



**The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program  
at the University of Wisconsin – FY 2008**

*2008 Wisconsin Coverts Project*

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to the University of Wisconsin (UW) support strategic statewide programming efforts for forestry and renewable resources education. UW-Extension emphasizes integrated applied research and university outreach through the Basin Education Initiative along with forestry, wildlife, and natural resources specialists partnering with public agencies and private landowners. Each RREA dollar is typically leveraged with \$8 to \$10 from other efforts at the community level. UW-Extension focuses on reaching the more than 250,000 non-industrial private forest landowners in the state.

**Learn About Your Land** (<http://www.woodlandinfo.org/>) – RREA support was leveraged with the Wisconsin Basin Education Program and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funds to provide Learn About Your Land classes. These classes reached 1,500 participants in 2008, with a total of 2,486 participating since the program began in 2007. Nearly 97% of participants increased their knowledge or interest in managing their woodlands, and 35% subsequently contacted their forester. The total woodlands impacted by this program are estimated at 43,206 acres. RREA funds supported educational materials and program evaluation.

**Wisconsin Coverts Project** – Wildlife and forestry professionals provided a three-day woodland wildlife management workshop to educate landowners to be active stewards of their land. Attendees become Coverts Cooperators, sharing what they have learned with other landowners.

- Twenty-nine landowners (15,945 acres) attended the 2008 WI Coverts workshop.
- A follow-up survey of 2007 workshop attendees (20 landowners) indicated they reached out to an estimated 1,162 additional landowners (5,670 acres) in 2008.
- Eighty-eight percent of the 2007 workshop attendees changed woodland management practices.

*“I have a more comprehensive appreciation for the role of timber harvesting in preserving wildlife and beauty of the land.” – 2008 WI Coverts Project participant*

**Focus on Bioenergy and the Wisconsin Economy** – A series of three one-day programs focusing on bioenergy was conducted across Wisconsin. These programs examined the potential of woody biomass as a renewable energy resource, its impact on the forest resource, and its economic impact on the forest products industry.

- The workshops hosted 139 participants including landowners, foresters, loggers, energy producers, forest industry, and rural community leaders.
- Forest landowner groups including non-industrial private forests, industrial, county, state, tribal, and national forests were engaged in learning and networking on bioenergy opportunities.

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