

REGENERATION!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY FORESTRY &
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION - CARL WILMSEN

How do you improve lives and livelihoods while simultaneously improving or maintaining a healthy environment? This question lies at the core of everything CFERP does. The research we support covers a broad range of topics in three thematic areas: 1) community participation in the sustainable management of natural resources; 2) inequities in environmental management; and 3) community ability to maintain traditional lifeways and land uses in the face of outside encroachments and/or competing interests. The collaborative research CFERP fellows and community partners do examines the conditions, policies, practices and power relations that facilitate or inhibit achievement of community goals in these three areas. The research does not just address questions of academic interest. It also contributes directly to community efforts to achieve such goals.

To better reflect the vast array of possible topics in which communities and fellows are interested, this year we changed the program name to Community Forestry and Environmental Research Partnerships. Keeping 'community forestry' in our name maintains continuity with our past and adding 'environmental' indicates that building capacity for stewarding the environment is a major goal for us. Making the change from 'fellowships' to 'partnerships' better reflects our belief in the importance of participatory research as a collaborative process in which community members and university-based researchers work together as equal partners.

As always, this issue of *Regeneration!* includes a slice of the important work CFERP fellows and community partners are doing. Sharon Baskind (predissertation fellow 2004, dissertation fellow 2005) discusses the ways in which conservation easements maintain certain values on the landscape, but do not contribute to nurturing community. Andrea Read (community partner 2007) is very concerned with community and presents strategies for restoring community values that include deep connections to the natural world. Different strategies achieve different things. The crucial point is how the community decides which strategy to pursue.

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FOCUS:

“YUPPIE FARMS” AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

SHARON BASKIND-WING, PRE-DISSERTATION FELLOW '04,
DISSERTATION FELLOW '05

“What kind of farm is ‘Eastlight Farm?’ A yuppie farm?” One conservation easement property owner told me his friends still jokingly ask him this question, even 10 years after the former Seattle consultant purchased and named his property on Orcas Island, WA. While the farm originally founded on the site in 1896 hasn’t been fully functioning in quite some time, the property’s conservation easement sets guidelines to help maintain its open field and remaining orchard trees. Though the owner recognizes the irony of his productionless ‘farm,’ he also asserts the land is a “Heritage Farm”—one that’s not operating, but is on the sight of a historical farm and still has environmental and archaeological remnants of that era.

I spent the summers of 2003 and 2004 on Orcas Island and returned for a full year in 2005-2006 to conduct my dissertation research there.

Orcas is part of the San Juan Islands, an archipelago located midway between Vancouver Island and the coast of Washington State. Though Orcas historically produced fruits and livestock, the island’s agricultural production has dropped greatly over the last century as a result of competition from mainland producers, rising land prices, and a combination of other factors.

In spite of the decline of agriculture, San Juan County’s Comprehensive Plan, residents, and visitors all refer to the island’s “rural character” as a defining feature of the islands that needs to be preserved. I became interested in the meaning of “rural” in a place where an agrarian economy has been largely replaced by tourism and the development of multi-million dollar homes. Does preserving “rural character” mean that the island would look nice, but there wouldn’t be any actual farming on it? Specifically, what role do

the island’s approximately 80 conservation easements play in maintaining “rural character,” and what other elements of the rural were not being addressed?

Conservation Easements

In recent years, conservation easements have emerged as the most widely used private conservation tool in the U.S. Although human intervention is usually thought of as a source of environmental change, in

many conservation easements people instead work to prevent future modification. Conservation easements consist of “permanently enforceable rights held by a land trust or government agency by which a landowner promises to use property only in ways permitted by the easement.” (1) A common explanation employs the “bundle of rights” metaphor: if we consider property to be a bundle of rights to land-

ownership—like a bundle of sticks—a conservation easement removes some of the sticks from that bundle. When a landowner donates a conservation easement to a land trust, that owner is voluntarily giving up some of the rights to his or her property. An owner may give up the right to further development or mining, for example, while still retaining legal ownership of the land. The IRS grants a tax deduction to owners who donate such rights in perpetuity and can demonstrate a public benefit. When a land trust pays for some of these rights on private lands, a CE can be called a Purchase of Development Rights, or PDR.

The most prominent feature in most CE deeds on Orcas Island is the limitation of built structures. CEs do not prevent all future development, but rather permit the landowner to donate or sell some of his or her building rights. For example, a 40 acre property zoned



R5 (that is, one structure allowed per 5 acre area) has the right to build 8 houses. When donating a CE, that owner can give up the right to 2 of those homes, for example, allowing 6 to still be built in the future. I spoke with one landowner of a “forever wild” easement who explained that the restrictions in his CE had nothing to do with identifying and preserving some “pristine” ecosystem, and much more to do with restricting development and placement of structures. In addition to specifying buildings’ locations and visibility, other restrictions are asserted through phrasing such as, “no fence or other barrier that will obstruct views across the agricultural fields of the Property from [the road] shall be placed or planted on the Property.” The preservation of open space is a key condition in most CEs on Orcas, but the protection of public views is especially valuable to residents as well as the IRS, who take into account such considerations when determining the public benefit of the CE.

