

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at the University of Missouri, FY08

The Renewable Resource Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to the University of Missouri are administered through the MU Extension and the University's School of Natural Resources. Programs are developed to address forest stewardship and health issues, and wildlife and fisheries resources. During FY08, *every RREA dollar was leveraged with five dollars* of state, private, and or local funds, engaging many partners to deliver educational programs to landowners and natural resource professionals. In 2008, RREA funds were used to:

- Leverage financial support from the Missouri Department of Conservation and MU Business Development Extension to create the state's *first* regional forestry business development specialist position. The position is based in the heart of the heavily forested Eastern Ozarks and the incumbent will work with mid- to large-size landowners in developing business plans for sustained income generation, forestry consulting firms to grow their business, and forest product companies to develop long-term procurement strategies.
- Conduct town hall meetings for building community and regional wood-to-energy partnerships in three targeted Missouri Ozark Communities. Forestry Extension led an interdisciplinary team of business and community development Extension specialists, energy consultants, and natural resource professionals to reach more than 150 'early-adopter' individuals and community leaders. Active wood-to-energy committees were successfully established in two of the communities.
- Work with woodland owner groups to successfully increase the number of EQIP 409 Prescribed Forestry Contracts in Missouri (118 plans) and state Stewardship Plans (152). Total area impacted was 50,130 ac with a cumulative Net Present Value of \$45.7 million.
- Develop a distant-learning version of the successful *Missouri Woodland Steward* short course so individuals can access the course online and at their own pace.
- Develop a one-stop-shop for emerald ash borer information in Missouri. In July, 2008, the emerald ash borer was found in the state. At the request of the Missouri EAB Committee, MU Forestry Extension assimilated all EAB information from six different state and federal agencies into one, easily accessible web site.
- Deliver the *Missouri Master Wildlifer* program to 156 landowners and resource professionals with 30,566 acres directly impacted.
- Deliver the *Missouri Master Naturalist* program to nine chapters with 380 volunteers trained. More than 15,791 service hours were contributed statewide with an estimated value of \$333,964.

