

Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies



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The Farm Bill (Title VIII) Requires

State Foresters to develop and submit:

- ❖ “State-wide assessment of forest resource conditions”
- ❖ “A long-term State-wide forest resource strategy”
- ❖ “Annual report on use of funds”

Identify priorities and foster greater leveraging of resources to address them.

- Complete by June 2010 to remain eligible to receive CFAA funds

S&PF Redesign—Components

- ❖ Themes
- ❖ State assessments & strategies
- ❖ National assessment
- ❖ Competitive resource allocation
- ❖ Programs and staffing
- ❖ Demonstrating and communicating results

3 Themes

Conserve working forest landscapes

Protect forests from harm

Enhance public benefits from trees and forests

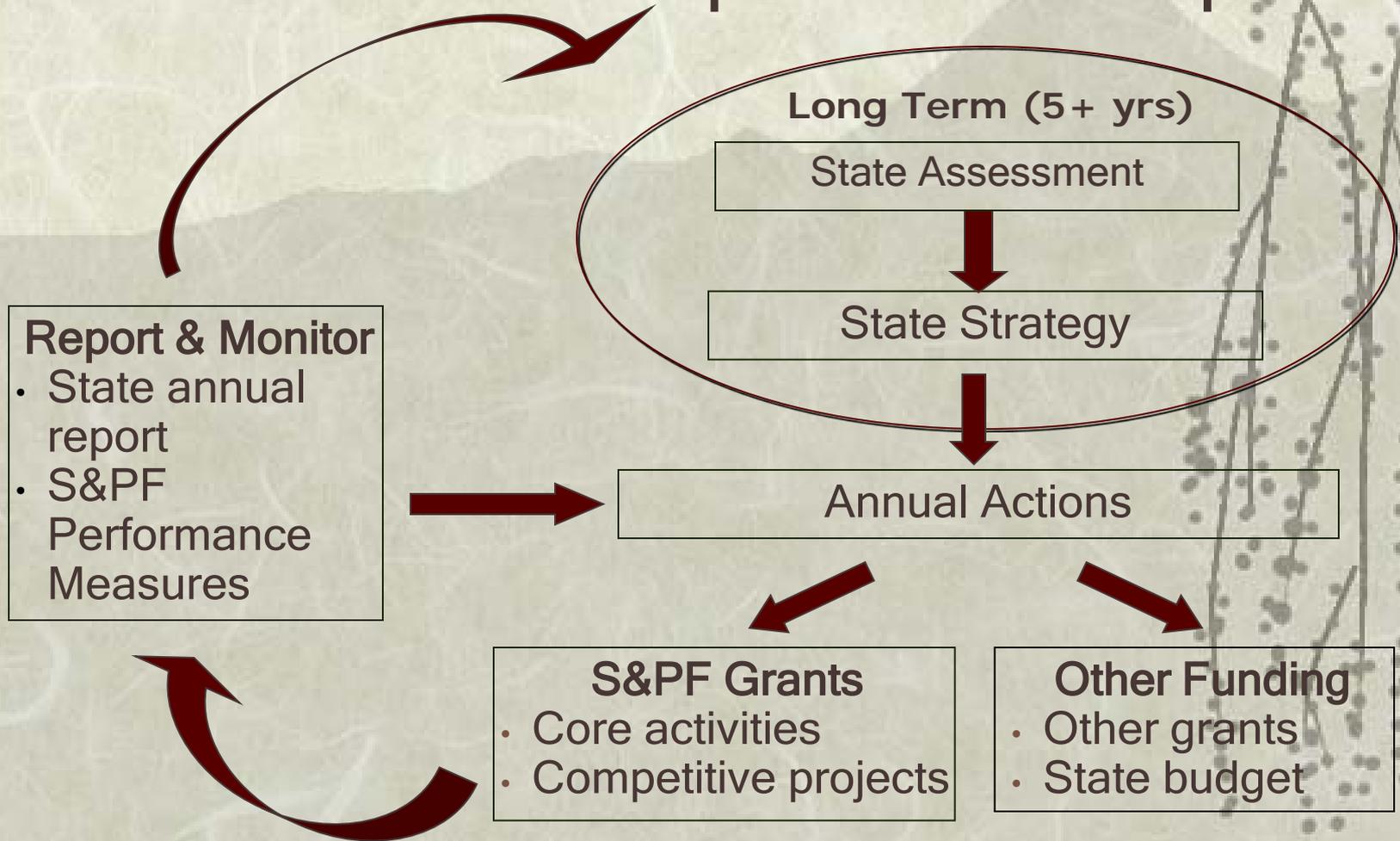
State Assessment: Identify Key Issues & Areas

- ❖ Analysis of present and future forest conditions and trends on all ownerships
- ❖ Identify threats, benefits, and services
- ❖ Consistent with the S&PF national themes
- ❖ Delineate priority landscape areas
- ❖ Identify multi-state areas

State Strategy: A Plan to Address Priorities

- ❖ Long-term strategies to address priorities
- ❖ How will invest Federal and other resources
- ❖ Timeline for implementation
- ❖ ID partner and stakeholder involvement
- ❖ How will monitor outcomes and revise action
- ❖ How will accomplish S&PF national objectives
- ❖ How S&PF programs will be used
- ❖ Incorporate existing plans

Assess–Plan–Implement–Adapt



Stakeholder Collaboration

States must consult with stakeholders and consult existing plans to:

- ❖ Build upon and complement other efforts
- ❖ Identify opportunities for coordination
- ❖ Leverage resources for implementation

States are required to coordinate with National Forests.

