Redesigning State & Private Forestry

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June 27, 2007

Why Change?

- Forests are being threatened at a scale larger and faster than current programs can address.

- Pressures on forests and local economies are increasing.

- State and national budgets are tight.

Redesign Approach:
Focus–Priority–Outcome

- **Focus** on national issues and sustaining diverse public benefits.

- **Prioritize** using the best available information to assess conditions & identify opportunities.

- **Outcomes** are achieved through collaboration, partnerships and working at appropriate scales.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of a redesigned State & Private Forestry is to shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that *optimizes public benefits from trees and forests* *for both current and future generations.*

Components of Change

- National Themes
- National Assessment
- State Assessments
- State Response Plans
- Competitive Resource Allocation
- Programs & Staffing
- Demonstrating & Communicating Results
- Integrated Program Delivery

National Themes

Conserve Working Forest Landscapes

Protect Forests from Harm

Enhance Benefits From Trees and Forests

National Themes:
Conserve Working Forest Landscapes

- **Actions:**
  - Reduce forest conversion
  - Inform landscape decisions

- **Strategies:**
  - Forest products, woody biomass and environmental services market development.
  - Tax policies, conservation easements, and county planning tools.
  - Other social and economic incentives to encourage retention of forested landscapes.

National Themes:
Protect Forests from Harm

- ## Actions:

  - Reduce threats to forest health and productivity caused by uncharacteristic wildfire; insects and disease; and invasive species.

- ## Strategies:

  - Restoration of fire-adapted forests.
  - Monitoring, assessment and treatment of forest insect and disease pathogens.
  - Prevention, early detection and rapid response to invasive species.

National Themes:
Enhance Benefits From Trees and Forests

- ## Actions:
  - Enhance public benefits associated with trees and forests *(e.g., clean air and water, habitat, open space, economic attributes etc.)*
  - Reduce risks to communities from wildfire

- ## Strategies:
  - Urban forestry
  - Watershed planning
  - Enhance community fire protection capabilities
  - Link environmental health with community well-being

National Assessment

- Geospatial assessment of conditions, trends & opportunities across ownerships.

- Key elements: wildland fire risk; insect & disease impacts; threat of conversion.

- Will be used to:
  - Guide planning, prioritization and resource allocation at the national and regional levels.
  - Monitor, demonstrate and communicate results.

- Will eventually include partner-accessible, web-based data base.

State Assessments

- **Geospatially-based Resource Assessments**
  - Describe forest conditions (cross-jurisdictional)
  - Identify forest related benefits and services
  - Highlight trends/issues of concern
  - Delineate high-priority landscapes
  - Outline strategies for addressing priorities

- **Development Timeline: 2008-2010**

State Response Plans

- State proposal for investment of competitive federal dollars

- Collaboratively developed

- Respond to national priorities as well as those in State Assessments

Competitive Allocation

*"**Primary issue is formula funding**"*

THE SOLUTION*:*

"Increase the level of competitive federal financial assistance"

Competitive Allocation:
Timeline

- **Competitive Funding:**
  - Increase from 15% to 65% over five years

- **All funds included in competitive process:**
  - Coop Fire, Forest Health, Coop Forestry

- **FY 2008 and FY 2009:**
  - Proposals based on national guidance

- **Beginning in FY 2010:**
  - Proposals begin to incorporate State Forest Resource Assessments

Competitive Allocation:
Process

National direction and priorities will guide the competitive process.

Initial allocation will go to the three geographic regions (NE,W,S).

State and federal partners in each geographic region will design a competitive process for allocation of funds.

Programs and Staffing:
Why Change?

- Ensure we have the right mix of skills, resources and tools to be successful.

- Improve program integration.

- Organize to support the three national themes.

- Prepare to address issues and opportunities in National Assessment & State Response Plans.

Programs and Staffing:
The Future?

- **What might this look like?**
  - More flexible & adaptable organizations
  - Sharing talent across jurisdictions
  - Programs become tools rather than organizations

- **How do we decide?**
  - Engage those affected by changes
    - USFS, State Forestry Agencies, Partners

Integrated Program Delivery

- Purpose: Identify opportunities and outline actions for integrating S&PF delivery with complementary programs administered by other Federal agencies.

- Example: Alignment in mission priorities between S&PF and NRCS; efforts will be made to move toward mutual delivery of programs and plans.

Integrated Program Delivery

- **Other Opportunities for Program Integration:**

  Fire Act Grants *(Department of Homeland Security)*; Rural Economic Development Grants *(USDA's Rural Development Agency)*; Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service programs *(APHIS);* etc.

- **Next Steps:**

  Strategic choices will be made as to what programs and their administering agencies will be pursued for potential program integration.

Demonstrating & Communicating Results

- Develop reporting system tied to National Assessment.

- Draft performance indicators for each national theme ("Annual Report Card").

- Develop proposal for strengthening S&PF communication skills.

Demonstrating & Communicating Results: *Strategic Approach*

- Visual demonstrations of progress
  - *National Assessment Maps*
- Performance elements and reporting
  - *Describe the issue, desired outcome, objectives, performance measures, and progress towards desired outcomes*
- Localized successes
  - *Anecdotal "success stories"*

Questions for Discussion

- What does success look like?

- What will this mean for existing programs and organizational structures?

- How can we best engage those that may be affected by these changes?

- How should we approach transition?