

Community Forestry Resource Center Promotes Responsible Management

CASE STUDY: CERTIFICATION IN MINNESOTA

The Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC) implements innovative strategies to help private landowners maintain sustainable forestry practices throughout Minnesota.

Established in 1998 through the Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) in Minneapolis, the CFRC has provided leadership for foresters, natural resource professionals, and landowners interested in joining the growing trend of responsible management.

The CFRC works to promote responsible forest management by encouraging the long-term health and prosperity of small, privately-owned woodlots, their owners and their communities.

Forest certification emerged in the early 1990s as a mechanism for forest owners and managers to establish accountability in terms of

the way they manage their land.

The CFRC helps family forest owners in the Upper Midwest achieve this status by collaborating in the development of cooperatives and other capacity building tools that can help improve forest management and increase opportunities for forest certification.



CFRC co-sponsored a workshop on the FSC-certified land of the Audubon Center of the Northwoods that demonstrated horse logging as a low-impact alternative for private landowners.

The CFRC also provides technical assistance, such as ecological monitoring and economic analysis, and educational resources such as a website, list-serves and newsletters.

CASE STUDY: CERTIFICATION IN MINNESOTA

These services help increase landowners' access to information and assistance, which helps increase the chances of successful forest stewardship and sustainable management practices.

By providing expertise in important, but perhaps complicated aspects of management, the CFRC is able to engage family forest owners in unique and important land stewardship opportunities. For example, the CFRC provides workshops on identifying and controlling invasive species and how to manage your woodlot for migratory songbirds.

There are over 150 species of songbirds that make their home in the forests of the Upper Midwest. CFRC's workshops contribute to the many efforts underway to find ways of improving forest management to create favorable habitat for birds and other wildlife.

CFRC's initiative in affordable Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for small private forest

landowners – the “Umbrella Certification System” – entered its fourth year in 2005 and continues to be an important source of education and technical assistance for those interested in practicing FSC-certified forestry.

In the past year, the pool of properties certified through the CFRC program has grown to 24 owners managing over 1,700 acres.

By working to encourage the long-term health and prosperity of private forestland, the CFRC helps family forest owners and promotes environmentally responsible behavior.

*For more information about the Community Forestry Resource Center please contact: Don Arnosti, Director, 612-870-3460
darnosti@iatp.org
www.forestrycenter.org*

The Upper Mississippi Forest Certification Group developed this Case Study with the support of the McKnight Foundation.