UPPER MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP
Project Portfolio

Driftless Area Forest Stewardship Initiative

BACKGROUND
The Driftless area Forest Stewardship Initiative will increase the amount of private forest land in the Driftless Area under management, reduce forest fragmentation and improve forest health, and educate landowners and the public about the importance of forest lands in bird conservation. The Driftless Area encompasses three counties in SW Wisconsin. Partners in Flight has identified the Driftless Area as having particularly high potential for conserving and enhancing wildlife habitat values.

LOCATION
The Vernon, Crawford, and Richland counties in the Driftless Area of southwest Wisconsin.

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED
Habitat fragmentation in the Upper Mississippi River Basin had led to a large decline in songbirds populations. Because close to 50% of the Driftless Area is already forested there is a high potential for improving habitat in this region. Small changes in land-use could greatly enhance the habitat quality for neotropical migratory birds and other wildlife.

GOALS
- Increase the amount of private forest land under management in the project area.
- Reduce forest fragmentation.
- Educate landowners and the general public about forestry best management practices and the importance of forest lands in bird conservation.

RESULTS
- A forester has been hired and is a Certified Forest Stewardship Plan writer.
- Thirty forest stewardship plans have been written for 2,233 acres.
- 184 acres of timber were marked for sale.
- 10 acres of trees have been planted.
- Helped in restoration of 14 acres of prairie.
- Private landowners implemented 851 of management work on their own property.
- The Kickapoo Woods Cooperative has done management work on 828 acres.
- Assisted with 10 landowner workshops, about 830 landowners and forestry professionals attended.

OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS
The target forestry assisted raised the interest of local landowners as to their goals for their properties. During the time the forester was in place the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative added 74 new members. The targeted assistance also resulted additional forest management being implemented on the ground.

PARTNERS
- **Kickapoo Woods Cooperative**
- **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

Project Contact
Steven Bertjens, Coordinator
Southwest Badger RC&D
150 W. Alona Lane
Lancaster WI 53813
Phone: 608-723-6377 ext. 136
Fax: 608-723-4286
Email: steve.bertjens@wi.usda.gov

Federal Contact
Mike Prouty, Northeastern Area S&PF
1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul MN 55108
Phone: 651-649-5276
Fax: 651-649-5238
Email: mprouty@fs.fed.us

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The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and the Midwest State Foresters have joined in partnership to build a watershed-wide approach to forestry efforts in the Upper Mississippi watershed in order to improve water quality.