On many historical farmlands protected under conservation easement on Orcas, owners are required to mow their property every two years to protect roadside views and soil quality. These “faux-agro” landscapes—as one resident calls them—share certain visual elements like open fields and old-looking homes or barns, yet are owned not by young farming families as the Jeffersonian ideal would dictate, but by retired couples who long for the peaceful ambiance of a home in the country. Many people see an open field and find it beautiful in part because it suggests a simpler, bucolic time. This is not to say all residents strive to work their land and live the noble life of the 19th Century farmer. To the contrary, a number of islanders—particularly those who own large tracts of land with no intention of producing on them—enjoy the look that, while rooted in myths of the past, has



since taken on its own meaning. That new meaning is one that values the rural as a place in which to experience the ideals of the agricultural past without the work, ultimately transforming what used to be a landscape of labor into a landscape of leisure.

Defining ‘Rural Character’

The transformation from working landscapes to landscapes of leisure is largely a product of a new economic order on Orcas. The service sector is now the number one industry in the San Juans, catering to an increasingly wealthy and elderly population. As one Orcas resident claimed, “agriculture isn’t as important to rural character anymore because people can afford to maintain the open spaces without the farming labor.” The rural landscape is critically important as the symbol of these agrarian values, though these landscapes are now maintained in very different ways including mowing.

What is the value of agriculture in this new rural setting? At one end of the spectrum, a minority of residents I interviewed cherish the persistence of the rural look with negligible concern for preserving agriculture or its history. One retiree told me it’s important to him to see green grass, and not that crops are being grown. Such individuals with no sentimental or commercial interest in agrarianism want open space only as a means of creating broader views into the distance. Another resident told me, “People need open space for relief, to see, feel, touch it.” Open space itself is assigned inherent value, and agriculture is just one means of achieving that aesthetic.

While several individuals, particularly those who frequent the supermarket rather than the local Farmers Market, are frank about their sole interest in the visual elements of the rural, others continue to value the

Does preserving “rural character” mean that the island would look nice, but there wouldn’t be any actual farming on it?

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pastoral look while remaining hopeful that such efforts are also preserving the potential for future agricultural production. Many residents laud the “faux agro” or “yuppie farm” as a way of maintaining rural character and preserving agricultural lands for a time in the future when agriculture might again become economically feasible. Lands that are mowed yearly to keep out encroaching brush are at least preserving the soil quality and leaving the land clear for agriculture. One resident told me, “mow farms provide the same effect as real farms,” in terms of maintaining the rural feel and preventing other types of development (i.e., housing). This notion that mow farms may not be ideal, but are at least better than more houses is popular on Orcas, as new developments raise both the population as well as property values.

To many Orcas farmers, the notion that mow farms are functionally equivalent to productive farms is absurd. As one longtime farmer asked, “Are we doing agricultural production here or are we just becoming a mowing society for tourists?” The rural look, valued by many for its beauty and associations with America’s yeoman myth, is not necessarily the same visually as a productive farm. Another Orcas farmer explained to me that farmers do indeed have a different aesthetic of the ‘rural’ than non-farmers: “A farmer sees the beauty in productivity. It takes a certain eye to see beauty in efficiency and not just an open field that isn’t being worked. A working landscape can look a lot different than an open field that’s being mowed, and people need to learn to recognize that aesthetic.” This distinction is particularly important should a conflict arise between the productivity of farming and its rural appearance. As one farmer asked, “farming isn’t necessarily neat and tidy—it might look messy. Will people still want it then?”



If rural character is not necessarily dependent upon an agricultural economy, how does one foster it in places where agriculture is not a major economic contributor? What does rural character mean, and what does it look and feel like? On Orcas, the new rural character has many associations. While some residents reply that agriculture is central to maintaining “rural character” in the County, others respond that, economically, agriculture simply will not be able to continue—though rural character can survive without it. Instead, to a number of islanders, rural character is associated with “not seeing any cars on the drive to town,” “privacy,” “roadside views,” “open spaces,” and “the opposite of Disney World,” and is described with adjectives like “pleasant,” “homogenous,” “peaceful,” and “quiet.”

