



The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at Mississippi State University, FY 2008

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to Mississippi State University are administered through the office of the Dean of the College of Forest Resources. The University utilizes RREA funds to conduct educational programs and events for professionals and private forest landowners across Mississippi. The following direct and indirect activities were supported by RREA funds in FY 2008.

Direct Activities Supported by RREA Funds

An in-state competitive grants program requiring extension educators to collaborate on projects was conducted. Nine projects were funded statewide, including invasive species management and control, water quality along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, wildlife habitat management, and youth education. To date, more than 25 programs have been conducted for 3,000 participants statewide.

Nearly 1,400 private forest landowners across Mississippi, owning or managing 1.5 million acres of forestland, participated in 9 short courses and 26 workshops. Participants valued this training at nearly \$12 million. A total of 15 logger education programs were conducted, reaching 486 participants.

In addition, RREA-supported programs resulted in 30 forest landowners developing management plans, and more than 1,200 acres of pine plantations being thinned to reduce southern pine beetle hazard and improve overall forest health.

Indirect Activities Supported by RREA Funds

RREA funds were also used to generate statewide mailings for all forestry short courses and workshops. In FY 2008, this resulted in approximately 80,000 mailings to landowners. While not all landowners attended the advertised programs, these mailings served to increase awareness of the importance of forest resources to Mississippi.

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