

Appendix 3. Consultation Thank You Letter

Dear [name from database],

Thank you for your participation in the on-line consultation for the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. This consultation has helped us to better understand the needs of forest professionals and stakeholders for the criteria and indicators reports on forest sustainability in the United States. With the ultimate goal of providing the public with the information it needs in the most effective format, the information that you provided will be used by the USDA Forest Service to design the 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests. Your thoughtful responses will improve the utility of the 2010 National Report and ultimately promote the important task of sustainability reporting in our country and throughout the world.

Numerous constructive suggestions were identified through this process. Two clear examples that will have a significant effect include the need for the USDA Forest Service to:

1. Provide digital sustainability information along with the traditional hardcopy report; and
2. Complete qualitative assessments for specific indicators and questions of sustainability, particularly when sufficient quantitative data isn't unavailable.

We are currently summarizing all of the results from this consultation in a final report. This consultation report will be made available in April 2007 on the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests website (<http://www.sustainableforests.net/>). The responses to each consultation question, without interpretation, are currently available at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/brd/SurveyResults.cfm?survey=94>. A PowerPoint presentation that provides an initial summary from the consultation is also available at <ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/er/md/laurel/BRDSscience/SustainableForestConsultation.ppt>. You can also check the Roundtable for Sustainable Forests website (<http://www.sustainableforests.net/>) for other information and links describing current and past efforts in using criteria and indicators for forest sustainability.

Many of you indicated an interest in being contacted for further discussion on this topic. We appreciate your willingness to participate and will be contacting you via email in the near future.

If you have any additional questions or comments about the on-line consultation or the Roundtable, please contact Sarah Walen of Meridian Institute (swalen@merid.org or 970-513-8340 ext. 221). Thank you once again for your help.

Sincerely,

Richard Brinker

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Dean and Professor, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
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