Yet, others acknowledged that while rural character has a visual element, it’s also about community and livelihood—characteristics that conservation easements cannot address. One resident described rural character as “easy access to Moran State Park, seeing the ocean and beach,” but followed with a description of what she called the “people piece.” Knowing people around town and having lives intersect in multiple ways is characteristic of the rural lifestyle she hopes to help preserve on Orcas—for example, while two residents may disagree politically, they may also be allied in raising funds for the local Fire Department. There is clearly a strong visual element of rural character that various methods, including conservation easements, help to preserve. But how is the “people piece” being addressed?

Pastoral landscapes are appealing because they represent simplicity and a nature in which humans make sense, even after the agriculture is gone. Yet, rural character depends upon more than open fields and an

agricultural past. Many residents are involved in efforts to integrate the need for affordable housing and a diversity of economic opportunities that includes sustainable agriculture into the definition of “rural character.” It’s one thing to have land that looks like a farm; but creating a social and economic environment in which a farmer can afford to live and work the land is another, admittedly more complex, challenge. While “yuppie farms” are helping to preserve a look and a history, a more comprehensive approach to rural character is needed to maintain both a healthy landscape and vibrant community.

(1) Pidot, Jeff (2005). Reinventing Conservation Easements: A Critical Examination and Ideas for Reform. Cambridge: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
COMMUNITY FORESTRY
& ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT
OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.CNR.BERKELEY.EDU/
COMMUNITY_FORESTRY](http://WWW.CNR.BERKELEY.EDU/COMMUNITY_FORESTRY)

PARTNERSHIPS FOR EMPOWERMENT

CFERP is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of Partnerships for Empowerment, a book written and edited by a wide range of CFERP members including Carl Wilmsen, William F. Elmendorf, Larry Fisher, Jacquelyn Ross, Brinda Sarathy and Gail Wells.

This book analyses the current state of the art of participatory research in community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). Its chapters and case studies examine recent experiences in collaborative forest management, harvesting impacts on forest shrubs, watershed restoration in Native American communities, civic environmentalism in an urban neighborhood and other topics. Although the main geographic focus of the book is the United States, the issues raised are synthesized and discussed in the context of recent critiques of participatory research and CBNRM worldwide. The book’s purpose is to provide insights and lessons for academics and practitioners involved in CBNRM in many contexts. The issues it covers will be relevant to participatory research and CBNRM practitioners and students the world over.

Earthscan Publications will publish the book on June 20, 2008.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD: A LANDSCAPE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT

ANDREA READ, COMMUNITY PARTNER '07
THE NEWFOREST INSTITUTE, MAINE

“When we focus on the heterogeneity in a landscape, we sense how intertwined its ecological systems are. An action here and now produces an effect there and then.” (1)

Background

Humans have long worked with the land and forests for their material, psychological, and spiritual well-being. Yet in modern times, this essential and multi-layered connection has been sorely strained if not altogether severed, resulting in a poverty of both a material and spiritual nature with profound and devastating consequences not only for the environment but for the human community as well.

At a landscape scale, to see the human community as a “natural” part of the landscape—indeed as much as any other ecosystem—provides us with a meaningful framework for understanding how working from within the human community can be a powerful component of broader ecological restoration. In other words, to restore to the human community its ability to experience itself as nature, embedded within the larger landscape, is a fundamental, indispensable act of environmental restoration.

With just this objective in mind, the Newforest Institute in Brooks, Maine has initiated two core community forestry projects—the Women’s Earth Project and the Urban-Rural Youth Forestry Partnership. The Women’s Earth Project engages local, mostly low-income women in active forest management in rural Maine. The Youth Forestry Partnership, on the other hand, brings urban and rural youth into long-term, ongoing relationship through cooperative forest

stewardship of both urban and rural community forestry projects. Both of these projects seek to strengthen the connection of individuals and communities to the health and vitality of the forest landscape. Underlying both these projects is our belief that, coupled with substantive knowledge of forest ecology, silviculture and permaculture, an enlivened awareness of our connectedness with the land cultivated over time has the capacity to effect real and measurable improvements in the health and sustainability of forest ecosystems.

The Opposite of Poverty is Beauty: The Women’s Earth Project

The Women’s Earth Project is intended to cultivate a relationship between rural women and the forests. Ironically, modern rural life has left management of forest systems to men and largely industrialized systems of management. Yet, everyday interaction of rural woman with the forests in an altogether healthy way is as basic and productive for the women as it is for the environment.

Our overall vision is threefold: first, to gather and capacitate a group of twelve women to successfully guide the silvicultural rehabilitation of a 275-acre parcel of high-graded forestland through a long-term, multi-generational management vision; second, to help create a community of women that can, in turn, become one of the driving forces of economic and spiritual



**To restore to the human community its ability to experience itself as nature,
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well-being of the community; and third, to make the community forest project publicly available as both a model and teaching facility, as well as for broader academic research opportunities around issues of poverty, community economic development and community-based natural resource management.

