

Northeast Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Project – Final Report

Date: December 10, 2003

Report Period: September 30, 2001 to October 2, 2003

Grant Project Period: September 30, 2001 to September 30, 2003

Grant Recipient: Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation Trust

Grant Number: 01-DG-11244225-380

Recipient Contact Person: William Lange

Project Director: James Stiehler

Progress Achieved in Accomplishing Project Goals and Objectives:

1. **Plan Development Goal** – To prepare 25 Forest Stewardship Plans on approximately 6,000 acres at a cost of \$4.00 per acre or less.

Accomplishments: (see Exhibit 1)

- 33 Forest Stewardship Plans Prepared
- 8,000 Acres Planned

Unit Costs:

- Average cost for stewardship plans was \$3.62 per acre (see Exhibit 1 for individual plan costs)

Project Accomplishments and Difficulties Encountered:

As stated in the proposal, the method of bidding the work and selecting plan writers needed to be evaluated and changed from the first phase of this project (Grant No.: 00-DG-11244225-200). Even before we could begin to implement this second phase of the project, it was determined that the low bid process used in the original grant had failed as did the “working circle” concept. Therefore a new method was developed to both salvage the original project and to implement this second phase. The new concept was to conduct “Meet the Plan Writer Workshops” where landowners could sign up for stewardship planning financial assistance and meet with approved forest stewardship plan writers. The workshops provided information on stewardship planning and related forest resource management topics. The primary focus was to introduce the plan writers and give the landowners an opportunity to talk with them and ultimately select a plan writer. This worked far better than even we had imagined. At the first workshop which was conducted on February 23, 2002 at the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center in Mayfield, Pennsylvania, nearly all the landowners with unfinished plans from the original working circles were able to select their plan writer, plus all the funds for plans under this grant were assigned to twenty-three forest landowners (see Exhibit 1). For the new sign ups, the cost share was set at the established rates for the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program (as

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revised 5/98). Landowners negotiated the plan cost with their plan writer and paid the difference between the total cost and the cost share. Both landowners and plan writers were pleased with this revised system.

Due to the overwhelming response for plans using this process and to provide opportunities for forest landowners in the expanded 10th Congressional District, it was decided to utilize all the unobligated forest practice funds for additional plans. A second “Meet the Plan Writer Workshop” was organized and conducted on February 8, 2003 at the PPL Montour Preserve, Washingtonville, Pennsylvania. A program, similar to the original, was conducted and the remaining funds were assigned. Approximately forty forest landowners attended the workshop and twenty landowners signed up for financial assistance (see Exhibit 2).

Although all funds had been assigned and even reassigned throughout the project, there was \$4,178.52 of the grant that didn’t get utilized. A few individuals either changed their minds about planning at the end or did not get their plans completed in time to meet the September 2003 deadline.

2. Forest Practice Installation – Deer exclusion demonstrations

Accomplishments:

- 2 deer exclusion high fence demonstrations installed

Unit Costs:

- Average cost share for standard deer fence was \$473.52 per foot or \$2.79 per acre (balance paid by landowners)

Difficulties Encountered:

- No significant difficulties were encountered, however, it was determined that enough deer exclusion fences had been installed to adequately demonstrate the deer browsing problem so the funds were reassigned to stewardship plans.

3. Outreach Activities

- The project in itself was an outreach activity through the “Meet the Plan Writer Workshops”.



2-Year Old Aspen Inside Deer Exclosure

Signature of Authorized Official:

William Lange
Pocono Northeast RCT Chairman
and Pocono Northeast RC&D Treasurer

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Forestry Practice Installation Deer Fence						
Landowner	County	Acres	Feet	Project Cost		
				Match	Grant	Total
Barton Brothers	Lackawanna	28	3408	\$3,408.00	\$6,405.85	\$9,813.85
Kilgore, James	Wayne	11	3205	\$2,163.37	\$6,490.13	\$8,653.50



Kilgore 11-Acre Deer Exclosure Under Construction



Barton Brothers 28-Acre Deer Exclosure