

Upper Mississippi Forestry Partnership Summary Quarterly Progress report for period of March – June 2005

The Forest Service's Northeastern Area and the State Foresters from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana have joined in partnership to build a watershed-wide approach to forestry efforts in the Upper Mississippi Basin. The Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership focuses activities, demonstration projects, and cooperative programs on key watershed forestry issues.

The Upper Mississippi forestry Partnership is expected to increase the use of trees and forests to meet the overall objective of watershed protection in the Upper Mississippi River basin. In addition, the project is to achieve a heightened awareness of the role and importance of trees and forests by agencies and organizations working in the basin

The upper Mississippi Forestry Partnership has made significant progress on a number of fronts.

The migratory bird projects are in their second quarter and making progress. Reports from the 10 successful grant applicants are expected in soon. A meeting for grantees was proposed by the migratory bird implementation team to facilitate information sharing. The grant applicants appreciate the funding but feel the two years are not enough to make a significant difference but is better than doing nothing at all.

We got involved with the Mississippi river system forestry project. This project is being put together by the army corp. There is an opportunity for collaboration with the army corp. in the area of forest research through the north central research center, inventory through the FIA, and establishment of forests on public land with funding from Navigation and Environmental Sustainability Project.

A technical committee on information, education and communication is being established. This is being lead by Gina Childs out of the St Paul field office. I have enjoyed working wit this team. This team has Identified key messages, key people and opportunities to communicate the messages. The team also worked on a press release for the American elm restoration project.

In an effort to share information about the partnership I wrote articles on our effort. The articles were published in the North Eastern area planner's page and in the Wisconsin DNR timber line.

Work on the development of the Upper Mississippi forestry partnership website is going on well. The work was contracted out to a company called Infobahn this website will be hosted and maintained by the forest service Teri is working on the details of location and personnel for maintenance. The website will be up and running by the end of July/2005.

Work on the partnership Logo is almost finalized this task was also contracted out to Infobahn as well. This company was among the five that submitted bids and their

website and Logo samples were outstanding. Work on the logo will be finalized in the first week of July.

Work on convening a stakeholders meeting is going on well Iowa will be hosting this meeting in Dubuque. This work was contracted out to the Great Lakes Forest Alliance. The Great Lakes Forest Alliance is expected to work with the steering committee to put together a list of participants, an agenda and details on venue. We will have to work on the facilitation of the meeting.

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance is working on the development of a brochure. The brochure is being designed to give responses to the questions; who we are ? What are the issues?, Why should I care?, How do I get involved and contact information that includes website and address.

GIS hot spot mapping is going on at a good pace and is tagging along the Stewardship Analysis Project because of the time needed to merge the two projects, we have had to postpone the stakeholders meeting and the drafting of the investment plan for. But we are happy to give a sister project the help needed to move it along.

In the last steering committee meeting we agreed to start populating the implementation teams the Migratory bird implantation team and the information and education teams are up and running. The team on Agro forestry and riparian buffers is coming along the way and will be meeting in the June to August Quarter.

The steering committee is growing in membership and visibility. It is now time to strengthen the implementation team. This team will be generating issue and actions and advising the steering committee on specific details in their field.