Preliminary Issues List - 1

- ❖ Keeping Forests as Forests
 - Parcelization and conversion
 - Reaching family forest owners
 - Payments for ecosystem services
 - Investor ownerships
 - Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, etc.)
- ❖ Maintaining a diverse, robust forest products industry
- ❖ Loggers and truckers - Maintaining the financial viability of the logging and trucking community

Preliminary Issues List - 2

- ❖ Capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution
- ❖ Invasive plants, animals, diseases
- ❖ Predicting future forest conditions and wood supplies
- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Changing demands on the forest - biofuels, biomass
- ❖ Drinking water supply protection
- ❖ Raising the level of acceptance and value for the entire forestry profession.

Web Survey Results - General Info

- 274 (369) people completed at least some of the survey.
- 87% (96%) identified themselves as Maine residents.
- **63% (49%) identified themselves as Maine landowners.**
- **Self-identified characteristics**
 - **56.7% (84%) citizen interested in conservation in Maine**
 - **35.9% (6%) forester**
 - **20.4% (6%) person working in forest industry**
 - **15.9% (6%) government employee**
 - 14.8% (12%) educator
 - 9.3% (7%) person working for conservation organization
 - **8.9% (2%) absentee forestland owner**
 - **8.5% (4%) person working for NGO**
 - 7.4% (6%) land trust
 - **5.2% (2%) logger**

Web Survey Results

Percent respondents ranking issue as High Concern	
Issue	Percent
Maintaining a diverse, robust forest products industry	77.9%
The spread and control of invasive plants, insects, animals, diseases	71.9%
Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine	70.2%
Maintaining the financial viability of Maine's logging and trucking community	70.0%
Need for public education about forests	69.3%
Informing family forest owners of the benefits of sustainable forest management	65.9%
Parcelization and conversion of forestland to other uses (e.g. development, homes, agriculture)	64.9%
Continued reduction of federal and state funding for stewardship cost-sharing practices, community forestry grants, and forestry education and outreach.	55.0%
Conservation of forests for clean drinking water supplies	53.8%
Changing market demands for forest products – biofuels, biomass, pulp, sawtimber, etc.	51.6%
Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment management organizations, etc.)	50.6%
Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, Forest Legacy, etc.)	50.6%

- 67%
- 85%
- 79%
- 60%
- 83%
- 79%
- 83%
- 76%
- 83%
- 50%
- 81%
- 75%

Web Survey Results

Percent respondents ranking issue as Low Concern	
Issue	Percent
Threat of forest land or property loss due to forest fire.	42.9%
Climate change impacts on forestlands	23.7%
Need for healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas, including towns parks, streets and yard trees.	15.9%
Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, Forest Legacy, etc.)	14.6%
Payments for ecosystem services (watershed protection, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, etc.)	12.6%
Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment management organizations, etc.)	11.1%

• 24%

• 31%

• 7%

• 9%

• 11%

• 5%

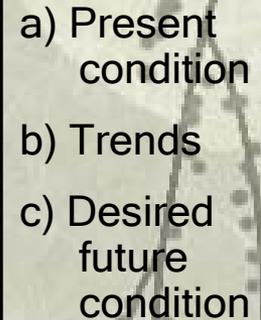
State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

I. Executive Summary

II. Introduction

III. State Forest Assessment

1. Forest Conditions and Trends
2. Criterion 1: Conservation of biological diversity
3. Criterion 2: Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems
4. Criterion 3: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality
5. Criterion 4: Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources
6. Criterion 5: Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles
7. Criterion 6: Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socioeconomic benefits to meet the needs of societies
8. Criterion 7: Legal, institutional, and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management

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- a) Present condition
 - b) Trends
 - c) Desired future condition

State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

III. State Forest Assessment

- A. Existing and Emerging Benefits and Services
- B. Issues, Threats, and Opportunities
- C. Priority Landscape Areas
 - 1. Urban
 - 2. Interface
 - 3. Rural/large parcels
 - 4. Multi-state
 - 5. Forest Legacy Assessment of Need
- E. Summary
- F. Appendices

State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

IV. State Strategy

- A. Outline long-term strategies for addressing priority landscapes identified in the State Assessment and the national themes and associated management objectives.
- B. Describe how the state proposes to invest federal funding, along with other resources, to address state, regional, and national forest management priorities.
- C. Include a long-term timeline for project and program implementation.
- D. Identify partner and stakeholder involvement.

State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

IV. State Strategy

- E. Identify strategies for monitoring outcomes within priority forest landscape areas and how action will be revised when needed.
- F. Describe how the state's proposed activities will accomplish national S&PF program objectives and respond to specified performance measures and indicators.
- G. Describe how State and Private Forestry programs will be used to address priority landscape and management objectives.
- H. Incorporate existing statewide plans including Wildlife Action Plans, community wildfire protection plans, and address existing S&PF program planning requirements.

Priority Forest Areas

1. Priority Forest Areas - Urban and community forests (Project Canopy)
2. Priority Forest Areas - Family forests (Forest Stewardship / WoodsWISE)
3. Rural/large parcels: Maine Forest Legacy Program

State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Timeline

15 December: First web survey closed

22 December: Initial meetings w/stakeholders - lay out process, discuss issues

15 January: Second web survey closed

February: Followup meetings w/interested parties on specific issues

Late March/early April: Draft out for review by stakeholders, DFO

Mid-May: Near final draft for DFO review

18 June 2010: Deadline for submission of SFAS to USDA

Questions?

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