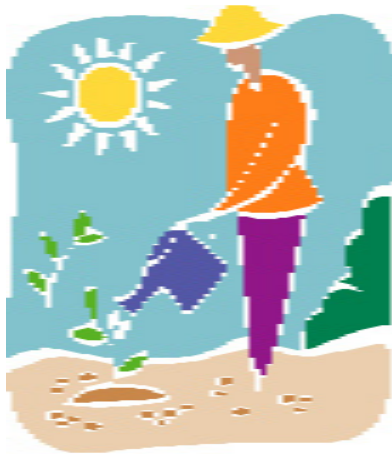
This particular piece of land is a representative challenge—roughly 275 acres, the land experienced a liquidation harvest in 1999, so its current condition renders any timber harvesting negligible for another 15-20 years. While this kind of land is readily available in rural midcoast Maine and relatively affordable, the short-term economic needs of women on the lower end of the income scale make it impossible to rely solely on future timber harvests. In this case it will be important to consider how the range of non-timber forest products, and those agroforestry and permaculture practices that can contribute to economic gain in the short-term, while at the same time fostering its long-term silvicultural rehabilitation. The goal is to substitute the 20-year harvest cycle endemic to our area with a dynamic, adaptive management approach that promotes diversified, more sustainable economic gain while simultaneously promoting a healthier forest.

Our first step was to establish a 5-acre edible forest garden that will serve as an ongoing experiment. Modeled on the forest ecosystem, an edible forest garden is a perennial polyculture of multipurpose plants... an edible ecosystem, a consciously designed community of mutually beneficial plants and animals intended for human food production.” In southeast Asia such food forests have been called “gardens of complete design.” With its shorter-term yields and diversity of species, it may well prove to be an important economic component that is at the same time ecologically appropriate in making longer-term for-

est restoration projects more feasible for low-income communities. Our purpose here is to create a scalable model for community-based forest management which can be used more extensively throughout the region.

Our next step is to gather together the initial twelve women who will be part of the project. We are presently conducting informal surveys and finding overwhelming interest in participating in the project. Furthermore, the informal conversations have also shown that most of the women have an unprompted understanding of why women, and why manage the forest.

Once the initial group of women has been formed, we will begin co-planning a series of capacity-building retreats, preparing them individually and as a group to begin formulating a management plan next spring. As most of the women have little or no experience working the land or the forest, a multi-disciplinary advisory committee will be an important component in the success of the project, including extending the benefits of the program through time and across geographies.



Ultimately, the Women’s Earth Project seeks to address the many forms of poverty that ensue when individuals and communities are severed from meaningful relationships with the land. With a more holistic approach as our goal, in development economics terms we hope for the forest to help women move from the subsistence level to the livelihood level, taking their place as powerful healers in the community; indeed, ‘repairers of the breach,’ they shall call them, ‘restorers of ruined homesteads.’

*Toward a New Understanding of Forest Dependency:
The Urban-Rural Youth Forestry Partnership*

The Urban-Rural Youth Forestry Partnership is a new

program intended to establish a long-term relationship between urban and rural communities, with an initial focus between Jersey City, New Jersey and mid-coast rural Maine. Specifically, K-12 students at selected schools will work together to restore the health of both urban and rural community forests through their mutual efforts. Urban and rural youth typically share little in common except for forms of economic poverty which are common to both groups. Yet, by embarking on a shared enterprise of community forest management, the lives of both the urban and rural youth can be enriched to the same degree as the health of the urban forest and productive rural forest systems. In effect, restoration is the central goal of the project—of the health of the urban and rural forest systems, of the link between children and land, and of the ties between urban and rural communities. Children and their communities can thereby understand themselves as integral parts of a much larger landscape that transcends the typical urban-rural demarcation.

Recognizing the pressing need for understanding and strengthening the connections between urban and rural ecosystems, as well as those between children and nature, our aim is twofold: (1) to cultivate “land literacy”—that is, the ability to ‘read’ not only one’s natural environment but also those internal landscapes that allow us to connect most deeply with the natural world. The ability to experience oneself as nature will awaken in youth the spirit of care and creative leadership needed to bring about sustainable, visionary solutions to local as well as national and global environmental problems. (2) Expand the notion of forest dependency to all communities.

This year, with the 5th and 6th grade students at Morse Memorial Elementary School in Brooks, we are devel-

oping in seed form a project called “Home Again: The Hidden Story of the Forest.” Learning and applying some of the methods of silviculture as well as cultural-historical methods, the students are writing the “story,” backwards and forwards, of a 10-acre parcel of land at Newforest Institute. Starting with a brief study of the history of the New Forest in England, students will explore some of the long-standing complexities of the relationship between people and the land. Reading *The Charter of the Forest* (1217) as well as various versions of the Robin Hood legends, they can begin to make some connections between ecological and social

justice, understanding more deeply perhaps the important role the human community plays (for better or for worse) as part of the larger landscape. Then with the help of graduate students and professors from the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine in Orono, the students will focus on Newforests 10-acre parcel, applying some of the tools of silviculture, using maps, soil samples and the like to reconstruct its land-use and ecological history and to then understand how different management choices lead to different outcomes in the forest.



