



**Roundtable on Sustainable Forests**

*A Partnership for the Future*

# Review Workshop

Draft National Report on Sustainable Forests - 2010

USDA Cooperative State Research  
Education and Extension Service office;  
Washington, DC

March 23, 2009

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

USDA Cooperative State Research Education  
and Extension Service Office

Waterfront Centre, 800 9th St., SW

Washington, DC 20024

March 23, 2009

## **Contents**

Overview .....	3
Opening Plenary Session.....	4
Overview of the Draft National Report.....	4
Questions and Answers .....	7
Highlights and Key Policy Questions Arising from February Review Workshops .....	7
Small Group Discussion.....	8
Plenary Discussion .....	10
Closing Remarks and Next Steps.....	13
Appendix A: Workshop Agenda .....	14
Appendix B: Summary of Key Themes from Previous Workshops .....	16
Appendix C: Workshop Participant List.....	20

DRAFT

## Overview

Forty individuals participated in the Review Workshop for the Draft National Report on Sustainable Forests – 2010 (Draft National Report) which took place at the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service office in Washington, DC on March 23, 2009. This was the third in a series of three National Review Workshops sponsored by the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (RSF). The first and second Workshops were one and a half days long and designed to gather input on the content and format for the Draft National Report. The first Workshop took place in Denver, Colorado on February 4 – 5, 2009 and the second took place in Athens, Georgia on February 24-25, 2009. This half-day Workshop was designed to gather stakeholder input on the content and organization of the Draft National Report to increase its utility in policy discussions promoting sustainable forest management (SFM).

This summary is based on input from plenary discussion and a concurrent breakout session. The meeting summary does not reflect a comprehensive listing of all topics discussed, but rather provides an indication of some of the highlights from the discussions as well as the breadth of input received from the breakout session.

All participants are reminded that the review period on the 2010 Draft National Report is open until April 10, 2009. The input received during this Workshop will inform the revision of the report and participants are encouraged to submit further comments through any of the mechanisms listed below.

- Web: [www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/comment.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/comment.shtml)
- Email: [2010sustainabilityreport@fs.fed.us](mailto:2010sustainabilityreport@fs.fed.us)
- Fax: (703)605-5131; Attn: 2010 Report
- Mail: USDA Forest Service  
Attn: Quantitative Sciences Staff, Dr. Guy Robertson  
1621 North Kent Street, RPC4  
Arlington, VA 22209-2137

A copy of the 2010 Draft National Report can be found at:

[www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport)

More information about RSF can be found at: [www.sustainableforests.net](http://www.sustainableforests.net)

Documentation and presentations from this and other Review Workshops will be posted on the RSF website.

## **Opening Plenary Session**

Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service, began the meeting and welcomed all participants. He described the Workshop as an opportunity to gather input on the content and organization of the Draft National Report to increase the Report's utility in policy discussions that promote SFM. Mr. Hubbard noted the Workshop was sponsored by RSF, an open and inclusive process committed to the goal of SFM on public and private lands in the United States. All Workshop participants were encouraged to consider themselves partners in the process and to take the information they were learning back to their constituents and colleagues to not only provide input to improve the Draft National Report, but to help advance SFM at many scales across the country. Next all participants were asked to introduce themselves.

## **Overview of the Draft National Report**

Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief of the USDA Forest Service, served as the moderator for this session and introduced Rich Guldin, Director, Quantitative Sciences, USDA Forest Service, Research and Development. Dr. Guldin provided a presentation (available on the RSF website at [www.sustainableforests.net](http://www.sustainableforests.net)) that described how this global sustainability effort started with the Earth Summit, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ([www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html](http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html)). The conference focused on the environment and sustainable development, especially the linkages between the two, and established a "Statement of Forest Principles." Following UNCED, Canada convened an International Seminar of Experts on Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests. This seminar, held in Montréal in 1993 and sponsored by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, focused specifically on criteria and indicators and how they can help define and measure progress towards sustainable development of forests. European countries decided to work as a region under the framework of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe ([www.mpci.org](http://www.mpci.org)). Both processes are a large experiment to see what can be accomplished through voluntary cooperation.

