
Director's Update: Managing Real Property and Improving Access to Corporate Data

—Vaughn Stokes, director of engineering, Washington Office

Recently, I submitted the USDA Forest Service Fiscal Year 2004 Pilot Facilities Conveyances to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Senate and House Appropriation staffs. The consensus is that the forests have submitted very good projects, and I'm confident that those projects will move through the clearance process rapidly. I was able to visit each of the five construction conveyances to see the results of the excellent work that the forests and regions have done on their master facilities plans. Units are positioning themselves by identifying, consolidating, and working to get rid of unneeded offices, warehouses, and other administrative facilities. On one unit, disposing of unneeded facilities and investing those funds in needed offices will generate as much as 4 percent of their annual budget. Working on ways to make this pilot conveyance permanent and to identify and realign facilities in the master facilities plans and in regional reports will be an important and ongoing part of Engineering's work.

The President's Executive Order 13327 on real property management, signed in February 2004, will impact our business. I am pleased to report that I believe that more than two-thirds of the requirements of that Executive Order is addressed with the information available in Infra, and we are working to further align our programs. Please make sure your data are reliable, complete, and meet the appropriate standards. It is becoming increasingly important that our corporate databases and official records are accurate, up-to-date, and free of errors and oversights.

The Infra Warehouse will be revised and renamed the Corporate Data Warehouse. The warehouse will meet E-Government requirements by providing Web-based access to the public, USDA, Office of Management and Budget, and Congress to answer questions pertaining to the USDA Forest Service. The warehouse will provide a single corporate data set to meet our business and reporting needs, as well as summary reports from Infra, NRIS (Natural Resource Information System), TIM (Timber Information Manager), and ALP (Automated Lands Project) at district, forest, congressional district, State, regional, and national levels of the organization. Each of you will be able to view and compare information and trends down to a single asset at the forest or district level. We are working to integrate the applications with the first release coming in September. For up-to-date information on the Corporate Data Warehouse, visit <http://infra.wo.fs.fed.us/warehouse/>

I would like to end my comments with a few words about safety. I hope we are never too busy for safety. We must follow safe practices in our offices, workplaces, and homes. We need to talk about safety. Safety must be everyone's business. We

never know when our actions can help a coworker, friend, spouse, child, or ourselves avoid a serious accident. We do know that embracing a proactive personal philosophy about safety has reduced the industrial accident rate by 55 percent. I would challenge each of you to think of safety and to act proactively at the job site or at home. We *can* make a difference.

Have a great summer.