

Iowa Spatial Analysis Project Implementation

The Challenge

Iowa's forest landowners have benefited from Forest Stewardship Plans with professional forester-recommended activities and practices throughout the past decade. Once a Plan is written, follow-up occurs only when a landowner contacts the forester for either technical or financial assistance. In the past, it has not been possible to quantify the demand for this assistance, assess the extent of plan implementation, or spatially display distribution of Stewardship Plans on the landscape or display proximity of the Plans to one another.

The Solution

Iowa positioned itself to address the challenge by providing the tools and support to, and expectations of their field foresters to electronically record and map the Stewardship Plans they prepare. At the same time, the Forest Stewardship Program's Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) was just being launched beyond its pilot phase of development and testing. Iowa was ripe for SAP development, begun in fiscal year 2004.

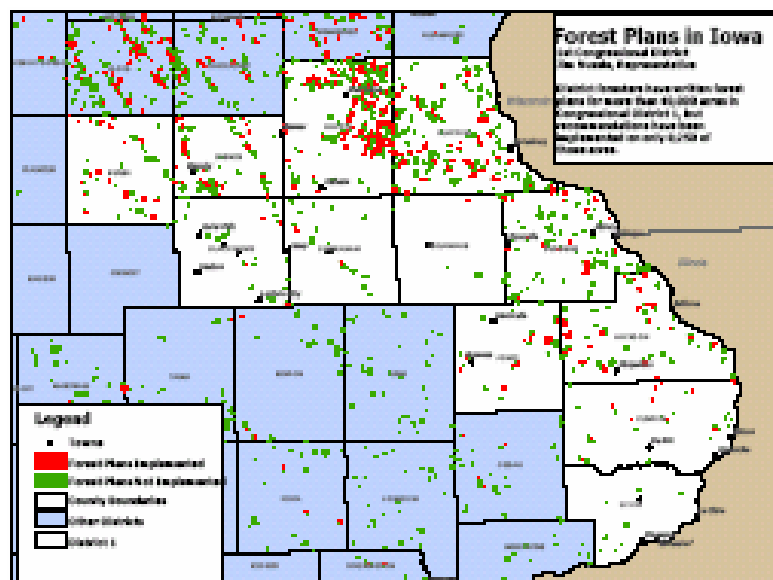
SAP allows Iowa to:

- Assess existing Forest Stewardship Plan locations
- Display / quantify Plan recommendations, by activity and practice
- Display / quantify extent of Plan implementation
- Monitor plan success, identifying financial assistance needs benefiting forestland.
- Identify private forestlands and other lands eligible for Forest Stewardship Program assistance that would most benefit from program services.
- Sort information according to congressional district or other jurisdictional boundaries.

Resulting Benefits

Iowa is able to:

- Tell a compelling story about where forestry work is occurring in a congressperson's district, on or near their home county, on or near their property, resulting in connections made between Forest Stewardship Program funding and state technical assistance.
- Focus on specific demand for financial assistance, revealing that needs far outweigh available dollars.
- Monitor progress through time, allowing staff to quantify workload and priority.



Sharing Success

Iowa is continually sharing their products with other states and on a national basis. Their use of SAP exemplifies a method of monitoring and accomplishment reporting in a meaningful and feasible manner. This practical application of SAP results in greater utility than originally anticipated by the developers.

Highlight

Iowa is taking Forest Stewardship Program results to a high level of utility and accountability, sharing with policy and rule makers to show demand and opportunity for the Program and associated cost-share assistance.