Our intent is to model a long-term educational partnership between two traditionally underserved (i.e. both low income and, in Jersey City, ethnically diverse) communities whose socio-economic and other demographic similarities, despite their radically different physical landscapes, make for a compelling relationship that offers possibilities for significant shifts in ecological awareness, inclusive leadership development and cultural cross-pollination.

(1) Richard T.T. Forman and Michel Godron, *Landscape Ecology*, (John Wiley: 1986), p. vii.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN PUBLICATION PRIZE

Jake Kosek, a CEFRP pre-dissertation fellow in 1997 and a dissertation fellow in 1998, won the 2007 American Studies Association John Hope Franklin Publication Prize. The prize is awarded each year to the best-published book in American Studies. The book is based on his dissertation research: "Understories: The Political Life of Forests in Northern New Mexico", Duke University Press, 2006.

7TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NATURAL RESOURCES

John Bliss, a former CEFRP Steering Committee Member and Nils Christoffersen, will present a paper entitled "The Community Forestry & Environmental Research Partnership program: Ten Year Assessment and Future Prospects" at the 7th Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources. The Conference will be held March 13-15, 2008 at Oregon State University.

For more information: <http://uenr.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

UC DAVIS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF REGIONAL CHANGE

Jonathan London, a CERPF dissertation fellow in 1997, is the founding director of the new UC Davis Center for the Study of Regional Change. Part of the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the center brings together faculty, students, and communities to collaborate on innovative research to create just, sustainable, and healthy regional change in California's Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada.

For information about the Center for the Study of Regional Change, contact London at (530) 752-2733, jkldon@ucdavis.edu or visit the website: <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu>

Jonathan is also a Senior Researcher at the Environmental Justice Project of the UC Davis/John Muir Institute of the Environment. The mission of the Environmental Justice Project (EJP) is to encourage and develop interdisciplinary research on environmental justice.

For more information: <http://ej.ucdavis.edu>

SAVE OUR RICE ALLIANCE RECEIVES NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION GRANT

SORA a newly forming non-profit engaging both state and tribal interests to protect native wild rice and the hand-harvest economy it supports is a recipient of a National Forest Foundation Community Assistance Program Grant (CAP). This award (\$15,000 over two years) will assist SORA to develop its non-profit status, strengthen communication networks and build the framework for a collaborative process engaging communities (tribal and non-tribal), natural resource managers and wild rice harvesters across the rice growing region in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

SORA emerged from a series of participatory workshops, funded through the Community Forestry & Environmental Research Partnerships program, involving wild rice harvesters in research led by Annette Drewes, a CEFRP dissertation fellow in 2006. Her research "Sustaining a ricing culture: a landscape approach to understanding harvest and distribution of wild rice across state, tribal and treaty ceded lands in Minnesota and Wisconsin" also involved interviews with harvesters, site visits to lakes and spatial descriptions of harvester movements and distribution.

For more information on the CAP awards, developed to "promote the creation of locally-based organizations or groups seeking to resolve natural resource issues through a collaborative, dialogue-based process," visit www.natlforgest.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMALLWOOD 2008 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of the Interior in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts is making a limited amount of financial support available to assist with registration, travel, and lodging for the SmallWood 2008 Conference. The primary intended recipients are local officials from conservation districts, RC&Ds, and counties. Subject to funding availability, up to a maximum of \$25,000 may be available for scholarships. Individual scholarships will be limited to \$1,000 per recipient. For more information and scholarship application forms, please access the following internet connection <http://www.forestprod.org/smallwood08scholarships.html>.

SmallWood 2008 and Bioenergy & Wood Products (Joint Conference), May 13-15, 2008, Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin

NEW ONLINE PORTAL EXPANDS ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC MATERIAL IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

The United Nations launched a new online portal that will make collections of scholarly environmental science journals available to scientists, researchers, and policymakers in 108 developing countries. Called the Online Access to Research in the Environment, and financed by MacArthur and the Hewlett Foundation, it is expected to improve the quality and effectiveness of environmental research, education and training in the developing world.

For more information: www.oaresciences.org/en/

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY (IJSSOC)

The IJSSoc “presents a forum to help policy makers, planners, researchers, educators, students, citizens, and professionals exchange their innovative ideas and thought-provoking opinions. It also creates a communication channel between practitioners and academics to discuss problems, challenges and opportunities in all aspects of our society.”

