

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at the University of Florida, FY 2008

The University of Florida RREA program helps prepare Florida landowners to manage natural resources more effectively. Funds are leveraged with state, private, and institutional funds to deliver educational programs to landowners and land managers. Each RREA dollar is leveraged with \$7 of state, private, and/or local funds. Programs are aimed at three RREA Strategic Issues - Forest Stewardship and Health, Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, and Invasive Species. Examples of 2007 RREA funded activities are described below.

- Master Tree Farmer Series conducted on “Forest Risks and Risk Management” that was satellite broadcast to 65 landowners at 9 locations. Participants indicated that this program saved them more than \$65,000 in future expenses associated with damages, legal fees, and/or taxes.
- With the Florida Division of Forestry, coordinated a certification program for 123 landowners that focused on burning wood piles associated with management plans, and conducted a Greenbelt videoconference broadcast to 10 locations with 77 participants who collectively own 171,000 acres. Individuals indicated they would utilize the new information and skills in their daily activities.

“...As a result of this certification program, I will save more than \$50,000 in legal and regulatory fees in the future...”
Participant in Forest Risks and Risk Management Workshop

- An intensive two-day workshop on pond management was held for 11 extension agents. Following the meeting, these agents assisted more than 200 landowners with pond management problems. More than 150 landowners from seven states attended “managing ponds for fishing” at the Sunbelt Ag Expo. Nine additional workshops were held in Florida attended by 400 landowners. Attendees indicated they would implement what they learned in their home and farm ponds.



Identifying weeds at pond management workshop

- RREA funds were leveraged in development of a “Sustainable Fishing” program for the Living Green TV series (<http://www.livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu>). PBS TV stations aired the program throughout Florida and the southwestern United States, with a viewership of more than 16 million people. A DVD was also produced and distributed to extension agents and interested individuals throughout Florida.
- In wildlife management activities, seven programs attended by more than 500 individuals along with exhibits at the Wildlife Expo (Milton) and Ag Adventure Days (Quincy) provided information to more than 11,000 individuals at these large scale events. These various activities are estimated to have influenced habitat management on more than 1,023,000 acres, and resulted in more than \$18,000 dollars earned or saved to Florida landowners.

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