

## Forest Stewardship Program and Rural Forestry Assistance – FY12

States provide the following information on an annual basis in PMAS. Some totals reflect annual accomplishments and some are cumulative. **The cumulative measures are printed in blue font. For further instructions and definitions, please see:**

- **Program Standards and Guidelines -**  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fsp\\_standards&guidelines.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fsp_standards&guidelines.pdf)
- **Supplemental Instructions – next page**

1	<b>Landowner assistance</b>	Landowners	Report the number of landowners who have received technical assistance.
2	<b>Landowner education</b>	Landowners	Report the number of landowners who have participated in educational programs.
3	<b>New and/or revised Forest Stewardship Plans – Total Acres</b>	Acres	Report the number of acres covered by new or revised Forest Stewardship Plans that were approved by the State Forester or a representative this year. A plan revision requires a material change or update in all or part of the plan and field time with the landowner.
4	<b>New and/or revised Forest Stewardship Plans – Priority Acres</b>	Acres	Report the number of acres from number #3 (above) that are in spatially defined <b>Important Forest Resource Areas</b> .
5	<b>New and/or revised Forest Stewardship Plans</b>	Plans	Report the number of new or revised Forest Stewardship Plans approved by the State Forester or representative.
6	Base NIPF acres in <b>Important Forest Resource Areas</b> .	Acres	Report the total number of NIPF acres in spatially defined <b>Important Forest Resource Areas</b> .
7	<b>Acres covered by current Forest Stewardship Plans</b>	Acres	Report the cumulative total number of acres covered by <b>current</b> Forest Stewardship Management Plans.
8	<b>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas covered by current Forest Stewardship Plans.</b>	Acres	Report the number of acres from #7 (above) that are in spatially defined <b>Important Forest Resource Areas</b> .
9	<b>Total number of acres in Important Forest Resource Areas being managed sustainably, as defined by a current Forest Stewardship Plan.</b>	Acres	Report the number of acres from #8 (above) that are confirmed as being managed sustainably, by field visits to a representative random sample of stewardship plan properties, following established plan monitoring procedures.
10	<b>New and/or revised EQIP Management Plans</b>	Plans	Report the number of new or revised management plans from #5 (above) that were created using EQIP (Practice 106) cost-share assistance.
11	<b>New and/or revised EQIP Management Plans</b>	Acres	Report the total number of acres from #3 (above) that are associated with these new or revised management plans that were created using EQIP (Practice 106) cost-share assistance.,

## **Supplemental Instructions – PMAS 2012 Reporting Forest Stewardship Program and Rural Forestry Assistance**

**#1 Landowner Assistance:** Include landowners who are known by program staff to have benefited in some significant and lasting way from Forest Stewardship Program or Rural Forestry Assistance.

Include:

- Landowners who receive individualized and repeated technical assistance, and for whom some sort of case file is established and maintained.
- Landowners who have received assistance in the way of practice plans and management plans other than Forest Stewardship Plans

Do not include:

- Landowners who simply attended a technical or training session – without any follow-up.
- Landowners who were spoken to only once – such as over the phone, with no follow-up contact or later assistance.

*Region 5 note for #1: this is just for October 2011 – September 2012*

**#2 Landowner Education:** Include landowners that have participated in a Forest Stewardship Program or Rural Forestry Assistance sponsored educational workshop, course, or program designed to further enable them to sustainably manage their forest properties. Examples of such programs include landowner field days, timber tax seminars, estate planning workshops, silviculture courses, wildlife management seminars, and management plan writing workshops. **Do not** include landowners who have attended only program marketing or orientation seminars that provide programmatic and application information. Also, do not consider videos, newsletters, brochures, publications, or public educational broadcasts or media.

*Region 5 note for #2: this is just for October 2011 – September 2012*

**Forest Stewardship Plans (#3, #4, #5):** Include multi-resource management plans that meet the minimum standards and content requirements detailed in the Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines and have been approved by the State Forester or a suitable representative. Plans approved before October 1, 2005 must meet standard and content requirements detailed in first edition (1994) of the National Standards and Guidelines. Plans written after October 1, 2005 must meet standard and content requirements detailed in second edition (October 2005) of the National Standards and Guidelines. Plans written after March 1, 2009 must meet standard and content requirements detailed in third edition (February 2009) of the National Standards and Guidelines.

