



Ecological Forestry in the Central Appalachians



THE CONSERVATION FORESTRY NETWORK



Division of Forestry and Natural Resources

A workshop incorporating natural models into silviculture

Graceland Inn and Conference Center
Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, WV
October 22-23, 2008



Ecological forestry uses silviculture and management techniques that mimic ecological processes that have shaped our forests for thousands of years. Ecological forest management creates forest structures and functions that promote diverse and healthy forests across the landscape.

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Workshop objective:

To introduce core principles of natural disturbance and natural development-based silviculture, and matrix management paradigms, through classroom lecture, discussion, and field visits to innovative projects that implement these principles.

Background:

This workshop builds upon an ongoing training program on ecological forestry organized by the Conservation Forestry Network and the Northern Research Station with numerous other partners. The Conservation Forestry Network aims to improve forest practices across North America by bringing together experts, land managers, stakeholders and decision-makers to learn, shape, and share innovative practices across the diverse range of American forests and communities. Regional workshops have been conducted in Oregon, Maine, Georgia, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Workshop technical description:

Increasingly, forest managers and policy makers are discussing emulation of natural disturbance regimes as a model for management. Using these ideas more fully in silvicultural practices is the basis of an ecological forestry approach. Understanding the importance of biological legacies, recognizing the role of stand development processes and disturbances, and appreciating the role of recovery periods between disturbance events are the principal concepts of ecological forestry. In this workshop, we also recognize that forest management options are often limited by economic realities, social desires, and past management practices. Therefore, we also will include presentations regarding market outlooks, forest certification, invasive species, wildlife objectives, forest restoration, and climate change and how these issues relate to an ecological forestry approach to management scenarios ranging from commodity production to reserve management.

When:

October 22-23, 2008

Where:

Lectures will be at Graceland Inn and Conference Center (www.gracelandinn.com) on the campus of Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, WV with a field trip to the Fernow Experimental Forest and surrounding Monongahela National Forest.

Instructors:

Dr. Brian Palik, USFS Northern Research Station, Grand Rapids, MN
Dr. James Rentch, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
Dr. Cindy Huebner, USFS Northern Research Station, Morgantown, WV
Mr. Michael Ferruci, Private Forestry Consultant and SFI® Program Manager, Bradford, CT
Dr. Gary Griffen, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
Dr. Mark Ford, USFS Northern Research Station, Parsons, WV
Dr. Tom Schuler, USFS Northern Research Station, Parsons WV
Dr. Louis Iverson, USFS Northern Research Station, Delaware, OH
Dr. Al Schuler, USFS Northern Research Station, Princeton, WV

Workshop coordinators and sponsors:

USFS Northern Research Station, The Conservation Forestry Network, and West Virginia University.

Registration Fee (includes): \$190.00

- Workshop binder and CD
- Meeting room and facilities
- Transportation to and from field sites
- Meals: Wednesday morning coffee break, lunch, and dinner, and Thursday breakfast and box lunch

Lodging:

Participants must make their own lodging accommodations. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Graceland Inn (800-624-3157). Other hotels in Elkins include the Holiday Inn Express, etc.

Target Audience:

Central Appalachian Natural Resource Management Departments
Natural resources Organizations
National Forest
DNR's
County Land Management Personnel
Conservation Organizations
Private Forestry and Environmental Consultants

Format: Two day workshop.

-Day 1 (Indoors):

- 1) Introduction to the concepts of ecological forestry
- 2) History of disturbance and exploitation in the Central Appalachians
- 3) Regional context of applying ecological forestry
- 4) Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the private landowner
- 5) Ecological forestry and remaining competitive in a global market
- 6) Global climate change, long rotations, and ecological forestry
- 7) Invasive species mitigation when emulating natural disturbances
- 8) American chestnut restoration update and opportunities
- 9) Wildlife management using ecological forestry principles
- 10) Panel discussion

- Day 2 (Field visits):

Field visits, with presentations and discussions that highlight innovative application of ecological forestry principals using patch clearcuts with reserves, two-age management, prescribed burning for oak sustainability, prescribed burning for wild-life enhancement, high-elevation spruce restoration, riparian and hemlock management considerations, structural old-growth characteristics, and long-term effects of uneven-age management using single-tree selection.

Payment:

Registrations are being accepted by West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Natural Resources. Please contact Sue Dimmick (information below).



Oak and grass dominance of a fire created opening in eastern West Virginia

For Registration Information Please Contact:

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