



MEMORANDUM

File Code: 3000-4

To: State Foresters
Forest Service Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director and SPF Leadership

Date: February 24, 2010

Re: State and Private Forestry Core Performance Measures

The State and Private Forestry (SPF) Redesign effort has been focusing on performance measures that will capture the full suite of SPF accomplishments. Performance measures are essential to demonstrating outcomes and to communicating the results of federal investments. As you may recall, proposed performance measures were sent to SPF leadership and State Foresters for review and were also tested against competitive projects underway throughout the nation. The Redesign Implementation Council (RIC) concluded that there should be **one core set** of measures that relate to the National Themes and Objectives of Redesign to tell the story of **all SPF work** at a national level (see enclosure). We acknowledge, however, that other measures might still be necessary for program management at local levels and/or required by statute or policy.

While these measures have been approved for use, not all will be implemented immediately. Reporting for the "New Measures" will not begin until additional work is completed, with the next phase of work beginning soon. For "Current Measures," a review of definitions, business rules, and calculations will be conducted to ensure they are still valid and not duplicative. Some changes may result from that review. States and the FS will continue to report on "Current Measures" as is currently required. The framework also includes "Pilot Measures." These measures will be phased in over time as data becomes available. In the meantime, special effort will be made to develop case studies and success stories that reflect SPF contributions in the area covered by each pilot measure.

We appreciate the efforts of the many individuals and of the RIC in getting us to this point. Performance measures are an important cornerstone to our collective accomplishments, and we look forward to your continued interest and involvement as we take this continuous improvement process to the next level.

/s/ Steve Koehn

STEVE KOEHN
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/s/ James E. Hubbard

JAMES E. HUBBARD
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Enclosure

National Themes, Objectives, Outcomes and Core Performance Measures



S&PF Core Performance Measures: “The most significant indicators of success, used to assess accomplishments at the national level for all State and Private Forestry investments, organized by the Redesign National Priorities and Objectives.”

Measures in italics are “pilot” measures. RIC agreed upon a general format for the proposed measure, but recommends that these measures not be reported until spatial systems or other appropriate data are available to do so. In the meantime, special efforts should be made to develop qualitative case studies for these Outcomes.

Priority (formerly called “Themes”)	Objective	Outcome	Proposed Core Performance Measure (attributable to S&PF Investments)	Qualitative Performance Reporting Options
Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses	Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes.	High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are identified and conserved.	CURRENT MEASURE –High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are protected from conversion (acres - annual and cumulative).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Legacy Products – videos, state success stories, etc. • Other Program Options – Areas protected by states, assisted by FS studies (Highlands); Cities protect forests after working with U&CF to develop plans.
	Actively and sustainably manage forests.	Forests are actively and sustainably managed.	CURRENT MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of acres in forest areas being managed sustainably as defined by current Forest Stewardship Management Plan (cumulative¹) – through a nationally consistent monitoring program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous options, no specifics discussed.
Protect Forests from Threats	Restore fire-adapted lands and/or reduce risk of wildfire impacts.	Fire-adapted lands are restored and/or risk of wildfire impacts is reduced.	CURRENT MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems that are (1) moved toward desired conditions and (2) maintained in desired conditions (annual). • Total # of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels on state and private lands through State Fire Assistance (annual, direct federal grant only).² • Percentage of at risk communities who report increased local suppression capacity as evidenced by: (1) The increasing number of trained and/or certified fire fighters and crews or (2) Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment obtained or (3) Formation of a new fire department or expansion of an existing department involved in wildland fire fighting.³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous options, no specifics discussed.

¹ In this instance, “cumulative” refers to the sum total of current, active plans that have been field-verified.

² These two measures cannot be combined since the SFA acres are reported as “planned” and they do not contain condition class observation data.

³ As currently collected and reported by the States for the 10YIP.

