

NA S&PF Technology Transfer Team

Crafting an effective and efficient technology transfer system

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



Description: The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) strives to help State foresters and natural resource professionals work more effectively through the sharing of knowledge, tools, and innovations for practical application (collectively referred to as “tech transfer”). The need for tech transfer improvement in NA S&PF has been discussed for some years among staff and partners, and was formalized in the NA S&PF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2013–2018 under Strategies I and J.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2014 Strategic Work Plan, a diverse, interdisciplinary team was chartered to work on this complex issue. A Cooperative Extension forester was included on the team to provide external stakeholder perspectives and expertise.

Key Charges:

1. Develop a more systematic approach for prioritizing information needs and developing the right communications products to meet those needs.
2. Recommend ways to capture and share lessons learned from grant projects and partners.
3. Help move us beyond relying solely on developing a publication as a tech transfer approach.

Project Accomplishments:

- The team assessed the current state of tech transfer using member observations; a survey of NA S&PF staff (June 2014); virtual focus groups with external stakeholders, including State forestry staff, Cooperative Extension, and others (July 2014); and team research into successful private and public models.
- The team presented recommendations to the NA S&PF Executive Team (NAET) in September 2014. Recommendations were based on assessment data, existing frameworks, and what could be possible with additional resources or by reinvesting in successful pilot efforts that promise wide impact.
- Following rich discussion with NA S&PF Technology Transfer Team leaders, the NAET approved a set of high-priority recommendations in December 2014.

Future Direction:

- A newly established Tech Transfer Resource Group will steward the high-priority recommendations through implementation in Fiscal Year 2015 and beyond.
- Lower priority recommendations will be revisited at a later date following this first round of implementation.

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