

Stories from Ten Working Forests

A Middlebury College FALL 2010 ES-401 Project

Introduction

The primary goal of the *HEALTHY WATERSHEDS~HOME WOODSHEDS PROJECT* is to develop a strategy for conserving water quality in the managed timberlands of the Five-Town Forest. It is hoped that this strategy will be: ecological, economical, and ethical; effective even with increased harvesting of forest biomass; and of real value to woodland stewards and town conservation commissions.

Specific objectives for the project are to:

1. To characterize the science, art, and craft of water quality conservation as practiced in a variety of working woodlands located in the headwaters of the Five-Town Forest;
2. To identify existing challenges and opportunities for achieving full compliance with the AMPs on working woodlands in the Five-Town Forest; and
3. To develop strategies that will enhance the conservation of water quality while harvesting more forest biomass in the headwaters of the Five-Town Forest.

The project will involve ten forests that have excellent forest conservation stories to tell and learning to share. We would like to celebrate one or more successful methods, processes, or techniques used to conserve water quality in each of the participating forests.

This project is not an assessment and any issues or challenges associated with conserving water quality that may be identified will not be attributed to a particular forest. These instructive stories will be woven into the larger story or characterization of water quality conservation on working forests of *The Five-Town Forest*. We will not publish issues associated with any property.

We are asking owners of five family-owned forests, two town-owned forests, one non profit-owned forest, one state forest, and one industrial forest to help us tell their forest's story. These stories will be gathered in two primary ways: 1. Interviews with a key steward or member of the forest and 2. Site visits to examine a portion of the forest.

Interviews

There are currently ten students in the class. After several weeks of instruction and inquiry, one student will be assigned per forest. The format for the interviews will be informal but structured such that each of the ten interviews is very similar. Students will ask to tape record the interview but this is not essential. The tape will ONLY be used to help the student accurately capture the interview. Any quotes that emerge from the interview will be edited and approved by the person being interviewed. The interview process should take about 1 hour to complete.

Site Visits

Data will be gathered on recently-used truck roads, skid trails, forwarding paths, log landings, and stream crossings as well as condition of streams, stream protective strips, and buffer zones. Data will be gathered on slope, water body type, soil drainage, surface erosion type, protective strip canopy condition, stream condition, stream crossing type, and functioning drainage structures. At most, 1/3 mile of skid trail, 1/2 mile of truck road, and 1/2 mile of stream will be assessed. Photographs will also be taken. It is estimated that each assessment will take about 4-5 hours.

Presentation of Project Results

A final report will detail methods, key findings, and recommendations. It is hoped that one or more excellent examples of water quality conservation will be reported for each forest. Any issues that are encountered will be generalized and not attributed to any one parcel or ownership type.

THANK YOU! We hope you will agree to participate in this *HEALTHY WATERSHEDS~HOME WOODSHEDS PROJECT!*

ALSO:

Please mark you calendar. Saturday, October 23rd from 9 a.m. to Noon. A walking tour at the Waterworks Property, Plank Road, Bristol. *Conserving Water Quality While Harvesting More Forest Biomass*. DETAILS TO FOLLOW at: www.familyforests.org