



## Redesign Components: NATIONAL THEMES



A concise set of national themes will be used, in conjunction with the national assessment, to identify where and how federal State and Private Forestry (S&PF) resources should be focused in order to make the most significant progress in providing diverse and sustainable public benefits from trees and forests. Issues and/or geographic areas that are identified for emphasis at the national level will inform the development of state forest resource assessments and will be included in the national guidance for competitive allocation that is sent to the geographic regions. The regions and states will then have the flexibility to address these national priorities in a way that is meaningful in their own jurisdictions.

The national themes are intended to be long-term in nature and will serve multiple functions, including:

- Communicate the conditions, threats and opportunities relative to the nation's forests and associated public benefits;
- Identify the desired outcomes and key strategies that will be guide the investment of federal funds;
- Provide the framework for a simplified program and budget structure, regional allocations, accountability and reporting results.

After considering many alternatives and significant dialogue the Redesign Board agreed on three themes. The desired outcomes and key strategies associated with each of those themes follows.

### **Conserve Working Forest Landscapes**

**Desired Outcomes** — Actions under this theme are directed at: 1) reducing the rate of conversion of forested landscapes to other uses; and 2) informing decisions about which landscapes should be conserved as working forests to optimize public benefits for current and future generations.

Key strategies under this theme include: 1) forest products, woody biomass, and environmental services market development; 2) tax policies, conservation easements, and county planning tools; and 3) facilitating other social and economic incentives to encourage retention of important forested landscapes. Technical assistance to communities and landowners on the various techniques available to maintain healthy forests will be an essential supporting activity.

### **Protect Forests from Harm**

**Desired Outcomes** — Actions under this theme are directed at reducing threats to and restoring forest health and productivity associated with: 1) uncharacteristic wildfire; 2) insects and disease; and 3) invasive species.

Key strategies under this theme include: 1) restoration of fire adapted forests; 2) monitoring, assessment, and treatment of forest insect and disease pathogens; and 3) prevention, early detection, and rapid response to eradicate or control invasive species. An ongoing national inventory and assessment of forest conditions and technical assistance would be essential supporting activities.

## **Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests**

**Desired Outcomes** - Actions under this theme are directed at: 1) enhancing the suite of public benefits associated with trees and forests such as: clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, open space, outdoor recreation opportunities, renewable materials (e.g., building materials, paper products, bio-energy, medicinal products), economic attributes (e.g., employment, reduced heating/cooling costs, enhanced property values, reduced water storage and treatment costs, reduced flood risk and impacts, reduced fire suppression costs and impacts), and climate change buffering; and 2) reducing the risk to communities from uncharacteristic wildfire.

Key strategies under this theme include: 1) strategic use of trees and forests in urban environments; 2) watershed planning; 3) enhancing community fire protection capabilities; and 4) linking environmental health with community well-being. Promoting environmental literacy and partnership building would be important supporting activities to increase public understanding of the benefits provided by trees and forests and build support for managing forests to secure those benefits.