

November 2008



STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

Redesign Update

A Message from the Deputy Chief for S&PF

State and Private Forestry Redesign is moving to the next phase with the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill. State assessments have become an emphasis that guides *focus*, *priority*, and *outcomes*. As we look across the landscape, meaningful efforts are achieving Redesign goals, and continued progress and support is growing as we broaden our reach. I look forward to another year of demonstrated progress and congratulate all the state and Forest Service personnel that worked hard in 2008 to move Redesign from concept to implementation.

Jim Hubbard

State Assessment Toolbox

A state assessment “Tool Box” will be added to the Redesign Web site for access by states and partners during the construction of the state-wide assessments for forest resources. This Web-based resource will include useful links, information, additional regional guidance, and data resources to support the development of state-wide assessments and state-wide resource strategies for forest resources. In addition, this internet portal will provide a link to national coverage data sets until the National Assessment Tool becomes available on-line. State forestry regional organization Executive Directors, Ian MacFarlane, Jay Jensen, and Mike Zupko have agreed to serve as a clearinghouse for “Tool Box” submissions. If you have information or resources that are currently available and that would be useful for state assessment development, please send them to your regional Executive Director for consideration.



Release of Final National Guidance for State-wide Assessments & Strategies

Following discussions held during the recent NASF annual meeting in Hyannis, MA, the RIC approved the national guidance for state-wide assessments of Forest Resource Conditions and state-wide Forest Resource Strategies required in the 2008 Farm Bill. The guidance was distributed electronically by NASF to State Foresters and by the U.S. Forest Service to State and Private Forestry leadership. The guidance can be found on the Redesign Web site:

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

A Message from the NASF President

State Foresters gathered in September for the National Association of State Foresters’ annual meeting where, among many important issues, they discussed the various elements of redesigning the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry program. State Foresters offered important input to the Redesign Implementation Council. The feedback that we provided helps the RIC stay on the right path toward developing a process that meets the goals of conserving, protecting and enhancing our nation’s forests.

In addition, with the change in NASF leadership, we will have new representatives to the RIC. State Foresters Larry Kotchman (ND) and Jeff Jahnke (CO) along with NASF Executive Director Jay Farrell will join the RIC. Larry replaces former Arizona State Forester, Kirk Rowdabaugh, and Jeff joins as the new NASF Treasurer.

I look forward to continuing to represent NASF on the council. Our work isn’t finished.

Leah MacSwords



National Data Strategy & Program Support Team Convened

A National Data Strategy and Program Support Team was recently established with GIS experts and program managers from states and the U.S. Forest Service. Frank Sapio, Director of the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, is the team leader. The Data Strategy and Program Team will support geospatial aspects of the state and national assessments. This joint team will assemble suitable existing geospatial data, identify and address geospatial and other data gaps, and develop technically sound data analysis scenarios to address national resource management priorities and key program policy questions. The immediate task for the team is to develop a geospatial resource Web page that will provide nationally consistent data layers for states to use in developing their state assessments. This Web page should be available by mid-December and will be linked to the S&PF Redesign Web site.



2009 Changes in Redesign Implementation Council Membership (RIC)

As Redesign enters its second year of implementation, the Redesign Implementation Council considered whether there should be changes to the Council's composition. In 2008, the RIC was comprised of the elected officers of the NASF and four U.S. Forest Service senior executives. The NASF members were: Kirk Rowdabaugh (AZ), Leah MacSwords (KY), Steve Koehn (MD), and Austin Short (DE). The U.S. Forest Service members were: 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 providing executive leadership for implementing Redesign. Jan Davis, *Texas Forest Service* and Debbie Pressman, *U.S. Forest Service*, provide Redesign project

leadership responsibilities and support the RIC. The RIC agreed that NASF membership should continue to be provided by its elected officers. For FY 2009, Austin Short has rotated off the RIC and has been replaced by Jeff Jahnke (CO), the incoming NASF officer for 2009. Kirk Rowdabaugh has taken a new position with the USDI Office of Wildland Fire, and Larry Kotchman (SD) will fill his vacancy on the RIC. Thanks to Austin and Kirk for their service this past year. The RIC further agreed that the U.S. Forest Service membership be expanded to include a SPF field director, and that NASF membership be expanded to include the NASF Executive Director – resulting in a 5/5 NASF/FS membership cadre. The U.S. Forest Service field representative has not yet been named.



Performance Measure Principles

The Redesign Performance Measure Working Group is working to finalize a suite of State and Private Forestry performance measures that captures accomplishments using the following principles as a guide:

- ◆ Ensure explicit alignment between measures and Redesign themes and objectives.
- ◆ To the fullest extent possible meet all U.S. Forest Service information/accountability reporting needs through the Redesign performance measurement system (i.e., a review of existing reporting requirements has been completed to identify those that would be a good measure of progress toward desired outcomes). Those that don't tie directly to the themes/objectives will be dropped unless required by statute, regulation or other agency, departmental, or OMB requirement.
- ◆ Identify which measures are best captured at a national scale (as part of periodic update of the National Assessment – some subset of Criterion and Indicators may fulfill this need) and which are best captured at a state scale (as part of the Annual Report process).
- ◆ For those measures captured at the national level, standardized protocols (relying on national assessments or inferred from state reported information) would be used to characterize "status" and "trend" of desired theme outcomes.
- ◆ For those measures to be captured at the state level, a "menu" of standard measures and protocols, would be provided which would be used to report accomplishments for all State and Private Forestry funded activities.
- ◆ Guiding maxims:
 - Less is more – what are the critical few?
 - Simple is better – is there a more straightforward measure?
 - Remember the target audience ... it isn't us!
- ◆ Provide for review of proposed measures before adoption – including validating the availability and affordability of information needed to respond to performance measures.
- ◆ Use the competitively funded projects to Beta-test proposed measures before applying them to all State and Private Forestry funded activities.
- ◆ For measures captured at the state level, reporting should be developed under the concept that the accounting system is easy for states to use, eliminates the need for multiple systems, and will be at an interval that will not be more burdensome to those who have to report data in to it than required to meet the needs for the information. With the use of geospatial report tools, the U.S. Forest Service will be able to generate reports from information entered by the states without having to formally request data from the states.



Happy Holidays!

Best wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season. *Redesign Updates* will resume in the New Year.



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