

Courageous Conservation

A sustainable future, a legacy of restoration

Our Vision Goals.....

Protect ecosystems across boundaries

This involves working with partners, using traditional and creative new approaches, to expand the amount of National Forest System land managed for public benefit. We will cooperatively manage ecosystems at the larger landscape level, using both traditional approaches and new models of interest-based public, tribal, and private collaboration.

- ☀ One example of this is the Shawnee National Forest's involvement in the Middle Mississippi River Partnership, a collaboration of 16 federal, state, and non-governmental organizations focused on the interactions between people and natural resources in a 195-mile stretch of the Mississippi River. The Shawnee is acquiring additional property via donation and purchase, converting marginal and frequently-flooded farmland into thriving hardwood forest, which yields multiple benefits to the land, wildlife, and recreating public.

Connect citizens to the land

This involves building greater capacity to engage citizens in our work by using partnerships, agreements, budgets, training and management to get work done. We will link potential partners and volunteers to high priority programs. We will increase communication, education, and outreach efforts to help users think globally and act locally.

- ☀ One example of this was a partnership in 2006 between the Eastern Region, Wildlife Forever, North American Fishing Club, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Sea Grant, and Babe Winkelman Productions to develop innovative educational messages to raise anglers's awareness of invasive species.

Walk the talk for sustainability

This involves developing a regional sustainability framework, setting the stage for better performance and a change in our agency culture. We are on the front edge of implementing national policy on green certification and environmental management system requirements. We will procure "green" (sustainable) products; construct green facilities; utilize alternative energy systems; and have an energy-efficient Forest Service fleet system.

- ☀ One example of this is the new Kawishiwi Ranger Station on the Superior National Forest in Ely, Minnesota, which is currently under construction utilizing "green" building principles. It is scheduled to be completed in Spring of 2007.

Revolutionize effectiveness and efficiency

This involves developing cost-efficient, easy-to-use information systems that facilitate work at multiple scales. We will work to increase the public benefits we deliver by working at broader scales, seamlessly managing information, and changing our regional management processes to facilitate flexible and effective results.

- ☀ One example of this was the utilization of video conferencing with the Eastern Region's forests and prairie and Regional Office in Fiscal Year 2006. This revolutionary method of communication allowed us to hold essential meetings and training sessions with the field while saving thousands of travel dollars.

Be an employer of choice

This involves recruiting employees using updated marketing and recruiting strategies. We will nurture a cultural change within the Region that embraces diversity in all its attributes. We will provide and fund ongoing training and development for employees, and reward employees who take risks and provide great leadership in pursuit of these vision goals.

- ☀ One example of this was the hiring of 23 diverse forester trainees through the Regional Recruitment Initiative.