

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

The Purdue University Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program is administered by the University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. The program uses the federal funds allocated annually by Congress under a set formula to implement a competitive grants program. From October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, every \$1 of RREA funds leveraged \$4 in additional funds. Examples of the use of RREA funds are listed below.

Natural Resources Leadership Development Institute

The NRLDI program empowered natural resources professionals to resolve controversial environmental issues more effectively in a non-confrontational manner. The network of trained natural resource leaders from a broad range of resource specialties was expanded this past year. Thirty-five leaders were trained during FY 2008 in seven workshops. A total of 1,200 acres was impacted, resulting in an estimated \$80,000 saved or earned.

Sustainable Land Use Systems

Research and engagement experts from state and federal partners expanded the Local Decision Maker (LDM). Its purpose is to integrate natural resource and environmental planning into local development plans. Key accomplishments include the following.

- Seven hundred professionals participated in 21 training events
- The LDM web site, <http://ldm.agriculture.purdue.edu>, became available for public use
- Continued work with three pilot counties to improve program use and impacts

Sustainable Hardwood Ecosystems

Indiana's forests form the basis of the fifth largest industry in Indiana, employing almost 50,000 people. However, Indiana's forests also provide many ecological functions. Our programs emphasize the sustainability of forest values.

- Seventy professionals attended a one-day workshop on forest sustainability
- Sixty-two forest landowners attended two workshops and field days held on our properties focusing on sustainable forest management



Field day participants learned about tree planting and other stewardship practices.

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