

## **NAUFRP Extension Committee Report**

Jeff Stringer, Committee Chair

### **NWOA-NAUFRP Family Forest Education Program Awards 2022**

High quality submissions were received for both the Individual Project and Comprehensive Program Family Forest Education awards this year. An individual project can include specialized courses, workshops, webpages, materials, etc. that address a specific family forest issue or problem. The comprehensive family forest education program is one that includes a broad educational effort to address a diverse array of family forest issues and problems using a wide range of educational approaches and programs.

Announcements for award nominations were circulated in March with a submission deadline of August. Nominees submitted materials including a cover letter and project/program materials that were evaluated by three nationally recognized forestry extension leaders using a numerical ranking tool focused on nine attributes associated with excellence in programming and impact.

#### **Individual Project Award**

The Individual Project Award goes to Virginia Cooperative Extension's Generation NEXT Team whose project addressed critical aspects of intergeneration transfer of forest lands. The project generated "Legacy Planning: A Guide for Virginia Landowners" a 56 page book to guide landowners in intergeneration transfer along with a website, the Generation NEXT YouTube Channel, and over 35 events for hundreds of resource professionals and attorneys.

Evaluator's praised the project:

- "Excellent submission. Impacts are well-documented and the external documents/publications are outstanding, particularly the barriers and benefits booklet. Women and minorities were included in the project."
- "I am highly complementary of the project: products, process, and impacts."
- "This is a very high quality program with tons of innovation and impact."

#### **Comprehensive Program Award**

The Comprehensive Program award is presented to University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) for their Forest Stewardship Education Initiative. The Initiative develop in 2019 was focused on educating private forest landowners to "better understand, manage and protect their forests by developing a forest management plan, engaging with natural resource professionals, and taking advantage of cost-share opportunities that can help them meet their management goals."

The program was implemented using three-day workshops prior to COVID and a virtual flipped classroom construct involving self-study in advance of on-line sessions with resource educators during the pandemic. Currently the program involves 9 weekly online sessions and one in-person field day. Completion of the workshop series entitles participants to an initial site visit by a resource professional. In total 335 individuals attended, with 98% indicating improvement in the understanding of forest management planning, 89% planning to consult with a professional, and through May of 2022 49 had site visits from professionals using the programs \$800 stipend that supported the visit.

Evaluator's comments included:

- *"Excellent submission and programming. Highly complementary that personnel follow-up with participants AFTER the program to determine impacts cited:..."* . "
- *"...Also impressed with recognition in the narrative that program managers would like to reach more private landowners about participating in the program with a benefit/barrier assessment."*
- *"This is a very high quality program. It easily rates very high in each of the criteria categories. The nomination package was thorough and it is evident that those involved in the development and delivery of these workshops are knowledgeable and passionate about landowner and professional education. Kudos to California!"*