



# Planners' Pages

Summer/Fall 2007

## S&PF Redesign Update

*Mike Huffman*

*Missouri Department of Conservation*

As most of you know, Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry (S&PF), Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has initiated a process to “Redesign State and Private Forestry.” The following information is from a presentation by Larry Payne, U.S. Forest Service Director of Cooperative Forestry, at the Cooperative Forest Managers 2007 Committee meeting in Delaware.

According to Larry, “The purpose of a redesigned State and Private Forestry is to shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forest for both current and future generations.”

Larry stated, “There are three national themes: (1) conserve working forest landscapes; (2) protect forests from harm; and (3) enhance benefits from trees and forests. National and State assessments will be conducted around these themes. From those assessments, State response plans will be developed.”

He also noted, “Over 5 years the Forest Service will increase the competitive level of Federal financial assistance. It will start at 15 percent of funding levels and go to 65 percent of funding levels. The changes are necessary to (1) ensure we have the right mix of skills, resources, and tools to be successful; (2) improve program integration; (3) organize to support the three national themes; and (4) prepare to address issues and opportunities in national assessment and State response plans.”

He concluded that as a result, the Forest Service hopes to achieve more flexible and adaptable organizations, facilitate sharing talent across jurisdictions, and develop programs that are tools rather than organizations.

## FRPC 2007 Conference

This year’s meeting will be held in Indianapolis, IN, October 16–18, at the downtown Courtyard by Marriott. Reservation information is coming soon.

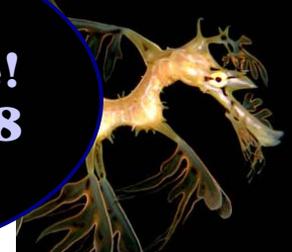
**Why should you attend?** We’ll be discussing the future of forest planning and GIS usage, and how to keep forestry relevant both environmentally and economically. This year’s meeting will focus on issues such as the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry redesign, the Farm Bill, ecosystem services (including carbon sequestration), the potential for biofuel, and improving air and water quality, which leads to...

**Call for speakers:** Know anyone who can speak about any of the above topics and likes traveling to the Midwest? Please let Bill Moulton know ([bill.moulton@state.vt.us](mailto:bill.moulton@state.vt.us) or 802-476-0171).



**Indianapolis,  
Indiana**

**Save the Date!  
October 16–18**



## Message from the FRPC Chair

*Change is in the air!*

A few years ago I attended a conference at which Mark Rey, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, stated that funding would eventually cease to exist for programs with a basic premise of continuing to do what we have always done in the way we have always done it. Jim Hubbard, U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, has initiated a process to “Redesign State and Private Forestry,” which promises to change the landscape of State and Private Forestry relationships within the Forest Service. Larry Payne, U.S. Forest Service Director of Cooperative Forestry, stated that over the next 5 years, 65 percent of Forest Service funding to States would be based on a competitive process. A forestry title in the 2007 Farm Bill significantly changes the focus and potential funding of many of the traditional Farm Bill conservation programs, especially the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The 2007 Farm Bill also requires States to develop statewide forest assessments and strategies to be eligible to receive any funding through the Farm Bill. These assessments and strategies will require States to rethink what they do and where they do it.

*Change is in the air!*

For people in our field, Forest Resource Planners and GIS Specialists, these are exciting times! Thinking about “what can be,” “what needs to be,” and planning for how to accomplish those things is what we do. I challenge us individually within our respective States, and collectively as a committee, to be instruments of the changes that lie ahead and to facilitate the process and planning necessary to ensure increased benefits to the forest as a result of those changes.

*Change is in the air!*

What can we accomplish if we are not afraid of change?

*Mike Huffman  
Missouri Department of Conservation*

# Congratulations...

**Matt Keefer**  
**Pennsylvania**

**Honored with the 2006  
Crystal Ball Award**

*“It’s been an honor to possess and receive daily guidance and motivation afforded by this coveted orb. I will miss it dearly after passing it on to the next deserving planner this fall in Indianapolis.”—Matt Keefer*



## **A Note From the Geospatial Technologies Subcommittee**

This year is really humming. I'm having a hard time believing it is summer already. Things are extremely busy here in Pennsylvania, as I am sure they are everywhere. However, it does seem to be a little busier in the world of GIS right now. From work on the Forest Service Spatial Analysis Program (SAP), to biomass analysis and mapping, to urban tree canopy assessments, to the carbon sequestration potential of the State Forest system, the requests for outputs from our GIS-related activities and mapping just continue to grow. That sounds like good news for all of us!

