Dear Technical Service Provider,

Future Generations University Appalachian Program welcomes you to Reading the Woods! Reading the Woods is an open-source, web-based information center designed to support and advance the services you offer to West Virginia's woodland stewards. The first edition of Reading the Woods will guide you and a woodland steward through a whole-woods assessment to expand and diversify the woodland steward's income opportunities. Inside the web-based information center you will find:

- an assessment workbook
- a library of resources
- a directory of local specialists
- production planning resources
- agroforestry production & cost calculators
- Enterprise creation tools

Reading the Woods is designed for technical service providers from diverse professional backgrounds and skill levels. Please review the Orientation Guide and the How to Read the Woods infographic to familiarize yourself with the Reading the Woods methodology. We do not expect you to follow the Facilitation Guide step by step but rather to use what you find helpful. The Facilitation Guide and the accompanying resources are available for those who need it. We strongly encourage all technical service providers to provide a summary report of the whole woods assessment to the woodland steward(s). Your process for completing the whole woods assessment is up to you.

We will continue to provide new and updated nature-based enterprise resources. And we always ask for and welcome feedback. In this way we can make Reading the Woods accessible, user-friendly, and effective for all technical service providers. We hope Reading the Woods is a valuable tool that helps shift perceptions and management of the region's diverse forests towards an understanding of sustainable forest management that supports people's livelihoods, honors the region's heritage of forest farming, and protects the rich biodiversity of our forests.

Sincerely,

The Reading the Woods Team