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AMHERST

UMass Extension

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Conservation
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Feedback from 2006 Cooperators

"Beautiful workshop space!"

"Excellent hosts. Excellent meals"

"Excellent hospitality and congeniality"

"Great workshop. Very well done, especially in encouraging connections between participants and giving an overview of many different topics without getting too complicated on any given one. Good choice of field trips too."

"Thank you for this excellent workshop!"

"Thank you for a wonderful, educational, inspiring weekend. It was great to meet so many great people, hear so many excellent presentations, and become aware of so many great resources. I come away with great motivation and courage to implement some new ideas!"

"I feel extremely honored and fortunate to have been invited to this program. Thank you all!"

"Awesome guys! I feel honored to have been with this group of people. I also think that the highlands, western MA focus was great. I have been to many conferences that are statewide and always feel dwarfed and misunderstood in the larger state context."

"Thank you – you've raised my consciousness level to the level of ripe confusion – a first step in learning and taking action!"

"Would like to do something else with this same group even if a year from now. Thank you."

"There is no right or wrong way. People can combine forestry and wildlife management"

"Much better knowledge base and appreciation for the role of managing forests specifically for wildlife."

"Validates wildlife improvements and the related costs"

"Validates need for permanent conservation"

"Validates practice of late successional forest management"

"Made me appreciate the range of possible decisions a landowner can take in managing a forest"

"That timber harvesting may not be so bad after all. That Chpt 61 doesn't necessarily mean harvesting on a frequent basis."

"...it gave me far more depth of understanding it and ideas on how to effect or implement ideas in the future"

"I feel more informed."

"Conservation is not just about acquiring land."

"Much better understanding of the importance of diversity and how to quantify benefits."

"Especially the importance of thing snags and dead logs around."

"It re-emphasized the importance of the conservation of forested land."

"Excellent speakers. Ability to interact with speakers and peers"

"Understanding forest ecology, management, biodiversity"

"The entire workshop was valuable. I found most valuable the presentations giving me a better science base on aspects of wildlife habitat and role of forests."

"Learning about sustainable forestry and timber harvesting methods that can actually enhance wildlife habitat. Also, resources available in conservation efforts."

"Spending the whole time together in one place 24 hours a day and getting to know each other some and share ideas and thoughts on things presented."

"The discussions among participants pertaining to their concepts of forest conservation. It greatly increased my awareness of community concerns and pitfalls in land preservation. I found the entire workshop tremendously valuable. It's similar to looking at forest ecology and diversity. You can't remove any one aspect without impacting other aspects. All that was taught and/or demonstrated was significant / important."

"Hearing examples of former Coverts participants"

"Short concise presentations of a large amount of info. History, talk with harvester. Meeting such a large variety of people and professions. Resource bag!"

"Resource materials are fantastic. Ability of speakers to tie into research base is excellent."

"Every presenter was top notch!"

"Excellent program. I don't have any more answers but feel I can contribute more to discussions on conservation and its connection to ag. and forestry."

Feedback from 2005 Cooperators

" Please combine/expand program. Of many meetings on conservation that I have attended – MLTC, LTA etc – this was the best! "

"Awesome food, breaks, etc. Dave's compassion and energy made this workshop terrific! Almost most importantly, this workshop has rekindled the spark and compassion in me to "make a difference". All too often our role as conservation professionals ends up focusing on the day to day office duties, paperwork, and small scale emergencies that pop up. This workshop reminded me of the importance of the big picture!"

"An excellent program that I was glad to be able to participate in. I've learned a tremendous amount from the program as well as the other participants. Above all I've gained confidence in my own knowledge and feel more able to project that knowledge in my own community. Thanks for everything. "

"I was very excited to be accepted into the Coverts Program. It was for a good reason because I loved every aspect of it. I learned a lot and was very motivated. I hope the Coverts Program continues in the future. I thank you all very much. "

"This was a wonderful experience and I was taken aback at the amount of "free" information we received in the canvas bags as well as the excellent food!"

"This workshop was well worth more than \$200 for anyone. "

"Saw the compatibility of wildlife with forestry and saw that good forestry can be done."

"It improved my attitude toward and willingness to create early successional habitat. Also, made me more confident about talking to woodlot owners. "

"In the past, I have tended to look at habitat as isolated areas of management. I now see that there is a broader context to consider. "

"forestry has a role in conserving and maintaining the New England landscape."

"Greatly enhanced knowledge level and skill set as well as confidence in dealing with these matters."

"Certainly gave me the confidence to work on town land in my community."

"I look at certain harvesting options in a different manner because of the new knowledge I have received. "

"The weekend left me to feel that one person (me, in this case) can make a difference. I came to Coverts with aspirations to improve some of the properties controlled by my Conservation Commission. I'm more aware of the several options and possibilities at hand, especially since my town needs to improve its woodland diversity. Most public lands have been left to grow wild for many years and I feel better equipped to deal with these much needed improvements. "

"Great speakers, great discussion within our group and great questions initiated more great discussions."