



Redesign Components: STATE ASSESSMENTS & RESPONSE PLANS



Comprehensive State Forest Resource Assessments will provide a valuable and unique opportunity to highlight the full scale of work needed to address priority concerns in the forests of each state and potentially across multiple states. State Response Plans will tier to the state assessments by identifying landscapes and projects where an investment of federal competitive grant dollars could most effectively accomplish or leverage desired action.

State Forest Resource Assessments — In order to ensure that State and Private Forestry (S&PF) resources are being focused on high priority areas with the greatest opportunity to achieve meaningful outcomes, each state, territory and island will work collaboratively with the U.S. Forest Service and other key partners to develop a comprehensive state forest resource assessment. These assessments will provide a comprehensive analysis of the forest-related conditions, trends and opportunities in each state.

The initial development of these assessments will begin in 2008 and be completed by 2010. Assessments should be reviewed for needed updates on at least a five year cycle. It is the Redesign Board's recommendation that the development of comprehensive state forest resource assessments eliminate the need for other assessments and plans currently required for S&PF funding.

At a minimum, state forest resource assessments will:

- Describe forest conditions on all ownerships in the state
- Identify forest related benefits and services
- Highlight issues and trends of concern as well as opportunities for positive action
- Delineate high priority forest landscapes to be addressed
- Outline broad strategies for addressing the national themes along with critical issues and landscapes identified through the assessment

State forest resource assessments will be geospatially based and make use of the best existing data. States are encouraged to identify critical information gaps as part of their assessment process so that this information can be acquired as opportunities arise.

States are also encouraged to coordinate with other natural resource and related entities in their state to ensure that the state's forest resource assessment builds on and compliments other state natural resource strategies (e.g., state wildlife plans) to the greatest extent possible.

State Response Plans — Once the state forest resource assessments are completed, each state will work collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders to develop a State Response Plan. These plans will describe how the state proposes to invest competitive federal dollars, in combination with other available resources, to address the S&PF national themes and desired outcomes along with priorities identified in their own state assessments.

At a minimum, State Response Plans will:

- Describe how the state proposes to invest both competitive and non-competitive federal funding, along with other available resources, to address national and regional priorities as well as those identified in the state's forest resource assessment
- Describe how the state's proposed activities will accomplish national program objectives and respond to specified performance measures
- Outline a specific timeline for project/program implementation
- Provide a detailed budget including opportunities to leverage non-federal resources
- Identify partner/stakeholder involvement
- Identify strategies for monitoring outcomes and revising action as needed