



## Upper Peninsula Forestry !

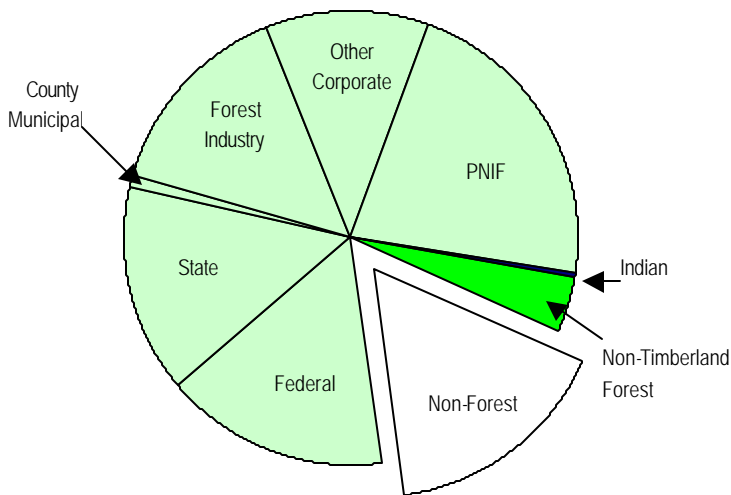
Bill Cook is the Upper Peninsula Region District Forestry Agent for Michigan State University Extension (we've got to shorten that title!). He has been on board since May, 1997. So, much of the programming efforts are new ideas or twists on existing ideas.

MSU Extension has four individuals with forestry expertise in the U.P. Bill is responsible for programming and education for the private, non-industrial forest (PNIF) owner, schools, and the natural resource management community. Mike Schira runs the Sustainable Forestry Education program for loggers and other interested parties. Additionally, two County Extension Directors are foresters. Ralph Duffek serves Houghton and Keweenaw Counties and Dave Andersen serves Schoolcraft County.




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### The Upper Peninsula - 10.5 Million Acres



There are about 8.8 million forest acres in the U.P., with 55,500 PNIF owners, two national forests, three state forests, and a major industrial ownership. Total population is around 300,000 at a density of 18 people per square mile. Forests and forestry have a great impact on defining the U.P. economy and lifestyle. PNIF owners are experiencing increasing pressure to harvest their forests as wood demands continues to build and public harvests are reduced. Concerns about forest health, sustainability, and land use are becoming increasingly common. This is one major focus area of MSUE Forestry Extension in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

**Programming** ... Providing documents such as bulletins, responding to requests, and offering referrals are some of the primary services available through MSU Extension. The reverse side of this document outlines some of the more formal programs and efforts related to forestry extension in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It is not a complete list but should render some perception of the breadth of programming. Cross-border cooperative efforts already exist but many opportunities remain unexploited. Linkages are always evolving and programs changing. For further information, feel free to contact Bill Cook, Mike Schira, or other members of Michigan State University Extension.



**Master Woodland Manager** follows a national program targeting PNIF owners and other people interested in learning about forest resources and their management. It's an intensive and comprehensive nine-week curriculum. MSU Extension offers this program in various locations across the U.P. Other public workshops include "**Woodlands & Wildlife**" and "**Taxes & Timber**".



An interactive **forestry program** has been designed for **fourth and fifth graders** based on the TREE module from the Michigan Forest Resource Association. This program reached over 500 students over the last year. It speaks about Michigan forest history, forest types, tree biology, forest management, forest products, wildlife, and other topics. There are lots of show n'tell demonstrations and each student receives a "tree cookie" to take home. Teachers receive a packet of curriculum material and forest facts.



MSU Extension teaches the logger education program through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. This initiative is a major effort by forest industry through the American Forest & Paper Association. The Michigan program is well advanced. **Mike Schira**, located in the Dickinson County Extension office, teaches the **Sustainable Forestry Education** program to a variety of interest groups, but mostly loggers. About 1,100 people have completed the program in the Upper Peninsula, alone. Several hundred more have partially met the requirements. Mike can be reached at 906-774-0363 or via email at [schiram@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:schiram@pilot.msu.edu).



**Forestry newspaper articles** are sent to 18 U.P. newspapers each month. Topics include such issues as timber sales, forest health, management planning, regeneration, planting, technical assistance, and forest ecology. Several papers run a regular column using these articles. Occasionally, other publications will seek permission and print the articles, too.



**Forestry profiles** for U.P. counties have been prepared. Each County Commissioner has received a copy of the profile for their county. These profiles are short (two pages) and contain information about volume, area, ownership, and those involved in the forestry community. Numerous sources were consulted.



MSU Extension maintains the **Michigan Society of American Foresters website**. This comprehensive collection of forestry information serves the natural resource community and beyond. There is a special section about forestry assistance, a number of on-line workshop reviews, and two auto tours. Teachers find the site loaded with information for the classroom. <http://forestry.msu.edu/msaf>.



**MSU Area of Expertise (AoE) teams** involve Extension specialists, agents, researchers and/or stakeholders organized around a particular commodity, interest area and/or issue. They are charged with listening to stakeholders, identifying priorities, planning and providing educational programs, and evaluating program outcomes and impacts. One such team has been organized for forestry. The Forestry AoE maintains a website at: <http://forestry.msu.edu/extension/>



MSU Extension in the U.P. **coordinates, networks, and collaborates** with many other agencies, industries, and organizations related to forestry and natural resources. Some of these groups include the Forest Service, Michigan DNR, consultants, community groups, Michigan Forest Association, Michigan Forest Resource Association, MSU Forestry Faculty, Michigan Technological University, Resource Conservation and Development projects, Conservation Districts, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Christmas Tree Association, Michigan Department of Agriculture, and Michigan Stewardship Incentive Program.



The U.P. Tree Identification website was built to provide an Internet resource for teachers, classrooms and individuals. 73 trees and shrubs are featured on the species description pages and 56 species are in the dichotomous key sets. There are also species abundance lists, taxonomic classification, range maps, an interactive glossary, and other resources for people interested in the forest of the U.P. The site is located on the MSAF website. <http://forestry.msu.edu/msaf>



The Michigan Forests Forever CD is a joint project with the Michigan Forest Resource Alliance. The highly interactive CD targets middle school students with natural resource management concepts and activities. The CD comes with a teachers guide