



Family Forest Stewardship: Getting to the Next Million Acres

A Conference of the Vital Forests/Vital Communities Initiative

Presenter Backgrounds And Abstracts



BLANDIN FOUNDATION™

PUBLIC POLICY & ENGAGEMENT

Doug Anderson

*Community & Private Lands Program Supervisor, MN DNR Division of Forestry
St. Paul, Minnesota*

Background

Doug has worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources since 1975. He worked in a variety of northern Minnesota locations for the DNR before transferring to St. Paul in 1994. He has been the Community and Private Lands Program Supervisor since 2002.

Doug earned a B.A. in History in 1971 and a B.S. in Forestry in 1975, both from the University of Minnesota.

Presentation Abstract

“Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry”

The role of the Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry in private forest land management in Minnesota is to provide leadership and facilitate a central organizational unit for that effort. The Forest Stewardship Committee has representatives from the entire spectrum of natural resource management organizations in the state. The committee works with the Division of Forestry to provide standards and a common format for Forest Stewardship plans and cost share programs.

The Division of Forestry has just completed a scoping process to examine what would need to be implemented in the Stewardship program to make it acceptable for third-party certification of private lands in Minnesota. No proposal has been put forward, but the Stewardship Committee thought it might be prudent to have this assessment completed to address any future discussions concerning certification.

The Division of Forestry is committed to growing the private forest management program in Minnesota. While there might be slight increases in the Division's complement, the main increase of workforce will have to come from an expanded private consultant base. The Division of Forestry will work to expand this base and collaborate with other partners to provide additional opportunities for private forest landowners.

Kathryn Fernholz

Executive Director, Dovetail Partners, Inc.

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Background

Kathryn is the Executive Director of Dovetail Partners, a non-profit located in White Bear Lake, Minnesota that collaborates to develop unique concepts, systems, programs and models to foster sustainable forestry and catalyze responsible trade and consumption.

Kathryn has worked on forest management in a range of roles. With a consulting firm from 1997 - 1999, Kathryn was a member of the environmental department and assisted with natural resource inventories, reporting and environmental impact assessments including the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). While working with the Community Forestry Resource Center from 1999 to 2004, Kathryn managed a group certification project for family forests and worked to increase local capacity to provide forest management and marketing services that are compatible with certification standards and the needs of family forest owners.

Kathryn has served as Chair of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and was appointed to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. Kathryn is a member of the Advisory Board for the Vital Forests/Vital Communities Initiative of the Blandin Foundation. Kathryn has a B.S. in Forest Resources from the University of Minnesota and also studied at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, MN and Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska.

Presentation Abstract

“Improving Stewardship Through Local Woodland Owner Organizations”

One mechanism for increasing the capacity to engage landowners in forest management is through the initiatives of local woodland owner organizations. These organizations can provide education and management assistance to members and other local landowners and also help establish partnerships that connect woodland owner organizations with each other and with other service providers such as public and private natural resource professionals. This presentation shares information about some of the woodland owner organizations in Minnesota and the activities they are engaged in that help encourage forest management on private woodlands. The presentation briefly touches on efforts in other states to increase the effectiveness of local woodland owner organizations in assisting with forest management.

Leland Kessler

President, Minnesota Association of Consulting Foresters

Deer River, Minnesota

Background

Leland and wife Stephanie are owners of Red Oak Consulting, providing stewardship plans, timber appraisals and other forestry-related services since 1993. Leland has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He is President of the Minnesota Association of Consulting Foresters, a Society of American Forester Certified Forester and currently sits on the Minnesota State Stewardship Committee.

Presentation Abstract

“Increasing Consulting Foresters in Minnesota”

To meet the goal of 2.3 million private acres under sustainable management by the year 2015, an increase in the number of Consulting Foresters that write stewardship plans will be needed. Currently there are 30 consulting foresters, the equivalent of approximately 30 government foresters, and ten industrial foresters servicing the needs of private landowners. These professionals will likely be unable to service all landowners needed to reach our goal of 2.3 million acres practicing sustainable management.

It is estimated that 80 to 100 foresters working full time will be needed to service landowners when our goal is reached. Consulting Foresters typically work with private landowners and excel at managing private lands. Consultants would be the perfect fit to fill this need for additional resource professionals. The utilization of 80 to 100 foresters will require additional and consistent funding at various levels and from various sources. Possible sources include landowners, taxpayers and non-profit organizations and foundations.

