

Stewardship Training on the Fernow Experimental Forest



Ecological
and
Economic
Sustainability
of the
Appalachian
Forest in an
Era of
Globalization

A research
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NRS01 Parsons and R9 Monongahela Experts Team up for Major Training Event – For two days in early August, the Fernow Experimental Forest on the Monongahela NF was a hub of forestry activity in West Virginia. On August 10th and 11th, 2010 the West Virginia Division for Forestry called on the Forest Service team to provide forest stewardship training to approximately 100 forestry personnel on several topics of concern for forest managers in the state and region. Tom Schuler (NRS01), Pam Edwards (NRS01), Melissa Thomas-Van Gundy (NRS01), and Linda Tracy (MNF) shared the training duties. Topics included even-age, uneven-age, two-age silvicultural options for achieving different management objectives including prescribed fire and its effects on oak regeneration; endangered species issues related to management; characteristics and differences in Best Management Practices related to timber and energy development; and the experiences and research results to-date connected with gas well and pipeline development activities on the Fernow and the Monongahela NF. Many folks from the Timber and Watershed Laboratory, the National Forest, and the West Virginia Division of Forestry were involved behind the scenes to help pull this event together, in particular, Nadine Pollock (MNF) was the chief logistics organizer, Freddie Wood (NRS01) compiled handouts for the participants, and Dan Kincaid (Assistant State Forester for West Virginia) brought the group together and identified the training desired.



Figure 1. Tom Schuler describes the effects of multiple prescribed fires on mixed-oak stand dynamics.



Figure 2. Pam Edwards and Linda Tracy discuss the similarities and differences of Best Management Practices related to timber and oil and gas development.