

Opportunities for Technical Assistance

Inventory and Monitoring

- USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data continues to be helpful and was used extensively in the development of the Forest Action Plan
 - Continued annual FIA data collection on a 5-year collection cycle
 - Development of user-friendly online tools for FIA reporting to stakeholders
 - Development of researcher and software developer friendly Application Programming Interfaces (API's) for expanded technical use of FIA data
 - Expansion of FIA in to urban and suburban areas in order to bring scientific rigor to continuous data collection for strategic decision making regarding community forestry
 - Enhancement of FIA in order to produce spatial data products for strategic planning and monitoring
 - Accessible forest fuel data
 - Regular reporting regarding Timber Products Output (TPO) and National Woodland Owner Surveys (NWOS)
 - Better reporting for these data products
 - Better access to understory data through online reporting tools, both urban and rural FIA
- Remote sensing data products delivered to technical users in formats friendly for analysis in addition to easy to access web products
 - LiDAR
 - LandSAT
- Development of Forest Health Monitoring tools that work on scales that smaller states can use
- Continued development of data products for monitoring climate change impacts and forest resilience in the face of changing conditions (i.e. damage causing agents, changing climate, invasive species, etc.) in both user and researcher/software developer friendly forms
- Develop effective modeling to detect canopy loss with spatial data over time
- Ecosystem classification
 - Spatial Products
 - Development/distribution of classification criteria and algorithms

Strategic Planning

- Facilitate interstate communication for broader strategic planning efforts (some of this is accomplished through NASF and NAASF)
- Facilitate coordination between USDA Forest Service Planning efforts and State planning efforts
- Development of tools that allow coordination and access to private lands forest information without compromising landowner privacy
- Develop information on how the development of megalopolises affects tree and landscape structure over time, for more effective management of these developing areas

Modeling

- Federally developed models have been useful in forest planning; continued development and support for these products is essential
 - Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS)
 - Continue development of FVS Climate and make a version available for the Northeast variant
 - Support .kcp add on development both at the community and the federal level
 - Support for community development efforts such as open FVS, SQLite support, PyFVS, etc.
 - Northeast Decision Model
 - SILVAH
 - iTree

Stewardship

- Additional training and refinement of SMART from the perspective of a reviewer, not a plan preparer
- Institution of the 'branding of Forest Stewardship' and workshops to promote the program

Forest Nursery

- The Nursery will be establishing a new Pitch-Loblolly Hybrid Pine Seed Orchard in the next year or two and would appreciate the USDA Forest Service's help with selecting the clones to be planted and determining from where these clones could be sourced.

Utilization & Marketing

- Assistance from USDA Forest Services Wood Products Laboratory in developing new products that would utilize capacity for usage of underutilized wood materials and wood waste
- Information about market opportunities and the dynamics of the modern wood industry economics on a State local and regional level. This should include international and local import and export markets.

Urban/Community Forestry

- More research on tree planting techniques and verifying or disproving standard planting practices to better understand the proper way to plant trees to increase survival rates
- Look into regional disease issues, such as for bacterial leaf scorch, and causes and processes relating to the issues.