With this Cooperative Agreement, USDA Rural Development and the Endowment will partner to provide follow-on support to MACED, Sustainable Northwest, and the Northern Forest Center to pursue the following objectives:

- Create economic opportunity in low-income, forest-reliant rural regions in northern New England, central Appalachia and the Pacific Northwest through innovative approaches to community economic development in the wood products and wood energy sectors.
- Deepen regional, coordinated approaches to rural development that leverage beyond existing USDA Rural Development programs to advance USDA strategic goals.
- Develop and communicate best practices for regional rural capacity building.

Endowment funding came from funds previously allocated to the Zones program. Outcomes from the program are being tracked on a quarterly basis and will be reported semi-annually.