

Web-DET – Forest Stewardship Program

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



An extension of the Spatial Analysis Project in support of the Forest Stewardship Program

Description: Web-DET is a national web-based data entry and report writing geodatabase application designed to support the Forest Stewardship Program, administered by USDA Forest Service, and implemented/delivered by state forestry agencies. The Northeastern Area (NA) provides significant project coordination in the development, design, and eventual implementation of this Forest Service application. Web-DET will allow field foresters, working with private landowners, to prepare Forest Stewardship Management Plans, record contact and other attribute information of the plan property, track plan implementation accomplishments, and spatially display and analyze plan locations and associated activities, through the use of a web browser, without the need for desktop GIS software or software expertise.

Key Issues:

- There was a need to change Forest Stewardship Program implementation from first-come, first-served to a more strategic approach focused on achieving greatest resource benefit, leading to greater program accountability.
- There is a need to define substantive performance measures for program accomplishment, leading to improved and demonstrable program accountability.
- There is a need to Monitor and evaluate the implementation of activities prescribed in Stewardship Plans.
- There is an ongoing need to maintain records pertaining to the Forest Stewardship Program.

Web-DET is an outgrowth of the Forest Stewardship Program's Spatial Analysis Project (SAP). Upon completion of the development stage of SAP, it was recognized that in order to ensure the long-term success of the initiative, a tool that provided for the easy and efficient maintenance of the Stewardship Plan database into the future was necessary. The SAP development team recognized the most efficient method for maintaining the database was through the field foresters who prepare Forest Stewardship Plans. These same field foresters would need a value add for their maintenance efforts – an automatically generated, yet customizable Stewardship Plan with high quality maps. From those needs and the needs of the Colorado State Forest Service to track accomplishments came Web-DET. It responds directly to the NA mission and vision, and is being implemented according to all of NA's guiding principles. It touches every Goal of the NA Strategic Plan in innovation, focus on sustainable forest management, and providing effective public service. Web-DET facilitates the ability to implement changes to the Forest Stewardship Program oversight, increasing accountability. It is endorsed by the Office of Management and Budget. Through Web-DET, NA is helping State and Private Forestry to redeem its federal role in program administration and technical assistance. Web-DET directly facilitates the fourth key issue above (maintaining records), meeting field foresters' needs as they prepare Forest Stewardship Management Plans to meet landowners' objectives

Accomplishments:

- NA administered the initial contract with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) for the design and development of Web-DET, with assistance from Colorado State Forest Service. This application is using new web-service geographic information system technology.
- The SAP pilot state partners (CT, MD, MA, MO) with NY and CO beta-tested Web-DET, identifying enhancements and leading to a significant contract modification.
- NA specialists with the national Forest Stewardship Program manager, initiated efforts to incorporate the Web-DET application within the Forest Service Information Technology framework, ensuring security and agency policies are upheld. Because the user group is external as well as internal, Web-DET is precedence-setting and high-profile within the Information Resource Management program.
- During FY 2005, the Washington Office-Cooperative Forestry, provided funding to NA for Web-DET design and development.

Field foresters will be able to generate complete Forest Stewardship Plans that meet national Forest Stewardship Program standards and guidelines, while recording and spatially mapping all planned activities and practices to meet the landowners' objectives, and a schedule for same. Once activities are implemented, the foresters will be able to enter those accomplishments into the Web-DET geodatabase.

Budget History:

Forest Stewardship Program Web – DET				
<i>(\$ Thousands)</i>				
	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005*	FY 2006
Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$234	\$250
Totals	\$0	\$0	\$234	\$250

* includes \$179.0K prior year funds

Future Direction:

- During FY 2006 efforts continue to stand-up Web-DET within the new Forest Service Integrated Business Environment (IBE) at the National Information Technology Center (NITC) in Kansas City, MO. This application is proving to set precedence on several fronts.
- State-specific Web-DET-compatible geodatabases have been shared with a number of states within NA and nationally. The SAP data currently in MS Access databases and shapefiles are in the process of being migrated to the state-specific geodatabases that will then be uploaded (checked-in) to the Web-DET application, when available.
- Web-DET will assist NA and other regions in implementing the Forest Stewardship Program by providing a tracking tool and an indication of important forest resource areas.
- Web-DET is expected to be tested at the Albuquerque Service Center during the second quarter of FY 2006, and stood-up at NITC in the third quarter of FY 2006. It will be rolled-out through the SAP pilot states, NY, and CO when initially stood-up at NITC, with another groups of states in the queue for the second phase of roll-out, expected in late June, 2006, and finally with full implementation expected by October 1, 2006.

Kathryn Maloney, Director
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)
 kmaloney@fs.fed.us
<http://na.fs.fed.us>

Robin Morgan, Asst. Director
 11 Campus Blvd, Suite 200
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 610-557-4124 (4136-FAX)
 rmorgan@fs.fed.us

Barb Tormoehlen, FSP Coordinator
 811 Constitution Ave.
 Bedford, IN 47421
 812-277-3567 (9-3423-FAX)
 btormoehlen@fs.fed.us

02/02/2006 revision