These are exciting times. Not only are the primary tenets of Redesign codified in statute through passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, but if you look at recent testimony delivered by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, Jay Jensen, you will also see alignment of many of the Department’s priorities with issues important to the Forest Service, State Foresters, and our partners. Things like:

- conserving working forest landscapes,
- protecting our nation’s forests from harm-wildfire, invasive species and insect and disease outbreaks, and
- enhancing benefits associated with trees and forests such as water quality and sustainable communities and landscapes.

These concepts should look familiar to you. Clearly, there is much opportunity to implement the Secretary of Agriculture’s vision of working across boundaries—from the headwaters to the sea—with State Foresters and other partners on priority landscapes. The Secretary is interested in measurable results—“quality” results that add up to something, not just “quantity.” In other words, outcomes that are prioritized and focused.

The development of State-wide Assessments of Forest Resource Conditions and State-wide Forest Resource Strategies required by Congress under the 2008 Farm Bill, provides a historic opportunity for the State agencies and the Forest Service to work together to advance their shared resource management goals. The future is bright.

Jim Hubbard

Beginning in federal fiscal year 2008, a percentage of the S&PF allocation has been invested in projects selected through a competitive process. These processes will be informed by national guidance, but administered through a joint effort between the state forestry and U.S. Forest Service leadership in the northeast, south and west. Each geographic region will design their competitive process to address geographically significant issues and landscapes, as well as the broad themes and direction provided at the national level.

In FY 2010, fifteen percent of the “net available” S&PF allocation will be designated for the Redesign competitive process. The net available will include funds in the Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands (National Fire Plan), State Fire Assistance, and State Fire Assistance (National Fire Plan) programs. The competitive resource allocation will not include funds from Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Economic Action, or Federal Lands Forest Health Management programs.

National Guidance for the 2010 process can be found at: http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/fy2010_compet_guid.pdf

http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml
Most States have begun the State Assessment and State Resource Strategy process. In general, about 1/3 of the States are in the early stages of identifying their approach or their issues, 1/3 have identified their issues, and 1/3 are well on their way for an on-time completion. Some States are preparing the State Assessment first and plan to immediately follow the Assessment with the Resource Strategy. Some States, however, have decided to prepare both documents simultaneously. While there are commonalities nationally, each NASF geographic region is taking a little different approach to how they are providing assistance to the states in their regions.

NAASF has set-up a website that hosts regional guidance and data layers.
SGSF holds regional conference calls to check status and make assists, and has set-up a "Base Camp" information management program to monitor progress and exchange ideas.
WCSF has hired a planner to provide state assistance.

The Redesign approach to State and Private Forestry (S&PF) is guided by the assessment of conditions, trends and opportunities on forest lands of all ownership. The assessment process is supported with a web-based geospatial decision support system which provides a standard framework capable of supporting analysis of customized data-sets and alternatives tiered to the three national redesign themes.

The national assessment tool is being developed through a contract with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). A Technical Team composed of geospatial and program experts from the Forest Service and state forestry agencies is guiding ESRI’s work.

A prototype tool was initially developed in 2008, and is currently being updated to streamline the user-interface and provide additional functionality to facilitate the assessment process.

System requirements and design for the new version were finalized in April 2009. Several demonstrations of the new user-interface have been conducted with the development team to validate design requirements during the development phase. Formal acceptance testing is expected to begin in July 2009.

The membership of the development team has been augmented with additional state representation to ensure that the tool better supports state assessments, as well as national and regional assessments. The development team now includes representatives from CO, FL, NY, ND, MT, TX, KY, WI and ID to help test & evaluate the new system.

Long-term system and data-support needs will be evaluated during the testing & evaluation of the prototype. Once the development of the national assessment tool is complete, a formal change management process will be established to facilitate future updates to system components and architecture, including the incorporation of new standard data-sets as they become available.

