

June 2008




STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

Redesign Update

Farm Bill Passage and Requirements for State Assessments & Resource Strategies

On June 18th, Congress overrode the President's veto to enact the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, otherwise known as the 2008 Farm Bill. There are several forest-friendly provisions including a community wood to energy program, a provision to develop ecosystem services markets, and an emergency assistance program for forest landowners. In addition, NIPF landowners are explicitly included in Conservation title programs such as EQIP and CRP.

The Forestry title includes three national priorities for private forest conservation, which match the Redesign themes. The

Forestry title also includes a section on the State Assessments and Resource Strategies. States will assess forest resource conditions, trends, and threats and develop long-term strategies as a requirement to receive funds for CFAA programs. The State Foresters have two years, until 2010, to complete their assessments and resource strategies. A Redesign team, in consultation with the RIC, has developed draft guidance to States on completing the assessments and strategies. The draft guidance closely reflects and references the Farm Bill language. 

National Assessment Update

- Prototype Design & Development (May '07 - April '08) complete
- Prototype Evaluation & Testing (March '08 - Aug '08) underway
- Data Evaluation (Sensitivity Analysis, Aggregation, Classification) underway
- Methods & Governance (weighting exercise, governance model) underway
- Enhanced output (format/access) design underway

Next Steps (Mid summer '08 - Mid summer '09):

- Continued requirements elaboration
- Critical enhancements (application, migration to production environment)
- Data & Governance (address data deficiencies, oversight & monitoring)



Opportunity for FS and State Review of National Guidance

Deputy Chief Jim Hubbard and NASF President Kirk Rowdabaugh have invited comments from U.S. Forest Service and State forestry personnel on two key components for the SPF Redesign. Comments or questions on the National Guidance for State Assessments and Resource Strategies should be directed to Karl Dalla Rosa, kdallarosa@fs.fed.us. Comments or questions on the Draft Redesign Performance Indicators should be directed to Andy Mason, Andrew.Mason@wdc.usda.gov or Jay Jensen, jay.jensen@colostate.edu. All comments are due no later than **July 21, 2008**.



Redesign Align

Multiple avenues have been created for you to have the opportunity to provide input in to the S&PF Redesign process. Feel free to contact any of the following sources to provide feedback or to receive information regarding Redesign Implementation progress and work products:

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

Bi-monthly Updates

State Forester & USFS Leadership representation on the "RIC"

Redesign working team leaders

Your USFS S&PF Region office staff

Your State Forester regional executive directors

Your State Forester

NASF leadership



Washington Office/Regional Office/Northeastern Area Transformation Forest Service Organization Change Vision

“Through on-going change efforts, we will have a FS that is flexible, responsive to citizens, readily adapts to emerging issues, and effectively uses resources for work on the ground. We will achieve this through: improved processes, smaller organizations, better use of technology, and program integration for improved performance and efficiency.”

Why are we looking at so many changes across the FS? We’ve reached a point where it has become impossible to both maintain our current organization and to provide relevant services and programs to meet the changing needs of the American public. We know our budgets will continue to be challenging—this is our opportunity to shape our own destiny. We want our organization to be flexible, responsive, positioned to effectively address emerging issues, and to effectively use our resources for work on the ground. It’s not about designing an ideal organization. It’s about designing an organization we can afford—without shortchanging the American people and the land and resources we care so deeply about.

We’ll achieve this through improved processes, a smaller organization, better use of technology, and integration of programs for improved performance and efficiency. About a year ago, the FS embarked on an effort to transform the

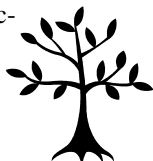
2007 Redesign Report Card Now Available!

Published by NASF with support from the Forest Service, the inaugural edition of the *Redesign Report Card* is a guide to the development of the Redesign approach, introduces the primary components of Redesign, and provides examples of landscape-scale work currently underway. Three pilot projects for FY 2007 are highlighted in the report. The document is available now for download from the NASF website:

http://www.stateforesters.org/2007_redesign_report_card




A limited number of hard copies will be distributed to state and federal partners and will be used to help educate legislators about S&PF success stories.



Washington Office, Regional Offices and the Northeastern Area. Transformation scenarios recently considered or currently under consideration are related to:

- ◆ Acquisition Management
- ◆ Vegetation/Ecosystem Management
- ◆ Minerals & Geology
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ WO Budget
- ◆ WO Administrative Services
- ◆ Office of Regulatory Management Services /FOIA
- ◆ Civil Rights and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- ◆ Partnerships
- ◆ Cooperative Forestry and Urban & Community Forestry
- ◆ Public Goods & Services
- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Office of Safety and Occupational Health
- ◆ Visitor/Interpretive/Conservation Education

The SPF Redesign and Forest Service WO/RO/Area Transformation efforts are occurring concurrently, each informing the other. While it is too early to predict exactly how either Transformation or Redesign will ultimately help shape SPF organizations or skills, we are hopeful that these efforts will complement each other in leading the agency toward a more nimble, efficient, and effective organization. 

Status of Regional Competitions

Southern Group of State Foresters

The SGSF will follow the national timeline for grant applications and review. Contact Mike Zupko, SGSFExec@mindspring.com, for more information.

Western Forestry Leadership Coalition

Applications for the competitive grant program are now open, and must be submitted by **September 22, 2008**. Additional information can be found at the WFLC website at <http://www.wflccenter.org> through the ‘members’ login option. Contact Jay Jensen, Jay.Jensen@ColoState.EDU for additional information.

Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters

The Northeast is on schedule to follow the national timeline, and will release our RFP in late June or early July. The deadline for proposals is planned for early October with a final decision by the review team in December. Contact Ian McFarlane, Ian.MacFarlane@mail.wvu.edu, for additional information.

Redesign Project Leads

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