Following the conference, the United States established the President's Council on Sustainable Development, formed by Executive Order 12852 (July 1993), that identified frameworks for tracking sustainable development and an experimental set of 40 indicators. The Santiago Declaration (1995) then focused on implementing the UNCED Statement of Forest Principles and created a set of seven national criteria and 67 indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forest ecosystems (MP C&I). The Montréal Process Working Group (MPWG) members are 12 countries that represent 90% of the world's temperate and boreal forests and 60% of the globe's total forests. All MPWG members are producing reports in time for a 2010 meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The first set of reports

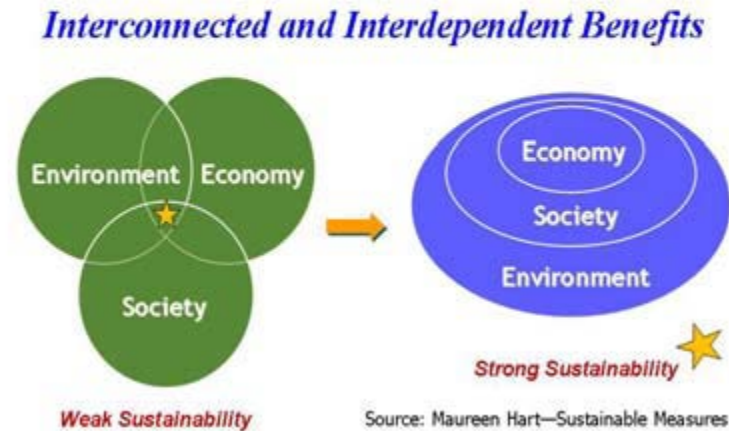
was shared at a 2003 meeting in Quebec City, Canada. After an international revision process, the MP C&I framework now includes seven criteria and 64 indicators. The criteria are each categories of conditions or processes by which SFM may be assessed, each asserting a value statement or goal. The indicators, 3 to 20 per criterion, are quantitative or qualitative variables describing an aspect of a criterion, that can be measured, modeled, or described and which, when observed or estimated periodically, demonstrates trends. Both are not legally binding but serve as useful guidelines for policy makers.

The seven Montréal Process criteria are as follows.

1. Conservation of **biological diversity**
2. Maintenance of **productive capacity** of forest ecosystems
3. Maintenance of forest ecosystem **health and vitality**
4. Maintenance of **soil and water** resources
5. Maintenance of forest contribution to **global carbon cycles**
6. Maintenance and enhancement of **long-term socio-economic** benefits to meet the needs of societies
7. The **legal, policy, and institutional** framework

Dr. Guldin reported that one of the differences between the 2003 National Report and the 2010 Draft National Report was the description of sustainability. Both definitions mimic the Brundtland Report (the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future available at [www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm](http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm)), but the 2010 Draft National Report moves from a sweet spot of connectivity between the three legs of the sustainability stool to demonstrate the inherent interdependence of all three aspects and related benefits of strong sustainability (see the “Triple Bottom Line” graphic below). Additional differences between the 2003 and 2010 Draft National Report were the inclusion of other land covers besides forests, such as urban land cover to measure urban sprawl, and increased effort to convey data at a sub-national level such as states, other political subdivisions, watersheds and other ecological subdivisions. The Draft National Report also posits that while the forest community has had a fruitful dialogue with itself, it is time to broaden the dialogue and look to other sectors, parts of the landscape and other scales to continue to advance sustainability. RSF is a likely vehicle for broadening this effort and dialogue because it is an open and inclusive group of public and private organizations, individuals, and landowners committed to the goal of SFM.

## Triple Bottom Line



The RSF mantra is, “better data leads to better dialogue which leads to better decisions.” Dr. Guldin indicated that initial efforts of the RSF were focused on the former part of this mantra, acquiring technical data. With the development of the second Draft National Report, however, there is an opportunity to look at comparisons and foster more dialogue on trends and conditions in order to create better decision making. While participants were encouraged to provide comment on all aspects of the Draft National Report, Dr. Guldin posited some questions for consideration based on the feedback heard from the first two National Workshops: (1) What is the appropriate balance between the two core functions of the Draft National Report, information delivery (“just the facts”) vs. providing synthesis and interpretation to work towards answering the question “are we sustainable?” (2) What strategies could be utilized for better communicating the large amount of information contained in the document such as organization of the document, visual display strategies and summary products? (3) Are the key assertions referenced in the Chapter 3 summary highlights and described in Chapter 5 the right findings to highlight?

Dr. Guldin stressed that the input provided in this and previous Workshops is an integral part of the review and revision process for the 2010 Draft National Report. He encouraged participants to provide input on issues that were important to them through the Workshop and via the formal input process accessible at:

[www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/comment.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/comment.shtml)

## Questions and Answers

*What happens once we move from a draft to a final report?*

Following revisions to the 2010 Draft National Report based on input received, it is approximately a nine month process to move from the final version to printing through the government printing office. The goal is to have a printed draft by mid-2010 to share with the world community in the 2010 October Buenos Aires conference. If the revision, approval and printing process are not concluded by that time, the 2010 Draft National Report will be shared.

*Will the technical report information be made available to the public?*

It is intended that all the information will be made publically available in an electronic format on a website. It is a goal to get this website up by the fall of 2009. Currently, the Indicator Leads are responding to comments received to date.

