



Sustainability / Multi-State Regional Scale



Northeastern Area Forest Sustainability Indicators Information System	
Place-Based Example	US Forest Service and 20 States in Northeast/Midwest are in the process of deploying an indicator system for measuring forest sustainability
Discussion	<p>Description: The Northeastern Area (NA) of the US Forest Service (FS) and 20 state forestry agencies are collaborating through the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) to deploy a system for understanding and measuring forest sustainability across the Northeast & Midwest. The system, based upon the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (C&I) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of 18 base indicators to track at regional and state scales; • On-line reports and data download to track trends in forest health and sustainability at state, multi-state, and regional scales; • A sourcebook on C&I; and • Links to additional data and resources related to forest sustainability. <p>Context: Mutually supportive efforts are underway within the 20-state region, with the indicator system informing state-level efforts and state-level efforts (such as Maryland’s Strategic Forest Assessment and Wisconsin’s Forest Sustainability Framework) helping test and refine the system. The 20-state effort also complements national-level sustainability assessment and reporting activities being led by the FS. At the national level, forest indicator efforts link to collaborative efforts to assess that state of the nation’s ecosystems and to foster collaboration on data and indicators by the federal government as well as the national multi-stakeholder Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. These domestic efforts also support work by the United States and 11 other countries to use a common set of C&I to assess national progress towards sustainable forest management, develop country reports, and foster international dialogue.</p> <p>Value Added: The NA’s C&I efforts are a means to link state, regional, and national effort. The Forest Sustainability Indicators Information System, in particular, helps facilitate communication and data sharing among multiple efforts and across state borders; and helps reveal differences within the region as well as cumulative effects across States and over time. The system also helps advance work at other scales within the region—for instance, county level efforts (e.g., Baltimore County, MD) and landscape/watershed efforts (e.g., Chesapeake Bay Watershed). Currently the formative work is being used to inform planning of State Forest Resource Assessments to be completed by each state by 2010.</p>
Key Resources and Web Links	FS-NA State & Private Forestry: www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/
Contacts	USFS-NA—Sherri Wormstead (swormstead@fs.fed.us)