




## 2011 Year in Review

In 2011, the Forest Guild advanced our vision of how forests can provide economic and social benefit without compromising long-term ecological health. Some highlights from the past year include:

- **Developing and implementing sustainable biomass harvesting guidelines.** The Forest Guild initiated development of sustainable biomass harvesting and retention guidelines for Southeast forest types and worked to implement guidelines for Northeast forest types. Forest Guild guidelines are being used to guide local harvesting practices, state harvesting policy, bioenergy procurement, and forested watershed management practices. 
- **Hosting six regional meetings and gatherings** for forestry professionals across the U.S. Gathering Forest Guild members and friends to discuss a wide range of issues and topics gives them the opportunity to learn from each other and nourish their spirits. 
- **Publishing three knowledge syntheses that combined the best existing science and the place-based experience of Forest Guild stewards.** The Forest Guild worked with partners to create syntheses of science and experience on the carbon in lying dead wood, the habitat value of dead wood in the Southeast, and fuel reduction treatments in Western mixed conifer forests. 
- **Designating the first Forest Guild Model Forest in the Lake States region.** Forest Guild professional member Mark Jacobs is the forest manager of The Cornish and Libby forests in Aitkin County, MN.
- **Advancing community forestry by providing hands-on technical assistance and restoring forests.** The Forest Guild provided hands-on technical assistance to forest-based communities, tribes, and land grants in areas of ecological, socioeconomic, wildlife, multiparty monitoring, and proposal writing and development.
- **Promoting ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable forestry in national policy.** Utilizing our place-based experience and sound science, the Forest Guild provided comments on the EPA's Tailoring Rule related to biomass and carbon, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and the H2B regulations for forest workers.
- **Sharing forest wisdom.** The Forest Guild worked to share our collective knowledge about forests through issues of our national publication *Forest Wisdom* on fire, recreation and sustainable biomass harvesting. We also hosted or participated in eight webinars on topics including forest biomass, fire, and invasive species.
- **Engaging youth in conservation.** Since 1999, the Forest Guild has sponsored a summer youth conservation corps forestry program in New Mexico and has trained over 500 local youth in forestry management practices and restoration work. 

## 2012 Outlook

The outlook for 2012 is bright. Forest Guild membership is strong. Organizations, individuals, and policy makers increasingly turn to us for help because of the wisdom of our members and our history of careful, practical forest stewardship. Our programming efforts in 2012 will be focused on responsible forest stewardship, applied forest research, community forestry, forest policy, and service to the forestry profession:

- **Promote and demonstrate sustainable biomass harvesting guidelines in Northeast, Southeast, and Pacific Northwest regions.** For regions that face the largest pressures from increased biomass harvesting, it is essential that sustainable biomass harvesting guidelines be developed to help protect forest ecosystems. We will conduct demonstration harvests and offer field training opportunities for interested landowners, foresters and other natural resource professionals, loggers, and forestry students. 
- **Research and develop strategies for sustainable forested watershed management practices and payment for ecosystem services options.** The Forest Guild will analyze successful management models that address water quantity and quality for urban areas, synthesize lessons learned, and identify sustainable forest management actions.
- **Provide services that add value to the forestry profession.** The strength of the Forest Guild lies with its members. We will continue to offer meetings, workshops, and field tours for all forest stewards who responsibly manage our nations' forests.
- **Engage youth and college students in the practice of forestry.** Future forestry leaders are needed to address the challenges facing forests and to help landowners make informed management decisions. The Forest Guild will work with colleges and universities to introduce students to sustainable, thoughtful forestry by initiating field tours and events with Guild foresters. 
- **Ensure that sustainable forestry practices are included in national forest policy.** The 2012 Farm Bill presents the greatest opportunity to develop policies and programs to protect and enhance the nation's private forestlands in the past 10 years. The Forest Guild will help decision makers understand which programs and resources are needed by rural communities, landowners, and businesses to both protect forests and support economic growth.
- **Answer the knowledge needs of progressive foresters through new synthesis of information.** The Forest Guild will work with members and partners to find opportunities to address pressing management challenges related to watershed forestry, adaptation to a changing climate, and invasive species management. 

We look forward to an exciting year! Be sure to visit [www.forestguild.org/join.html](http://www.forestguild.org/join.html) or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Google+](#), or [LinkedIn](#). Many thanks to our members and partners without whom none of this would be possible.