*Will the data in the report be made accessible, including raw data, shape files and the like?*

Yes, the data will be made available. The USDA Forest Service team responsible for producing the 2010 Draft National Report is currently working to figure out the best way to make the electronic information available on the web building an interactive database. Some of the information will likely be made accessible through the database, while some might just be posted excel files and the like.

*What was the process for identifying the three drivers outlined in Chapter 3 and described in Chapter 5?*

The key drivers emerged from the data in Chapter 2, were summarized in Chapter 3 and further described in Chapter 5. If it is not clear enough how these three drivers surfaced, input is needed regarding how to make the origin of the drivers clearer.

## Highlights and Key Policy Questions Arising from February Review Workshops

Jim Finley, Professor of Forest Resources at Pennsylvania State University and RSF Co-Chair, facilitated this session and introduced Robert Williams from the Meridian Institute. Mr. Williams provided an overview of a meeting document that conveyed some of the “key issues” surfaced from the preceding Denver and Athens Review Workshops (see Appendix B for the document). He stressed that the document was not a comprehensive summary, rather it was provided to give participants at the DC Workshop a sense of the some of the input received to facilitate more specific input. Detailed meeting summaries of both Workshops are available on

the RSF website at ([www.sustainableforests.net](http://www.sustainableforests.net)). Following the summary of the document participants had no questions or comments and moved into small group discussion.

## Small Group Discussion

All participants divided into five small groups and held concurrent discussions. Each group had one facilitator and one note taker capturing comments on a computer. The raw notes are available upon request. The questions participants considered included the following.

1. Should we interpret the data in the 2010 Draft National Report, and if so how?
  - How can we better portray the current status and recent trends (since 2003 report) as part of the indicator narratives? In this second report, should we start incorporating more explicit signals regarding sustainable or unsustainable trends?
  - How can we better address the overarching question of whether or not the Nation is making progress towards achieving sustainable forests?
2. What more could be done within the report to better support policy conversations at national, sub-national, and local scales? What other types of documents related to this national report (e.g., a separate "highlights" document or briefing materials) could be developed to better support policy conversations at national, sub-national, and local scales?
3. What additional content would increase the utility of the report as a tool to inform ensuing policy dialogues? Are there better ways to organize the report for this purpose?

At the end of the discussion, each of the groups identified three key points from their discussion to share with the rest of the groups in plenary discussion. The key points were reported by the facilitator of the group and are shared below.

### Aspen Group

1. Develop issue based fact sheets.
2. Make the data more accessible. Create hyper-links to summary data source information in Indicator 58 and links to each of the reference documents.
3. Develop a framework to incentivize policy actions and frame the discussion of strategy.

### Cedar Group

1. Indicate trends, especially key trends. This can be done either by the USDA Forest Service or RSF, but they should be put up front in the 2010 Draft National Report to be useful for policy makers. The three emerging trends for the future are also important for long-term forest management.
2. Tell the story of SFM as an ongoing journey. Move Chapter 3 ahead of Chapter 2 and make it an executive summary. Put all the data on an interactive website and create a more thorough synthesis analysis of climate change, bioenergy, and loss of forest land.
3. Provide templates for application of the MP C&I framework at multiple scales and to encourage forest stakeholders to champion interpretations at different scales.

### Elm Group

1. Trend analysis is good, should be included in the report and could go further to be an interpretation of trends. But while trend analysis is good, along with descriptions of the causes regarding the direction of indicators and trends, the report should not go as far as saying “we’re sustainable” or “we’re not sustainable.”
2. The three themes described are useful, but there could be more. It is not clear how the themes were identified. It would be good to identify both cross-cutting themes and themes that emerge from the data.
  - a. Acknowledge two types of themes: themes emerging from the data and those themes that do not emerge from the data.
  - b. Consider other themes such as invasive species, ecosystem services, forest health or the four themes that are part of the Montreal Process Overview Report. Ecosystem services could serve as a unifying theme for all the indicators.
3. Utilize fact sheets, white sheets, white papers, or other concise documents that can be utilized by policy makers and target “the who” with “the what.”

### Grand Group

1. Change the order of the chapters to make the report more of an issue-focused guide with direct links back to the data. Remember the folly of making policy in a data free environment.
2. Make the document more user friendly with the use of more maps.

3. On the question of interpretation, it could be useful to provide it on a common scale across all indicators and not make judgment, rather show where we are with respect to 2003 and potentially to other countries. A matrix/temperature gauge approach could be used and could serve as the foundation for a multi stakeholder conversation on the web. In other words, the report can be the start of the conversation.