*Region 5 notes:*

*#3 is acreage of plans newly written or revised in October 2011 – September 2012*

*#4 must be a smaller number than #3. It is just the new/revised acreage of plans within your Important Forest Resource Area (the IFRA raster layer you submitted to Lisa Fischer or Leo Zhangfeng)*

*#5 is total plans newly written or revised in October 2011 – September 2012*

Based on FY12 national PMAS supplement, R5 FY08-FY12 funding advice, and KDallaRosa statement

“Plans” that are simple applications for seedling distribution, do not meet the above standards and should not be reported as plans. Instead, such plans should be counted as part of the count of landowners receiving assistance in PMAS #1. Plans do not have to be written by State Forestry staff – they can be written by consultants or other agency staff, but need to be approved by the State Forester.

**Forest Stewardship Management Plan Standards**

(For full standards see [http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fsp\\_standards&guidelines.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/fsp_standards&guidelines.pdf))

A Forest Stewardship Management Plan is a plan that addresses individual landowner objectives while adhering to National and State Forest Stewardship Management Plan guidelines...

All Forest Stewardship Management Plans must:

- Be prepared or verified as meeting the minimum standards of a Forest Stewardship Management Plan by a professional resource manager, and be approved by the State Forester or a representative of the State Forester.
- Document authorship.
- Clearly state landowner objectives.
- Describe current & desired forest condition or condition class.
- Include practices and activities aimed at reaching the desired forest condition or condition class.
- Document a feasible strategy and timeline for practice and activity implementation.
- Describe any suggested monitoring activities to be done by the forester or landowner.
- Be developed for a specified management period that adequately allows for progress with the landowner’s long term stewardship objectives.
- Be reviewed and renewed, revised or rewritten at the end of the specified management period or sooner as needed, to be considered current.

Landowners must be involved in plan development by setting clear objectives, timetables and targets, and clearly understanding the plan’s details and implications.

...Resource elements to be considered include:

Soil and Water	Biological diversity	Aesthetic quality
Recreation	Timber	Fish and wildlife
Threatened and endangered species	Forest health	Carbon Cycle
Archeological, cultural and historic sites	Wetlands	Fire

Management recommendations and alternative strategies, consistent with landowner objectives, will be provided to protect or enhance all resource elements that are present.

Prescriptions or treatments must be stand or site specific.

An ownership map drawn to scale, or photo, that accurately depicts vegetation cover types, hydrology and other significant forest related resources with a legend, is required.

The professional resource manager will discuss the Forest Stewardship Management Plan with the landowner, following completion, and periodically, to assure understanding and encourage plan implementation.

**Current Forest Stewardship Plan (#7):** A Forest Stewardship Plan is considered to be current if it is within the effective period stated within the plan. If no effective period is stated or known, a Forest Stewardship Plan is considered to be current if it has been written, revised, or updated in the last 10 years. A Forest Stewardship Plan that explicitly covers a period of more than 10 years as required by a State administered program is considered current as long as there is sufficient documentation and monitoring to indicate that it meets all State and Federal program requirements during the entire plan period. To provide consistency in national reporting and related funding methodology, States are encouraged to use 10 years as a standard effective period for Forest Stewardship Plans. Exceptions based on specific needs and conditions should be stated within the plan.

*Region 5 note for #7: this is cumulative acreage through September 2012, so it should be an equal or larger number than #3*

**Important Forest Resource Areas (#6, #8, #9):** These are the areas that are considered to be of high program potential – or priority - as a result of a state’s Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) assessment or a Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources as required by the 2008 Farm Bill. These areas can be defined simply as SAP generated high priority pixels on the landscape, by aggregating high priority pixels and summarizing to create landscape-scale delineation such as a watershed, or somehow delineated using criteria and methodology established in a Statewide Assessment or Resource Strategy. Acres reported as Important Forest Resource Areas should include only those that are also eligible to receive Forest Stewardship Program Assistance or those defined through SAP as “Stewardship Capable” lands. States should not include areas not eligible for Forest Stewardship Program Assistance such as public land, developed urban centers and open water.