	Identify, manage and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health.	Threats to forest and ecosystem health are identified, managed and reduced.	CURRENT MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and percent of forest acres restored and/or protected from (1) invasive and (2) native insects, diseases and plants (annual).⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous options, no specifics discussed.
Priority (formerly called “Themes”)	Objective	Outcome	Proposed Core Performance Measure (attributable to S&PF Investments)	Qualitative Performance Reporting Options
Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests	Protect and enhance water quality and quantity.	Water quality and quantity is protected and enhanced.	NEW MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Acres and percent of priority watershed areas where S&PF activities are enhancing or protecting water quality and quantity.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special focus on developing qualitative case studies and success stories.
	Improve air quality and conserve energy.	Air quality is improved and energy is conserved.	NEW MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities designed to contribute to an improvement in air quality.</i> <i>Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities that result in energy conservation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop case studies to tell the story of dollars saved per year using strategic tree planting for conservation.
	Assist communities in planning for and reducing forest health risks.	Communities plan for and reduce their risks from forest health threats.	CURRENT MEASURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and percent of communities-at-risk covered by a CWPP or equivalent that are reducing their risk of wildland fire (annual).⁵ Percent of population living in communities developing or managing programs to plant, protect and maintain their urban and community trees and forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous options, no specifics discussed.
	Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests.	The economic benefits and values of trees and forests are maintained and enhanced.	CURRENT MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of communities and percent of population served under an active urban forest management plan.⁶ NEW MEASURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of total jobs (direct, indirect, and induced) sustained or maintained in the economy annually due to S&PF investments.⁷ Total value of resources leveraged through partnerships with states and others partners.⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban FIA in 5 states – utilize that to develop case studies of ecosystem services from urban forests. Develop success stories highlighting job creation/retention. Provide statistics on state/private forestland (especially NIPF) contribution to forest products sector. Qualitative description of Legacy tracts’ contribution to economic benefits, including recreation

⁴ These measures are currently collected by the FS; however, the agency currently does not have in place a comprehensive process to show where these treatment acres occur and tied to the funding year. Accomplishments occurring on state and private lands are “counted” when funds are obligated, as per FS policy.

⁵ As currently collected and reported by the States for the 10YIP.

⁶ This could be determined from data already collected by FS, though some adjustments may be necessary

⁷ These are forecasted jobs, as determined utilizing output from the IMPLAN model. These jobs are not all permanent and full-time. The jobs forecasted using IMPLAN models are comprised of annual average full- and part-time, seasonal, and temporary employment in the private sector.

⁸ This measure will account for both monetary and in-kind contributions from partners. This type of information will be collected annually due to a new requirement in the 2008 Farm Bill that requires States to submit an annual report detailing how funds made available under the Farm Bill are used. This measure will utilize that information.

Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat.	Wildlife and fish habitat is protected, conserved, and enhanced.	<p>NEW MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acres and percent of priority habitat areas where S&PF activities are protecting, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat.</i> • <i>Acres of connected forest resulting from S&PF investments.</i> 	<p>Special focus on developing qualitative case studies and success stories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative information on T&E species protected on Legacy tracts. • Qualitative success stories about game species/other important species (not limited to T&E) on areas covered by Stewardship Plans.
Connect people to trees and forests, and engage them in environmental stewardship activities.	People are connected to trees and forests and are engaged in environmental stewardship activities.	<p>CURRENT MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people who annually participate in FS and state forestry agency environmental literacy programs and activities. <p>NEW MEASURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people (measured in person days) engaged in environmental stewardship activities as part of an S&PF program.⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous options, no specifics discussed.
Manage trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to global climate change	Trees and forests are managed to help mitigate and adapt to global climate change.	<p>NEW MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acres and percent of priority areas vulnerable to climate change where S&PF activities are contributing to resilient forests able to adapt to climate change.</i>¹⁰ • <i>Potential carbon sequestered through implementation of forest management practices that result from S&PF investments on private forest lands.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special focus on developing qualitative case studies and success stories.

⁹ This will include information on landowners in the Forest Stewardship Program who have attended education programs, as well as people attending trainings, workshops, or volunteering as captured by other programs, like Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health, and others. Agency staff believe this measure can be calculated using data already collected by the agency and state partners.

¹⁰ Many of the activities occurring in Themes 1 and 2, as well as some occurring in Theme 3, are occurring in those "vulnerable areas" and would help forests adapt to climate change. Not all activities in S&PF will be counted towards this measure, refinements will be made during development of the business rules and definitions.