

November 2009



STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

Redesign Update

A Message from the New NASF President

It is an honor and a privilege to serve NASF as president. In the coming year, NASF will continue to advance initiatives dedicated to sustainable forest management and the resulting natural resource benefits important to all Americans, including clean and abundant water, renewable wood energy sources, carbon sequestration and mitigation, wildlife habitat, recreation and markets for thousands of forest products.

A critical component of our efforts is State & Private Forestry Redesign. Redesigning an entire Forest Service mission area by committee is a huge task, and we have made tremendous accomplishments over the past three years. I look forward to the challenge of bringing us to a point of completion where all the components of Redesign are integrated, implemented, and manifesting positive results on the landscape.

~Steven W. Koehn

News and Notes from Annual NASF Meeting

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) held their 87th Annual Meeting the week of September 21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Association elected a new slate of officers to its governing Executive Committee and agreed on a number of national policy positions. **Steven W. Koehn**, State Forester of Maryland, will lead NASF as president in 2009-2010. NASF also elected **Jeff Jahnke**, Colorado State Forester, as the association's new vice president and, Arkansas State Forester **John Shannon** as its new treasurer. Each will serve a twelve-month term.



Changes to the Redesign Implementation Council

The New Year brings several changes to the Redesign Implementation Council (RIC). We bid a fond farewell to **Larry Kotchman** (*ND State Forester*), **Robin Thompson** (*SPF Associate Deputy Chief*), and **Dave Cleaves** (*R&D Associate Deputy Chief*). Their service to the RIC has been critical to the progress made in FY 09.

We would like to welcome new RIC members **Paul Ries** (*Cooperative Forestry Director*) and **John Shannon** (*AR State Forester*). RIC members continuing to serve are **Steve Koehn** (*MD State Forester*), **Leah MacSwords** (*KY State Forester*), **Jeff Jahnke** (*CO State Forester*), **Jay Farrell** (*NASF Executive Director*), **Jim Hubbard** (*SPF Deputy Chief*), **Harv Forsgren** (*Intermountain Regional Forester*), and **Peg Polichio** (*SPF Deputy Director, Regions 1 & 4*).

The next RIC meeting is currently scheduled for December 7th in Washington, DC.



Exploring a Fully-Integrated Redesign

During the NASF Annual Meeting, Past President **Leah MacSwords** made a presentation entitled, "*When is Redesign Redesigned?*" Leah highlighted Redesign accomplishments thus far including: a good start on State-wide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies, two successful years of the Competitive Grant Programs, defined Redesign outcomes & objectives, National Assessment Q & As and Redesign Report Cards for 2008 and 2009. Additionally, Redesign themes were adopted via the Farm Bill as national forestry priorities, the 2010 House Appropriations Report specifically mentions Redesign, and new partnerships and a new business model have been created.

Leah also proposed indicators of a "completed" Redesign such as: forests and trees being viewed as a whole and not by programs, all of State and Private Forestry follows the Redesign model, funding is based on landscape management and not program mandates, and the Redesign model becomes the Forest Service standard. There was overwhelming support to continue the discussion and explore what is needed to move toward a fully-integrated Redesign.



2009 New National Information Center (NIC) Portal for Redesign

As we embark on the third year of competitive resource allocation under Redesign, the Forest Service has asked Regional Foresters and the Northeastern Area Director to work with State Foresters to collect information on accomplishments achieved through the competitive process for FY 09. This information was also collected in FY 08, but this year, data will be entered through the use of a new web-based data collection tool housed on State and Private Forestry's National Information Center (NIC) website at <http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/nicportal>.

This accomplishment information will be critical in demonstrating and communicating the success of the competitive allocation process, and will be used to display how our efforts are resulting in meaningful impacts on the landscape. A sampling of projects will also be highlighted in the *2009 State and Private Forestry Annual Report*. The Redesign NIC portal will eventually be available to the public to view information regarding competitive projects funded in FY 09.



Approval Process for State Assessments and Strategies

On September 11, 2009, a memorandum was issued clarifying the joint expectations of the Forest Service and the NASF regarding early coordination and the approval process for State-wide Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources. The memorandum clarified the role of the States to determine the format and content of assessments, and information presentation. It is the role of the Forest Service to certify that legal requirements are met and to contribute state-level support.

A "checklist" of Farm Bill requirements for State-wide Assessments and Strategies was provided which should be used during the initial stages of assessment development, and should guide conversations between state forestry agencies and the Forest Service to ensure assessments and strategies have all components required by law. By engaging each other early in the process, we can assure there will be no surprises when it comes time for Forest Service Regions and the Northeastern Area to certify that assessments and strategies contain all of the required components. Once the assessments and strategies are finalized and approved by the State Forester, they will be transmitted to the appropriate Forest Service Regional Office or the Northeastern Area no later than **June 18, 2010**. After Forest Service Regions and the Northeastern Area certify that assessments and strategies comply with requirements of the Farm Bill using the checklist, they will be forwarded to the Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry for final approval on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture.



National Meeting on State Assessments and Strategies

The Forest Service is convening a national meeting focused on Statewide Assessments and Resource Strategies November 17-19, 2009, in Broomfield Colorado. The primary purpose is to provide a forum for state and regional planners, GIS specialists, and others to share information, data needs, and methodology relevant to State Assessments, and discuss approaches for State Strategies and future S&PF reporting requirements. The meeting is designed to help states fulfill the 2008 Farm Bill requirement to complete an Assessment and Strategy in order to be eligible to receive Cooperative Forest Assistance Act funding.

The intended meeting outcomes are to:

- ◆ Network and share approaches and methodologies used to help states meet requirements when developing State Assessments and Strategies;
- ◆ Identify specific technical assistance and guidance needs of States as they develop their Assessments and Strategies;
- ◆ Train participants on decision support and spatial accomplishment tracking tools;
- ◆ Share common messaging on requirements for State Assessments and Strategies, the approval process, and develop recommendations for reporting; and
- ◆ Draft a national data strategy to support a "redesigned" S&PF that would serve as a long-term plan for developing useful and consistent data sets and addressing data gaps.

For more information, contact Karl Dalla Rosa at kdallarosa@fs.fed.us.



RIC Project Lead Transitions

Jan Davis completed her two year term as Redesign Project Co-Lead. The NASF recognized Jan and her work during the meeting, and Jim Hubbard presented her with a beautiful framed wildlife photo on behalf of the Forest Service and the RIC. Jan's work over the past two years has been invaluable to the RIC and Redesign implementation. Taking over the reigns as State Redesign Project Co-Lead is **Diane Denenberg**, Communications Director for the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition/Council of Western State Foresters. Debbie Pressman continues to serve as the Federal Redesign Project Co-Lead.



Redesign Project Leads

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