

LUMBERJACK RC&D PROJECTS

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

AQUACULTURE WORKSHOP

Strategy Code: I B 1

Description of Opportunity

There are numerous man-made ponds in the Lumberjack area that are being used or have the potential to be used for fish farming. There is a need to provide updated information to interested parties on starting a business or improving an existing operation.

Benefits Expected

Pond owners will be able to make an informed decision on the viability of starting a new business or expanding/diversifying their current operation. Participants will also learn where to get additional resource/business information and who to contact with any future questions.

Status

A one-day workshop (to be held in late 2004 or early 2005) is being planned by the committee.

BIOMASS/ FOREST INDUSTRY CROSS TRAINING

Strategy Codes: III B 1 and I C 1

Description of Opportunity

This grant consists of three separate projects:

1. Biomass/Wood Waste Opportunities—Much attention has been paid to the use of biomass to offset dependency on fossil fuels for heating and energy production. Making communities aware of biomass alternatives is critical to getting these alternatives considered in their energy planning process.
2. Forest Industry Cross-training—Various groups within the forest products industry have made an effort to improve marketing and utilization within Wisconsin. This effort will bring the three distinct forest industry groups together, namely loggers, sawmill owners, and secondary wood manufacturers, to discuss issues and ideas.
3. Income Opportunities for Loggers—In addition to the normal products provided to the wood and paper industry, opportunities exist for harvesting unusual products for specialty markets or providing additional services to landowners.

Benefits Expected

1. Workshops will target economic development staff, community leaders, and business owners to make them aware of opportunities to use wood chips and other forms of wood for heating and energy production. The goal will be better utilization of wood residue and waste, while at the same time getting communities to use a readily abundant renewable fuel source.
2. The workshops will provide a better understanding of the different facets within the forest products industry, which is critical to improving the utilization and marketing of wood products.
3. Loggers will be presented with information on new forest product markets as well as examples of additional products and services they could provide to increase viability of their businesses.

Status

In April of 2002, Lumberjack signed a \$14,664 Grant Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for this project. On April 17, 2002, a project contract was entered into with Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C. The consultant was responsible for developing informational material as well as organizing and facilitating the workshops. On October 24, 2002, Amendment No. 2 was approved by the Forest Service extending the termination date of the project to December 31, 2003. A total of eight workshops were conducted during 2002 and 2003. The final report for the project was submitted to the Forest Service on November 21, 2003. Council is currently waiting for approval of the report and receipt of the remaining 50% of grant reimbursement.

IDENTIFYING REAL COSTS FOR EXTRACTING LOGGING RESIDUE

Strategy Code: I C 1

Description of Opportunity

A need exists to determine the actual costs for logging residue from different timber types, chipping, and delivery of the biomass to energy production facilities. Cost studies will be conducted on logging residue, chipping, and trucking under various logging scenarios. Logging operations included in the study will be mechanized cut-to-length, manual cut-to-length, and pole-length harvesting systems.

Benefits Expected

The project will determine the cost of producing biomass chips and transporting them under several different logging situations. This project could have a tremendous effect on reducing logging residue, which constitutes a major source of potential fuel for forest fires. There is the possibility of increased income for forest landowners and loggers as well as the opportunity for development/expansion in the renewable energy sector.

Status

In July of 2003, Lumberjack received a \$30,000 grant award from the U.S. Forest Service to complete this project. On December 16, 2003 a project contract was entered into with Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C. The consultant is responsible for conducting the study and developing the final report for the project by September 30, 2005.

PORTABLE POWER PLANT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Strategy Code: III B 1

Description of Opportunity

In parts of rural Northern Wisconsin there is a growing need for alternative power sources and more efficient transmission methods. Combined with the fact that these same areas are heavily forested with high concentrations of forest fire fuel loads, there is a need for a more cost-effective way to reduce the forest fire hazard and utilize wood waste.

Benefits Expected

This project will consist of a comprehensive feasibility study on efficient methods of alternative energy such as portable power plants and wood-fired boiler systems to provide power for local businesses. The desired results are reduction of forest fire hazard and wood waste, production of cheaper, more efficient sources of energy growth in economically depressed areas, and increasing public awareness of the relationship between responsible resource utilization and hazard mitigation.

Status

In September of 2001, Lumberjack received a \$31,500 grant award from the U.S. Forest Service for this project. A second grant extension was approved on September 24, 2003 by the Forest Service extending the project deadline to September 30, 2004. On December 16, 2003 an updated contract was signed with Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C. to complete the project. The contractor is responsible for conducting the feasibility study and developing the project final report by project deadline.