Reaching our acreage goal and providing more resource professionals would sustain Minnesota as a leading state in private lands management efforts. Our goal would also continue to raise the bar for private lands management.

Thomas Kroll

*Land Manager and Arboretum Director, Saint John's Abbey and University
Collegeville, Minnesota*

Background

Thomas is a forester serving as the Land Manager and Arboretum Director for Saint John's Abbey and University's 2,500 acres in central Minnesota. He's been there since 2001. Prior to that, he worked for the Minnesota DNR for over 20 years, focusing on private land stewardship. Way back in his career, he also worked in Alaska, Montana and Germany.

He serves on the Minnesota Forest Stewardship Committee. He also works as an information officer with wildfire overhead teams.

Tom grew up on a century dairy farm in central Minnesota that is still operated by his brother. He lives near Long Prairie with his wife Mary, who also graduated from the University of Minnesota with a forestry degree. He enjoys helping out on the family farm, using horses to ride and drive, making maple syrup and family vacations.

Presentation Abstract

"The Future of Family Forests"

Family Forests are a critical component of Minnesota's ecological and economic forest base. To assure the health of these lands into the future, three factors must be met:

- 1) Family forest landowners must be engaged and willing to participate in land stewardship.
- 2) A large share of the land base has to remain undeveloped and in reasonably large parcels.
- 3) Foresters and other natural resource professionals need to provide willing landowners with advice and products the landowners want - and guarantee that this assistance assures land stewardship.

Natural resource professionals need to provide information and outreach that grabs the attention of landowners. The parcelization of land and the unfair weight of property taxes on undeveloped land need to be addressed. Forest Stewardship plans provide a useful tool to meet the needs of landowners and their land, but at least 80 FTE's of private and public sector field foresters and other natural resource professionals will be needed to care for 2,300,000 acres of family forests.

Mike Majeski

Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator, USDA Forest Service

St. Paul, Minnesota

Background

Mike is a Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator with the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. He works with the seven Upper Midwestern States.

He joined the Forest Service in 1974, and has worked his entire career in Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. Most of his Forest Service experience has been in Watershed Planning with Natural Resources Conservation Service's Small Watershed Program. He has also worked with Resource Conservation & Development Councils, served as a Forest Service liaison to National Association of Conservation Districts, and as staff to the National Agroforestry Center.

Mike graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1970 with a B.S. in Multiple Use Forest Management. He earned a Masters degree in Forest Hydrology from the University of Minnesota in 1974.

Doug McKenzie-Mohr

McKenzie-Mohr & Associates

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Background

For over fifteen years Dr. McKenzie-Mohr has been working to incorporate scientific knowledge on behavior change into the design and delivery of community programs. As the founder of community-based social marketing, he has repeatedly illustrated its utility in his research and consulting. With over 20,000 copies in print, his book, "Fostering Sustainable Behavior: An Introduction to Community-Based Social Marketing," has become requisite reading for those who deliver programs to promote sustainable behavior. Similarly, over 20,000 program managers have enthusiastically received workshops that he has delivered internationally on this topic. Dr. McKenzie-Mohr is also the author of the Fostering Sustainable Behavior website and electronic newsletter. Recently, he launched the Fostering Sustainable Behavior Listserv, which has over 2500 subscribers.

As a consultant, Dr. McKenzie-Mohr has worked with a diverse array of clients, assisting them in identifying the barriers to behavior change and in developing and evaluating community-based social marketing initiatives to overcome these barriers. Dr. McKenzie-Mohr has served as an advisor for Canada's public education efforts on climate change, as the coordinator of the international organization, "Holis: The Society for a Sustainable Future," and as a member of the Canadian Education Task Force of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. He has been awarded the Canadian Psychological Association's "Psychologists for Social Responsibility Research and Social Action Award," and the "Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Public Advocacy Fellowship." He is a Professor of Psychology at St. Thomas University in Canada where he co-coordinates the Environment and Society program.

Dr. McKenzie-Mohr earned his Ph.D. from the University of Waterloo in 1988. He earned his M.A. from the University of Waterloo in 1987. He graduated with a B.A. from the University of Manitoba in 1982 with First Class Honours.

Presentation Abstract

"Fostering Sustainable Management Practices by Family Forest Owners"

This presentation will introduce community-based social marketing and illustrate how it can be utilized to foster "Family Forest Stewardship" and the goal of another million acres of forest under sustainable management. This address will cover how to: select which behaviors to target, uncover the barriers to these behaviors, develop strategies to overcome these barriers, and how to pilot a strategy prior to broad scale implementation.

