



North Dakota Forest Service

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US FOREST SERVICE MANAGERS TOUR NORTH DAKOTA

Janet Valle, Forest Legacy and Stewardship Program Manager for Regions 1 and 4 of the US Forest Service, was hosted by the North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) on June 4 - 5, 2013. The purpose of her trip from Ogden, Utah, was to visit and meet her North Dakota partners who work with the Forest Stewardship Program and program activities.

The National Forest Stewardship Program (administered by the US Forest Service) encourages the long-term stewardship of nonindustrial private forest lands, and provides landowners with professional planning and technical assistance through the development of Forest Stewardship plans. Nonindustrial private forest acreage includes lands owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe or other private entity. It also includes rural lands with existing tree cover, or suitable for growing trees.

The tour started in Jamestown with a discussion of NDFS cost-share programs and the Forest Stewardship Tax Law, and how they relate to the Forest Stewardship Program. This was followed by a trip to the Sheyenne River National Scenic Byway south of Valley City. Sites visited along or near the Byway included a riparian demonstration site, several private landowner sites with active Forest Stewardship plans, and a visit to



The tour of southeastern North Dakota included a stop to see a riparian log crib wall on an erosion control project along the Sheyenne River in Valley City.

the Sheyenne State Forest. The tour concluded at the NDFS Lisbon field office where program details were discussed, such as management plan monitoring and the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool (SMART).

The second day, Valle attended the joint meeting of the ND Community Forestry Council (CFC) and the State Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SSCC) at Valley City State University.

According to Valle, "I was very impressed with the quality of

projects, the coordination with partners, and the great work you (NDFS) have accomplished on the ground."

The agency will host John Shannon, Deputy Director of State and Private Forestry for the US Forest Service out of Missoula, Montana, for a similar tour of Bismarck area projects on August 19 and 20. Stops will include community forestry grant projects, rural conservation tree plantings, a visit with local soil conservation district staff on partnership projects, and a stop at Cross Ranch State Park to review cottonwood forest restoration efforts.

A View from the Top of the Tree

Current federal farm and food policies expire on September 30. Commonly known as the “Farm Bill,” the legislation authorizes agricultural and conservation programs. Although the Senate voted to approve their version of the Farm Bill on June 10, the House vote fell short of the number needed for passage of its legislation. Failure to pass a new bill in time means agricultural policy would revert back to a 1949 law.

Last month’s House defeat of the Farm Bill was related to funding disagreements over food stamps. In an effort to move the legislation, the House leadership dropped food stamp funding from a new version and the House members voted to approve the bill. Although the legislation is controversial, we understand the bill does retain important conservation, energy and forestry provisions, which invest in the future of our nation’s farms and forests to ensure we will have a safe and reliable food supply, a clean environment and sustainable sources of renewable energy.

The current Senate and House Farm Bill versions include several state forester supported priorities benefitting our programs and services:

The Conservation Title provisions consolidate the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, reauthorize the Conservation Stewardship Program and extend the Conservation Reserve Program through 2018. Potential consolidation may facilitate landowner participation, improve delivery and increase efficiency.

The Energy Title authorizes \$2 million for a US Forest Service Community Wood Energy Program to help provide seed money for biomass consumer cooperatives that help create a stronger market for biomass heating products like wood chips or pellets. Stronger wood product markets would benefit landowners.

The Forestry Title extends Stewardship Contracting Authority through 2018 for use on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, as well as makes the Good Neighbor Authority available in states with National Forest System lands. The long-term contracting provisions are essential to meet land-management objectives for reducing wildland fire risk and improving forest and rangeland health.



*Larry A. Kotchman
State Forester*

The Forestry Title also provides strategic direction for the implementation of the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program aimed at monitoring the condition of the nation’s forests. Provisions address reporting on renewable biomass supplies; fostering greater cooperation among research leaders and state foresters; understanding and reporting on changes in land cover and use; and implementing an annualized inventory of trees in urban settings. The title also reauthorizes \$10 million to carry out forest action plans through 2018, and encourages coordination with military installations where the voluntary participation and management of private or state-owned forestland is available to support the mission of those installations.

Finally, with the help of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Forestry Title clarifies authority for the US Forest Service to facilitate a national coordinated response to wildland fire by providing states access to resources and mobilization of infrastructure. This will fix a wildland fire billing issue that could restrict the use of key state resources for wildland fire suppression emergencies.

House and Senate conferees will need to reconcile their differences in the legislation before the Farm Bill expires in September. We are extremely hopeful the Farm Bill will support opportunities for landowners and communities to participate in forestry and conservation programs. Caring for our state’s forestry resources is a wise investment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry A. Kotchman".

Arbor Day Celebrated Ann's Birthday at Her House

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator



The North Dakota Forest Service and the Bottineau Winter Park (BWP) joined together to celebrate the 2013 State Arbor Day and Ann Nelson's birthday in "Annie's House" at the Bottineau Winter Park near Bottineau, ND, on Friday, May 17. "Annie's House" is the first and only adaptive ski and year-round adaptive sports resort in the Turtle Mountains for children, adults and wounded warriors in North Dakota. "Annie's House" was built to honor Ann Nelson of Stanley, ND, the only North Dakotan to perish in the World Trade Center attacks in New York on 9/11. (L-R) Wally Brandjord, BWP Board chairman; Gary and Jenette Nelson (Ann's parents), Cedric Jacobson, BWP Board member; Major General David A. Sprynczynatyk; and ND State Forester Larry Kotchman plant a tree in honor of Annie's birthday at her house.

Geographically FIT (Forestry Institute for Teachers) Offered

By: Glenda Fauske, Information and Education Coordinator

The ND Forest Service and ND Geographic Alliance are partnering to hold a Geographically FIT (*Forestry Institute for Teachers*) in west central North Dakota from August 5-8, 2013.

This professional development opportunity provides two semester credits from either Minot State University, North Dakota State University or the University of North

Dakota for K-12 teachers. Educators teaching ND Studies will find it particularly useful.

Participants on the traveling charter bus tour will learn about the geography, geology and forestry of that region. Presenters will provide participants with information and resources. This 'trip of a lifetime' adventure begins in Hazen with

sessions at the Garrison Dam and Fish Hatchery, Ft. Stevenson, Audubon Wildlife Center, Knife River Indian Villages, Lewis and Clark Center, Cross Ranch, Great Plains Synfuels Plant and the Coteau Mine.

For more information, contact glenda.fauske@ndsu.edu or call (701) 228-5446.