



WFLC Issue Brief Strategic Business Planning - Peer Exchange September 1, 2005

Summary: A US Forest Service Strategic Business Planning (SBP) peer exchange was held in Portland, OR the week of August 1, 2005. This meeting was to help move the Forest Service toward a fully integrated, performance-based management system - as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and the President's Management Agenda. SBP provides criteria and a template for making day-to-day and/or long-term organizational decisions/evaluations. The goal of the meeting was to develop a common understanding of SBP core elements; including performance budgeting, budget formulation and allocation. This issue brief is developed to raise awareness amongst the membership that **SBP will have unknown, but significant implications for out-year budgeting and regional program allocations.**

Issues addressed with Strategic Business Planning:

- ◆ Consistency among Regions/Stations/Areas (R/S/As), integrating local objectives to the FS National Strategic Plan and identifying other R/S/A priorities.
- ◆ Collaboration among Regions, Stations and Deputy Areas, ensuring program integration and focus on agency priorities.
- ◆ Integration of existing software tools, such as *WorkPlan*, with the Performance Accountability System (PAS).
- ◆ Organizational alignment to accomplish priority work with a focus on outcomes.

Meeting Outcomes: The SBP peer exchange resulted in a three-team approach focusing on priorities for SBP implementation: 1) PAS system development and implementation, 2) finalizing strategic and program level performance measures nationally, and 3) Strategic Business Planning guidance to R/S/As. Products from each team are due later this Fall with implementation expected to begin in December 2005 with issuance of the FY 08 program budget instructions. In 2006 Regions and Stations will be expected to further implement the recommendations for FY 2007 budget allocations and performance outcomes.

Next Steps for the WFLC:

1. Monitor progress of the three teams with an eye towards western input on outcomes and priorities during SBP in each Region and Station.
2. Western Regional and Research representatives should participate on teams where possible to ensure integration of Station and SPF priorities, programs and opportunities.

Implications and Opportunities: The WFLC strategic priorities align well with the USFS National Strategic Plan, <http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/strategic/fs-sp-fy04-08.pdf>. This alignment facilitates use of the emerging SBP to integrate NFS, S&PF and Research efforts at the management level (Regions and Stations). Local collaboration among State Foresters, Regions and Stations will become important for establishing priorities and performance capabilities in order to formulate budget requests, allocate appropriations, report performance and address critical issues. An opportunity exists for WFLC members to demonstrate collaboration on out-year budget formulation aligning west-wide priorities. **SBP has significant implications for out-year budgeting and regional program allocations.**

Contact: Andy Mason, Director, Alaska Region 10, 3301 "C" Street, Suite 202, Anchorage, AK 99503-3956 907-743-9452 email: amason@fs.fed.us