SITE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS FOR A WOOD-FIRED SYSTEM

Strategy Code: III B 1

Description of Opportunity

Many administrators of businesses, schools, and government facilities have little information in regard to the economic feasibility of wood-fired boiler heating systems when making decisions on heating options. The inability to qualify many of the variables for this type of heating system tends to make it an option that is easily ignored. In 1985, an economic analysis model (AB Curtis program) was developed, but is now obsolete.

Benefits Expected

The 1985 AB Curtis program, "A Preliminary Economic Analysis of a Wood-fired System," will be reviewed for usable content and an updated program will be developed. The program will identify potential firms and institutions that could possibly convert to wood fuel usage for their energy needs and provide economic information for making the initial decision about conversion. This program could ultimately result in a reduced dependence on fossil fuels and increased utilization of Wisconsin's renewable wood energy source.

Status

In July of 2003, Lumberjack received a \$20,000 grant award from the U.S. Forest Service for this project. A contract was signed with Consultant Robert Govett on August 8, 2003, to develop the program to gauge the economic feasibility of wood-fired boiler systems and to test the program through the collection of on-site information. The project completion date is December 31, 2004.

UNCOMMON FOREST PRODUCTS WORKSHOPS

Strategy Code: I A 1



Description of Opportunity

There is local interest in expanding the marketing of "uncommon" forest products such as nuts, berries, dried mushrooms, and other handicrafts made from forest resources.

Benefits Expected

This project will promote harvesting and marketing of uncommon forest products.

Status

Lumberjack has co-hosted several educational workshops over the past few years. Workshops have primarily targeted underserved groups. The Menominee tribe has expressed interest in conducting another community workshop in 2004.

FINANCE/CONTRACTING COMMITTEE

The Finance/Contracting Committee is responsible for developing draft council agreements and contracts. In addition, the committee reviews all grants, project budgets, and financial statements, and assists with the audit process.

FORESTRY COMMITTEE PROJECTS

EAP FIRE PLAN FUNDS TO THE STATES

Strategy Code: III F 2

Description of Opportunity

A need exists to develop a strategy to effectively utilize the fire plan program funds over the next three years.

Benefits Expected

A "Fire Plan Funds to the States" strategy will be developed which will help direct the efforts of those participating in the program.

Status

In August of 2003, Lumberjack received a \$5,000 grant award from the U.S. Forest Service to complete this project. DNR Utilization and Marketing Specialist Terry Mace will select a contractor to develop the strategy. The project deadline is September 30, 2004.

ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES

Strategy Code: I C 1

Description of Opportunity

Lumberjack has the opportunity to help support the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service – Economic Action Program (EAP) by providing contractual services for a consultant to collect and develop stories about successful rural development projects within the 20-state Northeast Region, including Wisconsin.

Benefits Expected

"Economic Action Program Success Stories" will be developed for distribution within the region providing information on sustaining economic growth and fostering environmental protection.

Status

In September of 2000, Lumberjack received a \$15,000 grant award for this project. On October 22, 2003, a grant extension until September 30, 2004 was approved by the U.S. Forest Service to complete the project. Forest Service Program Manager Lew McCreery will select a contractor to develop the informational material.

FOREST FIRE FIGHTING FORWARDERS

Strategy Code: III F 1

Description of Opportunity

In remote areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota there is the need for obtaining large volumes of water during forest fire suppression and prescribed burning. Combined with the fact that these same remote areas are heavily forested

with high concentrations of forest fire fuel loads, it seems apparent that there are more efficient ways to overcome the difficulties of forest fire suppression.

Benefits Expected

This project will provide for research and development of portable water tanks for use in forest fire suppression and prescribed burning. This grant will fund the fabrication of large volume (750 and 1,000 gallon) water carrying units that have the ability to be transported by logging forwarders into remote regions. With assistance from state and federal cooperators, operators will be identified and trained in the area of forest fire suppression and water delivery by "Forest Fire Fighting Forwarders."

Status

In September of 2001, Lumberjack received a \$31,500 grant award from the U.S. Forest Service to conduct this project. An agreement was entered into on March 25, 2002, with Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C. to facilitate project activities. On October 8, 2003, the U.S. Forest Service approved a second grant extension to December 31, 2003, along with several project modifications. Six portable water carrying units with capacities of 750 and 1,000 gallons were constructed by the end of October 2003. RRS will facilitate the distribution of the four remaining units throughout fire hazard areas of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The final financial and project reports are due to the Forest Service by March 31, 2004.

