

# Landscape Stewardship Project

## All-Lands Approach to Conservation in the Northeast and Midwest

### The Challenge

The 2008 Farm Bill required all States to complete Statewide natural resource assessments and strategies, to identify priority issues and areas and ways to address them. With these State strategies completed, the Forest Stewardship Program of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) was challenged to take a new approach to program delivery that supports these State strategies.

### The Solution

The new approach to program delivery is Landscape Stewardship. To assist State program managers the NA S&PF and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters are developing products and program direction including the following:

- Landscape Stewardship Guidance—a comprehensive desk guide that details the process for engaging communities and landowners in Forest Stewardship over large areas and across ownership boundaries.
- A two-page Quick-Start Guide
- A free-standing exhibit that complements the guidance document (photo).
- A new Web site, [www.landscapestewardship.org](http://www.landscapestewardship.org) for sharing case studies of effective landscape approaches and facilitating access to the guidance documents.
- Educational and informational workshops scheduled for Fall 2011.



A new exhibit that promotes Landscape Stewardship lists the steps that lead to success. Photo: Juliette Watts

### Resulting Benefits

By using Landscape Stewardship approaches the Forest Stewardship Program will empower States to achieve regional conservation goals. Within States, private landowners will become aware of their community's resource conservation needs and goals, and will be encouraged to manage their land and to achieve their goals within that larger context. Community decision makers, business leaders, schools, and other civic organizations will be more aware of their community's resource needs, which will lead to greater support and advocacy for conservation. Capacity to deliver Forest Stewardship as a method of carrying out State strategies will increase.

### Sharing Success

Many States have begun using Landscape Stewardship approaches and plans in a variety of ways to encourage landowners and local communities to support solutions to resource issues for larger areas. Efforts have involved building on existing stewardship projects and partnering with nongovernment organizations and other government entities to provide more seamless support for conservation.

*Landscape stewardship is an all-lands approach that seeks to engage all stakeholders within a community in developing and implementing collaborative solutions to social, economic, and environmental issues related to conservation of forest land.*



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