### Ponderosa Group

1. Interpretation, based on a transparent and peer-reviewable data collection and analysis process, should be included in the 2010 Draft National Report and is the responsibility of federal agencies. This interpretation can be used as the basis for discussion, and RSF is an appropriate vehicle for continuing the conversation. It is the responsibility of a federal agency to “stick its neck out” and give an indication of what this science-based reporting means. (As long as that data collection and analysis process is transparent and peer-reviewable.) It can be used as a basis for discussion (i.e., agency statement of what does this mean) and RSF is an appropriate body to take the discussion further. Thermometer gauges can be appropriate for a few indicators, but not necessarily all of them.
2. Following are suggestions for making the 2010 Draft National Report more accessible.
  - a. Including an annotated bibliography with linked references to all other relevant efforts and information; and
  - b. Considering additional ways to make the information more accessible for regional groups to apply the MP C&I framework.
3. Following are ways to use the report to do two types of reporting.
  - a. Create a “State of the Nation’s Forests” annual report to be made by the Chief of the USDA Forest Service based on data collected on an ongoing basis; and
  - b. Report regional differences related to the *key issues* summarized.

## Plenary Discussion

Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief of the USDA Forest Service, facilitated the plenary group discussion. He encouraged participants to reinforce aspects of the report-outs that were consistent with other small group discussions or ask clarifying questions. The participants generally asked clarifying questions and then engaged in discussion around these questions.

*If the order of the chapters is re-arranged, do we lose part of the platform upon which the report is based?*

Reorganization of the 2010 Draft National Report is being suggested as a “time-saving” device to help the reader get to the key points. All the data and substantiation, especially of Chapter

2, is still to be included (and not offloaded to an appendix), but re-organization will help focus on key messages and themes.

*Regarding fact sheets and additional materials, who do you envision will create those?*

It would be appropriate for the USDA Forest Service to create some of these materials, but they have already put significant time, energy and resources into the production of the 2010 Draft National Report. It is therefore appropriate for RSF and partner groups associated with RSF to create some of these documents. It was stressed that these documents should not be 64 cookie cutter fact sheets, rather they should be produced to provide in-depth information about the indicators and address the inter-connections. It was recognized that there were three aspects that should be addressed: comparative trends within the indicators since reporting in 2003: synthesis across indicators; and indicators of regional importance. It is also important to recognize that the MP C&I framework for the 2010 Draft National Report is a consensus product from the international MP process and the MPWG. Part of the value is working to internationally build a replicable database on consistent indicators.

*Are we clinging too tightly to the language of the MP C&I, or do we have flexibility to tell our own story?*

There is value in taking a consistent national and international approach to collecting data on key indicators of sustainability. There has already been a good deal of work improving the data collected from 2003 until this 2010 Draft National Report. There is also an effort underway with Indicator 44 to determine and understand what about forests is important to people and how can the information be framed and presented in a language and manner that can be relevant to people in their communities. There is still this flexibility within the framework provided by the MP C&I. We also have to remember that the group gathered today is speaking for the people of the nation about our forests but does not contain the same diversity as the people of the nation, and this is a challenge that should be addressed.

*What do we do about indicators that are at odds with others? For example, additional timber harvest could increase the number of timber dependent jobs but decrease opportunities for meditative and spiritual purposes.*

It is recognized that efforts to promote sustainability are complicated and involve tradeoffs. It is important to present the information in a way that resonates with people and is comprehensible to policy makers. It is also important to build on the effort in Chapter 4 to expand the use of the MP C&I framework. Beyond that the efforts are nested in multi-stakeholder RSF discussions to work through the complexity because there are no easy answers.

*How do we make the information more accessible and who is the audience?*

It is important to be clear about what the 2010 Draft National Report is and what it is not. The Draft National Report is primarily a national report with some commendable efforts at reporting regional differences, trends and information. While additional regional information can be added, it is primarily the responsibility of other efforts and partner reports to dig deeper than the national scale. It would also be appropriate to make this clarification and better define the intended audience in the introduction to the Draft National Report.

It was also stressed that it is important to remember the power of utilizing an internationally negotiated framework to provide local jurisdictions with a context and approach to addressing questions of sustainability. The RSF mantra, “better data lead to better dialogue lead to better decisions,” is applicable in this context and Baltimore County is an example. As a government that is entrusted to steward the resources of the citizenry, the MP C&I framework provided a vehicle for collecting data and holding more constructive dialogue on ways to meet this trustee obligation. The use of the MP C&I framework can be transformative in this way.

It is important to be able to tell this story in a compelling way and make it easy and accessible to begin using the MP C&I framework. It is also important to remember that the effort is greater than just the 2010 Draft National Report. The report is a foundation for continued RSF discussion and the web provides an opportunity to continue the discussion and provide access to frequently updated data. Simultaneously, efforts must continue to publicize the effort to get people to access the website and engage in the dialogue. It is important to continue to work to engage more groups of people beyond those primarily concerned with forests and to be able to provide one website where the information can be accessed.

