

Modernizing the Forest Stewardship Program

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Connecting Forestry to People

Agenda

- ◉ Why is the program changing?
- ◉ Modernization goals
- ◉ Proposed allocation formula
- ◉ Performance element changes
- ◉ Proposed implementation timeline
- ◉ How this may impact Maine
- ◉ Q & A

Changed Landscape

- **USDA Forest Service**
 - State & Private Forestry
 - Northeastern Area (NA)
 - National Forest System
 - Region 9 -Eastern Region
- **20 State area – Maine to Maryland, Minnesota to Missouri**
- **Move NA headquarters from Newtown Square Pennsylvania to Milwaukee Wisconsin.**
- **Merge NA under R9 Eastern Region**



United States
Department
of Agriculture
Forest Service
FS-758
Revised
May 2011



The Principal Laws Relating to USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs

- The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, As Amended Through 2008
- Economic Action and Rural Development Program Authorities
- Forest Products Conservation and Recycling Program Authorities
- Watershed Restoration and Enhancement (Wyden Amendment)
- Biomass Commercial Utilization Grant Authorities
- Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Authorities

Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines



Revised
October 2015

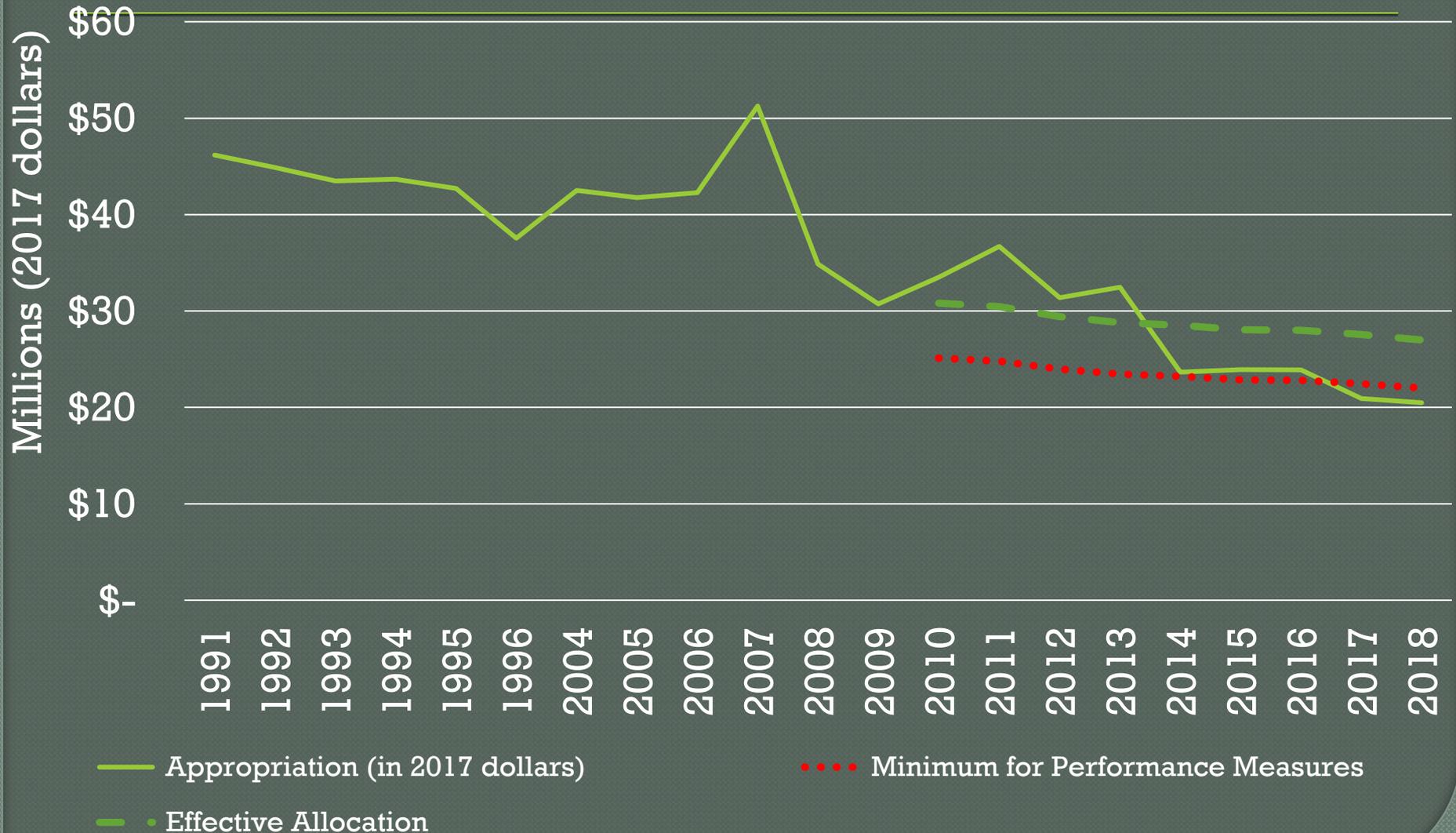


USDA Forest Service
State & Private Forestry
Cooperative Forestry

Successes of the Forest Stewardship Program

- Served as the primary, most extensive private forest owner assistance program in the U.S., both in reach and scope;
- Successfully created and sustained a vast, **effective network of forestry technical assistance providers and programs**;
- Providing more than **200,000 comprehensive management plans covering more than 25.8 million acres nationwide**;
- Reached millions of forest landowners through various education and technical assistance programs;
- Established lasting **partnerships with state foresters**, conservation districts and other partners to encourage broader forest landowner participation in USDA conservation programs;
- **Provided private sector jobs for consulting foresters** who write management plans and help landowners achieve their unique land management goals.

Program Appropriations over Time



Senate Marks

“The Committee recommends the Service consider developing **outcome-based** reporting for this program and urges the Service to reevaluate whether allocating program funding using the current allocation formula is the most effective use of program resources.”

Modernization goals

- Focus: water, wildlife, fire and jobs
- Priority areas (50% of total eligible lands)
- Maximize technical assistance
- Leverage partnerships
