



Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

A Partnership for the Future

Orientation for Participants As We Prepare for the 2015 National Report

April 2, 2013

**Developed by the RSF
Communications and Outreach Work Group**

Mission of the Roundtable

- To engage **multiple stakeholders** through **collaborative efforts**
- to advance **understanding, assessment and reporting** of forest sustainability and adoption of forest resource management
- in a manner that integrates **environmental, social, and economic considerations**
- using the Montreal Process **Criteria and Indicators (C&I)** as a common framework.



Purpose of the RSF

“To serve as a forum to share information and perspectives that will enable better decision-making.”



Photo: Dale Kakkak, College of the Menominee Nation

This is accomplished by

- Providing a forum for dialogue
- Broadening and deepening public understanding and adoption of sustainable forest management practices
- Facilitating coordinated assessment and reporting
- Connecting domestic and global forest issues
- Demonstrating on-the-ground benefits of sustainable forest management



Photo: Dale Kakkak, College of the Menominee Nation

Roundtable Stakeholders and Participants

- Conservation and environmental groups
- Federal government
- Professional foresters
- Natural resource professionals
- Industries and businesses
- Private landowners and citizens
- Regional and community-based organizations
- Research and academic institutions
- Tribal, state, and local units of government

Organizing to Get Work Done

- **RSF Co-Chairs**
 - **Federal (USFS)**
 - Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, S&PF
 - Leslie Weldon, Deputy Chief, NFS
 - **Non-federal**
 - Dr. Jim Finley, Penn State
 - Michael Buck, NASF
- **RSF Facilitation** provided by USFS
- **Champions:** National and local leaders, willing to lead the dialogue, assessment, reporting and application of sustainable forest management



Photo: Texas Forest Service

History of Converging Agendas: Some Key Milestones

- 1998 Six organizations led by NASF send letter to USFS, CEQ, OMB about C&I
- 1999 Roundtable on Sustainable Forests is self-chartered
- 2003 Forest Service completes first National Report on Sustainable Forests based upon C&I
- 2003 NASF releases Stewardship Guide using C&I as framework
- 2009 Roundtable contributes to draft chapters for the 2010 National Report
- 2011 USFS publishes the 2010 National Report

Recent Roundtable Events

2008

- **February, Knoxville, TN**
non-wood forest products and climate change
- **May, Manhattan, KS**
landscape level challenges; use of web based tools to access data; status of work on three new indicators; and revenue from forest based environmental services

2009

- **Feb-March, Denver, CO , Athens, GA and Washington, DC**
Workshops to review National draft report
- **October, Washington, DC**
National Meeting – Action Strategy for the Future
- **December, Arlington, VA**
Integrating C&I efforts of the Forest, Water, and Rangelands Roundtables

2010

- **November, Washington, DC, RSF Core Group**
Transitioning to the Future: Reflection and Direction

2011

- **RSF Prepared Rollout Strategy for the 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests**
- **February – March, RSF, Core Group and Communications and Outreach Work Group**
developed a rollout plan for the 2010 National Report, focusing on relationship with RSF Sustainable Forests Action Strategy
- **June, Washington, DC National Meeting** *Are America's Forests Sustainable? Status, Challenges and Our Next Steps*
- **Built on momentum and energy around the 2011 International Year of Forests**
Brought stakeholders together to:
 - contribute to the dialogue on sustainability of the Nation's forests with public and private forest sector leaders
 - identify priority challenges to sustaining the Nation's forests
 - build agreement and commitment on priority action strategies to sustain of our forests
 - inform the direction and future work of the RSF.

RSF's Stakeholder Sustainable Forests Action Strategy (SFAS)

- **9-point Action Strategy to address trends that threaten the sustainability of our Nation's forests.**
- **Comparing data from the 2003 & 2010 National Reports, the Strategy concludes there had been a substantial decline in the health of the nation's forests over the past 10 years.**
- **Conversion of forests to non-forest uses and declining investments in forestry and wood products are major concerns.**
- **Action Strategy proposed to stimulate action on these trends.**
- **RSF urges stakeholders to work together to achieve goals**

Access the 2009 Sustainable Forests Action Strategy at:
<http://www.sustainableforests.net/docs/SFAS.Final.mgb.1.pdf>

Engaging Stakeholders in the Development of the National Reports on Sustainable Forests

- National Reports were completed in 2003 and 2010 (published June 2011)
- The RSF organized and supported stakeholder discussion on the content and meaning of the reports



RSF National Meeting, December 2007 in Baltimore County, MD

Preparing the 2015 National Report

- Implementing the 2012-14 Work Plan -

- **Continue to disseminate information & messages from the 2003 & 2010 National Reports**
- **Broaden participation and dialogue around to the 2015 National Report to a more diverse set of stakeholders**
- **Update and improve web presence, communications tools & social networks**
- **Use the Roundtable website to support the preparation and content of the 2015 National Report**
- **Organize webinars to generate ideas**

How Can You Get Involved?



- Participate in RSF meeting April 2 -- in person or conference call
- Participate in electronic collaborative process - review, comment on documents, complete surveys
- Express your interest in sustainable forests to others who might wish to participate
- Join the RSF mailing lists and share your perspectives and experiences
- Join webinars to be scheduled in 2013-14