

Upper Mississippi River Roundtable on Sustainable Forest Management

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: The Upper Mississippi Regional Roundtable, to be held in Lacrosse Wisconsin, is hosted by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Partnership, a cooperative venture between the Midwest state foresters and the USFS Northeastern Area that seeks to focus and coordinate activities, demonstration projects and cooperative programs on key watershed forestry issues. The workshop is scheduled for March 23-24, 2004.

Key Issues: The goal of this Roundtable is to achieve a greater understanding among regional shareholders of the opportunities and challenges associated with sustainable forest management in the Upper Mississippi River Basin forests.

The meeting is structured around the seven widely recognized criteria of forest sustainability. These include forest biodiversity, productivity, health, soil and water resources, global carbon cycling, social and economic benefits of forests, and forest policy, law and institutions.

These criteria have been adopted as a framework for monitoring sustainability by the Northeastern Area and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters. We are also promoting the use of these criteria by other agencies and organizations.

The Roundtable helps achieve some important ends.

1. **KNOW:** Recognize the capacity of the national report, The State of the Nation's Forests, to guide national level discussions and to recognize the value of sustainable forest management criteria and indicators to local and regional efforts.
2. **EXCHANGE:** Gain understanding and exchange knowledge about the Upper Mississippi River Forests.
3. **VOICE:** Express concerns and ideas/suggestions regarding the social, economic and ecological needs of the Upper Mississippi River and its forests to national and regional policy and decision makers.
4. **ACT:** Provide input to the development of an action plan to make the Upper Mississippi River and its forests economically, ecologically and socially viable at the national, regional, and local levels.



Future Direction:

The Upper Mississippi Regional Roundtable is one of three in the nation co-sponsored by the National Sustainable Forests Roundtable, a multi-stakeholder group convened to promote sustainable forestry on public and private lands. The National Roundtable is compiling information from the three workshops and will provide information on the most effective means of furthering dialogue on issues of sustainability. The Northeastern Area will build on the lessons learned from the first series of workshops and hold additional workshops to help widen and deepen stakeholder discussions regarding forest sustainability.

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