



What's New for FY 2008?

It's Official!

The State and Private Forestry Redesign approach was officially endorsed by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) membership during their annual meeting in September 2007. This occasion marked the transition from *development* of the Redesign approach to *active implementation*.

Leadership Changes

December marked the inaugural meeting of the newly established **Redesign Implementation Council (RIC)**—comprised of the elected officers of the NASF and U.S. Forest Service senior executives. The NASF members are: Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZ), Leah MacSwords (KY), Steve Koehn (MD), and Austin Short (DE). The U.S. Forest Service members are: Jim Hubbard (SPF Deputy Chief), Robin Thompson (SPF Associate Deputy Chief), Harv Forsgren (Intermountain Regional Forester), and Dave Cleaves (R&D Associate Deputy Chief). This body is responsible for pro-

viding executive leadership for implementing Redesign. Another recent change is that Paige Lewis, former Redesign Project Leader, has moved on to a new position at The Nature Conservancy. Jan Davis, Texas Forest Service and Debbie Pressman, U.S. Forest Service, have assumed the Redesign project leadership responsibilities.

Competitive Allocation Critique

A national critique of the Redesign Competitive Allocation Process is currently underway. State Foresters and U.S. Forest Service personnel have been invited to provide their comments via the three Regional State Forester Associations. Comments will be analyzed by a Competitive Allocation Critique Working Group led by Larry Kotchman (North Dakota State Forester) and Kathryn Conant (U.S. Forest Service), with the goal of making recommendations for revisions to the National Guidance for the Competitive Allocation Process.

Percentage of Competitive Allocation to Remain at 15 percent for FY 2009

Much has been learned this past year implementing the Redesign Competitive Process. So much, in fact, that the Redesign Implementation Council has decided to hold the percentage of State and Private Forestry federal funding available for competition at 15 percent for FY 2009, rather than increase the percentage to 25 percent as originally projected.

Maintaining the percentage of competitive funding at 15 percent will allow for application of the lessons learned during the FY 2008 cycle, resulting in increased consistency in processes across geographic regions and other improved efficiencies.



New Working Group to Focus on Program Evaluation

Due to his experience with how competition can be a driver in moving from program to project delivery, and associate implications, Scott Josiah (Nebraska State Forester) has been selected to lead a new working group focused on Redesign

Program Evaluation. The working group will evaluate Redesign in this context and make recommendations to the RIC based on its findings.

National Assessment Update

The foundation for the Redesign approach is a **National Assessment** of conditions, trends, and opportunities relevant to forests of all ownerships. The Assessment will be used to assist the planning, prioritization, and resource allocation at the national and regional levels, as well as to assess and visibly communicate outcomes achieved “on-the-ground.” Development of a Web-based SPF prototype assessment model tied to the Redesign themes began in May 2007, via a contract between the U.S. Forest Service and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

The first phase of development is a *prototype tool* that uses existing national and regional data to: 1) Display current conditions; 2) Identify trends that impact the ability to provide a diverse range of sustainable public benefits; and 3) Identify opportunities to align federal resources in a way that improves delivery of public benefits and address SPF national priorities. A Web-based presentation of the draft Prototype Assessment tool was delivered to the SPF Technical Team in January 2008. The Assessment tool will also allow State Assessments

to be performed using the same tool, utilizing state-scale data. SPF Technical Team state representatives will begin importing their state data to further test and refine the tool. Additional presentations, user acceptance testing, requirements validation, and model refinement for Phase 1 will continue through May 2008.

The second phase in the development (scheduled to begin June 2008) will involve refinements of :

- data layers and models
- application for planning and prioritization
- requirements/processes for incorporating and updating state and local data into the database

Developing or incorporating a corresponding reporting accomplishment tracking system, and establishing and implementing an enterprise infrastructure that will host the applications and databases resulting from the development efforts of Phases 1&2, are also part of Phase 2.

Keeping Track of What’s Going On in Redesign

You now have several options for keeping abreast of the latest news in Redesign. First, you can visit the Redesign website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml> for copies of briefing papers, presentations, and hot topic updates. Copies of this and future *Redesign Updates* will also be posted on the website. We will also be posting a project tracking matrix displaying working group membership, key tasks and expected deliverables.

Budget Update

The U.S. Forest Service is working on a number of issues related to the budget. The target date for distributing the final 2008 budget and financial advice to the Forest Service Regions is January 28th. Staffs are also preparing briefing papers for the Chief and Deputy Chief to prepare for the 2009 budget oversight hearings. Redesign implementation will be among the topics discussed.



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

