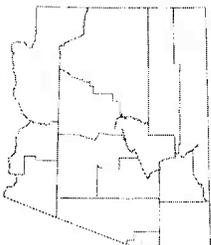


Arizona Assessment of Forest Resource Conditions and Statewide Forest Resource Strategy



A Presentation for:

Arizona State Technical Committee

Phoenix, AZ
October 27, 2009



Arizona Forestry Division

Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

Presentation Topics

- Context – Why is this important?
- Goals & Principles for Arizona
- Building on Arizona's successful efforts/initiatives:
 - Collaborative partnerships
 - Science based knowledge
 - Existing plans and strategies

Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

Background

“State and Private forestry is a branch of the USDA Forest Service...reaches across boundaries of National Forests...provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to help sustain the Nation's forests.”

Secretary Vilsack's National Vision for American's Forests 8/14/09

“A healthy and prosperous America relies on the health of our natural resources, particularly our forests.”

“Our national forests are an enormously important environmental and economic asset. So too are our non-federal forests, our state, tribal and private forest lands.”

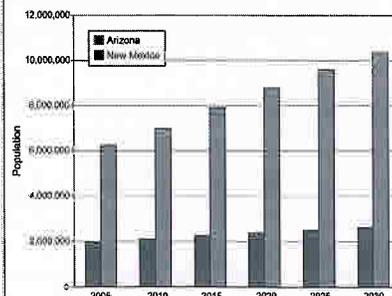
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Why is this Important?

- Forests are being threatened at a scale larger and faster than current programs can address
- Pressures on forests and local economies are increasing
- State and national budgets are tight

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Projected population growth for Arizona and New Mexico, 2010 - 2030



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"We need a compelling message about the importance of sustaining the Nation's forests"

~ Chief Dale Bosworth, NASF Annual Meeting, 2004

Redesigning State & Private Forestry:

To shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.

Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

Three National Themes

- Conserve Working Forest Landscapes
- Protect Forests from Harm
- Enhance Public Benefits from Trees & Forests

➤ **Focus** on national issues and sustaining diverse public benefits

➤ **Priority** using the best available information to assess conditions and identify opportunities

➤ **Outcome** are achieved through collaboration, partnerships, and working at appropriate scales

Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

- Redesign elements enacted in 2008 Farm Bill
- Each state shall complete a State-wide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy by June 2010
- Assessment to provide a comprehensive analysis of forest-related conditions, trends, threats and opportunities within the state
- Coordinated strategy for investing state, federal and partner resources to address landscape priorities identified in its assessment
- All-lands approach

Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

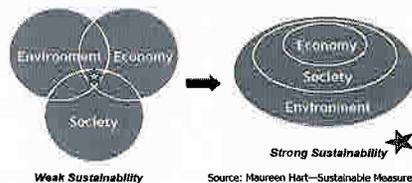
Goals & Principles for Arizona

- Meaningful and useful for Arizona – *not just a federal requirement to receive funding!*
- Supported by leadership in Arizona
- Significant stakeholder input
- Guided by best information/science – adaptable!
- Sustainable – *an integrated strategy*

Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

'Triple Bottom Line' Outcomes

Interconnected and Interdependent Benefits



State-wide Forest Resource Assessment
How do we do it?

- Analyze conditions and trends of forest resources.
 - Provide an analysis of present and future forest conditions, trends, and threats on all ownerships in the state using publicly available data.
- Identify threats to forest lands and resources.
 - Identify forest related threats, benefits, and services consistent with National Themes.
- Identify areas or regions that are a priority.
 - Delineate priority rural and urban forest landscape areas to be addressed by the state resource strategy.
 - Work with neighboring States and governments to identify any multi-state areas that are a regional priority.

Long-term Statewide Forest Resource Strategy
How do we do it?



