

The following six tables are provided to assist in understanding the characteristics of the eight projects

- B1. Projects by knowledge sharing
- B2.Characteristics of technology
- B3. Projects by purpose
- B4. Projects by media type
- B5. Projects by primary audience
- B6. Projects by organizational type

Projects by Knowledge Sharing

Table B 1.Eight Technology-based Knowledge Sharing Innovations	
Knowledge Sharing Innovation	Project summary
Interactive Web site to educate visitors of the Augusta Springs center, a U.S. Forest Service wetlands and conservation education center on the North River Ranger District, George Washington National Forest.	www.AugustaSprings.org Department of Forestry, Virginia Tech, Virginia The objective of this project was to develop an interactive Web site to educate visitors of the Augusta Springs center. The Web site is meant to facilitate on-line scheduling and communication with local school groups and enable school groups to prepare volunteers who lead groups through the center. The site also allows approved users (educators, teachers, etc.) to add their own content to share through this Web site.
Informational and training materials to be used for remote training workshops.	Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Training for Eastern United States The Nature Conservancy, Indiana The objective of this project was to develop informational and training materials to be used for remote CWMA training workshops in Eastern US through two on-line training sessions and one teleconference.
A community of practice for the Northeastern Minnesota Forest Products Action Team and the regional wood products industry using a variety of means.	Demonstration of a Community of Practice to Enhance Economic Development Northeast Minnesota (NE MN) Forestry Industry, Minnesota The objective of this project was to develop a community of practice for the NE MN Forest Products Action Team and the regional wood products industry using Web-pages, on-line plant visit reporting forms, Web-based seminars, chat rooms, e-newsletters, and archives as tools to accomplish sustainable economic development of the wood products industry in NE MN.
An interactive educational program for school districts to inform teachers, students and parents about the issues facing the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest.	Forest Resources and Ecology: A Distance Education Network Model Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin The primary objective of this project was to develop an interactive educational program using the Interactive Television (ITV) technology for seven Nicolet Distance Education Network (NDEN) school districts to inform teachers, students and parents about the issues facing the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The goal was to prepare students and teachers for hands-on conservation education projects by developing their skills to address forest issues and enabling them to share their knowledge and lessons learned through ITV and NDEN Web site.
A multimedia online learning network focused on native plant conservation and restoration.	Native Plants Learning Network: Propagating restoration through technology The Nature Conservancy, Michigan The objective of this project was to develop a multimedia online learning network focused on native plant conservation and restoration. The goal was to maximize relevant information sharing while minimizing time and travel by using interactive information technology such as video-conferences, Web sites and Web chats.
An interactive Web site that provides a forum for Place-Based education models.	Promise of Place Interactive Web site Shelburne Farms and Green Mountain National Forest,

Appendix B: Project characteristics

	Vermont The objective of this project was to develop an interactive Web site, Promise of Place, to serve as a forum for sharing curriculum, best practices and other information regarding place-based education models that address natural resource related issues in the northeast.
A Web site to carry on informed dialog and develop community-based solutions to the problems of local wildlife.	Sustaining White-tailed Deer and Forests: An Electronic Resource Center Cooperative Extension, University of Georgia, Georgia A year-long effort to develop and market a single Web site to help communities around national forests facing deer overabundance to carry on informed dialog and develop solutions.
A community of practice for the inspection of historic wood structures.	Web-based Learning and Technology Transfer of Inspection Methods for Historic Wood Structures Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRI), University of Minnesota, Minnesota The objective of this project was to develop a community of practice for the inspection of historic wood structures using Web pages, Web-based seminars, video-streaming, chat rooms, e-newsletters, a marketplace and archives to provide direct assistance to owners of historic wood structures enabling better inspections, maintenance and safety of these structures. As a subset of this project, the project team conducted a Webinar for the City of New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. The City of New Orleans contacted Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) and NRRI for information that could be used to train building inspectors about the specific problems associated with flooded wood-frame homes and other buildings. The FPL and U of MN prepared and completed a Web-based seminar that New Orleans inspectors accessed via computer.

