Forest Legacy Guidelines Revision – Where are we headed?
Content Analysis of the April 2013 ROUGH DRAFT

Staying mostly the same:
- Two-tiered project “evaluation” process (state + national)
- Regional and State Review processes & questions
- QAI process
- Record keeping policies
- Conservation easement drafting & review checklist
- State option to hire contract review appraisers contingent on appraisal “risk factors”

Updates/tweaks - for greater readability, clarity & transparency:
- Reorganization of content to help the user find things more quickly (e.g. general index)
- Expanded definitions list
- Requirements/applicability of other federal laws (NEPA, National Historic Preservation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act)
- State Forest Action Plans instead of State Assessment of Needs (AONs), including greater clarity (hopefully) on what is needed for 5-year revisions
- Clarification for tribal participation
- Roles of land trusts in program and project implementation
- Roles of State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committees
- Compatible uses vs. non-compatible uses (focus is on protecting forest values & benefits, and for States to evaluate any proposed use on a case-by-case basis considering location, size, scale, intensity, and duration). New guidelines will provide more examples
- Compatible land types vs. non-forest lands (more clarity re what counts towards the 75% forest cover requirement)
- Baseline documentation sample – update to meet current LTA standards and guidelines
- Multi resource forest management plans vs. Forest Stewardship plans (same requirements but different terminology; more clarity re relationship with third-party certifications)
- Options for dealing with third-party interests (e.g. mineral rights) and other title issues
- Expansion of Appendix to give more examples/forms/language

Additions:
- Fee simple purchase, monitoring, and stewardship requirements
- Guidance/best practices for building envelopes/restricted areas/improvement areas in CEUs
- Linear non-forest corridors (how to deal with transmission lines, public roads, pipelines, etc.)
- Cost share tract requirements
- Ecosystem services
- Conservation easement monitoring and enforcement section
- Conservation easement amendments
- Forest Legacy Information System roles
- GIS standards for track boundaries