FOREST HEALTH MONITORING ~ P3 (FHM)

Strategy Code: III C 2

Description of Opportunity

Lumberjack RC&D has contracted with the US Forest Service since 1994 to establish forest health monitoring plots throughout Wisconsin. These plots help monitor the health of the state's forest resource by assessing damage caused by insects such as the gypsy moth, various forest diseases, and pollutants.



Benefits Expected

By establishing and measuring permanent FHM plots, forest managers and scientists are able to better identify and quantify factors influencing our forests, work toward a better understanding of current environmental conditions, and determine what actions we can take to improve the environment for future generations.

Status

Since 1994, Lumberjack has been able to hire seasonal employees to establish and collect data on FHM plots. In May of 2003 Lumberjack signed a \$31,887 Challenge Cost-share Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to continue this project into 2004.

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS ~ P2 (FIA)

Strategy Code: III C 2

Description of Opportunity

The U.S. Forest Service works in cooperation with state foresters across the country to establish and maintain permanent forest inventory plots. Historically, forest inventory plots were measured every 10 to 15 years to provide customers with information regarding land-use change, forest health, vegetative changes, and quality and volume of forest products. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determined a need to collect plot data on an annual basis.



Benefits Expected

With the addition of the Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) project, Lumberjack combined the FIA and FHM projects to increase program efficiency through lower administrative costs and eliminating duplication of activities inherent to the two inventories. Collecting plot data annually will improve the quality and timeliness of resource information to aid in developing sound management recommendations. Lumberjack RC&D was able to establish several permanent field forester positions in rural areas of Wisconsin.

Status

Lumberjack RC&D is responsible for administering the FIA program for the entire State of Wisconsin. Lumberjack hired a project supervisor in November of 1999. Currently, Lumberjack has seven field foresters located in three offices throughout the state. A \$537,000 FIA Intensification Contract was signed with the DNR in June of 2003 to continue the project. On June 10, 2003, FIA Contract Amendment No. 1 was accepted by the council providing \$4,990 to hire a consultant to assist with FIA data analysis. On August 18, 2003, a project agreement was signed with Consultant Sally Dahir to provide the data analysis services.

FORESTRY AWARDS

Strategy Code: III C 1

Description of Opportunity

Lumberjack has been in existence since 1968 and has developed long-term relationships with numerous agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals who promote sustainable forest management. In 2003, Lumberjack's forestry committee established a "Forestry Awards Program" to

recognize the important contributions made to sustainable forestry and the RC&D program within the State of Wisconsin.

Benefits Expected

This awards program will help raise public awareness of existing and new partnerships among various entities that support sustainable forest management in Wisconsin. This program will also promote, celebrate, and highlight individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, and others who support the RC&D program.

Status

Lumberjack's forestry committee is in the planning process for 2004.

LAKE STATES PRESCRIBED BURNING CONFERENCE

Strategy Code: III F 1

Description of Opportunity

The use of fire as a forest management tool has long been misunderstood, and in many cases, avoided. Prescribed burning is an excellent way to promote healthy new stands of trees, create biodiversity, and greatly reduce the fuel load for potential wildfires. Many land managers, foresters, and landowners either lack the knowledge to administer a prescribed burn, or have been misinformed about what is involved in prescribed burning.

Benefits Expected

A three-day conference on prescribed burning in the Lakes States area will provide participants with the basics of preparing for a prescribed burn, the mechanics of conducting a burn, and an opportunity to view the outcome of several past prescribed burns. In addition, the opportunity will exist for participants to share their experiences with peers from various agencies who conduct prescribed burns.

Status

In July of 2003, Lumberjack received a \$23,000 U.S. Forest Service grant award to establish and conduct the conference. On January 9, 2004 a project contract was entered into with Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C. The consultant is responsible for developing and conducting the conference. The project completion deadline is September 30, 2005.

LOGGERS' CONFERENCES

Strategy Code: III D 3

Description of Opportunity

With increasing emphasis on environmental concerns and the issuance of new rules and regulations, Wisconsin loggers need to be kept better informed of the conditions and influences that are affecting the forest industry.

Benefits Expected

Loggers will gain important up-to-date information regarding the forest industry and their livelihood.

Status

Lumberjack often assists cooperating businesses, professional organizations, state and federal agencies, and local units of government to host annual logger conferences in Michigan and Wisconsin. Lumberjack receives reimbursement in the form of a standard wage allowance and expenses for council staff providing registration assistance. Interest and attendance at conferences continues to increase each year.



MARKETING URBAN WOOD

Strategy Code: I C 1

Description of Opportunity

A need exists to provide current information on utilization and marketing of urban wood. Private, public, and local governmental entities that cut or trim urban trees and then ultimately dispose of the biomass need to be made aware of current markets that exist for their by-products, how to tap into specialty markets, and what potential exists to create new markets.

