Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy

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22 December 2009

The Farm Bill (Title VIII) Requires
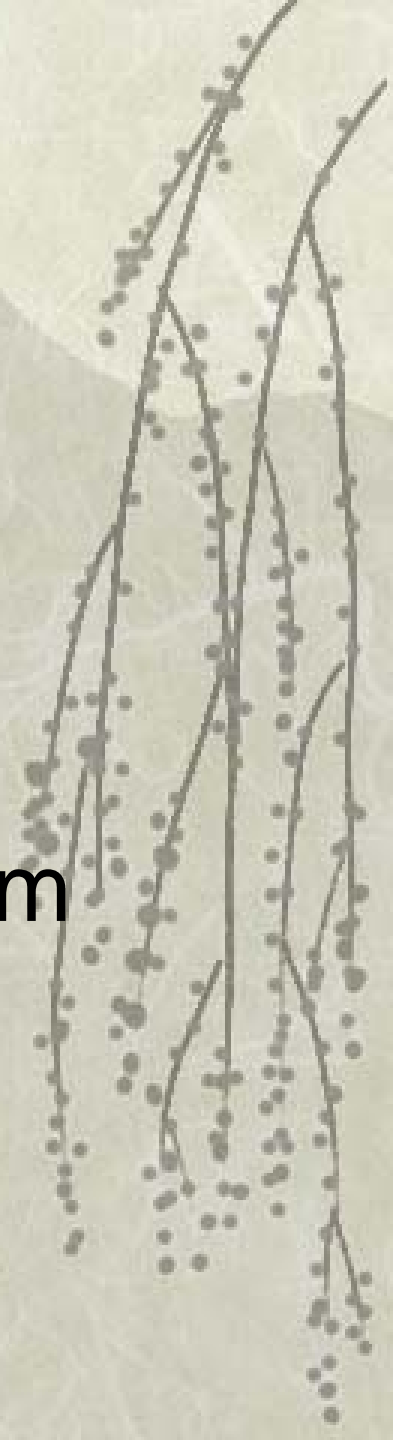
State Foresters to develop and submit:

- "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 Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act funds

3 National Themes

- Conserve working forest landscapes

- Protect forests from harm
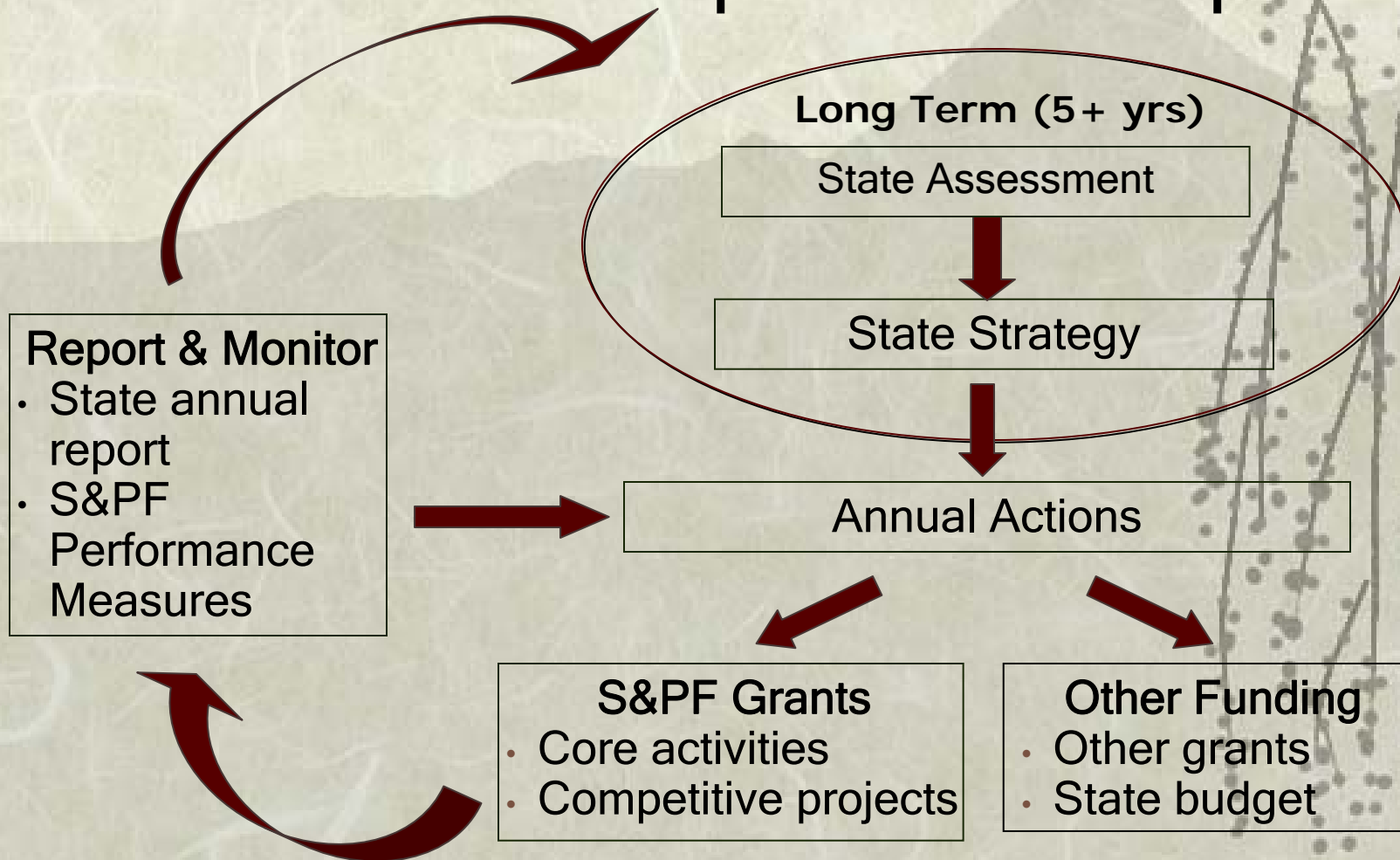
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests

