

# NA Pilots Stewardship Plan Monitoring

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



## Description:

The Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines (adopted at the start of FY06) call for determination of the extent of on-the-ground implementation of current Forest Stewardship Management Plans, through the periodic monitoring of a random, representative sample. In FY06, Northeastern Area (NA) staff and three state partners (Iowa, New York and Maine), worked with a national team of Forest Service and State partners to design a protocol to allow for monitoring of Forest Stewardship Plan Implementation. In FY07, three NA states (Iowa, Delaware, and Massachusetts) piloted implementation of this protocol. In FY08, all states will follow this or a comparable protocol and will report results in PMAS.

## Key Issues:

- NA's Strategic Plan recognizes the need to educate non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) owners on the options and benefits of active resource management.
- Delivery of a Stewardship Plan is the metric most often used to demonstrate program success.
- NA's Strategic Plan recognizes the need to increase NIPF acreage being managed under Forest Stewardship Plans.
- Historically, at the national level, the Stewardship program has not been able to describe implementation or change on the land as a result of plan writing.
- Degree of Stewardship plan implementation as measured by this protocol will be a component of FY09 Core allocation.

## Accomplishments:

- Iowa, Delaware, and Massachusetts completed the pilot monitoring effort in FY07.
- Plan implementation ranged from 70% (Iowa) to 96% (Massachusetts).
- The three pilot states shared their experience with their peers at the annual Cooperative Forest Management Committee Meeting, and at the National Landowner Assistance Meeting.
- Overall, the pilot states reported that the monitoring program was useful; while monitoring required an additional investment of time, the opportunity for increased contact with landowners and the land was seen as a significant benefit.
- Monitoring protocol was determined to be easy to understand and use.

**Budget History:** This effort was undertaken without additional funding. States used Core funds to complete the work.

## Future Direction:

- In FY08, all states will be under taking this or a similar, comparable effort, and reporting results in the FY08 PMAS. Some states with existing monitoring programs that meet the intent of this process will not be required to undertake monitoring beyond that existing program, but will still need to meet the reporting requirement.

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