*Region 5 notes:*

*#6 is total acreage in the “2” or highest priority pixels in the IFRA raster layer you submitted to Lisa Fischer or Leo Zhangfeng. It should only change if your IFRA changes.*

*#8 is cumulative (through September 2012) acreage of plans in your IFRA. This should be equal to or smaller than #7 (acreage of all current plans)*

**Established Plan Monitoring Procedures (#9):** The intent of the Forest Stewardship Program plan implementation monitoring effort is to reliably assess the extent to which current Forest Stewardship management plans are being implemented. National guidance was developed to get meaningful, statistically reliable results, while not placing an unreasonable additional burden on State partners. The monitoring of a randomly selected, statistically sized sample population of all current Forest Stewardship Plans is extended over a five year cycles. States must use the sample size equation that has been provided by the Forest Service or another statistically reliable method for determining a representative sample size.

A number of states have other programs, such as tax programs, which require plan implementation and include periodic site inspections. When a sampled property is inspected through such a program, the results from the site inspection can be used for Forest Stewardship monitoring, without requiring another visit to the site.

Based on FY12 national PMAS supplement, R5 FY08-FY12 funding advice, and KDallaRosa statement

*Region 5 note:*

*If you have visited every plan landowner in your IFRA (reported in #8) within the last five years, then you can directly answer this question: #9 is how many of the acres are being managed sustainably (according to their Forest Stewardship Landowner Plans), based on your most recent visit. (Subtract the acres that are not being managed according to plan from the answer in #8, so #9 should be less than or equal to #8.)*

*If you have not visited them all within five years, consider the landownerships that have current plans (reported in #7) that you have visited. Calculate the percentage of visited acres that are being managed sustainably (following their Forest Stewardship Landowner Plan). Apply that percentage to the total acreage covered by current plans within IFRAs (reported in PMAS #8). This gives the extrapolated acres of land in IFRAs being managed sustainably, and should be reported in PMAS #9. A sample spreadsheet is provided at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/coop/granteeresources/>*

**A note on funding sources for program related accomplishments:** State agency partners are encouraged to leverage a variety of resources, both federal and non-federal, to successfully implement their Forest Stewardship and Rural Forestry Assistance programs. Through PMAS, states should report ALL program accomplishments delivered consistent with The Forest Stewardship Program (SEC. 3) and Rural Forestry Assistance (SEC. 5) authorities of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, regardless of funding source. States are in fact, encouraged to seek out partnerships and leverage as much non-federal funding as possible in order to expand the impact of these programs across the landscape.

**Forest Stewardship Plans created with EQIP 106 Cost-Share Assistance (#10, #11)**

Some states are now using EQIP cost-share assistance to fund Forest Management Plans (specifically - Practice 106 plans). Some of these same states have indicated that they intend to count these Practice 106 plans as Forest Stewardship Plans for reporting purposes (in PMAS). (Although EQIP cost share is primary contributor to plan preparation, there is still a contribution of Forest Stewardship Program technical assistance by the state agency.) Please note that states may consider EQIP Practice 106 plans to be Forest Stewardship Plans for reporting purposes – only if the State Forester has somehow officially acknowledged that these plans meet minimum state and federal Forest Stewardship Plan standards.

For a number of reasons, it is important that we track the number of new or revised Forest Stewardship Plans and associated acres (as reported in PMAS) that are produced specifically with EQIP Practice 106 cost-share assistance. (Please refer to “Guiding Principles for Delivery of Coordinated Planning Assistance to Private Forest Landowners ” that was adopted in 2010, by the Joint NASF-FS-NACD-NRCS Forestry Team.

PMAS measures 10 and 11 apply only to States that are using EQIP Practice 106 cost -share assistance to produce management plans that they are reporting as Forest Stewardship Plans - also through PMAS. If a state is not using EQIP Practice 106 cost-share assistance to produce Forest Stewardship Plans, it can simply enter zeros for these new PMAS measures.