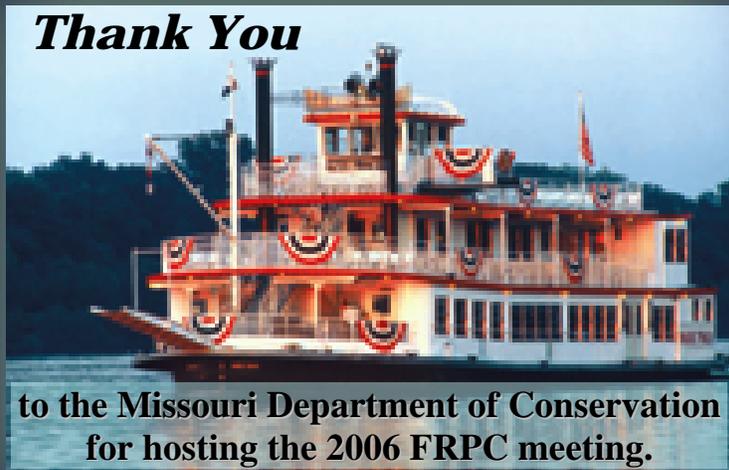
After a successful conference in Hannibal, MO, hosted by Mike Huffman and the State of Missouri, we are anticipating another excellent gathering of Resource Planners and GIS Specialists this coming October in Indianapolis. It's never early to begin thinking about putting together a poster display of the latest analysis or current "hot topic" in your area. GIS-related topics being considered for this year's meeting include the Forest Service's Webdet and SAP programs, remote sensing and LiDAR's potential to aid in forest resource management, biofuels-biomass assessment techniques through GIS, and how States utilize GIS to generate forested buffer zones. If you have any recommendations for other topics or speakers you believe would be beneficial for the group, please don't hesitate to e-mail suggestions ([paroth@state.pa.us](mailto:paroth@state.pa.us))!

I hope to see you in Indianapolis this October! There will be lots of good information and good company. Thanks to Bill Mouton, Phil Wagner, Brett Martin, and the rest of our program committee for volunteering to plan what will surely be another outstanding conference!

*Paul Roth*

*Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry, Resource Inventory and Analysis Section*

***Thank You***



**to the Missouri Department of Conservation  
for hosting the 2006 FRPC meeting.**



## Notes from the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

### Forest Sustainability Assessment for the Northern United States on CD

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA) is pleased to announce the publication of the *Forest Sustainability Assessment for the Northern United States* (NA-TP-01-05CD). This comprehensive analysis of the forest resource situation uses the full suite of Montreal Process criteria and indicators as a framework for identifying forest sustainability trends in the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States. The Forest Sustainability Assessment on CD is the full technical publication for the Sustainability Assessment Highlights that was previously released in hard copy. This assessment was started before the 18 NA/NAASF base indicators were selected, and the baseline information and analysis it contains is a complement to the online indicators information system that will soon be available. All State forest planners and State Foresters should have received a copy of the CD. The assessment, as well as other sustainability-related publications and resources, is available on NA's Forest Sustainability and Planning Web page (<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/>). If you have any questions regarding the assessment, please contact Sherri Wormstead at (603) 868-7737 or [swormstead@fs.fed.us](mailto:swormstead@fs.fed.us).

### NA Strategic Plan Update

The new NA Strategic Plan 2008–2012 is in the final stages of editing and graphic design. The plan contains more actionable items and includes broad-based measurable indicators to track progress towards achievement of our goals and objectives. The new, more actionable plan will provide the basis for development of NA's annual performance budget, strategic business plan, and annual plans of work. A team is currently working developing the 2008 NA Strategic Business Plan to be used to develop our plans of work.

### Leading Change

As noted throughout the letter from the FRPC Chair (page 2), "Change is in the air." The Forest Service, on a national basis as well as within the Northeastern Area, has realized there is a compelling case for change—to better deliver our mission, manage our rising costs while budgets are declining, and more effectively deal with emerging issues, we need to evolve with the world to remain relevant.

There are three change efforts underway affecting the Northeastern Area:

1. **Forest Service WO/RO/Area Transformation**—Focused on the organization of the Washington Office, National Forest Regional Offices, and the Northeastern Area. Timeline: develop alternatives by July 2007, select and flesh out an alternative in August 2007, begin implementing in October 2007 (to be phased in over 2 years).
2. **Redesigning State and Private Forestry**—Led by Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief for S&PF. Focused on the processes for S&PF program delivery nationwide. Includes increasing competition for Forest Service funds. Timeline: started in 2006, will increase the amounts of grants awarded through competitive processes from 15 percent of the net available allocation in FY 2008 to 65 percent over 5 years.
3. **Northeastern Area Organizational Design Study**—Focused on NA organization and processes. Conducted an evaluation that will be used to identify improvements and changes in NA's organization and business practices to improve how we deliver on NA's mission. Timeline: initial study is complete, currently evaluating a menu of options, improvements to begin in July and continue in conjunction with the above two efforts.

