

Rural Development Through Forestry

Forest-Based Economic Development in Iowa

The Challenge

How can we strengthen rural economies while at the same time conserve natural resources? The Northeastern Area's Economic Action Program helps communities develop projects that promote and sustain the use of forest resources. Along the way, our programs provide tangible results - expanded businesses, new jobs, more efficient use of wood products, and increased tourism.

The Rural Development Through Forestry program in Iowa is a spectacular success. Operated with a minimum of bureaucracy and a maximum of grass roots input, the program has produced lasting benefits for Iowa's rural economy.

Accomplishments

In 2000, the Rural Development Through Forestry Program resulted in over **485 jobs**, **\$9 million** in annual products and services, nearly **\$9 million** in annual value-added to businesses and **\$24 million** in annual economic activity. These accomplishments are the direct result of the Northeastern Area's financial and technical support to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Projects Underway

Viticulture Technical Assistance **\$107,500**

The Iowa Wine and Grape Industry will receive financial and technical assistance to improve the success of local vineyards. The Industry's goal is to

Iowa's forest-related employment is surprisingly high. In fact, forest industry employment in Iowa is double that of Montana!

-- American Forest and Paper Association



The Rural Development Through Forestry Program strengthens rural economics and conserves forest resources.

establish local sources for grape cuttings, initiate an apprentice program, and improve state-wide educational programming.

Loess Hills Red Cedar

Utilization and Marketing

\$ 80,000

This grant leveraged an additional \$520,000 from foundations and other Federal agencies to enable small businesses to market red cedar products and restore native prairies in the Loess Hills area of Iowa.

Wabash Trace Nature Trail

\$26,000

The 62-mile Wabash Trace Nature Trail is a popular biking and hiking destination in Iowa. The Northeastern Area provided technical and financial assistance for increased signage, upgraded restroom facilities, creation of a visitor information center, additional camping sites and a bicycle rental shop.

Cottonwood Timber Bridges

\$125,000

Ida County built five timber bridges constructed from native Iowa cottonwood. An Iowa hardwood sawmill prepared all the lumber for the bridge, and County work crews completed the installation. The project demonstrates the advantage of using local resources for short-span bridges in rural areas.



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
 State and Private Forestry

June 2002

For more information, contact:

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 Phone: 610-557-4103
 Email: kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Stephen Bratkovich, Util. Spec.
 1992 Folwell Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55108
 Phone: 651-649-5246
 Email: sbratkovich@fs.fed.us