Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report

Project Name: Online Urban Forestry & Urban-Rural Interface Forestry Technology Transfer

Funding Year: 2010

Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - R6

Sponsoring Organization: Oregon Dept. of Forestry

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Participating Organizations: Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Washington Forestry

Grantee: Oregon Dept. of Forestry

Project Funding

Agreement(s): 10-DG-11062764-014, 10-DG-11062764-010

Funding Sources

Project Design

Project Purpose
The project will develop a coordinated online natural resources technology transfer, reaching elected and appointed officials, citizen activists, city governments, non-profit organizations, and green industry professionals. Alaska's, Idaho's and Washington's role in this project is supported through $20,000 each in USFS--UCF funds.

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National Themes & Outcomes

Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes

Protect Forests from Threats

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

Strategic Issues

Technology transfer is an ongoing need in the natural resources profession. Every natural resource agency and organization has a need to educate the public, its stakeholders, and its clients about the environmental issues our society faces.The four Pacific Northwest states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are geographically large and diverse. From large cities to small towns to rural communities, the urban forestry educational needs are extensive. A common challenge across all four states is the need to provide cost effective urban forestry training and technology transfer to help cities develop sustainable urban forestry programs. The goal of this project is to extend the reach of urban forestry and urban-rural interface forestry technology transfer in the Pacific Northwest, and create a model for other states and regions to follow in conveying this important knowledge to people who can affect change at the local level.

This new online delivery system for technology transfer will complement, not replace, place-based training. The new system will provide a menu of beginning to advanced subject matter offerings, and a sliding scale of free to fee based events.ODF will contract with Oregon State University and the Pacific Northwest Chapter – International Society of Arboriculture to create this new system. The online offerings funded by this grant will be made available free of charge. Sessions that provide recertification credit for arborists, landscapers, planners, or foresters might carry a fee for that credit, collected by either contracted partner, as they often do now with place-based events. However, informative courses carrying no recertification credit will not carry a fee. Flexibility built into the system will allow educational events to be offered to recipients in all four states or specifically targeted to just one state, and marketed broadly to all audiences or tailored narrowly to a specific audience. Content offerings will not only include the latest in urban forestry research findings and Best Management Practices, but will also be correlated to S&PF themes and priorities such as conserving working forests, protecting forests from harm, reducing the effects of forest fragmentation, and managing urban/rural interface issues.

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Collaboration & Partners

The Oregon Department of Forestry is the lead agency for this project. Cooperating partners include the Alaska Division of Forestry, Idaho Department of Lands, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Pacific Northwest Chapter
– International Society of Arboriculture, Oregon State University, and Oregon State University Extension. Staff from the four state forestry agencies are serving as the project coordination team, and provided overall project direction. OSU and PNW-ISA staff provided coordination of two of the key deliverables – online tech transfer portals where information is available to natural resource professionals.

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Accomplishments

Deliverables

1)Online tech transfer sites - The project is creating a PNW UCF Online Tech Transfer Network among the four states Oregon State University, and PNW-ISA. Two "portal" pages, one based with PNW-ISA (three courses) and another at OSU (two courses), are being linked to the four state forestry agency pages. Coordinated delivery of technology transfer learning opportunities, including multi-media presentations such as webinars, podcasts, videos, and PowerPoint shows have been developed.

2)A series of pilot project of educational interactions with urban forestry and green industry professionals were conducted, including the Community Tree Management Institute (35 people, 18 different modules) and the Tree Risk For Municipal Officials webinar (1000 attendees) were conducted.

Accomplishments to Date

•Two new online learning portal supported by this project have been created at http://elearning.pnwisa.org and http://pne.oregonstate.edu
•Three one-hour webinars were offered in Winter/Spring 2012, attracting over 60 urban natural resource professionals.
•Eighteen urban forestry online sessions were attended by 35 people each as part of the 2012 Community Tree Management Institute. Attendees were from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.
•Four educational tree related podcasts have been completed and will be uploaded to a state urban forestry webpage
•A draft of a new asynchronous course, Managing Native Forest Remnants in the PNW, has been completed and will launch at the OSU Professional and Non-Credit Education course website in early 2014.

Deliverables in Progress

This project is complete with all deliverables met.

Challenges

•This project is behind schedule, but the quality of the results has been worth the delay

•The following challenges are evident:
oWe are breaking new ground - this has never been done before on this scale. Coordination of this project along with the many other competitive grant projects that are either underway or in development.
oStaff availability has been an issue with this project. Cross-state and agency coordination - there are many players involved, making it more complicated and time consuming.

Information Last Updated
11/24/2015