Benefits Expected

The main objective of the three workshops to be conducted around the state will be to develop a higher use for urban wood than going into landfills. Target audience for the workshops will be tree service companies, public utilities and local municipalities.

Status

In March of 2002, Lumberjack signed a \$6,000 grant agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A grant extension was approved by the DNR on September 27, 2002, extending the project deadline to December 31, 2003. Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C. provided consulting services which included developing handout information as well as workshop establishment and facilitation. The three workshops were held in Madison, Milwaukee, and Green Bay. A final project report from the consultant is due to the DNR by March 31, 2004 along with the request from the council for the remaining 50 percent of grant reimbursement.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROJECTS (00-333 and 01-116)

Strategy Code: III D 2 and III D 3

Description of Opportunity

There is the need for technical assistance to encourage sustainable forest management for the purpose of promoting sustainable rural economic development, and to provide technology transfer among state forestry specialists.

Benefits Expected

Projected outcomes of this project include conducting workshops, training sessions, and seminars to improve forest product knowledge of field foresters and representatives from the forest products industry. This grant will also provide the resources to address the technical training needs of state forestry staff.

Status

In September of 2000, Lumberjack received a U.S. Forest Service grant award of \$30,000; in September of 2001 an additional grant of \$30,000 was awarded. These grants have allowed state forestry specialists to attend various rural development and forest sustainability seminars and training workshops held in Wisconsin as well as in other states around the U.S. In addition, several technology transfer workshops have been developed and conducted around the state. In October of 2003 grant extensions were approved until September 30, 2004 by the U.S. Forest Service to complete all project tasks.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROJECT (02-408)

Strategy Code: III D 4

Description of Opportunity

There is the need for technical assistance to encourage sustainable forest management for the purpose of promoting sustainable rural economic development, and to provide technology transfer among state forestry specialists.

Benefits Expected

Projected outcomes of this project include conducting workshops, training sessions, and seminars to improve forest product knowledge of field foresters and representatives from the forest products industry. This grant will also provide the resources to address the technical training needs of state forestry staff. In addition, two brochure drafts will be developed on the topic of "Preventing Staining in Logs" that will be produced and distributed by UW-Extension.

Status

In April of 2003, Lumberjack RC&D received a U.S. Forest Service grant award of \$30,000 to complete project tasks. DNR Forest Utilization and Marketing Specialist Terry Mace forwarded the draft brochure idea and name of the consultant he requested be hired by the council. On November 11, 2003, an agreement was entered into with Hubbard Forest Solutions, L.L.C. to develop material for the draft brochures by September 30, 2004.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROJECT (03-416)

Strategy Code: III D 2

Description of Opportunity

There is the need for technical assistance to encourage sustainable forest management for the purpose of promoting sustainable rural economic development, provide technology transfer among state forestry specialists, and assist the WoodLinks program.

Benefits Expected

Projected outcomes of this project include conducting workshops, training sessions, and seminars to improve forest product knowledge of field foresters and representatives from the forest products industry. This grant will also provide the resources to address the technical training needs of state forestry staff. In addition, state forestry specialists will be able to provide assistance in the development and expansion of the WoodLinks program in Wisconsin.

Status

In August of 2003, Lumberjack RC&D received a U.S. Forest Service grant award of \$19,750 to complete project tasks. As of December 31, 2003, no grant activity has taken place.

WISCONSIN FOREST RESOURCES EDUCATION ALLIANCE (WFREA)

Strategy Code: III D 1

Description of Opportunity

The Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance (WFREA) provides outreach to K-12 students and numerous individuals, groups, and organizations. WFREA's mission is to provide leadership in forestry education for present and future generations.

Established in August of 1998, WFREA works with the following partners: LEAF (Learning, Experiences, and Activities in Forestry) at UW-Stevens Point; PLT (Project Learning Tree); TFT (Trees for Tomorrow); UW-Extension; WCEE (Wis. Center for Environmental Education); and the DNR (Department of Natural Resources).

Benefits Expected

WFREA markets existing programs to new audiences, develops unique programs and educational materials, and ultimately showcases Wisconsin regarding sustainable forestry and forest resources.

In 2004, the WFREA program will focus its efforts toward:

- partnering with the LEAF program at UW-Stevens Point to update school forest management plans.
- collaboration with LEAF to provide professional development for staff at urban nature centers.
- development of a three-minute video about the *Log A Load for Kids™* program to be distributed in seven markets during the Children's Miracle Network telethon.
- assisting with the coordination of the 2004 Wis. Assoc. for Environmental Education Conference, which will promote sustainable forestry to approximately 300 statewide educators.
- continued marketing and distribution of the *Wisconsin Forests Forever* CD-ROM packet.
- teacher recruitment for the sustainable forestry Lakes States Region Teachers' Tour.