Additional tools can be used to make the information comprehensible such as a “Turbo Tax type” application that asks focusing questions to deliver appropriate information and serve as a data collection tool to identify issues of importance to the public. One participant suggested that researchers at the University of Leeds had developed an interactive map of wildness in the United Kingdom that encouraged users to rate the importance of various attributes of wildness to re-draw the map (available at: <http://www.ccg.leeds.ac.uk/teaching/wilderness/>). This type of functionality might be employed to allow participants to the RSF website weight or rate the relative importance of various criteria or indicators to see the sustainability of forests according to those ratings. Other participants indicated there are some areas, such as the climate change discussion, where the information and presentation can be improved. If trends are indicated it is important to remember to describe the causes of these trends.

## **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

RSF co-chairs Jim Finley and Joel Holtrop provided closing remarks. Dr. Finley thanked participants and reminded them this Workshop was not the end of a process. In order to make a change, each person present needs to continue to engage and to bring the conversation to their stakeholders. He provided an analogy. The regeneration of an oak forest is not an event; it is a day by day process that requires involvement. Furthering sustainability is also a process that requires involvement.

Mr. Holtrop provided two stories that addressed the nature of the process. He described how it became clear that in order to have a wide ranging affect the commitment of involved parties would need to be “broadened and deepened,” hence the title of Chapter 4. He also recounted his involvement with the meeting in Quebec City. At that meeting, all countries were discussing the framework in their native language. Everyone, however, was using the common language of the MP C&I framework which reinforced the power and potential of its use. Mr. Holtrop indicated the RSF would need to take explicit steps informed by the discussion at all three Workshops and through the comment period that remained open until April 10. He reiterated the thanks to the participants and the message that the review process is an important comment of the final and everyone’s effort is appreciated to make a difference at all levels from local to global.

WORKSHOP ADJOURNED

## Appendix A: Workshop Agenda

### Review Workshop for Draft National Report on Sustainable Forest: 2010

USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service  
Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street, SW, Room 1410, Washington, DC  
March 23, 2009

#### AGENDA

##### Relevant Resources:

- Roundtable on Sustainable Forests: [www.sustainableforests.net](http://www.sustainableforests.net)
- 2010 Sustainability Draft Report: [www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport)
- 2003 Sustainability Report: [www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2003SustainabilityReport](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2003SustainabilityReport)
- Link to Comment on 2010 Draft:  
[www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/comment.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport/comment.shtml)
- Advancing Sustainable Forest Management in the United States:  
<http://www.pinchot.org/pubs/10>

**Workshop Objective:** *To gather input on the content and organization of the Draft National Report to increase the Report's utility in policy discussions that promote sustainable forest management.*

12:30 p.m. **Registration**

1:00 p.m. **Opening Plenary Session**

Welcome, Introductions and Purpose of the Workshop – *RRSF Co-Chairs*

- *\*Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry,*
- *Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System*
- *USDA Forest Service,*
- *Jim Finley, Sustainable Forests Partnership, and Professor of Forest Resources, The Pennsylvania State University, School of Forest Resources*

Agenda Review – *Sarah Walen, Meridian Institute*

- Questions and answers

1:20 p.m. **Overview of the Draft National Report**

*Jim Hubbard, USDA Forest Service*

---

\* Discussion Lead

- Overview of process, approach to producing, and content of the National Report - *Richard Guldin, Director, Quantitative Sciences, USDA Forest Service, Research and Development*
- Questions and answers

1:40 p.m. **Highlights and Key Policy Questions Arising from February Review Workshops**

*Jim Finley, Sustainable Forests Partnership*

- Highlights and key policy questions arising from stakeholder review of the Draft Report – *Rob Williams, Meridian Institute*
- Questions and answers
  1. Should we interpret the data in the 2010 Draft Report, and if so how?
    - How can we better portray the current status and recent trends (since 2003 report) as part of the indicator narratives? In this second report should we start incorporating more explicit signals regarding sustainable or unsustainable trends?
    - How can we better address the overarching question of whether or not the Nation is making progress towards achieving sustainable forests?
  2. What more could be done within the report to better support policy conversations at national, sub-national, and local scales? What other types of documents related to this national report (e.g., a separate "highlights" document or briefing materials) could be developed to better support policy conversations at national, sub-national, and local scales?
  3. What additional content would increase the utility of the report as a tool to inform ensuing policy dialogues? Are there better ways to organize the report for this purpose?