Characteristics of Technology

Table B 2. Wood Education and Resource Center, USDA Electronic Commons Program Teams Characteristics of technology				
Project Name	Primary agency	Communication medium	Technology used	Characteristics
Augusta Springs	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Forestry	Informational Web site	Collaborative format developed by Virginia Tech Computer Sciences Dept.	The collaborative format of this Web site allows registered users to upload text and pictures without having to know HTML or Web site management. It was meant to be updated by K-12 students and teachers who visit Augusta Springs and the natural resource educator from the regional forest service; however, as of November 2006 the Web site was only updated by the project lead and his interns.
Cooperative Weed Management Area	The Nature Conservancy, Indiana	Webinars and teleconferences	WebEx hosted by GenesisOriginally they were going to use Purdue University distance education system, but that required people to travel to certain locations, thus defeating the purpose of eliminating the need to travel.	The WebEx system allows users to upload their PowerPoint presentation and move through it on their own. It displays participants alphabetically, but does not display their affiliation, which would be nice to know. It allows participants to "raise hand" to indicate that they have a question and send messages via chat rooms either to the whole group or just selected participants. Because everyone can see who is participating, it enables them to contact each other if they desire so. The project lead selected WebEx because Nature Conservancy already had a contract with them, so they did not have to

Appendix B: Project characteristics

				<p>go through the process of technology selection. In addition to Webinars, they were simultaneously presenting their classes via a teleconference, which increased the cost but was necessary as people with MACs could not log on to the Webinar. This also allowed people who were not technologically savvy to simply download the application ahead of time from Nature Conservancy's Web site and go through by themselves while listening to the teleconference. This method worked well for the team as it eliminated frustrations experienced by the users who were not able to connect to the Webinar. Giving users more than one option was considered key to the overall success of this project.</p>
Demonstration of a Community of Practice to Enhance Economic Development	Northeast Minnesota Forestry Industry	Web pages, on-line plant visit reporting forms, Webinars, chat rooms, e-newsletters, a library, and archives	Web site will be hosted by the Northern Tier High Technology Corridor, Breeze was used for Webinars and online meetings.	<p>Although the project lead was very satisfied with the functionality of Breeze, he also stated that it became a problem when some of his team members did not have access to high speed Internet.</p>
Forest Resources and Ecology: A Distance Educational Model	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	Existing Web site and Interactive Television (ITV) network		<p>The ITV network employed by this project was already present in the school districts they were serving. The project lead sought to enhance ITV's use and therefore provided initial</p>

Appendix B: Project characteristics

				training to teachers to ensure their willingness to participate. They found that by providing additional incentive (offering educational credit for attending the class) they were able to motivate teachers to engage with the system and thus participate in their project.
Native Plants Learning Network	The Nature Conservancy, Michigan	Information coordination Web site, virtual field trips, information database, monthly Web casts	Instantly Global but originally used Breeze for Web castsWeb site available through the Stewardship Network	The project originally used Breeze through their contact with Michigan State University, so when the university switched to Instantly Global (IG) they were also forced to use Instantly Global. The project team thought that both programs were equally good, although they both had their advantages and disadvantages. The biggest advantage of IG is that it can be used by PC and MAC users alike, which is not the case with Breeze. IG also has a slide preview, which is helpful when going through a presentation. On the other hand you cannot manipulate the screen and the chat window is rather small. The project lead found IG more intuitive and better suited for computer novices. There were several features that they missed such as being able to see participants in chronological order. IG is Web based so uploading is not a

Appendix B: Project characteristics

				problem and different hosts can control the presentation even if they are not in the same room. The main disadvantage of switching between these two programs was that they lost their archived presentations.
Promise of Place Interactive Web site	Shelburne Farms and Green Mountain National Forest	Web site		They were able to hire an IT manager who assisted them with selection of technology and a vendor. Although it delayed the design of their Web site, the team knew that having the person who will be tasked with managing the Web site be part of the selection process was key.
Sustaining White -tail Deer and Forests	University of Georgia Cooperative Extension	Web site	Modeled after existing encyclopedic Web sites such as Forest Encyclopedia Network	Because of the university setting, the team had experienced IT personnel on board, which was very helpful when designing the Web site. In order to ensure proper content, they reached out to their contacts and via a snowball method received feedback about the need of the community they were targeting.
Web-based Learning and Technology TransferHistoric Wood Structures	University of MinnesotaNatural Resource Research Institute	Webinars	Breeze	The project leads were satisfied with Breeze as it allowed them to manipulate what people saw on the screen, it allowed them to move everyone through the presentation and it also allowed the project team to share and collaborate on documents. Both