NA is focused on *leading* change, rather than just adapting to it. In the midst of all this, NA employees are striving to stay focused on our work, accomplishments, and relationships with partners and cooperators.

# State Announcements

## Delaware GIS Analysis and Forest Health Publication

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We have done a detailed GIS analysis in Delaware to look at the rate at which forests have been cleared for development during the last 5 years. We presented the results at the 2007 Delaware GIS Conference and in our recent publication, *Forest Health in Delaware: A Vision for the Future*. This booklet, based on the 7 criteria and 18 base indicators of sustainability, is available at <http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry/forest%20health%20report.pdf>. For more information, contact Glenn (Dode) Gladders at [Glenn.Gladders@state.de.us](mailto:Glenn.Gladders@state.de.us) or 302-698-4553.

## New Hampshire Forest Resources Plan Revision Assessment Report

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New Hampshire recently completed a forest assessment, using the 18 indicators of sustainability adopted for use in ongoing monitoring efforts by the Northeastern Area and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters as a framework for the report. The indicators are organized according to the seven Montreal Process criteria. The purpose of the assessment report was to compile the best information available regarding the status of New Hampshire's forests to aid in the revision of the NH Forest Resources Plan. For a copy of the report, contact Susan Francher at [sfrancher@dred.state.nh.us](mailto:sfrancher@dred.state.nh.us) or 603-271-2214.

## Pennsylvania Forest Planning and Enterprise Information Management System

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The Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry is updating its State Forest Resource Management Plan in preparation for public meetings in September 2007. Major topics include invasive species, white-tailed deer impacts, proposed wild and natural areas, enhanced recreation programming and planning, and the role of the State Forest system in climate change and energy considerations such as oil and gas development, carbon sequestration, biomass production, and commercial wind farm development. For more information, contact Matt Keefer at [makeefer@state.pa.us](mailto:makeefer@state.pa.us) or 717-214-3814.

The Bureau of Forestry Enterprise Information Management System (EIMS) has now entered into the second year of a 3-year contract with the Sanborn Map Company. The goal of this project is to create a statewide enterprise system that seamlessly manages data from our many program areas into one central GIS-tabular database. This will enable us to dispense real-time information on the condition and status of Pennsylvania's State Forest system. Following the completion of a "Readiness Assessment" in February of this year, the project has now entered its second phase. We are in full swing in developing the processes for integrating the GIS and tabular datasets—the "Data Migration Phase." We are in the midst of cleaning up lots of pseudo nodes and dangles! For more information, contact Shawn Lehman at [shleman@state.pa.us](mailto:shleman@state.pa.us) or 814-364-1397.

## Wisconsin Forest Sustainability Framework Project and SAP

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Wisconsin's Forest Sustainability Framework Project is developing a set of indicators and metrics for monitoring Wisconsin's forest conditions and trends on a statewide scale. The Wisconsin Council on Forestry—a Governor-appointed board—formed an advisory committee that will provide a recommended framework to the council in December 2007. See the Web site for details on our process and check back this winter for the final report (<http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/framework/>).

Wisconsin completed its Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project in May 2007. A team of specialists from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources identified 15 criteria to help determine priority lands for stewardship. Wisconsin used 3 spatial layers in addition to the 12 from the pilot program: (1) outstanding and exceptional resource waters, (2) conservation lands, and (3) impaired waters. Beginning with the next cycle of stewardship grant applications, 15 percent of funding will be directly tied to the priorities determined in the SAP process. At the end of 5 years, the total grant distribution will be based on our high priority areas.

# Planning for the Future—Opportunities for Collaboration

By Jeff Horan  
Maryland Forest Service

I had the opportunity to represent the Forest Resource Planning and GIS Committee at the May 2007 meeting of the Cooperative Forest Management Committee in Rehoboth, DE. I spoke about opportunities for collaboration among the newly formed NAASF committees. The focus of my talk was on the redesign of State and Private Forestry and the administration's 2007 Farm Bill proposal that requires States wishing to receive funding to submit a Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and a Statewide Forest Resource Strategy within 2 years.

Under current proposals, the **Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources** must include:

- Conditions and trends of forest resources
- Threats to forest lands and resources in the State, consistent with national priorities
- Areas or regions of the State that are of priority
- Multistate areas that are of priority

The **Statewide Forest Resource Strategy** must include:

- Strategies for addressing threats to forest resources in the State
- A description of the resources available to address the Statewide strategy

These requirements may seem daunting, but I believe we already have many of the tools at our disposal to allow each State to create a quality Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and the accompanying Forest Resource Strategy. States have seen many benefits from the similar Wildlife Conservation Plans developed under the federally funded State Wildlife Grant program.