Status

In July of 2002, Lumberjack received a \$19,615 grant award from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB). Projects completed included two videos complimenting Wis. K-12 forestry educational program activities. The final project report was forwarded on November 11, 2003. All grant funds have been received.

In July of 2003, Lumberjack received a \$14,935 grant award from WEEB. WFREA Executive Director Eden Koljord is currently working on grant activities. Grant project deadline is December 31, 2004.



PERSONNEL/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

EMPLOYEE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE

The Personnel/Special Events Committee is responsible for developing personnel policies and procedures, supervising council employees, performing employee evaluations, and providing direction on human resource, health, and safety issues, as well as special events.

RECREATION/TOURISM ~ RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Strategy Code: I F 1

Description of Opportunity

The U.S. Forest Service supports sustainable community development through its Economic Recovery Program. Smaller rural communities are often confronted with the same environmental/economic issues as larger metropolitan areas; however, they usually lack sufficient income or local support systems to adequately address sustainable growth issues. Grants provide small rural communities with much-needed financial assistance to obtain adequate planning services.

Benefits Expected

The Goodman Community Development plan will be developed out of community meetings and contracted plan writing.

Status

In March of 2001, Lumberjack received a \$5,000 grant award from the U.S. Forest Service to help develop the community development plan. On October 22, 2003, the Forest Service approved a grant extension until March 31, 2004 to complete this project. On November 19, 2003, a council-approved contract was forwarded to Renewable Resource Solutions, L.L.C., but has not been signed by the consultant as of January 7, 2004.

HERITAGE TOURISM WEB SITE

Strategy Code: I D 1

Description of Opportunity

By partnering with International Trade, Business, and Economic Development Council (ITBEC), Lumberjack would like to develop a heritage tourism web site map as an overlay to ITBEC's existing tourism site located at:

www.northcentralwisconsin.com

Benefits Expected

It is hoped that this web site will help increase tourism in Northern Wisconsin.

Status

Lumberjack continues to look for funding for this project. To date, the two Wis. Dept. of Tourism JEM (Joint Effort Marketing) grants submitted have been unsuccessful. On December 12, 2003, project information was forwarded to the National Association of RC&Ds Grant Research Service to find potential funding sources. If funding is received, each Lumberjack county

will be able to showcase up to ten historical/cultural sites on the web site map. Some counties from the Golden Sands RC&D will also be included.

OCONTO COUNTY LAKES CLASSIFICATION DATA BASE

Strategy Code: IV A 1

Description of Opportunity

Lumberjack RC&D has been granted the power to enter into contracts for the purpose of making studies and assisting with rural sustainable development activities. Oconto County Planning, Zoning, and Solid Waste Committee requested Lumberjack's assistance to help them meet their obligations under a Lake Classification Grant Agreement they entered into with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The creation of a lake classification system for Oconto County would greatly increase the county staff's ability to help protect the surface water resource.

Benefits Expected

Data on county lakes, shoreline development, resource use, and susceptibility to ecological damage will be collected and assembled into a computerized data base. Analysis of water resources data will be coordinated with a Citizen's Advisory Committee, and a County Technical Team. Project outcomes include the development of a county lake classification system and strategies for the implementation of surface water protection.

Status

On January 1, 2003, Lumberjack RC&D entered into a \$40,000 contract with Oconto County to provide technical services required within the Lakes Classification Grant Agreement. On May 12, 2003, a Lumberjack RC&D Temporary Employment Agreement was signed by Brennan Haworth, to provide technical services necessary to complete the Oconto County contract obligations by the December 31, 2003 deadline.

TAKE SMOKEY HOME BACKPACK PROJECT

Strategy Code: III F 2

Description of Opportunity

Thousands of acres of forests and fields, along with numerous homes, are consumed by wildfire annually across the country due to carelessness of humans. By providing fire prevention awareness education at an early age, it is hopeful that the number of wildfires, injuries, and fatalities will be reduced in the future. The "Take Smokey Home" backpack project provides a fire prevention message to children in kindergarten through third



grade. Parents share in the home activities and reinforce this critical message to their children.

Benefits Expected

The goal of the project is to reduce the number of wildfires and fires in the home caused by children. Adult exposure and education to this fire prevention message is an additional side benefit.

Status

Lumberjack has implemented this program in Langlade, Lincoln, Forest, and Vilas counties. Funding is being sought to implement this project in our remaining six counties.