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

Long Term (5+ yrs)

State Assessment

State Strategy

Report & Monitor
- State annual report
- S&PF Performance Measures

Annual Actions

S&PF Grants
- Core activities
- Competitive projects

Other Funding
- Other grants
- State budget

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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

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 people completed at least some of the survey.
- 87% identified themselves as Maine residents.
- 63% identified themselves as Maine landowners.
- Self-identified characteristics
  - 56.7% citizen interested in conservation in Maine
  - 35.9% forester
  - 20.4% person working in forest industry
  - 15.9% government employee
  - 14.8% educator
  - 9.3% person working for conservation organization
  - 8.9% absentee forestland owner
  - 8.5% person working for NGO
  - 7.4% land trust
  - 5.2% 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%

Web Survey Results

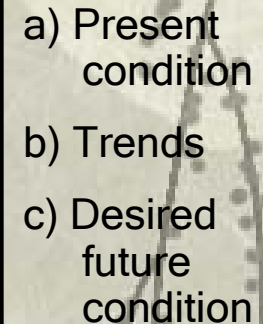| Percent respondents ranking issue as Low Concern	
Issue	**Percent**
Threat of forest land or property loss due to forest fire.	42.9%
Climate change impacts on forestlands	23.7%
Need for healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas, including towns parks, streets and yard trees.	15.9%
Encouraging 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%

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

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. Stewardship Analysis Project
2. Conservation Priorities (from State Wildlife Action Plan)
3. Forest Legacy Assessment of Need

State Forest Assessment and Strategy – Timeline

15 December: Web survey closes

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

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?

Contact Information

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State & Private Forestry
National Themes & Objectives

1. Conserve Working Forest Landscapes
    1.1. Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes
    1.2. Actively and sustainably manage forests

2. Protect Forests from Harm
    2.1. Restore fire-adapted lands and reduce risk of wildfire impacts
    2.2. Identify, manage, and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health

3. Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests
    3.1. Protect and enhance water quality and quantity
    3.2. Improve air quality and conserve energy
    3.3. Assist communities in planning for and reducing wildfire risks
    3.4. Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests
    3.5. Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat
    3.6. Connect people to trees and forests, and engage them in environmental stewardship activities
    3.7. Manage and restore trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to global climate change