



# Redesigning State and Private Forestry



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*National Themes:  
Conserve working forested landscapes*

*Protect forests from harm*

*Enhance benefits from trees and forests*

**FOCUS  
PRIORITY  
OUTCOME**

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) have assembled a State & Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign Board to review current trends affecting trees and forests and to consider the most effective roles for state and federal government in sustaining forest benefits.

The purpose of a new approach to S&PF 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.

### **The Redesign Approach**

The members of the Redesign Board have taken on their organizations' unified commitment to sustaining a diverse range of public benefits from forests. The Board has developed a corresponding strategy, including guiding principles and components of change. The Board is sharing this strategy with S&PF partners, stakeholders, and employees, in the hopes of stimulating dialogue and encouraging feedback.

### **Components of Change**

The S&PF Redesign includes the following Components of Change:

#### **NATIONAL THEMES**

Three National Themes will help focus federal investments on issues, challenges, and opportunities which, if addressed, will lead to significant progress in providing diverse and sustainable public benefits from trees and forests for current and future generations.

Each theme includes associated key actions and strategies, designed to further define and communicate the S&PF Redesign approach to these priorities.

#### Conserve working forested landscapes

*Actions:* Reduce the rate of conversion of forested landscapes and inform decisions about which landscapes should be conserved as working forests.

*Strategies:* Promote markets for forest products and environmental services; implement tax policies, easements and other planning tools; promote social and economic incentives of forests.

#### Protect forests from harm

*Actions:* Reduce threats to forest health and productivity, including uncharacteristic wildfire, insects and disease, and invasive species.

*Strategies:* Restore fire-adapted forests; monitor, assess, and treat forest insect and disease pathogens; eradicate or control invasive species through prevention, early detection, and rapid response.

#### Enhance benefits from trees and forests

*Actions:* Enhance public benefits associated with forests, such as clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, open space, recreation, renewable supplies,

*Public benefits derived from our forests, such as clean air and water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, strong local economies, forest products, renewable energy, and cultural values are ecosystem services that are essential to our quality of life.*

*This will be an ongoing process—the Board will continue to build on this approach in redesigning our programs.*

economic attributes, and climate change mitigation; reduce the risks to communities from uncharacteristic wildfire.

*Strategies:* Encourage urban forestry, support watershed planning, enhance community fire protection capabilities, link environmental health with community well-being.

#### **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

A National Assessment will identify forest conditions, trends, and opportunities across ownerships. Key elements of the assessment will include wildfire risk, insect and disease impacts, and threats of conversion. This geospatial, interactive tool will help identify priority landscapes and demonstrate progress. The National Assessment will eventually include a partner-accessible Web-based database.

#### **STATE ASSESSMENTS & RESPONSE PLANS**

State Forest Resource Assessments will define forest benefits and services, comprehensively assess threats and opportunities, and delineate critical forest resource landscapes. State Response Plans will describe how a state proposes to invest competitive federal dollars, in combination with other available resources, to address the S&PF National Themes along with key issues identified in their own state assessments.

#### **COMPETITIVE RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

An increasing percentage of S&PF funds will be competitively disbursed according to national program guidance and desired outcomes. The competitive process will be conducted through USFS/NASF efforts in the Northeast, Southeast, and West. Initial competitive allocation processes (target: 15% of S&PF funds) will be adopted in 2008. The amount of competitively allocated funds is targeted to increase by 10% each year for the next 5 years.

#### **PROGRAMS & STAFFING**

S&PF will move towards adopting a more flexible and adaptive organization, designed to address dynamic challenges and opportunities. Greater emphasis will be placed on sharing talent across organizations. Decisions regarding programs and staffing will rely on input from Federal and state personnel, Tribes, partner organizations, the forestry community, and other interested parties.

#### **DEMONSTRATING AND COMMUNICATING RESULTS**

Accountability for making meaningful progress toward the National Themes will be a key component of the S&PF Redesign. New emphasis will be placed on improving our collective ability to demonstrate and communicate accomplishments. As an example, an annual S&PF Report Card will be produced to roll up visual, quantifiable, and anecdotal demonstrations of progress and success.

#### **INTEGRATED PROGRAM DELIVERY**

S&PF will seek to better integrate our programs with other complementary federal programs in order to better meet the needs of non-Federal landowners and other S&PF customers.

#### **Where Can I Get More Information?**

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