

Illinois' 206,000 private woodland owners, who control an estimated 82% of the state's 4.96 million acres of forestland, are the primary audience targeted by RREA funds. RREA funding is leveraged with additional funds from private gifts and funding from the state and we estimate these amounts equal \$50,000/yr.



Caterpillar skid-steer with a Fecon™ mounted mulching head used to clear understory bush honeysuckle from UI experimental forest.

“I didn't know what to expect from this training. I walked in with a rational fear of chainsaws, but I left with a tremendous amount of confidence and respect for the chainsaw.” training attendee.

Chainsaw Safety Training: U of I Extension forestry continues to offer a variety of chainsaw safety courses to students and the general public. Approximately 245 participants received hands-on training through 18 single- and multi-day chainsaw safety programs scattered throughout the state during the FY'15 reporting period.

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2015 Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference: Illinois Extension forestry, in partnership with ISU Extension forestry, delivered yet another successful conference to 510 woodland owners from IL, IA, and WI. Our 21st annual conference continues to deliver upon a wide-variety of forestry-, wildlife-, and conservation-related presentations to a diverse audience.

Univ. of Illinois Experimental Forest: Jay Hayek, Extension forester, has initiated a massive invasive species campaign on the campus' 65-yr old experimental forest. This experimental forest, over the next three years, will morph into a 36-acre demonstration forest and biological classroom to help educate woodland owners, college students, and the general public about invasive species management, restoration techniques, forest management, and chainsaw safety and directional felling.



U of I Extension forestry is actively involved with the Illinois Tree Farm Committee. This year's annual Tree Farm field day attracted over 100 woodland owners. Jay Hayek, Extension forester, delivered five presentations on chainsaw maintenance.