

R5 Pacific Islands Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS)
A Joint SPF-IPIF Strategic Guide
February 2009

Objective: SWARS will meet requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill, will supersede all previous plans required by the COOP Forestry Assistance Act and will be the guiding document that addresses State-wide Federal Forestry Assistance Programs.

Goal: Provide support and technical assistance to State and Private Forestry partners to successfully develop their State-wide Assessments and Resource Strategies (SWARS) required under the amended Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill and for the State and Private Forestry (SPF) Redesign.

Priorities:

- Coordinate effectively and efficiently between SPF and IPIF to provide the most comprehensive support to our partners
- Manage efforts per timeline set in Farm Bill (**all assessments due June 18, 2010**)
- Incorporate stakeholder issues into the statewide assessment and resource strategy
- Ensure assessments and strategies address each of the 3 national objectives (*Conserve Working Forest Lands, Protect Forests from Harm, and Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests*)
- Monitor progress of our partners in meeting stated objectives

Responsibilities:

State and Private Forestry staff (Coop Forestry and Fire, FHP) will work jointly with IPIF staff to implement this strategy and work with our island partners

- **State and Private Forestry will:**
 - Provide grant advice and dedicated funding to Hawaii (no additional \$ at this time), FSM (\$45k), Marshalls (\$15k), Palau (\$15k) with the purpose of developing their SWARS
 - Work with IPIF to determine final federal financial allocation to the Coop Agreements with Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa.
 - Perform budget and cost analysis to determine reasonableness and allocability of costs in Grantee's budget.
 - Review, finalize and issue Coop Agreements and grants submitted by each State or Territory.
 - Document the status of SAP on each island; where incomplete determine what is necessary for completion and relay that to the island.
 - Provide training to FSM, Palau and RMI on developing their SAP.
 - Develop a step-by-step user's manual for states/islands to complete their assessment.
 - Work closely with IPIF and partners to develop additional training to support islands in identifying what should be included in the Statewide Assessment with respect to national themes and strategic objectives as stated in the Final Statewide Assessment Guidance provided by USFS SPF.
 - Provide technical GIS/SAP expertise & assistance in support of SWARS.
 - Work cooperatively with IPIF to meet grant/agreement goals.
 - Clarify program-specific requirements for each S&PF program, including Coop Fire programs.

1. Coaching

Feb-Mar '09

- On a PIC or other Conference Call describe the new requirements and this strategy.
- Help islands identify interest groups, mandated Forest Stewardship Committees, and SWARS stakeholder involvement
- Draft Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy grants and/or cooperative agreements*

S&PF staff for first bullet, IPIF and Islands for second and third bullets

IPIF Points of Contacts for SWARS development:

<i>Hawaii</i>	<i>Katie Friday</i>
<i>Guam</i>	<i>Karen Bennett</i>
<i>CNMI</i>	<i>Karen Bennett</i>
<i>Am Samoa</i>	<i>Anne Marie LaRosa</i>
<i>Palau</i>	<i>Anne Marie LaRosa</i>
<i>FSM</i>	<i>Katie Friday</i>
<i>Marshall Islands</i>	<i>Katie Friday</i>

2. Determine Existing Information

March '09

- Determine existing information/plans available
- Determine spatial data available
- Document completion of SAP

IPIF, Lisa, & Islands

3. Develop and Distribute User Guide

March '09

- Create guide to develop SWARS

Sandy and Lisa

4. Coordinate fire-related issues with Trudy Mahoney

Feb/Mar '09

IPIF and islands staff

5. Submit Final Coop Agreements or Grant applications to S&PF Director *

Feb/Mar '09

Islands

6. Determine Issues to be addressed with SWARS

Mar-May '09

- Conduct State Foresters Partners Workshop
- Where we are now and where we need to go, SAP-type analysis
- Identify issues that will feed into strategic portion of SWARS
- Consider top 5 issues related to redesign themes

Island State Foresters or lead staff, IPIF to assist with workshops, Lisa to assist with SAP

7. Approve, finalize, and issue SWARS grants and cooperative agreements*

April-May '09

<u>Island</u>	<u>S&PF Contact</u>
<i>Hawaii</i>	<i>Julie Lydick</i>
<i>Guam</i>	<i>Sandy Macias</i>
<i>CNMI</i>	<i>Jim Geiger</i>
<i>Am Samoa</i>	<i>Dave Bakke</i>
<i>Palau</i>	<i>Sandy Macias</i>
<i>FSM</i>	<i>Julie Lydick</i>
<i>Marshall Islands</i>	<i>Jim Geiger</i>

8. Perform Resource Condition Assessment and Trends Analysis

July '09

- Includes details and issues that tier off of the three national objectives

Islands staff – IPIF / S&PF to review

9. Partner consultation of Assessment and Analysis

August '09

Islands staff

10. Finalize Assessment document – share with partners

October '09

Islands staff

11. Develop Resource Strategy

November '09

- Issues to be addressed from partner meeting (see #6 above); use SAP and other data layers to develop the basis for the strategic resource strategy
- Host a Partner Workshop to Create an Action Plan

Islands staff, IPIF to provide assistance with workshops if necessary, Lisa to provide assistance with geospatial analysis if needed, S&PF to review

12. Create Draft Assessment and Resource Strategy

January '10

Islands staff

13. Review Draft SWARS and Present at 2010 PIC

February '10

Islands staff, PIC membership and leaders

14. Create Final SWARS and provide to S&PF Director

May '10

Islands staff, S&PF leadership

15. Submit final SWARS to Secretary of Ag

June '10

Islands staff

** Denotes Grant/Coop agreement steps pre award*