

The National Information Center

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: The National Information Center (NIC) is a real-time, web-based data collection and reporting system for State and Private Forestry program accomplishments and highlights.

Key Issues:

- Recent advances in internet and database technology have made real-time reporting a reality.
- Accurately accounting for program dollars and reporting their associated accomplishments is a high priority for State and Private Forestry.
- Previous State and Private Forestry data collection activities were uncoordinated, redundant, inefficient, and the collected data were often inaccessible.
- End of the year reporting based on the data was burdensome and often resulted in varying report quality.
- The NIC allows for efficient, one-time entry of data by State and Private Forestry programs into one system. The web-based system allows easy access to data by both federal and state program coordinators. Standardized reports allow real-time, efficient accomplishment reporting.

Accomplishments:

- Developed a portal that allows users to access NIC applications through a single user account.
 - Web-based system for collecting information for the State Fact Sheets, comprehensive state-by-state reports of State and Private Forestry accomplishments.
 - Community Accomplishment Reporting System – a database that collects and reports accomplishments for the Urban and Community Forestry Program.
 - National Forest Legacy Information System – a database that collects information on the status and progress of Forest Legacy tracts.
- Provided on-going support for the Healthy Forests and Rangelands Website (forestsandrangelands.gov).

Budget History:

National Information Center				
(\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Total	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250

Future Direction:

- Complete business case analysis for NIC.
- Prepare system security plans for NIC systems.
- Redesign the NIC home page to provide a suite of real-time reports, and incorporate information for Forest Health and Conservation Education.

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