

Alaska RREA “October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006”

∞ **Importance of RREA Funds in Alaska:**

The primary RREA educational programs involved forest health projects – specifically the impact of global warming on Alaska’s boreal forests – and economic opportunities from wood energy and growing Christmas trees as crops.

∞ **Dollars leveraged by RREA:**

We have not tracked nonfederal funds leveraged by RREA in the past. We will collect this information and present it in future reports.

∞ **Success Stories:**

Alaska has become a focus for the environmental impacts of global warming, especially short and long-term on Alaska forestry and forestland owners. That’s why CES has focused on these effects and their implication on forest management for landowners. To that extent, UAF CES sponsored the August 2006 technical conference and field trip for Extension foresters from around the nation. The meeting prompted development of Extension documents and programs in Western states impacted by increased drought, forest stress, outbreaks of insects and diseases, and fire frequency and severity.

Higher fossil fuel costs have also impacted Interior and rural Alaska communities. In direct response to this trend and in cooperation with the Fairbanks North Star Bureau air quality coordinator, RREA funded a three-year review on how wood burning affects air quality during November, December and January. Less oil and more wood consumed for energy could dampen air quality standards, resulting in potential restrictions on wood burning. Results of the study appeared in the *Under the Canopy* newsletter and prompted local manufacture of wood pellets to reduce fuel emissions and wildfire risk and raise wood-burning efficiency.

∞ **Quotes from program participants or collaborators:**

“This has been one of the top 10 conferences that I have attended in my lifetime. I want to thank the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service for putting on such a great program,” Karl Stoszek, retired emeritus Professor of Forestry, University of Idaho.

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