The RIC will convene August 5-6, 2009, in Denver, Colorado. They will address the following agenda topics:

- The approval process for State Assessments and Resource Strategies.
- Discussions regarding use of the National Assessment Tool, policy questions the National Assessment should attempt to answer, and how these questions relate to proposed core performance measures.
- Evaluation of the proposed core set of performance measures based on previously agreed upon outcomes.
- Efforts to consolidate information requests to the states, including requests for information to build the next Annual Report Card.

---

### Opportunities for Woody Biomass Consideration in State Assessments

The Woody Biomass Utilization Group (WBUG), a Federal interagency collaboration that encourages the beneficial use of woody biorenewables, is interested in assuring that States have the resources and information they need to include biomass as a component of their Statewide Assessments and Response Plans. The WBUG is working to (1) develop a plan of work that reflects significant emerging issues; (2) share information on agency activities; and (3) enhance results oriented collaborative efforts. New opportunities in biomass utilization across the federal sector to create jobs through natural resource investments are becoming available to State and Private Forestry partners. The WBUG is interested in assuring that Redesign partners are positioned to take advantage of these opportunities to help shape the future to meet needs on all lands. The Statewide Assessments are considered a valuable means to facilitate appropriate action strategies and provide important information to growing woody biorenewable industries. Visit the WBUG website for more information.


---

### National Assessment Tool Update

The Redesign approach to State and Private Forestry (S&PF) is guided by the assessment of conditions, trends and opportunities on forest lands of all ownership. The assessment process is supported with a web-based geospatial decision support system which provides a standard framework capable of supporting analysis of customized data-sets and alternatives tiered to the three national redesign themes.

The national assessment tool is being developed through a contract with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). A Technical Team composed of geospatial and program experts from the Forest Service and state forestry agencies is guiding ESRI’s work.

A prototype tool was initially developed in 2008, and is currently being updated to streamline the user-interface and provide additional functionality to facilitate the assessment process.

System requirements and design for the new version were finalized in April 2009. Several demonstrations of the new user-interface have been conducted with the development team to validate design requirements during the development phase. Formal acceptance testing is expected to begin in July 2009.

The membership of the development team has been augmented with additional state representation to ensure that the tool better supports state assessments, as well as national and regional assessments. The development team now includes representatives from CO, FL, NY, ND, MT, TX, KY, WI and ID to help test & evaluate the new system.

Long-term system and data-support needs will be evaluated during the testing & evaluation of the prototype. Once the development of the national assessment tool is complete, a formal change management process will be established to facilitate future updates to system components and architecture, including the incorporation of new standard data-sets as they become available.

### Status of State Assessments

Most States have begun the State Assessment and State Resource Strategy process. In general, about 1/3 of the States are in the early stages of identifying their approach or their issues, 1/3 have identified their issues, and 1/3 are well on their way for an on-time completion. Some States are preparing the State Assessment first and plan to immediately follow the Assessment with the Resource Strategy. Some States, however, have decided to prepare both documents simultaneously. While there are commonalities nationally, each NASF geographic region is taking a little different approach to how they are providing assistance to the states in their regions.

- NAAASF has set-up a website that hosts regional guidance and data layers.
- SGSF holds regional conference calls to check status and make assists, and has set-up a “Base Camp” information management program to monitor progress and exchange ideas.
- WCSF has hired a planner to provide state assistance.

---

### RIC Summer Meeting

The RIC will convene August 5-6, 2009, in Denver, Colorado. They will address the following agenda topics:

- The approval process for State Assessments and Resource Strategies.
- Discussions regarding use of the National Assessment Tool, policy questions the National Assessment should attempt to answer, and how these questions relate to proposed core performance measures.
- Evaluation of the proposed core set of performance measures based on previously agreed upon outcomes.
- Efforts to consolidate information requests to the states, including requests for information to build the next Annual Report Card.

### Redesign Project Leads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Redesign Project Leads</th>
<th>Debbie Pressman</th>
<th>Jan Davis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Forest Service</td>
<td>202-205-1538</td>
<td>979-458-7320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dpressman@fs.fed.us">dpressman@fs.fed.us</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jdavis@tfs.tamu.edu">jdavis@tfs.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>