



all lands.
all hands.



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2010 STATEWIDE FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIES

The 2008 Farm Bill changed forestry in America.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 set into motion landmark changes in the way trees and forests will be managed, conserved, used and enjoyed today and for future generations. Honing in on the State and Private Forestry program of the U.S. Forest Service and its long history of cooperation with state forestry agencies, the law provides new guidance on how forestry agencies and programs will identify and prioritize national, regional, and state forest management goals.

At the foundation is the requirement for each state to complete a Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy. The Assessments provide an analysis of forest conditions and trends in the state and delineate priority rural and urban forest landscape areas. The Resource Strategies provide long-term plans for investing state, federal, and other resources to where it can most effectively stimulate or leverage desired action and engage multiple partners. This sets the stage for integrated federal investment decisions that are based on identified high priority needs and opportunities and not necessarily programmatic mandates.

By focusing on *all lands* — state, private, and federal — and strategically assessing the forest areas that have the greatest need, highest value, or innovation potential, we will get the most out of every dollar invested and every pair of boots on the ground. The result will be healthier and more resilient landscapes, better and more fire-adapted communities, improved habitat, air, and water quality, and a host of other public benefits that come from actively and sustainably managed forests.

Assessing forest resources and engaging in strategic planning for those resources is nothing new for many states. For others, the State and Private “Redesign” process and the subsequent Farm Bill requirements presented an opportunity to employ a new tactic in their usual agency planning goals. In June 2010, when all assessments and strategies are completed, every state in the nation, along with associated states and territories, will have a meaningful account of and targeted plan for America’s trees and forests.

STATE ASSESSMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Every state will deliver a **Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy** to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture by June 2010, per the amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA), as enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill.

All lands

State assessments and strategies will:

- Identify and provide an analysis of present and future forest conditions, trends, and threats on all ownerships .
- Identify any areas or regions of that state that are a priority.
- Identify any multi-state areas that are a regional priority.
- Incorporate existing forest management plans including state wildlife action plans and community wildfire protection plans.

All hands

States have flexibility in the approach they use to develop their assessments and strategies, but all states will be identifying priority issues and areas, using the best available data, to focus program delivery and engage with partners and stakeholders. They are guided by three national priorities:

- Conserving working forest landscapes
- Protect forests from threats
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests

A new vision

Besides focusing on priority lands and strategically investing federal and other investments, this new approach also furthers the Redesign effort to:

- View forests and trees as a whole and not by programs
- Base funding decisions on landscape management and not necessarily program mandates