



Sustainable Operations



U.S. Forest Service

Creating Habits Today, Conserving Resources for Tomorrow

December 2008

Volume 3

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[Sustainable Operations Summit](#)

1st virtual Sustainable Operation Summit Highlights

Over 450 participants with 76 in Madison and the rest virtual in 25 sites across the country, many using video teleconference and web meetings

Participants learned about place-based tourism, reducing energy use, engaging youth and communities, the 3 R's, and much, much more!

Local gatherings offered tours of sustainable sites such as the Leopold Legacy Center and Leopold's shack, a recycling facility, a biomass power plant and green buildings.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"WE HAVE NOT ONLY AN OPPORTUNITY, BUT WE HAVE AN IMPERATIVE TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE."

-- Gail Kimbell, Chief of the Forest Service

"WE WERE GREEN BEFORE ANYBODY KNEW WHAT IT MEANT TO BE GREEN."

--Chris Risbrudt, Director of Forest Products Laboratory

Great Green Things Award Winners

Energy Conservation

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (NGLVC) on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

- Currently replacing parking lot lighting with Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lighting.

Water Conservation

Grey Towers National Historic Site

- Pervious pavement was installed in the parking areas and walkways to allow rain to recharge ground water instead of creating runoff and erosion

Sustainable Transportation

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

- The Federal Employees Alternative Transportation program (FEAT) was developed.
 - 8,769 miles were recorded as alternatively commuted, saving an estimated 439 gallons of fuel and 8516 lbs of CO₂.

Waste Prevention and Recycling

Wolf Creek Job Corps

- Mentors students in developing resource conservation steps including: Students growing a center garden for cafeteria food; construction of a recycle station and satellite recycle bins located across the center.

Green Purchasing

Newtown Square (Northern Research Station and Northeastern Area S&PF employees)

- Switched from 35% post-consumer recycled printer paper to 100% post-consumer recycled printer paper.

Sustainable Leadership

Mt. Hood and Timberlake Job Corps

- The Green Team initiated a Mt. Hood Green Team Challenge. Accomplishments include: the purchase of a composting machine, sponsoring unplug days, and much, much more.
- Mt. Hood Green Team has also worked with *Timberlake Job Corps* to initiate an innovative and successful Green Team made up of students and staff.



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Preliminary *Estimates*

- Avoided about **72 tons** of CO₂ emissions
- 150 fewer people flew in, and 25 fewer vehicles drove in, resulting in a savings of almost 72 tons CO₂
- If all the virtual participants had flown or driven in, we would have emitted over **130 additional tons CO₂** (based on 100 driving and the rest flying).



What technology was used?

- Forest Service video conference system, with help from Digital Visions
- Audio conferencing and web conferencing through Verizon Business
- The specific internet conference provider used was Web Ex.

Other Words of Wisdom

"INNOVATIONS MOST OFTEN COME FROM LOCAL SOLUTIONS SUPPORTED BY HIGHER LEVEL MANDATES"

-- Frances Westley- author of *Getting to Maybe* and Chair of the University of Waterloo.

"IT IS A CULTURAL SHIFT . . . AND CHANGE IS TOUGH . . . BUT WE CAN DO IT!"

--Ranger Joe (Alexander), star of the Extreme Makeover- Ranger District Edition