Research papers, innovative ideas, reviews, surveys, debates, reports, case studies, position notes, practice comments, book reviews, commentaries, and news are welcomed for publication in the IJSSoc. Policy-relevant, action-oriented research that goes beyond disciplinary boundaries to develop an interface between natural science and social science is particularly encouraged.

For more information: www.inderscience.com



PUBLICATIONS

EXPANDING COMMUNITY-BASED FORESTRY

Research Results from the Ford Foundation Community-based Forestry Demonstration Program

In 2000, the Ford Foundation established a 5-year CBF Demonstration Program designed to increase the ability of CBF groups to effect positive social, economic, and ecological change through forest stewardship. Project researchers partnered with CBF groups and found that these groups had:

- Common organizational strategies to effect change, including entrepreneurial leadership styles and a focus on collaboration and networking.
- A focus on ecological assessment and monitoring as activities that generated benefits for communities and forests.
- Specific suggestions for partner organizations – such as local businesses, universities, and policymakers – to help expand CBF group capacity at local and regional levels.

For the research summary and complete report, go to www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/frws/cbf/

USDA FOREST SERVICE – CENTER FOR URBAN FOREST RESEARCH

San Francisco Bay Area State of the Urban Forest Final Report: We've just released our study of the urban tree canopy of the San Francisco Bay area. The report had three goals: (1) to describe the historic changes to the region's urban canopy cover and amount of impervious surface, (2) to quantify the value of ecosystem services the current forest provides, and (3) to estimate future benefits based on possible expansion of the urban forest. It's full of interesting information for Bay area residents and anyone who would like to know more about the benefits of trees.

www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/2/psw_cufr719_SFBay.pdf



PUBLICATIONS

FOREST GUILD HELPS WRITE TWO NEW GUIDES TO SOUTHWESTERN FOREST RESTORATION

The **Short Guide for Developing CFRP Restoration Prescriptions** gives current, straightforward, and plain-spoken restoration advice for the four forest types on how to develop site specific restoration prescriptions. The document does not provide one-size-fits-all prescriptions but instead offers recommendations on process and structure to consider when developing a site specific restoration approach.

www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2008/NMFWRI01_prescription.pdf

The **Social and Economic Issues in Landscape Scale Restoration** is intended to be a concise reference guide for land managers, foresters, community groups, and others engaged in forest restoration to review when scaling up from the stand or project level to the watershed or landscape scale. This document, primarily in response to recommendations from land managers and scientists on the need for restoration efforts to cross land jurisdictions and occur at the landscape scale, emphasizes economic scale and capacity, multi-jurisdictional issues, desired future socioeconomic conditions, and the social and cultural landscape context.

www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2008/NMFWRI02_socio_econ.pdf



FORESTS, PEOPLE AND POWER THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF REFORM IN SOUTH ASIA

Edited by Oliver Springate-Baginski and Piers Blaikie

More and more, participatory approaches to forest governance and management are replacing intensive scientific exploitation but how successfully have they been implemented?

This is the most thorough assessment of the success and failure of participatory approaches an indispensable benchmark to those concerned with forest management worldwide.

Focusing on Asia, this book is based on research spanning all levels, from households to key policy makers, the findings of which are already having real impact on the ground.

For more information: <http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/769/>

THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - VALUATION IN TROPICAL FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

By K N Ninan with a foreword by Charles Perrings

This groundbreaking work is the most comprehensive and detailed examination of the economics of environmental valuation and biodiversity conservation to date. It offers original comparisons of the different values of biodiversity, trade-offs, incentives for conservation, case studies of coffee growing and wildlife conservation and practical policy options.

For more info:
<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/732>

PUBLICATIONS

THE ACTION RESEARCH DISSERTATION: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

by Kathryn G. Herr and Gary L. Anderson

Many students struggle with turning action research projects into a Master's thesis or doctoral dissertation and receive little guidance from their advisors. To address this need, authors Kathryn Herr and Gary L. Anderson have distilled decades of action research experience into a first-of-its-kind reference for graduate students.

The Action Research Dissertation: A Guide for Students and Faculty provides an accessible roadmap that honors the complexity of action research. It will show that action research is appropriate not only for a dissertation, but also a deeply rewarding experience for both the researcher and participants. This book helps students understand the ways action research dissertations are different from more traditional dissertations and prepares students and their committees for the unique dilemmas they may face, such as validity, positionality, design, write-up, ethics, and defense of the dissertation.

“The Action Research Dissertation should be required reading for any student contemplating using an action research approach in a thesis or dissertation project. Kathryn Herr and Gary Anderson serve as able and amiable navigators through the challenging but equally rewarding process of planning, carrying out, and completing an action research dissertation. Clear explanations, compelling exemplars, and an honest discussion of the challenges of conducting an action research project combined with a sense of the passion and commitment of those who choose this path, make the volume a balanced and engaging guide to all would-be action researchers.”