- Determine strategies for addressing threats to forest resources
 - Outline strategies for addressing priorities & national themes
 - Identify how state proposes to invest federal funding
 - Identify partner & stakeholder involvement
 - Develop strategies for monitoring outcomes
 - Assure S&PF programs address management objectives
- Describes resources necessary for the State Forester to address the Forest Resource Strategy
- Incorporate existing statewide plans
- Coordinate with other organizations

Incorporate Existing Statewide Plans



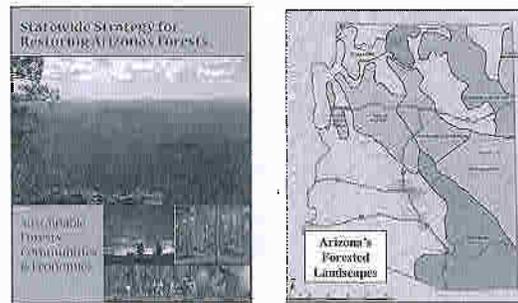
- State Wildlife Action Plan – AZ G&F (2006)
- Existing S&PF program planning
 - Forest Stewardship Program State Priority Plan – (2003)
 - Arizona Forest Legacy Program; Assessment of Need – (2005)
 - Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project – (2006)
 - Urban and Community Forestry Strategic Plan – (2006)
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans – (25+)
- Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona’s Forests (2007)

Coordinate with other Organizations



- Governor’s Forest Health Council
- Arizona Community Tree Council
- Arizona Forest Stewardship Committee
- Arizona Game & Fish Department
- **State Technical Committee**
- Federal Land Management Agencies
- Other key partners, including Tribes and neighbouring states

Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona’s Forests (2007)



Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona’s Forests (2007)



Expected to be a major component of Arizona’s assessment & plan

1. Provides or Partially Provides:

- Long-term strategies
- How state proposes to invest federal funding
- Stakeholder and partner involvement
- Describes resources necessary for State Forester to address strategy

Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona’s Forests (2007)



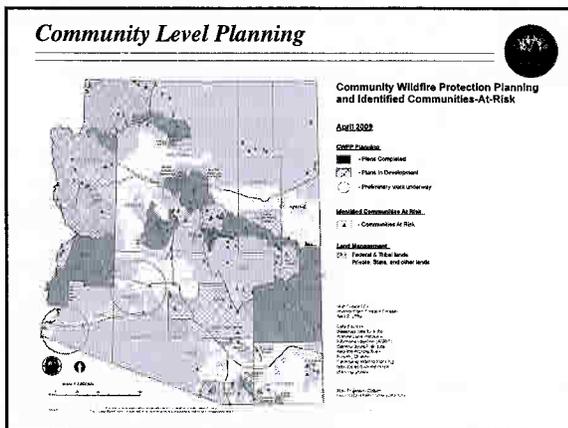
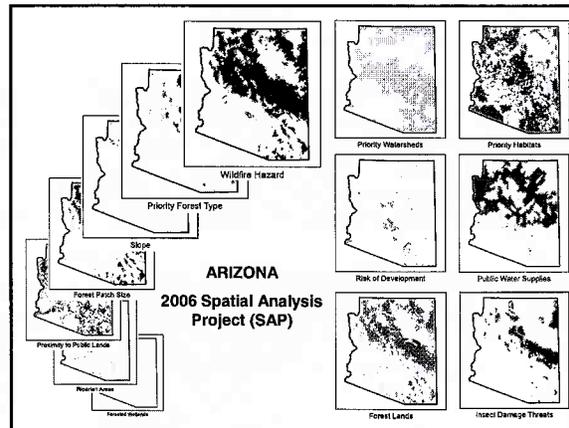
Expected to be a major component of Arizona’s assessment & plan

2. Limitations/Gaps:

- No state-wide geospatial data
- No connections identified with National Themes
- Does not prioritize landscapes
- No multi-state areas addressed or prioritized
- Does not address urban elements/landscapes

**Forest Stewardship
Spatial Analysis Project (2006)**

Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project
Summary Report for Arizona
November 2006



Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

Observations

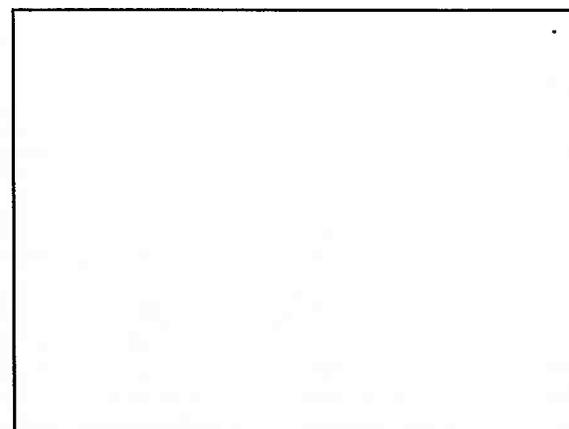
Arizona has a wealth of interdisciplinary resources, community commitment and collaboration!

