

Forest Stewardship Important Forest Resource Areas Spatial Tracking of FS Plan Accomplishments

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- All islands are expected continue to enter numeric data into the Performance Measures and Accountability System (PMAS) through FY12.
- Decisions concerning your “Important Forest Resource Area” (IFRA) are needed to complete PMAS, since some PMAS questions ask how many plans and acres are within the IFRA.
- **Islands/states must also provide raster data for IFRAs. Those islands who did not provide this data at the end of FY11 should work with Leo to do so as soon as possible.** States should be prepared to provide raster data for IFRAs at the end of the fiscal year, if an update is needed. If no changes have been made to IFRA boundaries during the fiscal year (as compared to previous), no data update is required. Raster data should consist of the following values or classes:
 - “No Data” – Areas outside of the state boundary.
 - “0” (Non Stewardship Potential) – Areas within the state boundary that are not eligible to receive Forest Stewardship Program assistance. This class includes areas that were excluded from SAP analysis including public lands, water bodies and cities (This last sentence is for CA, HI, AM SAM, and Guam only).
 - “1” (Stewardship Potential) – Areas within the state that are eligible for program delivery (i.e., identified as having stewardship program potential in SAP analyses), but are not considered a priority
 - “2” (High Stewardship Potential) – State priority landscape areas, or “Important Forest Resource Areas” according to the national Forest Stewardship Program Standards and Guidelines.
- During FY12, there are no reporting requirements for maps or layers of Forest Stewardship plans. **However, states should begin or continue to spatially track Forest Stewardship Management Plan accomplishments, while completing their historic (cumulative) Forest Stewardship Plan geodatabases,** so that the program’s impact can be spatially represented with respect to IFRAs. This will help answer PMAS questions about how many plans and

acres are within the Important Forest Resource Areas, and will transition into use of the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool (SMART).

- The Forest Service and states will continue making preparations to adopt SMART for all FY2013 reporting. **SMART will replace PMAS as the sole program reporting tool once it is successfully deployed.** (Please note that SMART is the next release of WebDET.)

What is an Important Forest Resource Area?

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 **State Forest Action Plan**. 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 State Forest Action Plan. 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.

Your Important Forest Resource Area can include:

- Acres eligible for Forest Stewardship Program Assistance
- Acres defined through SAP as "Stewardship Capable" lands
- Private land
- Public land held in long-term private leases
- Communal but non-government land (as in American Samoa)

These areas should not include:

- areas not eligible for Forest Stewardship Program Assistance
- public land (unless it is held in long-term private leases)
- developed urban centers
- open water

If you have been working with high, medium and low priority areas, decide how to simplify your map to just "priority" and "not priority."

If you would like ideas on how to use your SWARS maps for this purpose, contact Katie or Leo.

How do I submit these?

1. Have your GIS person generate raster data for your "Important Forest Resource Area"
2. Load it on to ftp://ftp2.fs.fed.us/incoming/nagis/Stewardship/priority_lands/. You will see a "HI" folder. Individual folders for the other islands are under the "Islands" folder.
3. If you have issues accessing and/or uploading your data through the FTP site below please send your data to Leo and he will upload it for you.