Wood to Energy Outreach Program

The South is a prime location for producing woody biomass for energy production because of the proximity of many forests to expanding urban areas. The USDA Forest Service, Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry, and the University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation developed an outreach program to help communities discuss the feasibility of using woody biomass for energy production. The program is funded by the USDA and US Department of Energy.

The overall objectives of the program are to:

1. increase awareness and knowledge about using woody biomass for energy production;
2. foster communication and collaboration among community leaders, potential wood fuel users, wood suppliers, forest managers, and others about the possibilities of bioenergy in their communities; and
3. provide outreach strategies to communities as they begin to discuss new opportunities.

The program has developed outreach materials to support community discussion such as the Biomass Ambassador Guide, Fact Sheets, Case Studies, and Community Economic Profiles. These materials and more can be found on the Wood to Energy Outreach Program website at [http://www.interfacesouth.org/woodybiomass/](http://www.interfacesouth.org/woodybiomass/).

For more information please contact Martha Monroe, Associate Professor of Environmental Education and Extension at the University of Florida, at mcmrooe@ufl.edu.

Upcoming CFEOR Meeting: Wednesday October 17th

There will be a CFEOR Steering, Science, and Outreach Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 17th from 9:30 to 4:00 at the Austin Cary Memorial Forest in Gainesville, FL. We are hoping to get many scientists and managers from each member organization to take part in discussions about future conserved forest research needs. If you will be attending, please email Laura Sadowski at lap322@ufl.edu by Tuesday, October 9. Please note in the email if you will want a vegetarian lunch.
Wanted: Ideas for future research!

We have asked the steering committee members from each CFEOR organization to prioritize current research needs and to come up with 3 specific short term research projects (can be completed within 1-2 years) and 3 specific long term research projects (can be completed in 5-20 years) that would benefit their organization’s conserved forest management practices. We would like the agencies collective view, so please help your CFEOR representative in creating these research titles.

Upcoming Conferences

- **Florida Firewise Conference**
  Protecting Florida Communities from Wildfire
  October 2-3 at Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, FL

- **Deer and Turkey Management Short Course-UF/IFAS Extension**
  October 4-5 at UF’s North Florida Research & Education Center-Quincy, FL
  For more information visit http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Calendar/DeerTurkey-2007.pdf

- **3rd Annual Florida Quail & Dove Management Short Course-UF/IFAS Extension**
  October 19 at Turner-Civic Center in Arcadia, FL
  http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/Agricultural/wildlife_and_conservation.html

- **Confronting the Cogongrass Crisis Across the South**
  November 7-8 at Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center in Mobile, AL

- **Public Land Aquisition & Management Partnership Conference**
  Hosted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District
  December 5-7 Hyatt Hotel in Sarasota, FL
  For more information visit http://www.ces.fau.edu/plam2007/index.php

Recent Research Finding

**American Crocodile (Crocodylus acutus) in Florida: Recommendations for Endangered Species Recovery and Ecosystem Restoration**


When the American Crocodile was declared endangered in 1975, scant data were available for making management decisions. Results of intensive studies conducted during the late 1970s and early 1980s by the National Park Service, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and Florida Power and Light Company resulted in an optimistic outlook for crocodiles. However, new issues face crocodiles today.
Florida and Biscayne bays have undergone changes that have caused concern for the health of these ecosystems. More crocodiles and nests occur in more places today than in 1975, and the number of nesting females in Florida has increased from 20 in 1975 to 1985 in 2004, and the number of concentrations of nesting effort from two to four. This evidence supports the proposed reclassification of the American Crocodile from endangered to threatened. However, crocodiles are still threatened by modification of habitat because of development adjacent to crocodile habitat and will benefit from restored freshwater flow into estuaries.

As crocodiles continue to increase in number and expand into new areas, interactions with humans will occur more frequently. The challenge of integrating a recovering population of the American Crocodile with an ever-increasing use of coastal areas by humans will be the final challenge in successful recovery of this once critically endangered species.