2:00 p.m. **Break and Transition to Small Groups**

2:10 p.m. **Small Group Discussion**

3:40 p.m. **Plenary – Brief Small Group Report Back and Plenary Discussion**

*Joel Holtrop, USDA Forest Service*

4:50 p.m. **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

*\*Joel Holtrop, USDA Forest Service, and Jim Finley, Sustainable Forests Partnership*

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

## Appendix B: Summary of Key Themes from Previous Workshops

### Initial Summary of Key Themes

Denver and Athens Workshops – February 2009

The following is a preliminary summary of key themes raised during the Denver (February 4-5) and Athens (February 24-25) Draft National Report on Sustainable Forests -2010 Review Workshops. This summary is being provided to help stimulate discussion at the March 23 Workshop regarding key themes. The summary will be revised based on group discussion and feedback.

#### General Comments

Participants responded favorably both to the amount of work evident in the compilation of the Draft National Report – 2010 and the quality of the work completed. Participants generally found the writing accessible and commented on improvements in data collection since the 2003 Report; but many suggestions for improvement were also made. The highlights of these suggestions are included below. It should also be noted that participants suggested the USDA Forest Service should lead by example and have all National Forests utilize the MP C&I in their planning processes.

#### *Formatting and Presentation Suggestions*

Participants made suggestions for content additions and improvement, but the bulk of the conversation centered on ways to present the information in a more accessible manner.

- Reference Conditions, Trends & Interpretation – It was suggested that the document could include reference conditions to enable measurement towards or away from sustainability. The 2010 Draft Report allows for more opportunity to discuss trends observed since the 2003 Report. To this end, it would be helpful to utilize a consistent graphic for each indicator that demonstrates the robustness and quality of the data and an emoticon or graphic (e.g., red light to green light spectrum) demonstrating if the observed trend was in a sustainable or unsustainable direction. This type of consistency across indicators would help with accessibility. It was suggested that Indicator 7.58 was a good first step in this direction and could be expanded and given more prominence. It was encouraged to move beyond just collecting data to interpret trends and utilize RSF to have discussion about these trends and articulate appropriate actions.
- Audience & Accessibility – Participants reported the “end user audience” was not clearly identified and the definition of that audience could help make the organization of the information more comprehensible, accessible and “user friendly.” Many participants indicated the Draft Report should be written for a policy maker audience with the corresponding data substantiation to be accessible by academics, researchers and staff level managers. To this end a number of “styles” were suggested for making the information more accessible:

- Newspaper Headlines – Convey “sound bite” key themes and substantiate
  - 5 Myths of Forests – Utilize the educational approach of presenting 5 myths (assumptions, misunderstandings, etc.) about forests and forest processes and connect this to key findings and next steps.
  - How-To Workbook – Include more specific information about how readers can apply the MP C&I with case study examples and contact information. Make the report a resource for how-to implementation.
  - Readers Digest style – Consider approaching a revision of Chapter 3, for example, from a perspective that Readers Digest editors would employ.
- It was also suggested that different sections of the report could be targeted to different audiences.
- Report Organization/Outline – To help make the report more compelling to the audience, participants made a number of suggestions for restructuring the outline of the report. One of the most common was to make the new chapter order be: (Executive Summary?) – Chapter 5 – (Chapter 1?) – Chapter 3 – Chapter 4 – Chapter 2 as data appendix. The intent was to move key messages, themes and findings forward and structure the document to convey the importance of these key items in a compelling way.
  - Executive Summary – It was suggested that an executive summary could help orient the reader to the information and highlight key trends and themes. It was advised that that summary could also provide an overview of conditions and trends in the current economic climate and clarify that though the report is titled “2010” the data is not current to that year. It was suggested that a revised version of Chapter 5 could also serve this purpose.
  - Key Themes – Participants generally agreed the three key issues outlined in Chapter 5 (climate change, biomass, fragmentation) were important; however better explanation of how these themes surfaced from the data was requested. It was also suggested that “biomass/biofuels” be changed to “energy.” While the meeting summaries detail a number of different suggestions for additional themes, some of the more recurrent themes were globalization/global markets and urbanization/urban forest issues.
  - Regional Emphasis & Sub-national Level – The analysis of regional differences included in 2010 was appreciated and further regional comparisons indicating trends would be appreciated. It was also suggested that the report increase the focus on the sub-national level.
  - Flow – The document could have more consistency between chapters and flow together better using a consistent narrative.

- Story Telling – The Draft Report utilizes some stories (especially in Chapter 4), but more stories could be utilized to create more of a consistent and compelling narrative through the text.
- Conceptual Model – Some participants at the Denver Workshop suggested creating a conceptual model at the outset of the report to help orient participants to the material. A draft model was recorded in the meeting summaries. This suggestion was not made at the Athens Workshop.
- Maps – Use more maps to show efforts/trends on a national level. Utilize the opportunities of a digital web publishing media to make the maps interactive and display information or related efforts with contact information that would be usable to participants at various local levels.
- Web Format & Hyper-Linking – There were suggestions to utilize a web publishing format to hyper-link more detailed sections of the report from a discussion of key themes and trends.
- Next Steps – There is room for additional discussion about next steps to advance the use and implementation of the Draft National Report and build upon the opportunity presented by the 2011 International Year of Forests (United Nations declaration).

