters to receive technical assistance for pest management.

Jefferson SWCD had tried just about everything to get rid of invasive vegetation before deciding that using herbicides was its best option. The most troublesome invasive in the county is swallow wort, an aggressive herbaceous perennial twining plant. To begin the removal process, district conservationists first identified where it was growing in the county, and if they could draw a correlation to outside factors, such as soil type, geology, land use or forest cover type.

"We discovered that it was much more established than what we first thought," said Wohnsiedler. The invasive is isolated to Lake Ontario shores, where clayey soil over limestone bedrock is common. Swallow wort also grows rampant in area pasture

lands, he said.

By way of a distinctive partnership, the district was able to make some progress in eliminating the plant. It started when The Nature Conservancy formed a task force (to service the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Weed Management Area) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell University's Cooperative Extension program. Each agency was willing to donate staff hours to address conservation needs in the area. The group turned to Jefferson SWCD to help with agricultural lands.

When it comes to insect pest, one of the major challenges the group has dealt with is the forest tent caterpillar. The caterpillar has defoliated hundreds of thousands of acres throughout the Adirondacks Mountains in the Black River Valley. In the past several years, the district has treated thousands of acres, and has even employed a local pilot to help aerially spray thousands of acres that could not be easily managed from the ground.

The group works with the Black River Resource Conservation and Development Council and hosts workshops to monitor pests in forestlands. Some of those conferences have welcomed as many as 150 interested landowners.

"We follow the pest alerts, and we talk to our neighboring counties to see if there has been movement," said Wohnsiedler. "Then, if and when they do arrive, we monitor their movement."

The group has also begun to monitor several other pests, including the Asian long-horn beetle, the Sirex wood wasp, and the emerald ash bore.

For more information, contact Brian Wohnsiedler at 315/782-2749 or email him at brian-wohnsiedler@ny.nacdnet.org.

"It's allowed us to reach out to additional landowners that we wouldn't have serviced for Farm Bill and New York State Ag Nonpoint Source Control projects and programs"

District Executive Director Brian Wohnsiedler on the advantages of having two full-time foresters on staff

Mountain Pine Beetle Activity in the Western States

Mountain pine beetle, a severe native pest of many pine species, was recently featured on the front page of the Washington Post. Large infestations have been part of the western landscape in the past both in Canada and the United States. In 2004, over 3 million acres of pine forests, principally in CA, CO, ID, MT, OR, WA and WY experienced mortality and the trend is increasing. Canada has more extensive, contiguous, even-aged lodgepole pine stands than the United States; thus the infestation in Canada is more widespread - over 21 million acres. The United States is not likely to experience epidemics this large. Like many other forest insects,

conditions such as dense overstocked forests, drought, and warm summer temperatures favor population expansion. The role of climate change at this point is not fully understood.

In a "Washington Post" article of March 6 written by Doug Struck, scientists see a link between mild winters and population explosion of the voracious mountain pine beetle. The bug is killing more trees than wildfires or logging. "It's pretty gut-wrenching," said Allan Carroll, a research scientist at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria, B.C., whose studies tracked a lock step between warmer winters and the spread of the beetle.

"People say climate change is something for our kids to worry about. No. It's now." Scientists fear the beetle will cross the Rocky Mountains and sweep across the northern continent into areas where it used to be killed by severe cold, but where winters now are comparatively mild. Officials in neighboring Alberta are setting fires and traps and felling thousands of trees in an attempt to keep the beetle at bay.

Pine species affected include: lodgepole, ponderosa, sugar and western white.

For specific information about pine beetle infestation in your state, contact the office of your State Forester.

NACD, Coalition Work on Forestry Bill

The House Resources and Agriculture Committees passed out of committee H.R. 4200, the forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. FERRA would provide federal land managers authority to quickly recover forest landscapes after disaster strikes, such as hurricanes, fires, floods and disease and insect infestations. The bill follows the success of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, signed by the President in 2003, which provided the tools to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, reports NACD's Laura McNichol.

The legislation would also provide tools for non-federal land managers by enhancing agencies' cooperative authority to help prepare cross ownership assessments of damage and needs following catastrophes when

asked, which includes assistance in preparing Community Wildfire Protection Plans. H.R. 4200 also authorizes and funds research on restoration projects to provide sound peer reviewed science to inform future management decisions.

NACD expressed support for the bill through a letter from NACD President Bill Wilson to Representative Greg Walden (R-Ore.), the bill's sponsor. A copy of Wilson's letter can be found at <http://www.nacdnet.org/govtaff/testimony/FERRA.htm>

NACD is also actively working with a coalition of groups, including the National Assn. of State Foresters, American Forests & Paper Assn., Society of American Foresters, National Assn. of Counties and others, to pass this legislation in the full House.

Turkey Federation ... continued from pg 1

Outdoors magazine. This award winning magazine is a quarterly publication that features great articles about conservation and enjoying the outdoors.

- The number of women's events has increased from 18 in 1998 to nearly 400 today. Our goal for 2006 is to host 453 events all across the U.S. and Canada

- Through the Women in the Outdoors program, NWTF is teaching the importance of wildlife and forest management, increasing participation in outdoor activities, and helping to preserve the hunting tradition.

For more information about how you or your conservation district can become involved in NWTF's "Women in the Outdoors" program or to find an event near you, check out www.womenintheoutdoors.org or call 1-800-THE-NWTF.

Editor's Note: Many Conservation District women are involved in this and related state programs. For example, Bonnie Booth, Worcester County Conservation District Administrator, has been a member of the steering committee for the "Massachusetts Chapter on Becoming an Outdoors Woman," a sister program of NWTF's.

The Mass. Chapter conducts 10 - 12 programs annually. It just completed a turkey hunt on May 1st in which 12 women participated. Bonnie was successful in bagging a bird (see photo).

"The purpose of our chapter is to teach women to hunt, fish, kayak, etc.," says Booth. "Also, we teach them the principles of conservation, a mission of Conservation Districts." Booth can be reached by phoning the District at 508/829-6628 x5.

Conservation Calendar

- **June 2 - 3** - Well Managed Forests for Community Well-Being, Palisade, NM. Contact: Mark Jacobs at mjacobs@co.aitkin.mn.us
- **June 5 - 8** - 30th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, Fairbanks, AK. Contact: Joann Reynolds, 503/282-4296 or its1@teleport.com
- **June 10 - 13** - Trees Florida: 2 - 6 Conference & Trade Show, Fort Meyers, FL. Contact: FL Urban Forestry Council, 941/342-0153
- **June 13** - Cross Training for Loggers & Foresters, Turtle Lake, WI. Contact: Amy Marquardt, 800/551-2656 or amy.marquardt@fistausa.org
- **June 19 - 21** - Community Forestry at its Best National Conference, Nebraska City, NE. Contact: Mathew Fong, 402/474-5655, x243 or mfong@arbdoy.org
- **June 22 -25** - Quality Deer Management 6th Annual National Convention & Whitetail Expo, King of Prussia, PA. Contact: Kip Adams, 814/326-4023 or kadams@qdma.com
- **July 22 - 26** - 2006 Soil & Water Conservation Society Annual Conference, Keystone, CO. Contact: Kristin Smith, 336/370-3362 or Kristin.smith@gnb.usda.gov

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FORESTRY NOTES

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