Appendix B: Project characteristics

				project leads were comfortable with the technology, although they both stated that having previous experience as a participant was helpful in knowing what works and what does not in this type of distance education. Overall, they were very positive about their experience.
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Projects by Purpose

Table B 3. Wood Education and Resource Center, USDA Electronic Commons Program Teams Projects by Purpose				
Project Name	Primary agency	Community of Practice	Dissemination of Information	Distance Education
Augusta Springs	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Forestry		X	
Cooperative Weed Management Area	The Nature Conservancy, Indiana	X		X
Demonstration of a Community of Practice to Enhance Economic Development	Northeast Minnesota Forestry Industry	X	X	
Forest Resources and Ecology: A Distance Educational Model	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest			X
Native Plants Learning Network	The Nature Conservancy, Michigan	X	X	
Promise of Place Interactive Web site	Shelburne Farms and Green Mountain National Forest	X	X	
Sustaining White-tail Deer and Forests	University of Georgia Cooperative Extension	X	X	
Web-based Learning and Technology Transfer Historic Wood Structures	University of Minnesota Natural Resource Research Institute	X	X	

Projects by Media Type

Table B 4. Wood Education and Resource Center, USDA Electronic Commons Program Teams Projects by Media Type					
Project Name	Primary agency	Web sites	Webinar	Interactive TV	Meeting Software
Augusta Springs	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Forestry	Proprietary software			
Cooperative Weed Management Area	The Nature Conservancy, Indiana		WebEx		
Demonstration of a Community of Practice to Enhance Economic Development	Northeast Minnesota Forestry Industry	HTML			Breeze
Forest Resources and Ecology: A Distance Educational Model	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	HTML		ITV	
Native Plants Learning Network	The Nature Conservancy, Michigan	HTML	Breeze and Instantly Global		
Promise of Place Interactive Web site	Shelburne Farms and Green Mountain National Forest	HTML			
Sustaining White-tail Deer and Forests	University of Georgia Cooperative Extension	HTML			
Web-based Learning and Technology Transfer Historic Wood Structures	University of Minnesota Natural Resource Research Institute	HTML	Breeze		Breeze

Projects by Primary Audience

Table B 5. Wood Education and Resource Center, USDA Electronic Commons Program Teams Projects by Primary Audience				
Project Name	Primary agency	K12	Practitioner	Public
Augusta Springs	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Forestry	X		
Cooperative Weed Management Area	The Nature Conservancy, Indiana		X	
Demonstration of a Community of Practice to Enhance Economic Development	Northeast Minnesota Forestry Industry		X	
Forest Resources and Ecology: A Distance Educational Model	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	X	X	
Native Plants Learning Network	The Nature Conservancy, Michigan		X	
Promise of Place Interactive Web site	Shelburne Farms and Green Mountain National Forest	X	X	
Sustaining White -tail Deer and Forests	University of Georgia Cooperative Extension		X	X
Web-based Learning and Technology Transfer Historic Wood Structures	University of Minnesota Natural Resource Research Institute		X	

Projects by Organizational Type

Appendix B: Project characteristics

Table B 6. Wood Education and Resource Center, USDA Electronic Commons Program Teams Projects by organizational type of primary agency			
Project Name	Primary agency	University	Not-for Profit
Augusta Springs	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Forestry	X	
Cooperative Weed Management Area	The Nature Conservancy, Indiana		X
Demonstration of a Community of Practice to Enhance Economic Development	Northeast Minnesota Forestry Industry	X	
Forest Resources and Ecology: A Distance Educational Model	Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest		X
Native Plants Learning Network	The Nature Conservancy, Michigan		X
Promise of Place Interactive Web site	Shelburne Farms and Green Mountain National Forest		X
Sustaining White -tail Deer and Forests	University of Georgia Cooperative Extension	X	
Web-based Learning and Technology Transfer Historic Wood Structures	University of Minnesota Natural Resource Research Institute	X	