#### *Content*

- Working Forests – The term “working forests” was discussed by many of the groups. Some felt the term “working forests” could be good because it suggested they were working to provide ecosystem benefits to the public. Others had concerns with the term because it connoted that some forests might not be “working.” Some may assume that the term just applied to actively managed forests that yielding timber volume and could discount late successional forests that are provide significant ecosystem benefits. For this reason, some suggested replacing the term working forests with “sustainable forests” and providing more description.
- Landscape Scale - Another term discussed was “landscape scale.” While participants generally supported the concept of landscape scale management, they recommended additional clarification on what is meant by landscape scale, noting that people define landscape scales very differently.
- Sustainability Discussion – There were conflicting comments regarding the discussion of sustainability and the new mental model for strong sustainability. Some felt it was appropriate to introduce the discussion of sustainability and reference the 2003 Report

while others wanted more discussion included in the 2010 Draft Report. Many supported the new mental model, some wanted more reference to the model through the document, while others suggested the size of the circles should be the same. There was fairly consistent feedback, however, that the model should be used through the report to assess whether we were on a sustainable trend, rather than just present the model at the outset.

- Triple Bottom Line – If the sustainability model is going to be used the document needs to demonstrate, consistently throughout the document, how each issue affects the triple bottom line.
- Wildfire Risk – More work needs to be done to highlight and substantiate the current wildfire risk and threats due to overstocking, insect and disease.
- Assessments & Accessibility – Make more links to other federal assessment efforts (such as RPA) and work to make the information accessible to State Foresters,
- Key Themes – Discuss and substantiate how key themes were selected from the data.

## Appendix C: Workshop Participant List

Nadine Block  
Director, Forest Policy  
American Forest and Paper Association  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-463-2753  
e-mail: nadine\_block@afandpa.org

Wilhelmina Bratton  
National Partnership Coordinator  
State and Private Forestry  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-205-1144  
e-mail: wbratton@fs.fed.us

Connie Carpenter  
International Institute of Tropical Forestry  
Program Manager, State and Private  
Forestry  
USDA Forest Service  
San Juan, PR  
phone number: 787-766-5335 x 222  
e-mail: conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us

Dana Coelho  
Program Manager  
Western Forestry Leadership Coalition  
Denver, CO  
phone number: 303-445-4364  
e-mail: dcoelho@fs.fed.us

Margaret Connelly  
RPA Assessment Coordinator  
USDA Forest Service  
Arlington, VA  
phone number: 703-605-5282  
e-mail: mconnelly@fs.fed.us

Graham Cox  
Forest and Open Space Program  
Coordinator  
Audubon New York  
Albany, NY  
phone number: 772-388-5394  
e-mail: glcox@audubon.org

Fred Cabbage  
Professor, Forest Policy, Economics, and  
Certification  
Department of Forestry and Environmental  
Resources  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, NC  
phone number: 919-515-7789  
e-mail: fredcabbage@yahoo.com

Randy Davis  
National Soils Program Leader  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-205-1082  
e-mail: rdavis03@fs.fed.us

Colin Donohue  
Executive Director  
National Network of Forest Practitioners  
Athens, OH  
phone number: 740-593-8733  
e-mail: colin@nnfp.org

Amy Doty  
Manager, Community Outreach  
Sustainable Forestry Initiative  
Arlington, VA  
phone number: 703-875-9500 x 21  
e-mail: amy.doty@sfiprogram.org

*Review Workshop – Draft National Report on Sustainable Forests – 2010  
March 23, 2009; Washington, DC*

Chris Farley  
International Policy Analyst  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-273-4694  
e-mail: cfarley@fs.fed.us

Susan Haseltine  
Associate Director for Biology  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Reston, VA  
phone number: 703-648-4050  
e-mail: susan\_haseltine@usgs.gov

Jim Finley  
Professor of Forest Resources  
Sustainable Forests Partnership  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA  
phone number: 814-863-0402  
e-mail: jfinley@psu.edu

Joel Holtrop  
Deputy Chief  
National Forest System  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-205-1523  
e-mail: jholtrop@fs.fed.us,  
kwalton@fs.fed.us

Peter Gaulke  
Strategic Planning and Sustainability  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-205-1521  
e-mail: pgaulke@fs.fed.us

Stan Hopkins  
Board Member  
Maryland Alliance for Greenway  
Improvement and Conservation  
Laurel, MD  
phone number: 301-725-7141  
e-mail: stanhopkins@comcast.net

