

**Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Forest Stewardship Project - Spatial Analysis Project / Web-DET Update
Issue Brief #2, September, 2005**

SAP; Background: In October, 2004, information on the Spatial Analysis Project was communicated via a Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Issue Brief. Please see http://www.wflccenter.org/infomaterials/issue_briefs.php. All western states and two Pacific Territories have received or requested funding. Seven western states are in full development and nine have statewide assessments (the first step in determining priorities). Please see the map at the end of the paper. A Beta-test meeting was held in Denver April 27-28, 2005 and presentations were given at the following meetings in 2005: SAF Convention, National LOA Meeting, Southern Group of State Foresters, and the Forest Resource Program Leaders.

In addition, the Forest Service Washington Office established a National SAP Steering Committee to develop a strategy for all states to participate.

Web-DET; Current Issue: Now that the western states are either in full development or have statewide assessments, a mechanism is needed to report accomplishments on a continual basis to ensure ongoing strategic program delivery. That mechanism is the Web-Based Data Entry Tool, or Web-DET, the “hand-in-glove”, that allows SAP to be a workable, applicable, accountable, and thus sustainable.

Web-DET will automatically store spatial and resource data for individual properties as Forest Stewardship plans are written. Additionally, Web-DET can track other forestry-related activities not necessarily associated with stewardship plans. Web-DET will also serve to remind field foresters and consultants when prescribed management activities are due to be carried out and store accomplishment and resource trend data over time. All of this data will be automatically fed into State, Regional and National databases so that various reporting needs are met on a continuous basis and data is always current. While Web-DET would prescribe to a minimum core set of data and management plan elements for National program and reporting purposes, individual States will be able to add data fields to accommodate unique individual or State standards and requirements. Web-DET will allow states to produce detailed maps and reports of program accomplishments at the district, state, regional, and national levels. This information will be critical to the support of our programs. Security measures have been taken to protect confidential information.

Funding and administration for the development of Web-DET is provided by the US Forest Service as an extension of the Spatial Analysis Project, with project testing being conducted by state and federal GIS and field foresters.

Concerns Addressed: As SAP was developed to identify resource rich forest areas, an issue was raised concerning the Plain States. It was suggested that since 12 core data layers are used to identify areas of high program potential, adding a layer for Agroforestry potential is feasible. The National Agroforestry Center is assisting with this.

Different trainings are needed. It was decided they be conducted on three levels:
1) informational session for the committee, 2) for those who will train the field staff and 3) training for the field staff.

Key Dates:

August 5, 2005: Regional proposals for 2006 SAP submitted, to be included in 2006 FSP Budget Direction.

March 31, 2006, Phase Roll-out begins. Web-DET online and operational for some states.

