



Redesign Components: INTEGRATED FEDERAL PROGRAM DELIVERY



Purpose:

Identify opportunities to coordinate and/or integrate State and Private Forestry (S&PF) program delivery with the delivery of complementary federal programs in order to better meet the needs of non-federal landowners and other State and Private Forestry customers. Outline corresponding strategies.

Guidelines:

Institutional arrangements and subsequent integrated program delivery should be mutually beneficial in achieving mission goals shared by both agencies and/or departments. S&PF mission goals can be generally described by the three National Themes: conserve working forest landscapes, protect forests from harm, and enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

Example:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers several programs that assist private landowners in the conservation of natural resources with an emphasis on working landscapes. The National Themes associated with the S&PF Redesign identify the conservation of working forest lands as one of three critical areas for programmatic focus. This clear alignment in mission goals between the two agencies creates an opportunity to improve delivery of complementary landowner assistance programs through interagency coordination and integration.

Additional Areas for Integration of Federal Programs:

The federal government administers a total of 1,717 different programs for domestic federal assistance. Many opportunities exist to integrate S&PF programs with those of other agencies and departments with similar missions. Because some programs and agencies are more likely than others to be an effective partner in achieving S&PF priorities as described in the National Themes, strategic choices should be made as to what cooperative opportunities will be pursued. The task group has begun its work by casting a wide net, querying the database of federal programs, and cataloguing all programs that potentially align with the three National Themes. Examples include: Fire Act Grants that provide direct assistance to state and local fire departments and that are administered by the Department of Homeland Security; Rural Economic Development Grants administered by USDA's Rural Development Agency; programs that are geared toward limiting the spread of invasive plant and animal species administered by the Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS); and others.

Next Steps:

The task group intends to narrow the scope of potential integration opportunities by investigating: the amount of funding complementary programs provide to individual grantees; the amount of funding appropriated to complementary programs; the degree to which state forests, private forests, or agricultural landowners are primary benefactors; what opportunity—from the administering agency perspective (e.g., NRCS, DHS)—S&PF has to coordinate program delivery for the benefit of state and private forest landowners; and what institutional arrangements would be necessary to facilitate integration.

DRAFT ~ 7/3/2007