

Natural Resources Leadership Institute



NRLI Overview & Orientation

- Resolving Conflict Through Leadership: Natural Resources Leadership Institute
 - NRLI History and Kellogg Funding
 - Mission and Vision
 - Institute Structure
 - Institute Programs
 - Dissemination of NRLI Model

NRLI History: The Need

- Responding to the conflicts stemming from issues related to forest planning and management in the Southern Appalachians in the early 1990's
- Cooperative Extension faculty at NCSU, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Arkansas drafted a proposal to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Purpose: foster leadership in the natural resource arena in the southeast U.S.

NRLI History – Initial Funding

- June 1994, Kellogg Foundation provided \$700,000 for a multi-state project titled *“Developing Natural Resources Leadership”*
- Created the Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI).
- Kellogg Project Goal: improve management of natural resources in the South, and enhance rural economic development while maintaining or improving environmental quality.

Three Major Goals

The project, "Developing Natural Resources Leadership", included three major goals:

- 1. Develop a cadre of leaders strongly committed to help implement policies that provide for both economic development and environment protection.
- 2. Establish a dissemination process that facilitates adoption and implementation of the leadership development program across state lines.
- 3. Increase the ability of extension faculty to facilitate resolution of local, regional and state natural resource management policy conflicts.

Our Mission

Educate and support a diverse group of North Carolinians who are committed to seeking consensus on issues affecting the sustainable development of North Carolina's natural resources and the quality of our environment.



Our Values

We believe that people involved in environmental conflict can reach fair and efficient solutions by:

- Communicating more effectively,
- Opening the dialogue to include all stakeholders
- Structuring problems to reflect complexity and uncertainty, and
- Negotiating to settle disagreements



NRLI History – Our Beginning

- January 1995, North Carolina piloted and evaluated the first NRLI leadership program
- 1996, Arkansas and Kentucky initiated their own NRLI leadership programs



Addition of Programs

- In 1996 we began engaging parties in resolving environmental disputes and designing state environmental rules and regulations.
- Our experience in these processes grew. Changed our mission to include a services component, called **Environmental Decision-Making**.
- In the late '90s we took on additional training activities, largely targeted toward NRLI alumni. Recently began marketing our training programs nationwide.

NRLI Today

- 2010 is the 16th NRLI class
- Training professionals in government, business and industry, nonprofit environmental organizations, and higher education.
- Nearly 400 graduates (Fellows)
- Convened 30+ collaborative processes on environmental policy and natural resources management in the southeast US
- Offer training in negotiation & collaborative problem solving



Our Goals

- **Improve leadership** in natural resource management and policy development
- **Bring people together** in action-oriented forums to identify and solve problems
- **Provide training** to public and private sectors
- **Expand the capacity** for collaborative problem solving on public issues
- **Conduct research** and providing **training** in collaborative decision-making on environmental and natural resources issues
- **Disseminate** the NRLI model.

NRLI Structure



- NRLI is part of the **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** at NCSU.
- The Institute consists of three programmatic areas: **(1)** Leadership Development, **(2)** Environmental Decision-making, and **(3)** Needs-Based Training.
- Leadership for the Institute is vested with its Associate Director and supported by three other Program Faculty.
- Advisory oversight for the Institute is provided through the NRLI Advisory Board.
- NRLI Web Site: www.ncsu.edu/NRLI