



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Northeastern States Research Cooperative Announces 2016 Research Awards**

The Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC), a competitive grant program supported by the USDA Forest Service and serving the states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont announces its 2016 research awards to advance cross-disciplinary, collaborative research in the Northern Forest region. Since its inception in 2001, NSRC has awarded \$24 million in research funding across the Northern Forest

Four disciplinary panels conducted rigorous peer review of 79 pre-proposals and 37 proposals. Based on their recommendations, the NSRC leadership team selected 7 projects for funding, choosing those that best meet the needs of the Northern Forest and its stakeholders.

Approximately \$600,000 of research funds, plus additional matching funds, totaling nearly \$1 million will be used to study a range of topics in the core areas of critical importance to the Northern Forest communities: society and economics, forest ecology, wood products, and forest biodiversity.

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, a longtime supporter of the program, stated, “The Northeastern States Research Cooperative has consistently funded projects that bring substantial and long-lasting benefits for Northern States’ communities and economies. Through the Cooperative, the U.S. Forest Service has been successful in helping the people of Vermont and the region benefit from a better understanding and more sustainable use of our area’s forested landscape. This is particularly important and timely as the challenges of climate change and shifting land-use and population patterns multiply each year.”

The 2016 research awards and Project Leaders are:

- *Using social media to quantify forest-based tourism in the Northern Forest*  
Project Leader: Diane Kuehn at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- *Sustainable northern conifer forest management: New findings and outreach tools*  
Project Leader: Laura Kenefic at the USDA Forest Service
- *Dynamics of carbon and nitrogen stabilization in mineral soil layers of forests regrowing after harvest*  
Project Leader: Gary Lovett at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
- *Nitrogen controls on detrital organic matter dynamics in the Northern Forest: Evidence from a 26-year nitrogen addition experiment at the Bear Brook Watershed in Maine*  
Project Leader: Marie-Cécile Gruselle at the University of Maine
- *The influence of climatic and geographical variables on spruce budworm defoliation severity and spatial prediction modeling using historical field data and Landsat imagery*  
Project Leader: Parinaz Rahimzadeh-Bajgiran at the University of Maine

- *Silvicultural strategies for mitigating Northern Forest carbon reversal due to spruce budworm*  
Project Leader: Mark Ducey at the University of New Hampshire
- *Imperiled bats in Northeastern forests: Balancing bat conservation with forest management*  
Project Leader: Shannon Farrell at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- *Interaction of climate change, nitrogen deposition, and pest disturbance: a spatial management tool for predicting effects on forest health and setting critical loads*  
Project Leader: Linda Pardo at the USDA Forest Service

The NSRC will announce its next call for proposals in August 2016. More information can be found at the Northeastern States Research Cooperative website, <http://www.nsrcforest.org>.

Questions about the NSRC can be directed to any member of the Leadership Team, as follows:



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