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# Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy, 2009 Presentation

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Maine Department of Conservation

Maine Forest Service

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# Maine's Statewide Forest Assessment and Strategy



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22 December 2009

# The Farm Bill (Title VIII) Requires

State Foresters to develop and submit:

- “State-wide assessment of forest resource conditions”
- “A long-term State-wide forest resource strategy”
- “Annual report on use of funds”

**Identify priorities and foster greater leveraging of resources to address them.**

- Complete by June 2010 to remain eligible to receive Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act funds

## 3 National Themes

- Conserve working forest landscapes
- Protect forests from harm
- Enhance public benefits from trees and forests

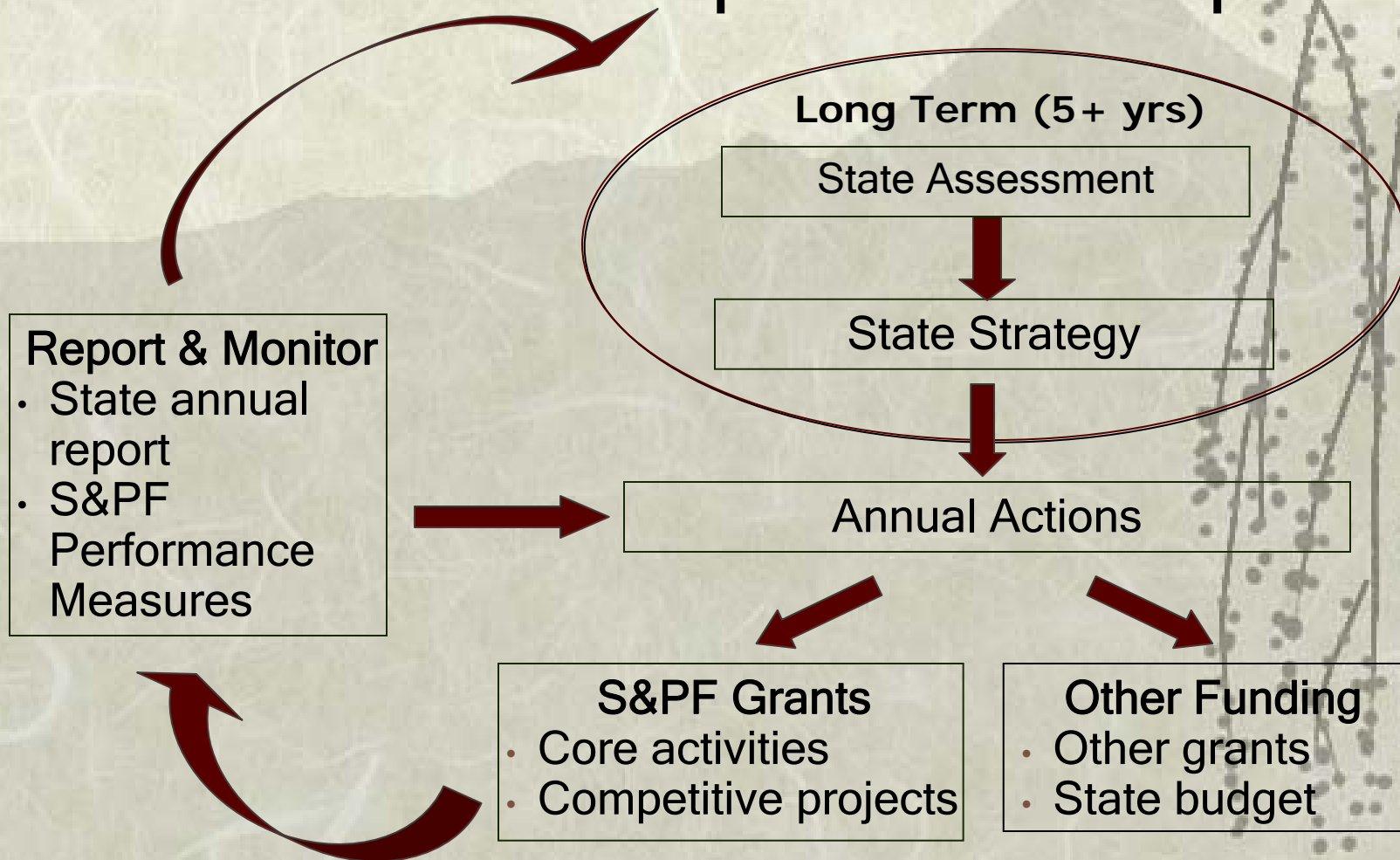
## State Assessment: Identify Key Issues & Areas

- Analysis of present and future forest conditions and trends on all ownerships
- Identify threats, benefits, and services
- Consistent with the S&PF national themes
- Delineate priority landscape areas
- Identify multi-state areas

## State Strategy: A Plan to Address Priorities

- Long-term strategies to address priorities
- How will invest Federal and other resources
- Timeline for implementation
- ID partner and stakeholder involvement
- How will monitor outcomes and revise action
- How will accomplish S&PF national objectives
- How S&PF programs will be used
- Incorporate existing plans

# Assess–Plan–Implement–Adapt





# Stakeholder Collaboration

States must consult with stakeholders and consult existing plans to:

- Build upon and complement other efforts
- Identify opportunities for coordination
- Leverage resources for implementation



# Preliminary Issues List - 1

- Keeping Forests as Forests
  - Parcelization and conversion
  - Reaching family forest owners
  - Payments for ecosystem services
  - Investor ownerships
  - Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, etc.)
- Maintaining a diverse, robust forest products industry
- Loggers and truckers - Maintaining the financial viability of the logging and trucking community

## Preliminary Issues List - 2

- Capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution
- Invasive plants, animals, diseases
- Predicting future forest conditions and wood supplies
- Climate change
- Changing demands on the forest - biofuels, biomass
- Drinking water supply protection
- Raising the level of acceptance and value for the entire forestry profession.