Patrick Gonzalez  
Visiting Scholar  
Center for Forestry  
University of California Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA  
phone number: 202-364-3658  
e-mail: pgonzalez@cal.berkeley.edu

James Hubbard  
Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-205-1657  
e-mail: jehubbard@fs.fed.us,  
isanders@fs.fed.us

Richard Guldin  
Director, Quantitative Sciences  
Research and Development  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 703-605-4177  
e-mail: rguldin@fs.fed.us

Sarah LaPlante  
Presidential Management Fellow  
Research and Development  
USDA Forest Service  
Arlington, VA  
phone number: 703-605-4155  
e-mail: slaplante@fs.fed.us

Charles Harris  
Visiting Policy Analyst  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-205-1363  
e-mail: ccharris@fs.fed.us

Frank Lipson  
Board Member  
Maryland Alliance for Greenway  
Improvement and Conservation  
Potomac, MD  
phone number: 301-893-2707  
e-mail: frank.lipson@comcast.net

Sue McLellan  
Systems Project Administrator  
Division of Forestry  
State of Florida  
Tallahassee, FL  
phone number: 850-414-8554  
e-mail: mclells@doacs.state.fl.us

Doug Powell  
National Monitoring and Evaluation  
Coordinator  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-205-1724  
e-mail: DougPowell@fs.fed.us

Ruth McWilliams  
Co-Owner  
Catamount Lodge & Forest LLC  
South Colton, NY  
phone number: 703-819-0821  
e-mail: ruth@catamountlodge.com

Henry Quesada-Pineda  
Assistant Professor, Wood Science and  
Forest Products  
College of Natural Resources  
Virginia Tech  
Blackburg, VA  
phone number: 540-231-0978  
e-mail: quesada@vt.edu

Eric Norland  
National Program Leader, Forest Resource  
Management  
Cooperative State Research, Education and  
Extension Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-401-5971  
e-mail: enorland@csrees.usda.gov

David Robertson  
Forestry and Natural Resources  
Virginia Tech  
Lynchburg, VA  
phone number: 434-610-0491  
e-mail: davidrobertson@vt.edu

Donald Outen  
Natural Resource Manager  
Department of Environmental Protection  
and Resource Management  
Baltimore County  
Towson, MD  
phone number: 410-887-4488 x 238  
e-mail: douten@baltimorecountymd.gov

Guy Robertson  
Sustainability Program Lead  
USDA Forest Service  
Arlington, VA  
phone number: 703-805-1071  
e-mail: grobertson02@fs.fed.us

Spencer Phillips  
Vice President, Ecology & Economics  
Research  
The Wilderness Society  
phone number: 802-895-2979  
e-mail: spencer\_phillips@twc.org

Al Sample  
President  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-797-6580  
e-mail: alsample@pinchot.org

Laurie Schoonhoven  
Project Associate  
Sustainable Forests Partnership  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA  
phone number: 814-865-7932  
e-mail: lms28@psu.edu

Margaret Shannon  
Associate Dean  
Rubenstein School of Environment and  
Natural Resources  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, VT  
phone number: 802-656-4380  
e-mail: margaret.shannon@uvm.edu

Logan Yonavjak  
People and Ecosystems Program  
World Resources Institute  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-729-7600 x 7717  
e-mail: logan.yonavjak@wri.org

**FACILITATION SUPPORT STAFF**

Brad Smith  
USDA Forest Service  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 703-605-4190  
e-mail: bsmith12@fs.fed.us

Sarah Walen  
Senior Mediator  
Meridian Institute  
Dillon, CO  
phone number: 970-513-8340 x 221  
e-mail: skwalen@merid.org

Tim Smith  
Coordinator  
Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable  
Reston, VA  
phone number: 703-860-1038  
e-mail: etsmithsiri@aol.com

Rob Williams  
Mediator  
Meridian Institute  
Dillon, CO  
phone number: 970-513-8340 x 252  
e-mail: rwilliams@merid.org

Lisa Warnecke  
President  
GeoManagement Associates  
Syracuse, NY  
phone number: 315-478-6024  
e-mail: lisaw@twcny.rr.com

Ana Coelho  
Project Coordinator  
Meridian Institute  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-354-6450  
e-mail: acoelho@merid.org

Thomas Willard  
Supervisory Forester  
Forest Inventory and Analysis  
USDA Forest Service  
Middletown, PA  
phone number: 717-948-3952  
e-mail: thomaswillard@fs.fed.us

Shawn Walker  
Project Coordinator  
Meridian Institute  
Washington, DC  
phone number: 202-354-6450  
e-mail: shawnwalker@merid.org

Doug Williams  
The Williams Group  
Charles Town, WV  
phone number:  
e-mail: dewilliams@frontiernet.net