E.G. Nadeau

Cooperative Development Services

Madison, Wisconsin

Background

E.G. is the director of research, planning and development for Cooperative Development Services (CDS). He has provided strategic planning and business development services to cooperatives and community-based organizations for over 30 years. During the past eight years he has provided development assistance to over 20 forest owner cooperatives and associations and has helped to organize over 30 workshops for family forest owners.

E.G. is the lead author and editor of ***BALANCING ECOLOGY AND ECONOMICS: A Start-up Guide for Forest Owner Cooperation*** and of ***Taking Care of Family Forests in Minnesota***, a report on family forest management based on 24 case studies.

E.G. has a Ph.D. in Sociology and a minor in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Presentation Abstract

“Lessons Learned and Recommendations from TAKING CARE OF FAMILY FORESTS IN MINNESOTA”

(Report available online at http://www.blandinfoundation.org/html/public_vital_grants_projects.cfm under the heading, “Family Forest Land Management Research Projects”)

Liz Howard, Kevin Edberg and I completed a report for the Vital Forests/Vital Communities Initiative of the Blandin Foundation in July 2005. The purpose of the report was to identify ways to increase the number of acres of sustainably managed family forests in Minnesota and elsewhere in the United States. The report was based primarily on research on 24 family forest management programs in the United States, Canada and Europe. The report also contained information and analysis based on interviews with forestry professionals and on documentary research.

We identified ten lessons learned in the report and presented five recommendations for increasing family forest acreage under sustainable management in Minnesota over the next ten years.

The key lessons learned were the need for adequate financial incentives for woodland owners to manage their forests; appropriate sources of financial incentives; a simple application process; minimum acreage requirements to receive incentive payments; adequate time commitments for incentive programs; recognition of multiple forest management goals; accountability; incentives for multi-property plans and plan implementation; third party-certification; and financing for family forest management associations and cooperatives.

Eli Sagor

*Regional Extension Educator, Natural Resource Management and Utilization,
University of MN Extension Service*

St. Paul, Minnesota

Background

Eli is an Extension educator and natural resources management and utilization program leader with the University of Minnesota Extension Service. His programs are designed to help private woodland owners make informed land stewardship decisions. Recent projects focus on Internet-based content delivery and patterns and trends in ownership of Minnesota's private forest lands. Eli's office is on the St. Paul campus. He has been with the University of Minnesota since March of 2000.

Presentation Abstract

“New Approaches for the Next Million: Woodland Owner Outreach”

The Forest Stewardship Program and all the various contributors and partners have achieved unprecedented levels of landowner engagement, with over one million acres of Stewardship plans in place. However, the next million will be different from the first. Changing ownership patterns and demographics make current woodland owners less connected to local communities, busier than ever, and less knowledgeable about forest ecology and management. Many landowners have no experience with woodland management and few connections with other local landowners, loggers, or professional foresters.

Three things can help bring new landowners and acres into the fold: convenient access to quality, clear information; relationships with other landowners and local natural resource professionals; and more face-to-face and field-based learning opportunities.

Making quality content available online can eliminate the barriers of time and place, making information accessible to busy absentee owners. Question and answer forums can allow landowners to get answers from professionals and peers in a non-threatening environment. An online Forestry Assistance Locator can put landowners in touch with professional loggers and foresters from the public and private sectors. All of these tools can encourage and facilitate direct personal connections between landowners and foresters – if foresters participate. These connections are an important step toward active woodland management.

Strengthening landowner networks can create efficiencies for foresters, give landowners confidence in their decisions and build trust between landowners and natural resource professionals. As parcel sizes decline, cross-boundary management will become increasingly necessary. Group management plans that meet certification standards and retain landowner control have potential to promote sustainable management.

Adequate funding to support face-to-face, field-based learning opportunities is also critical. Currently 35-50 Woodland Advisor classes and similar events are offered each year. Evaluations tell us that participants highly value the relationships, interaction and content at these events, but they're expensive to organize. Additional funding would allow significantly more opportunities for field-based classes taught by local professionals.

Reaching the next million will require innovation. Progress is already being made on some of these ideas. These tools will encourage landowner contact with professional foresters, participation in field-based and face-to-face learning opportunities, and active forest management. The success of these initiatives will depend on how actively professional foresters participate, share their knowledge and reach out to landowners.

May 25, 2006
Saint John's University
Collegeville, Minnesota