# Web Survey Results - General Info

- 274 people completed at least some of the survey.
- 87% identified themselves as Maine residents.
- 63% identified themselves as Maine landowners.
- Self-identified characteristics
  - 56.7% citizen interested in conservation in Maine
  - 35.9% forester
  - 20.4% person working in forest industry
  - 15.9% government employee
  - 14.8% educator
  - 9.3% person working for conservation organization
  - 8.9% absentee forestland owner
  - 8.5% person working for NGO
  - 7.4% land trust
  - 5.2% logger

# Web Survey Results

Percent respondents ranking issue as High Concern	
Issue	Percent
Maintaining a diverse, robust forest products industry	77.9%
The spread and control of invasive plants, insects, animals, diseases	71.9%
Maintaining the capacity of the Maine Forest Service as an institution to serve the citizens of Maine	70.2%
Maintaining the financial viability of Maine's logging and trucking community	70.0%
Need for public education about forests	69.3%
Informing family forest owners of the benefits of sustainable forest management	65.9%
Parcelization and conversion of forestland to other uses (e.g. development, homes, agriculture)	64.9%
Continued reduction of federal and state funding for stewardship cost-sharing practices, community forestry grants, and forestry education and outreach.	55.0%
Conservation of forests for clean drinking water supplies	53.8%
Changing market demands for forest products – biofuels, biomass, pulp, sawtimber, etc.	51.6%
Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment management organizations, etc.)	50.6%
Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, Forest Legacy, etc.)	50.6%

# Web Survey Results

Percent respondents ranking issue as Low Concern	
Issue	Percent
Threat of forest land or property loss due to forest fire.	42.9%
Climate change impacts on forestlands	23.7%
Need for healthy trees and woodlands in urban and community areas, including towns parks, streets and yard trees.	15.9%
Encouraging public investment in forestlands (Town forests, land trusts, Forest Legacy, etc.)	14.6%
Payments for ecosystem services (watershed protection, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, etc.)	12.6%
Changes in forestland ownership (divestment of industrial/large landownerships to real estate investment trusts, timber investment management organizations, etc.)	11.1%



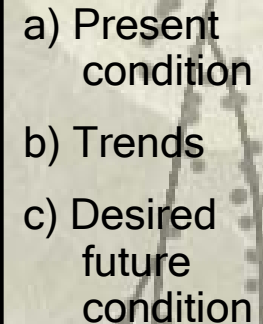
# State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

## I. Executive Summary

## II. Introduction

## III. State Forest Assessment

1. Forest Conditions and Trends
2. Criterion 1: Conservation of biological diversity
3. Criterion 2: Maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems
4. Criterion 3: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality
5. Criterion 4: Conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources
6. Criterion 5: Maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles
7. Criterion 6: Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socioeconomic benefits to meet the needs of societies
8. Criterion 7: Legal, institutional, and economic framework for forest conservation and sustainable management

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- a) Present condition
  - b) Trends
  - c) Desired future condition

# State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

## III. State Forest Assessment

- A. Existing and Emerging Benefits and Services
- B. Issues, Threats, and Opportunities
- C. Priority Landscape Areas
  - 1. Urban
  - 2. Interface
  - 3. Rural/large parcels
  - 4. Multi-state
  - 5. Forest Legacy Assessment of Need
- E. Summary
- F. Appendices



# State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

## IV. State Strategy

- A. Outline long-term strategies for addressing priority landscapes identified in the State Assessment and the national themes and associated management objectives.
- B. Describe how the state proposes to invest federal funding, along with other resources, to address state, regional, and national forest management priorities.
- C. Include a long-term timeline for project and program implementation.
- D. Identify partner and stakeholder involvement.

# State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Outline

## IV. State Strategy

- E. Identify strategies for monitoring outcomes within priority forest landscape areas and how action will be revised when needed.
- F. Describe how the state's proposed activities will accomplish national S&PF program objectives and respond to specified performance measures and indicators.
- G. Describe how State and Private Forestry programs will be used to address priority landscape and management objectives.
- H. Incorporate existing statewide plans including Wildlife Action Plans, community wildfire protection plans, and address existing S&PF program planning requirements.

# Priority Forest Areas

1. Stewardship Analysis Project
2. Conservation Priorities (from State Wildlife Action Plan)
3. Forest Legacy Assessment of Need

## State Forest Assessment and Strategy - Timeline

15 December: Web survey closes

22 December: Initial meetings  
w/stakeholders - lay out process, discuss  
issues

February: Followup meetings w/interested  
parties on specific issues

Late March/early April: Draft out for review  
by stakeholders, DFO

Mid-May: Near final draft for DFO review

18 June 2010: Deadline for submission of  
SFAS to USDA

# Questions?

## Contact Information

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# State & Private Forestry National Themes & Objectives

## **1. Conserve Working Forest Landscapes**

- 1.1. Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes
- 1.2. Actively and sustainably manage forests

## **2. Protect Forests from Harm**

- 2.1. Restore fire-adapted lands and reduce risk of wildfire impacts
- 2.2. Identify, manage, and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health

## **3. Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests**

- 3.1. Protect and enhance water quality and quantity
- 3.2. Improve air quality and conserve energy
- 3.3. Assist communities in planning for and reducing wildfire risks
- 3.4. Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests
- 3.5. Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat
- 3.6. Connect people to trees and forests, and engage them in environmental stewardship activities
- 3.7. Manage and restore trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to global climate change