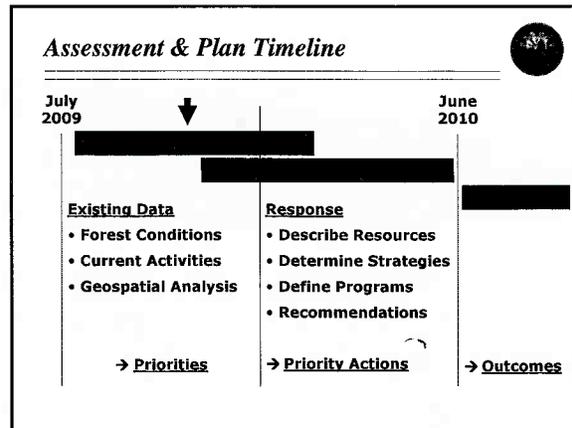
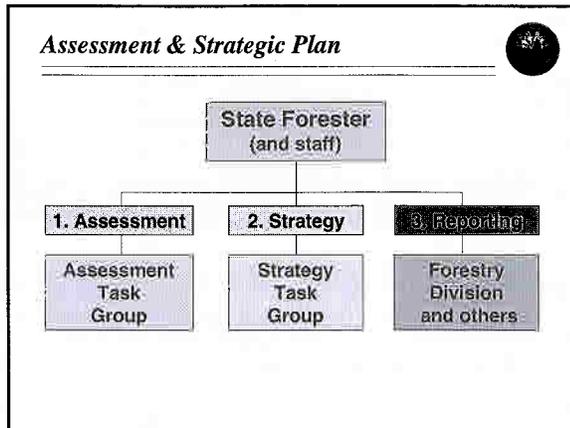
- Assistance from Institutions of Higher Learning
- Interagency Cooperation
- Engaged Non-Governmental Organizations
- Governor's Commitment to Restoring Arizona's Forest

Arizona State-wide Forest Resource Assessment & Strategic Plan

"The vast possibilities of our future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for the future"

~Gifford Pinchot





- ### Assessment Task Group
- Arizona Division of Forestry
 - Broad-based Stakeholder Group Representation
 - Arizona Forest Health Council
 - Arizona Forest Stewardship Committee
 - Arizona Community Tree Council
 - State Technical Committee
 - Agency and Sector Specific Representation
 - US Forest Service
 - US Dept of Interior
 - Arizona Indian Tribes
 - Arizona Game and Fish Dept
 - Arizona Conservation NGOs
 - Arizona Universities

- ### Assessment Task Group
- Began Meeting in August
 - Developing Assessment Methodology
 - Currently working on identification of Important Forest Resource Issues

- ### Multiple Input Opportunities
- **Assessment** (Development & Draft Stages)
 - Identification of Important Forest Issues (What ?)
 - Geospatial Modeling & Priority Areas (Where ? - Statewide, Forest-wide, local, and adjacent lands)
 - Narrative Development and Review (Why ? / Who ?)
 - Broader Outreach Activities Planned
 - Survey
 - Workshop -- Phoenix - Dec. 2nd
 - **Strategy** (Development & Draft Stages)
 - Identified Response to Assessment Issues

- ### Current Statewide Issues Discussion
- **Draft Priority Topics in Development** (The What ?)
 - Population - Human Impacts
 - Natural Ecosystem Functionality
 - Water and Air Quality
 - Fire / Community Protection
 - Economic Factors
 - Climate

Questions & Feedback

?

Thank You!

