

Appendix 1. Invitation Letter from RSF

Dear [Respondent]:

The Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (www.sustainableforests.net) is conducting an on-line consultation to ensure the utility of the second US *National Report on Sustainable Forests* that will be released in 2010. The goal of the consultation is to identify priorities for the allocation of limited resources that will provide the types of analytical products that stakeholders want to use. You have been identified as a key participant in this consultation. The consultation will focus on your experience with using the 2003 edition of the US National Report on Sustainable Forests; and your opinion on which of the Montreal Process Indicators are of greatest value to you in developing an understanding of the sustainability of America's forests. We will send you the results of this consultation.

BACKGROUND

In 1995, the United States and 11 other countries established the Montréal Process on Criteria and Indicators (MPCI) for describing and measuring basic elements of sustainable forest management on a national basis. The MPCI provided a reporting framework for the first US National Report on Sustainable Forests produced in 2003 and will now serve as the basis for the 2010 edition. These national-level reports are intended to provide information on the condition of and trends affecting our nation's public and private forests and document our progress toward sustainable forest management.

The 2003 US National Report on Sustainable Forests (www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/) was a challenge to provide meaningful information with available data. The Roundtable is now assessing lessons learned from production of the 2003 US National Report on Sustainable Forests in order to increase the completeness, clarity, and practical utility of the next report. Resources are limited so, we need to 1) identify what new data we will collect 2) clarify the specific types of analytical products stakeholders would like to see, and 3) clarify how people are most likely to access the reports and associated data. The end goal is to make sure that the 2010 US National Report on Sustainable Forests has practical use to the US stakeholder community while meeting the spirit of providing better information to the public and decision makers.

The USDA Forest Service is the federal agency with lead responsibility for producing the 2010 National Report. The Roundtable on Sustainable Forests is an open and inclusive process of public and private organizations and individuals committed to the goal of sustainable forest management on public and private lands in the US. The Roundtable has agreed to support the Forest Service's development of the 2010 National Report through a variety of activities, one of which is this consultation.

ON-LINE CONSULTATION

We invite your input to the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests by participating in this on-line consultation. A 2005 consultation on potential changes to the MCPI framework provided valuable information for the US delegation to the Montreal Process in their discussions with the other Montréal Process countries and resulted in critical refinements and revisions to improve the practicality and utility of the framework.

The current consultation will inform the development of the 2010 US National Report to ensure that it will be a useful tool to guide forest management and policy decisions at a variety of spatial

scales. You will need to click on the following link or copy it to your browser (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/brd/Survey.cfm?Survey=94&ID=1052378><http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/brd/Survey.cfm?Survey=94&ID=1052378>) in order to successfully access the consultation. Your participation should take no more than 30 minutes. If you only have 5 minutes, please complete only Part 1.

If you are unfamiliar the 2003 US National Report on Sustainable Forests, please visit the National Report website at www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/documents/SustainableForests.pdf. Additional information about the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests is available at www.sustainableforests.net.

If you have questions about this on-line consultation or need assistance, please contact Sarah Walen of Meridian Institute (swalen@merid.org or 970-513-8340 ext. 221).

It is very important for us to hear from you by Tuesday, January 23, 2007. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard Brinker
Co-Chair, Roundtable on Sustainable Forests
Dean and Professor, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
Auburn University

James Finley
Co-Chair, Roundtable on Sustainable Forests
Professor of Forest Resources, School of Forest Resources
The Pennsylvania State University

Joel Holtrop
Co-Chair, Roundtable on Sustainable Forests
Deputy Chief for the National Forest System
USDA Forest Service