—Mary Brydon-Miller, University of Cincinnati

For more information: www.sagepub.com/booksProd-Desc.nav?prodId=Book226231

RURAL COMMUNITIES: LEGACY AND CHANGE

This thoroughly revised edition of *Rural Communities: Legacy and Change* focuses on various capitals in rural areas—natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial, and built. This integrative approach provides readers with a framework for understanding rural society based on the concepts and explanations of social science. Issues covered include racial and cultural diversity; globalization and rural communities; the central role of communities in organizing a sustainable future; and building community in the context of ubiquitous change.

Updates to the third edition include a new chapter on governance, as well as new material on increasing tensions over international immigration, the differential impact of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on rural communities and rural people, and the rural impacts of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the South. The authors also examine the international trade regime and economic restructuring and the choices for communities and regions in the face of these changes.

For more information: www.westviewpress.com





CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

MARCH 2008

2008 Wildland Urban Interface Conference

*March 4-5
Reno, NV*

Following another destructive year of wildland fires, it is imperative that there be a place to share solutions, lessons learned and how to educate our communities on preventing deadly wildland fires.

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=100>

17th Annual Land Use Conference: Sustaining the Next 100 Million

*March 6-7
Denver, CO*

This conference, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, provides an arena for discussion and debate of critical regulatory, environmental and land development issues. Speakers will focus on current and controversial topics that affect the Rocky Mountain region.

<http://www.law.du.edu/rmlui/>

Seventh Annual Nature, Ecology & Society Colloquium: Scales of Environmental Justice

*March 7
New York, NY*

The Nature, Ecology and Society Network at City College of New York was launched to promote, encourage and foster cross-disciplinary and cross-college dialogues, collaboration and discussion on areas relating to the environment. This year's colloquium will provide a space for discussing issues of justice on levels of varying scale.

For more information: www.nature.cuny.edu

American Society for Environmental History

*March 12 - 16
Boise, ID*

Agents of Change: People, Climate, and Places through Time: This theme perfectly addresses the remarkable time in which we are living, a period in which a rapidly evolving public understanding of broad-scale human and ecological processes has collided with the intensity and extent of environmental changes occurring globally before our eyes. The result will undoubtedly be a different world—ecologically, economically, politically, socially. Our collective scholarship involves a continuous interrogation of multiple “agents of change,” human and non-human, local and global.

For more information: www.aseh.net/conferences/current-conference/aseh-s-next-conference

7th Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources

*March 13 -15, 2008
Oregon State University*

The Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources provides a forum for university-based educators to share strategies and techniques used to educate the entire spectrum of audiences for whom they offer educational programs.

For more information:
<http://uenr.forestry.oregonstate.edu/>

73rd Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

*March 25-29
Phoenix, AZ*

“Effective Conservation through Partnerships.” The event will include: A full-day workshop on conservation and climate change, a full-day workshop on America’s hunting heritage and four concurrent Special Sessions on pressing natural resource management issues.

For more information:
www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org



CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

MARCH 2008

Aspen Environment Forum

March 26-30

Aspen, CO

Join the Aspen Institute and National Geographic Magazine for an idea exchange that will provide an excellent setting for exploring complex and surprising ideas about energy, environment, and the economy.

For more information: www.aspenenvironment.org

APRIL 2008

Building Sustainable Funding for your Mission

April 8-9

Denver, CO

Learn a tested and proven system to rapidly identify and cultivate the perfect major donors who love your mission-- donors who will give for operations, capital and endowment.

For more information:

<http://sforce.benevon.com/workshops/101Denver040808/EventInfoDenver040808.htm>

National Tribal Environmental Conference

April 15-18

Santa Fe, NM

The National Tribal Environmental Council is dedicated to supporting Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages in protecting, regulating, and managing their environmental resources according to their own priorities and values. This theme of this year's conference is "One Earth, One People, One Environment".

For more information: www.ntec.org/conference.htm

APRIL 2008

American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting

April 15-19

Boston, MA

The Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers attracts geographers and related professionals from around the world. Our meeting forum stimulates discussion about research, education, accomplishments, and developments in geography.

For more information:

www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2008/index.htm

Earthvision Summit

April 24 -27

Washington, DC

The Student Conservation Association (SCA), a national force of conservation volunteers, has announced that Billy Parish, founder of the Energy Action Coalition, will deliver the keynote address at EarthVision, Actions for a Healthy Planet, SCA's first-of-its-kind youth conservation summit. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar will be the featured speakers at EarthVision's kick-off ceremony at the Department of the Interior.

