

April 2008



STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

Redesign Update

Redesign and the FY '09 Budget

The FY 2009 President's Budget Request is out, and the reactions continue to draw attention to State and Private Forestry. Some of that attention is directed to Redesign. Congress had asked the Forest Service to answer questions that appear to be supportive of the approach. Some State and Federal agency leaders worry how Redesign moves forward at proposed funding levels.

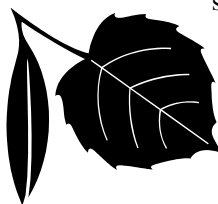
While all this sorts out over the next few months, the Redesign Implementation Council (RIC) is using this time to evaluate what we have learned so far, and will discuss how we move ahead at the April 28th RIC meeting. Guidance will be forthcoming after we know more in early May. First year efforts look promising and have generated interest in State and Private program delivery.



Update on Performance Indicators

On February 4, the RIC reviewed and commented on a suite of 13 "performance indicators" for voluntary use by State forestry agencies in the FY 2009 competitive process with the intent of full implementation in FY 2010. Additional review is currently underway.

To help test and refine the indicators, the RIC also approved a targeted piloting of the indicators on a sample of FY 2008 Redesign projects. The 13 indicators support the three



Redesign themes in the categories of land conservation, working forests, forest wildfire

protection, community wildfire protection, insects/disease/ invasives, water, air, wildlife, carbon and people.

The adoption and implementation of the performance indicators are integral components of the results-oriented approach of the Redesign.

The indicators will be the basis for future S&PF reporting and the *Annual Report Card*. They will provide the information needed to tell compelling stories to decision-makers, stakeholders, and partners about the outcomes of the S&PF Redesign. For more information, please contact Andy Mason (amason@fs.fed.us) or Jay Jensen (jay.jensen@colostate.edu).

FY 2009 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance

Larry Kotchman (*State Forester, ND*) and Kathryn Conant (*Forest Service, WO*) are co-leading a team of State and Forest Service representatives to finalize the FY 2009 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance. Comments raised by the southern and western states and Forest Service Regions have been consolidated; comments from the Northeast will be incorporated by the end of March. These comments will be the basis for revisions to the National Guidance. Larry and Kathryn presented a first draft revision of the National Guidance to the Redesign Implementation Council in February and anticipate having a final version by mid- to late-April.

An overview of the FY 2008 Competitive Resource Allocation National Guidance is online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/redesign-allocation.pdf>.



State Assessments and Response Plans

Draft guidance for state assessments and response plans was presented to the RIC on February 4. This revised guidance addressed concerns raised by the RIC at its December meeting and comments from Forest Service field and state partner agency staff. The RIC agreed that the guidance provides for adequate consistency nationally while encouraging states to incorporate existing assessments and address unique needs and opportunities. Plans to finalize and release the guidance will be discussed during the April RIC meeting. The core of the state assessment is a GIS series of weighted overlay analyses that delineate high potential landscapes. Assessments will address the following core resource themes:

- ◆ Development Risk
- ◆ Fragmentation
- ◆ Wildfire Risk
- ◆ Forest Health Risk
- ◆ Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ Water Quality & Supply
- ◆ Economic Potential
- ◆ Green Infrastructure

It is anticipated that States will focus delivery of forestry programs on these high potential areas through response plans designed to address the following objectives:

- ◆ Identify, conserve, and manage high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes,
- ◆ Influence urbanization, fragmentation, and loss of forestland,
- ◆ Minimize potential and reduce impact of wildfire,
- ◆ Identify and manage threats to forest health,
- ◆ Protect and enhance water quality and priority watersheds,
- ◆ Conserve fish and wildlife habitat,
- ◆ Enhance forest resource market opportunities,
- ◆ Connect people to forests, and
- ◆ Improve air quality and offset carbon emissions.

Beginning in 2010, States will be asked to report on these outcomes using the Redesign performance indicators. Once finalized, the guidance will be distributed to the states and posted on the Redesign Web site.

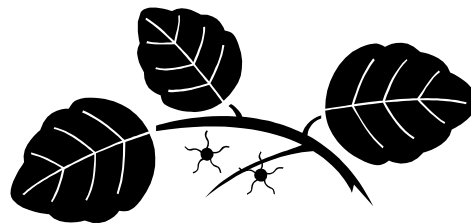


Southern Group of State Foresters State Assessment Committee

While each region and state ultimately decides how to approach its own state assessment, the members of the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) elected to collectively create a template or sample state assessment to be used (if desired) by all southern states. Led by Carl Garrison, Virginia State Forester and Treasurer of the SGSF Executive Team, a SGSF State Assessment Committee convened in Texas on March 3-4th.

State Assessment Committee members represent SGSF states and are familiar with all of the concerns and opportunities common to the South as members also chair or represent one or more of the SGSF committees (*management, urban, fire, communications, etc.*).

Identified as the pilot state by the SGSF executive team, Texas will complete and produce an assessment document and a companion standardized process document that is issue-driven, based on state and stakeholder input, and will meet requirements as determined in the National Guidance for State Assessments. For more information contact Carl Garrison at Carl.Garrison@dof.virginia.gov.

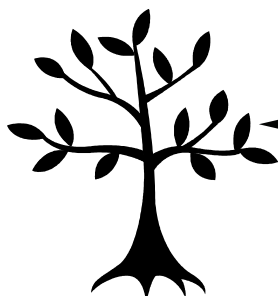


Contact Us

Redesign Project Leads

Debbie Pressman
U.S. Forest Service
202-205-1538
dpressman@fs.fed.us

Jan Davis
Texas State Forest Service
979-458-7320
jdavis@tfs.tamu.edu



We're on the Web! Visit us at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml>