



Financial support from RREA is critical to maintaining the ability of forestry & natural resource Extension programs to support private landowners.

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)

REMAINS CRITICAL

The RREA funds forestry Extension programs at 71 land-grant universities nationwide to provide guidance to the country's 11 million+ forest and range landowners on best management practices. These landowners are responsible for 441 million acres of forest and rangeland.² Management of this land strongly influences the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the nation. RREA finances thousands of educational events and learning opportunities that help private landowners keep their lands productive and healthy. The social and economic strength of working lands would be vastly diminished without this funding.

Private landowners and their managed forests supply forest products companies with the wood they need. Forest products companies in the US account for nearly 4 percent total U.S. manufacturing GDP and employ close to a million men and women. 1 in 10 manufacturing jobs in 45 out of 50 states depend on the strength and resilience of this industry.

PRIVATELY OWNED
MANAGED FORESTS
PRODUCE WOOD
NEEDED FOR:

THE FOREST
PRODUCTS
INDUSTRY¹

4% US GDP

\$200B
industry

900k jobs



U.S. FOREST LAND IS
PRIVATELY OWNED

11,000,000+ INDIVIDUALS
AND FAMILIES



What is RREA?

Since 1978, the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) has expanded Extension educational programs for private forest and rangeland resources.

- RREA has received authorized funding for up to \$30 million per year to fund efforts in all 50 states but has only been appropriated at \$4.060 million (13.5%) for several years, including 2017.
- Funding is allocated to each land-grant institution based on a formula that considers each state's forested acres, growth, wood industry, population and other factors.
- The Act addresses critical private forest and rangeland issues such as wood supply, wildlife habitat, rangeland grazing productivity, economic, and environmental benefits.

Why Does it Matter?

RREA funding offers Extension programs the flexibility to address key local, state, regional and national issues. It also leverages partnership opportunities for state Extension to work with state forestry agency or other partners to address critical issues together. RREA funding has contributed to thousands of educational events for forest and range owners and directly or indirectly impacted millions of owners and managers of over 30 million acres of forest and rangeland annually.

\$1 of RREA funding has been estimated to result in **\$9** of local impact

Personnel

Faculty and staff salaries are supported by research, teaching and Extension funds. A reduction in these sources can lead to a loss of forestry and rangeland faculty and the eventual elimination of forestry and rangeland programs.

Products & Programs

RREA funds can be used to support the development of educational materials directly (publications, websites, mobile applications, etc.) or the delivery of programs (in-person or online educational events) for landowners and forest and rangeland resource professionals.

Impacts

RREA funds enable rapid response to high priority, high impact issues of significance to local and state stakeholders per the discretion of individual states. This flexibility and strength of the RREA program allow Extension experts to tackle the local problems relevant to their states and regions.

A Sampling of National Annual Impacts of RREA from a 2015 Report:

Economic

Estimated dollars earned or saved by forest and rangeland income-generating businesses

\$144,037,030

Forest and rangeland income-generating businesses created or expanded:

3,057

New jobs created in forest and rangeland income-generating businesses:

439

New jobs created in bioenergy enterprises:

217

New bioenergy enterprises developed based on biomass use from forest or rangelands:

17

Social

Number of acres protected from conversion to non-forest/rangeland uses following intergenerational land transfer and estate planning:

1,322,622

Private landowners and managers who prepared plans and or implemented at least one new practice addressing the threats and opportunities associated with intergenerational land transfer:

570

Environmental

Acres on which forest management was improved:

43,595,137

Acres on which rangeland management was improved:

9,016,733

Direct/indirect contacts who increased awareness of benefits & opportunities of forest stewardship practices:

3,942,190

Acres that received management to prevent or control exotic invasive species on public land:

2,028,999

Acres and/or stream miles on which wildlife and/or fish habitat was improved:

1,731,420

Acres that received management to prevent or control exotic invasive species on private land:

1,316,888

Acres protected from conversion to non-forest/rangeland uses ensuring retention of current forest and rangeland uses:

81,817



1. American Forest and Paper Foundation. (2017, January). State Industry Economic Impact: United States. Retrieved June 12, 2017, from <http://afandpa.org/docs/default-source/factsheet/us.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

2. Butler, Brett J, Jaketon H. Hewes, Brenton J. Dickinson, Kyle Andrejczyk, Sarah M. Butler, & Marla Markowski-Lindsay. (2016). Family Forest Ownerships of the United States, 2013: Findings from the USDA Forest Service's National Woodland Owner Survey. *J. For.* 114(6):638 - 64.

