



FY 2008 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance



Introduction

The State & Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign assumes that our collective efforts will be most effective if available resources are focused on issues and landscapes of national importance and prioritized, using state and regional assessments, on activities that promise meaningful outcomes on the ground. This concept is captured as: focus + priority + outcome. The Redesign Board of Directors identified “**competitive resource allocation**” as an effective means of ensuring that federal S&PF dollars are invested in projects that meet this standard.

Beginning in federal fiscal year 2008 (FY 08), an increasing percentage of the S&PF allocation will be invested in projects selected through a competitive process. These processes will be informed by the national guidance described below, but administered through a joint effort between the state forestry and USFS leadership in the northeast, south and west. It is anticipated that each geographic region will design their competitive process to address geographically significant issues and landscapes as well as the broad themes and direction provided at the national level.

Once completed, the FY 2008 Competitive Allocation Process will be reviewed and assessed by a team of S&PF and state forestry representatives to identify any changes that may be needed prior to FY 2009.

FY 2008 Allocation Process

In FY 2008, fifteen percent of the “net available” S&PF allocation will be designated for the initial round of the Redesign competitive process.

- The net available funding will consist of S&PF funds available after ear marks and national commitments are removed.
- The net available will include funds that are traditionally transferred to State Forestry agencies as well as funds that support S&PF capacity in USFS Regions/Area and the Washington Office.
- For FY 2008, the net available will not include funds in the Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy and Federal Lands Forest Health Management programs.

In conjunction with the distribution of initial budget advice to the USFS Regional/Area Offices, each geographic region (NE, S, W) will be informed of the amount to be available to them for competitive project allocation based on current distribution formulas.

For FY 2008, the initial allocation, which is subject to change based on final appropriation, is:

- Northeast = \$5,321,000
- West = \$7,231,000
- South = \$6,922,000

The geographic regions will then proceed with the establishment of an interagency Competitive Allocation Team and the design and implementation of a competitive process based on national Redesign guidance and

regionally specific criteria. The interagency Teams in each geographic region will review project proposals and recommend projects for funding.

When the USFS receives its final appropriation from Congress, the Deputy Chief for S&PF will notify the geographic regions regarding their final competitive allocation and request their list of approved projects to be funded. The Deputy Chief will determine the appropriate mix of program funds, based on the projects selected by the State Foresters, and allocate the requisite funding to the corresponding USFS Regional/Area Office for grant execution.

All non-competitive S&PF funding will be distributed according to existing methodologies. Matching requirements for dollars awarded through the competitive allocation process may be met through consolidation as currently handled through consolidated payment grants. USFS Regions / Area will work transparently and cooperatively with their State Foresters to determine how to equitably and effectively handle any decreases in S&PF capacity dollars.

For FY 2009 and beyond, S&PF leadership and State Foresters will work together to determine how to better incorporate USFS technical assistance and resources into the competitive process.

FY 2008 Competitive Criteria

The competitive component of the Redesign approach is intended to demonstrate that federal funds are being spent on projects that address both nationally and regionally significant issues or landscapes, as described by the national Redesign themes, and that hold the greatest promise for success on a meaningful scale. Projects may be on any combination of land ownerships, although S&PF funds should be spent on non-federal lands. Implementation may extend from 1-3 years.

Projects funded in FY 2008 should consider the following key Redesign concepts:

- Purpose Statement – Projects should effectively address the Redesign purpose statement which is to *“shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.”*
- National Relevance – Project should be focused on issues or landscapes of national importance as identified by the Redesign National Themes.
- Prioritization – Projects should be based on an analysis within the state or region that identifies the issue or landscape being addressed as a high priority.
- Meaningful Scale – Projects should emphasize and incorporate action across boundaries and jurisdictions and on a meaningful scale. Consideration should be given to multi-state projects.
- Collaboration – Projects should involve diverse collaboration and partnerships in planning and implementation.
- Outcomes – Projects should prioritize funding and other resources toward the achievement of measurable outcomes.
- Integrated Delivery – Projects should seek to improve the delivery of public benefits from forest management by coordinating with complementary state and federal programs when possible.
- Leverage – Projects should maximize State and Private funding by using it to leverage resources and other contributions from both federal and non-federal entities.
- Influence Positive Change – Projects should include a component of training, lessons learned, or related opportunity such that implementation of the project results in skills and capability that extends beyond the life of the project itself.

Reporting and Accountability

Each geographic region will provide a year end report outlining the methods involved in their competitive process, activities and accomplishments of funded projects, and lessons learned.

Additional performance measures and reporting requirements will be determined in coordination with national program managers and the Demonstrating and Communicating Results working team.