For more information:

www.thesca.org/earthvision_summit/

The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

April 28 - May 2

Portland, OR

The conference theme "Bridging the Horizons - New Frontiers in Geospatial collaboration" will offer an outstanding program of general and technical sessions looking to the future of the geospatial industry.

For more information: www.asprs.org/portland08/

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS



MAY 2008

15th International Congress of the International Soil Conservation Organization

May 18 - 23

Budapest, Hungary

“Soil and Water Conservation, Climate Change and Environmental Sensitivity”

Hungary provides good examples for a range of soil conservation problems and practices including soil erosion by water and wind, salinization, compaction, water management problems of heavy soils, etc. Research institutes, university departments and the soil conservation service network have been dealing with soil and water conservation problems for many decades, offering and ensuring solutions for these problems.

For more information: www.isco2008.com

JUNE 2008

Natural Resources Law Center's 29th Annual Summer Conference

June 4-6, 2008

Boulder, CO

“Shifting Baselines and New Meridians: Water, Resources Landscapes and the Transformation of the American West.” As we cope with rapid population growth, we also face a changing climate that has already begun to disrupt historical weather patterns. The full brunt of these changes will not likely be known for many years. As the West changes, so too do the pressures on our land, water, and energy resources. The legal and political institutions that manage these natural resources have, for the most part, served us well. But it is far from clear that these institutions are capable of adapting as quickly and as extensively as may be necessary to serve us in the future.

For more information:

www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc

JUNE 2008

14th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management

People and Place: Linking Culture and Nature

June 10 - 14

Burlington, VT

The 14th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management will be hosted by The University of Vermont and its Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources in Burlington, Vermont. ISSRM is the official meeting of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources, and is the largest international meeting of social scientists who focus on environmental and natural resources issues.

For more information: www.issrm2008.org

Early Career Geography Faculty Development Alliance Workshop

June 15-21

Boulder, CO

This workshop is for graduate students and faculty who are just beginning their careers in higher education. The one-week program focuses on topics which are frequently the source of the greatest stress in the first years of a college or university appointment.

For more information:

www.aag.org/GFDA/earlycareer.htm



CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

JUNE 2008

Inclusive Science: Articulating Theory, Practice, and Action

*June 16 - 18
St. Paul, MN*

The College of St. Catherine will host a national conference on feminism and science. “Inclusive Science: Articulating Theory, Practice, and Action” will focus on critiques of science from multiple perspectives including gender, race and ethnicity, and class; Pedagogies that engage women, students of color, and students from a variety of social classes in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics; putting theory into action; changing the way we do, learn, and teach about science.

For more information:
www.stkate.edu/inclusive_science

14th International Conference on the Environment

*June 30-July 3
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

The Interdisciplinary Environmental Association conference is motivated by the increasing need to combine ideas and research findings from different disciplines to enhance our understanding of the interactions between the natural environment and human institutions. Conference presentations focus on: What all disciplines have to offer with respect to understanding environmental and resource problems; Possible solutions that are available; The implications of the globalization of environmental concerns.

For more information: www.ieaonline.org

JULY 2008

Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting

*July 13-18
Chattanooga, TN*

Meeting theme: From the Mountain to the Sea. The theme for the annual meeting will examine several major ecosystems, both as separate components and as a connected entity: Land conservation and terrestrial diversity; freshwater ecosystems; costal and marine conservation.

For more information:
www.conbio.org/activities/meetings/2008

Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference

*July 26-30
Tucson, AZ*

The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, business, and nongovernmental organizations to explore current issues in conservation and environmental management science, technology, practice, programs, and policy.

For more information:
www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting

*July 28-31
Manchester, NH*

The theme of the annual meeting is “Rural Sociology as Public Sociology.” Public sociology is about being in dialogue with groups in civil society, including conversation over goals and values. We want to recognize, celebrate, and interrogate the rural-sociological engagement with diverse publics over the years and currently. This theme is a way of focusing on rural sociology’s roots and wings - where we’ve been and where we’re heading.

For more information: www.ruralsociology.org/



CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER 2008

4th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

Oct 11-5

Providence, RI

The Conference Program will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration, in all habitats and at all scales. Habitat restoration – manipulation of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning self-sustaining natural or historic structure and functions to former or degraded habitat – offers great promise for reversing trends of habitat loss and degradation and is a crucial component of comprehensive ecosystem restoration, protection and management.

For more information: www.estuaries.org/?id=4

NOVEMBER 2008

Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting

November 5-9

Reno, NV

This year's theme - Forestry in a Climate of Change - promises a host of terrific sessions and featured speakers. We expect more than 1,500 attendees from forestry and natural resource professions.

For more information:

www.safnet.org/natcon-08/index.cfm

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