Some of the tools already available include the Montreal Process criteria and indicators, and the **NA/NAASF Indicators of Forest Sustainability** and associated Web-based **Forest Sustainability Indicators Information System**, a cooperative effort between NA, NAASF, and the Forest Resource Planners Committee. The NA/NAASF Indicators of Forest Sustainability (see sidebar) include all 7 of the Montreal Process criteria but reduce the number of indicators down to 18 from the original 67 to make monitoring more manageable. With the help of Forest Inventory and Analysis, data for these indicators have been compiled on the Web using 73 metrics and 38 data sources. The data is displayed using graphs, tables, and maps for each of the 20 States and the region. I strongly recommend these 18 base indicators be used at a minimum for the State assessments (some States may be bold enough to try all 67 indicators of sustainability) when measuring conditions and trends of forest resources. This would create a level of consistency that would enhance data collection and analysis and allow for effective monitoring across multiple States.

## NA/NAASF Indicators of Forest Sustainability

These indicators span the Montreal Process criteria and are recommended for use in State forest sustainability assessments.

### Criterion 1: Conservation of Biological Diversity

1. Area of total land, forest land, and reserved forest land
2. Forest type, size class, age class, and successional stage
3. Extent of forest land conversion, fragmentation, and parcelization
4. Status of forest/woodland communities and associated species of concern

### Criterion 2: Maintenance of Productive Capacity of Forest Ecosystems

5. Area of timberland
6. Annual removal of merchantable wood volume compared with net growth

### Criterion 3: Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality

7. Area of forest land affected by potentially damaging agents

### Criterion 4: Conservation and Maintenance of Soil and Water Resources

8. Soil quality on forest land
9. Area of forest land adjacent to surface water, and forest land by watershed
10. Water quality in forested areas

### Criterion 5: Maintenance of Forest Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles

11. Forest ecosystem biomass and forest carbon pools

### Criterion 6: Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Multiple Socioeconomic Benefits

12. Wood and wood products production, consumption, and trade
13. Outdoor recreational participation and facilities
14. Investments in forest health, management, research, and wood processing
15. Forest ownership, land use, and specially designated areas
16. Employment and wages in forest-related sectors

### Criterion 7: Legal, Institutional, and Economic Framework

17. Forest management standards/guidelines
18. Forest-related planning, assessment, policy, and law

Other important tools include prioritization models like the green infrastructure family of models from which the Spatial Analysis Project was derived. These models use nationally available, satellite-derived data sets like the National Land Cover Data (NLCD) to help evaluate and prioritize resource conditions. The SAP uses 12 separate layers, such as forest patch size, wetlands, priority watersheds, threatened species, riparian areas, and public water supplies, to prioritize the forest lands with the highest forest stewardship potential. A separate SAP analysis looks at resource threats and includes population measures, a fire model, and forest pest vulnerability. Data layers and parameters can be easily added or changed to make the models flexible enough for individual State needs and standardized enough for comparison and collaboration.

In Maryland we have used a series of separate models (Maryland’s Strategic Forest Lands Assessment) that evaluates the forest ecological value, forest economic value, and the vulnerability of forest land to development. A fourth model targets sensitive agricultural and resource lands for restoration. We used this same series of models to update our Maryland Forest Legacy Assessment of Need.

These tools can help each State assess forest condition and trends. They can also help us evaluate their policy effect and underpin comprehensive planning. When everyone begins to use the same tools, it will encourage more data collection, monitoring, and analysis. Most importantly, it will allow us to convey critical and complex information on forests simply to decisionmakers and the public.

Please welcome...

**Rebecca Gass** was appointed as the Forest Planner for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in June 2007. She previously worked for the Department on State forest master plans and management issues. You can contact her at [rebecca.gass@wisconsin.gov](mailto:rebecca.gass@wisconsin.gov) or 608-266-9261.



**NAASF  
FRPC 2007  
Executive  
Committee**

*Chair*—Mike Huffman ([mike.huffman@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:mike.huffman@mdc.mo.gov))

*Vice Chair*—Bill Moulton ([bill.moulton@state.vt.us](mailto:bill.moulton@state.vt.us))

*Immediate Past Chair*—Matt Keefer ([makeefer@state.pa.us](mailto:makeefer@state.pa.us))

*Secretary*—Susan Francher ([sfrancher@dred.state.nh.us](mailto:sfrancher@dred.state.nh.us))

*Treasurer*—Larry Pedersen ([pedersel@michigan.gov](mailto:pedersel@michigan.gov))

*Geospatial Rep*—Paul Roth ([paroth@state.pa.us](mailto:paroth@state.pa.us))

**NA Liaison/Rep to the Planners**—Sherri Wormstead ([swormstead@fs.fed.us](mailto:swormstead@fs.fed.us))

**NA Liaison/Rep to the GIS Professionals**—Tom Luther ([tluther@fs.fed.us](mailto:tluther@fs.fed.us))

**State Forester Liaison**—(vacant)

**Web site:** <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/planning>

These Planners Pages are put together by the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.