

You are the Forest Manager

The Challenge

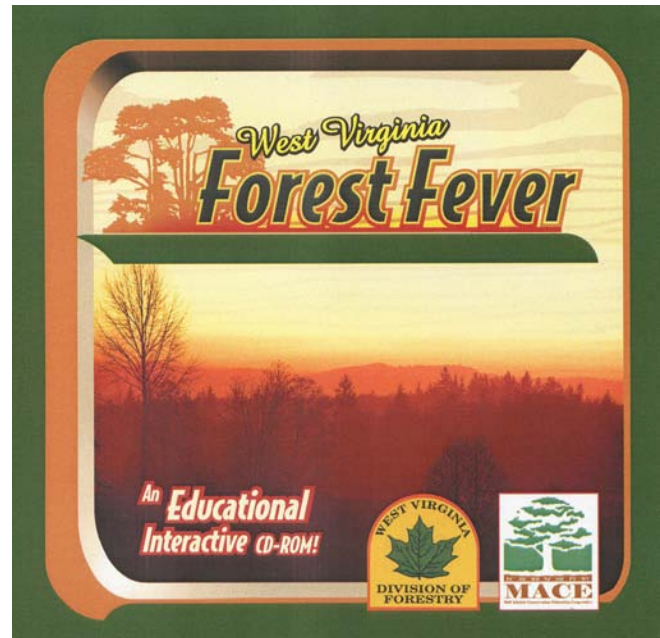
Conservation educators have difficulty teaching the concepts and principles of forest management to students because many schools are not close enough to managed forest land or any forest to make field trips feasible. In addition, students cannot see and experience how management practices affect forest conditions in the future during the allotted teaching time.

The Solution

The Mid-Atlantic Conservation Educators (MACE) cooperative, with representatives from New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, and the District of Columbia, worked with the USDA Forest Service and Interactive Training Media, Inc., to develop *Forest Fever*. This interactive CD-ROM illustrates the environmental, economic, and social effects of forest management and demonstrates how forest fires; hunting; wildlife management; tree harvesting and planting; road, trail, and campground construction; selling timber; and buffer zones affect forest management.

Students learn about the importance of balancing multiple management objectives by developing a management plan for a virtual forest. The computer program applies the management plan to the forest, and students can watch as the computer models forest changes over a 100-year timespan in just 5 minutes. Students can stop the simulation and make changes to their management plan at any time.

This interactive CD-ROM gives users the opportunity to be a forest manager and implement a management plan. Users can then track the results of the plan as the computer models the changing forest over time.



Forest Fever CD-ROM is an interactive educational tool.

Resulting Benefits

Students now have an educational tool that demonstrates the challenges and decisions forest managers face when managing a forest for multiple objectives. Resource materials for educators were also developed and are available for each State and the District of Columbia. These materials are correlated with each State's education standards so that teachers can quickly determine how to use the CD-ROM in their lesson plans. Additional information is available for teachers and students at <http://www.itm-info.com/fever/mace/links.htm>, including links, resources, contacts, and a list of forestry schools.

Sharing Success

The collaborative effort of the MACE team created an educational resource that educators in the Mid-Atlantic States can use to introduce students to the concepts of forest management. Only minor edits were required to individualize the CD for each State and the District of Columbia.



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
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