

Landscape Stewardship Approach to Forest Management

Working in State Priority Landscapes to Implement State Forest Action Plans

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



Description: The Forest Stewardship Program encourages and provides support to States to work within priority landscapes and to deliver technical assistance more strategically to address natural resource issues in State Forest Action Plans. Forest stewardship on a landscape scale brings together partners such as public agencies, communities, forest landowners, and others with shared interests in the outcomes. These partners work together to address priority issues that span large blocks of land and priority landscapes. Whereas traditional Forest Stewardship Program delivery focuses on working with individual landowners to achieve their goals, landscape stewardship targets assistance to meet resource management priorities and achieve public benefits while addressing landowner goals across multiple landownerships and communities.

Since the landscape stewardship concept was developed and published in the 2011 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) [Landscape Stewardship Guide](#), the concept has become a component of the national Forest Stewardship Program's "Strategic Plan 20twenty," published in 2012. National metrics are now in place to capture landscape stewardship efforts taking place in States and Territories throughout the country. States can also now use the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting tool (SMART), which serves as the national repository for Forest Stewardship Plans, to enter and report landscape stewardship efforts. Nationwide, States and Territories continue to look to concepts developed in the NA S&PF as they develop their own approaches to landscape stewardship.

Key Issues:

- State Forest Action Plans call for targeted outreach and technical assistance in priority landscapes.
- States work to take advantage of competitive grant opportunities, but many lack the capacity to expand stewardship efforts in priority landscapes.
- Nationwide, new metrics and tools have been developed to capture the outcomes of landscape stewardship approaches.

Accomplishments: Over the past 4 years, there has been a dramatic increase in landscape stewardship projects and competitive grant proposals that involve landscape approaches in the region served by NA S&PF. Some State projects are using innovative approaches to communicate with and reach landowners with the goal of ultimately expanding delivery of technical assistance on private forest lands. Other projects build coordination between the Forest Stewardship Program and other programs, such as Forest Health and Hazardous Fuels Mitigation, to address forest pest-related issues.

Future Direction:

- NA S&PF will continue to promote landscape stewardship to address priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans, the National Forest Stewardship "Strategic Plan 20twenty," and NA S&PF's Strategic Plan.
- States will use SMART, the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool, to develop and report landscape stewardship plans.

- NA S&PF's Forest Stewardship Optional Metrics will continue to provide an opportunity for States to report nontraditional forest stewardship accomplishments, success stories, and examples of landscape stewardship approaches.
- The National Forest Stewardship Program Standards and Guidelines will be modified in FY15 to incorporate guidance for landscape stewardship applications.
- Landscape stewardship success stories continue to be posted on the NA S&PF Landscape Conservation Web site, www.landscapestewardship.org.

Tony L. Ferguson, Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103 (-4177 FAX)
tferguson@fs.fed.us

www.na.fs.fed.us

Mark Buccowich, Asst.
Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4029 (-4136 FAX)
mbuccowich@fs.fed.us

Mike Huneke, Forest
Stewardship Program Mgr.
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4110 (-4136 FAX)
mhuneke@fs.fed.us



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