

Private Forests Strategic Initiatives – October 2015 – Proposed Changes

Summary

Table 1. Status of 2015-17 Private Forests Strategic Initiatives and proposed new initiatives

Continuous Business Improvement in FPA (FERNS project) – <i>Completed</i>
Water Quality Monitoring – <i>Continue Change to “Water Quality Partnership”</i>
Forestry Biomass and Bio-Energy <i>Unsuccessful</i>
<i>Family Forestlands (new)</i>
<i>Urban and Community Forests (new)</i>

Strikeout indicates the initiative to be “retired”.

Bold-italicized indicates new initiative proposed.

Water Quality Partnership

Placeholder initiative to be developed in conjunction with The Governor’s Natural Resource Office Clean Water Partnership (CWP). Could link to Family Forestlands and Urban and Community Forestry Initiatives.

Family Forestlands

There is an opportunity for increased forestry assistance funds through a variety of new Federal and state programs, NRCS EQUIP program, NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP), Joint Chiefs’ Projects, and OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). An emerging theme in these programs is targeted investments in a specific geographic region for a specific goal/issue (e.g., coastal coho habitat improvement). This approach is different from our current business model of providing assistance to individual forestland ownership.

Goals of the strategic initiative:

- Keeping forestland – forestland
- Engage family forestland owners, connect them with opportunities
- Family forestlands understood as our core business (varied level of support at the field level).
- Focus time and energy to link landowner goals (the wide variety, not just economic) with resource needs with funding sources
- To maintain and ensure we are the leader and agency best suited to deliver services. Seen as the go to organization for forest management expertise.
- Effective reporting of accomplishments and measurable resource outcomes to our funders (i.e., feds) to assure steady funding for a variety of work
- Balance Funding with Goals -- Seek funding to meet our goals; be adaptable in our goals to meet the goals of new funding opportunities.

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Urban and Community Forests (Peter)

Redesign the state's existing urban forestry program and expands it to fill the gap between the Urban Forestry and Private Forests Program by helping local governments, non-profit organizations, and landowner groups deal with forestry issue in developed or developing areas of the state. Five new Community Stewardship Foresters located throughout the state will provide technical assistance that helps address contemporary issues such as forest sustainability, watershed protection, and climate-change.

Develop a coordinated program that responds to forestry challenges across the urban and urban/wildland interface landscapes to reduce forest fragmentation, conserve forest values, and promote sustainable forest management.

This initiative would create a redesigned service delivery program that will benefit communities, forest landowners, and the public. This program would enable the Department of Forestry to:

- Restore assistance levels reduced by federal fund reductions
- Fulfill current legislative mandates for urban forestry assistance
- Address urban/rural interface issues more proactively
- Provide land use coordination assistance at a multi-jurisdictional level
- Help existing Stewardship Foresters more efficiently implement the Forest Practices Act in interface areas, thereby improving their ability to address rural forestry issues