- National & regional accomplishments demonstrate program success



Current vs. Proposed Allocation Formula

Current	Proposed
Base funding - \$100,000/state	Base funding - \$100,000/state
Potential (55%)	Potential (40%)
27.5% # of NIPF with >10 ac	20% # of NIPF with >10 ac
27.5% # of NIPF acres >10 ac	20% # of NIPF acres >10 ac
Performance (45%)	Performance (60%)
15% Total acres under current FSP plans	10% All active management plan acres in priority areas
15% Acres in priority areas	10% All active management plan acres in non-priority areas
15% Current managed FSP plan acres in priority areas	30% Implemented plan acres in priority areas
	5% Implemented plan acres in non-priority areas
	5% Landowner ed/assistance-state

Current vs. Proposed Accomplishment Metrics

Current	Proposed	Metric
	X	# of landowners assisted (statewide)
	X	# of landowners educated (statewide)
X		Priority area – base NIPF acres in priority areas
X	X	Current FSP plan acres
X	X	Current FSP plan acres in priority area(s)
	X	EQIP cost share acres
	X	Other plan acres
	X	Other plan acres in priority area(s)
	X	Landscape plan acres
	X	Landscape plan acres in priority areas
	X	Implemented plan acres
	X	Implemented plan acres in priority area(s)

Proposed timeline

Date	Goal
April/June August 2020	States submit revised FSP priority areas
Spring/Summer/Fall	FS revises SMARTar, accomplishment reporting instructions, and national guidelines.
Spring/Summer/Fall	States begin collecting implemented activities during plan monitoring
September	Implemented acres – optional SMARTar reporting
Oct 2020	Full implementation of new guidelines and reporting instructions. Proposed allocation formula used to calculate FY21 regional allocations

Forest Stewardship Program

Devil in the details

How will;

- Maine determine the Priority Area?
 - Is 50% of eligible lands enough?
- ME keep all expenditures within the priority Area?
- The new monitoring efforts be implemented?
 - Activities (Keeping Forests as Forests)
 - Metrics (What level of detail)
 - Landowner education and technical assistance
- The new metrics fit into the NASF effort to develop Performance Measures

Forest Stewardship Program

Maine Funding over time

FFY15	\$128,300
FFY16	\$128,900
FFY17	\$183,200
FFY18	\$163,174
FFY19	\$163,300
FFY20	\$185,100

Landscape Scale Restoration Grants

○ State Strategies and Assessments-State Forest Action Plan (FAP) (2008)

○ National Themes:

- Focus on rural landscapes,
- Reduce risk of wildfire
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve water quality
- Mitigate impacts of invasives and diseases
- Improve important forest ecosystems

○ ~~October~~ September 17 deadline

○ <https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/working-with-us/grants/landscape-scale-restoration-grants>

Questions?
