



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
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WASHINGTON OFFICE
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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USDA NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE
P.O. Box 2890
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013

SUBJECT: National Web Conference - Joint Forestry MOU Implementation

TO: Conservation and Forestry Leaders from the:
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Forest Service (FS)


In the fall of 2008, the national leaders of our four organizations signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to strengthen cooperation and achieve coordinated interagency delivery of forestry-related assistance to private landowners. Our Joint Forestry Team is working to implement the highest priority national level actions; in particular, coordinating planning assistance and other efforts to ensure greater forest landowner participation in Farm Bill programs. At the regional and State levels, many of you are cooperating to eliminate barriers and achieve conservation results on the ground.

On Monday, May 4, 2009, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. EST, we invite you to join executives from our four organizations and the Joint Forestry Team on a national web conference. The purpose of this meeting is to share success stories from partners at the State, field, and landscape levels, and jump start further implementation of the MOU.

After the conference, we ask partners in your State to meet, discuss opportunities for enhanced cooperation, and agree to appropriate follow up actions. We recommend you discuss the 2008 Farm Bill, Recovery Act, and ways to enhance collaborative forestry-related conservation efforts in your State. Attached is the MOU, agenda, and additional information on the topics we suggest for your State partners meeting.

Our organizations cannot carry out our conservation mission alone. Collaboration and coordination is essential to ensure that we deliver our collective technical and financial resources to our customers in a way that sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of America's working lands – our forests, farms, and ranches.

We appreciate the cooperative activities you are undertaking to implement the Joint Forestry MOU, and look forward to meeting with you on May 4, 2009.



Steve Robinson
President
National Association of
Conservation Districts

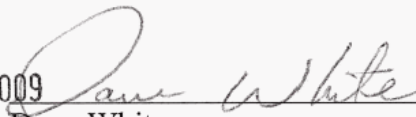


Leah W. MacSwords
President
National Association of
State Foresters



Abigail R. Kimbell
Chief
Forest Service

APR 13 2009



Dave White
Acting Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service

MAR 24 2009

Attachments

Participants Agenda
National Web Conference
Joint Forestry MOU Implementation
(NASF – NACD – NRCS - FS)
Monday, May 4, 2009 (2:30 P.M – 4:00 P.M Eastern)

To join web conference:

Dial In: 1-888-972-9680

Participant Passcode: 8225579

Note: This is an operator assisted conference. You will be in a listen-only mode until the question/comment period at the end of the conference. Both the audio and net conference will be recorded and available later for listening and viewing via the internet.

Live Meeting Information:

URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>

Conference number: SA301901

Participant passcode: 365838498

Participants can also join the event directly at:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/emeet/join/index.jsp?customHeader=mymeetings&netId=SA301901&netPass=365838498&netType=conference&acceptTerms=on>

Purpose: Bring State and regional partners together with national leaders from the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS), and U.S. Forest Service (FS) to review progress and “jump start” implementation of the national Joint Forestry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was approved by our four organizations on September 29, 2008.

Objectives:

1. Share “success stories” - examples of MOU actions that are already underway by partners at the State, field, and multi-state/landscape/watershed level.
2. Provide an update on Joint Forestry Team activities to implement national level MOU actions.
3. Encourage State partners to meet after the web conference and to agree to additional actions that “jump start” further implementation of the MOU.

Time

2:30-2:40

Topic

Welcome, introductions,
review meeting objectives

Presenter/Lead

Michelle Lohstroh, facilitator

2:40-2:45

MOU Overview

Andy Mason

Desired Outcome: Leaders briefed on the national MOU, including the five barriers and the 12 joint and 47 individual organization actions. Set stage for further discussion.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter/Lead</u>
2:45-3:00	National Leader Perspectives	Chiefs/Presidents/Executives
<i>Desired Outcome: Participants understand the importance of implementing the MOU from the leaders of NASF, NACD, NRCS, and FS.</i>		
3:00-3:35	MOU Success Stories	State/Regional/Local partners
<u>Presenters:</u>		
3:00-3:05	Alabama Joint Forestry MOU	Lead – Linda Casey, AL State Forester, with: Bill Puckett, State Conservationist; Steve Cauthen, Director, AL S&W Cons. Committee; and Roy Kendrick, President, AACD
3:05-3:10	Washington EQIP Campaign	Lead – Roylene Rides at the door, WA State Conservationist, with Chuck Turley, WA State Forester
3:10-3:15	New Mexico Shared Forester	Lead – Dennis Alexander, NM State Conservationist, with Butch Blazer, NM State Forester
3:15-3:20	Upper Mississippi Forestry MOU	Lead – Mike Prouty, St. Paul Field Office, USFS Northeastern Area
3:20-3:25	Texas Changing Roles Program	Lead – Tom Boggus, TX Acting State Forester, with Susan Baggett, NRCS
3:25-3:30	Outreach workshops to forest forest landowners in Maine and ME-NH-NY-VT “Keeping Forest In Forest” MOU	Lead – Alec Giffen, ME State Forester, with Andy Schultz, Maine Forest Service and Sally Butler, NRCS
3:30-3:35	Montana – Mutual acceptance of Forest Stewardship Plans for EQIP	Lead – Rob Ethridge, MT DNRC, with NRCS

Desired Outcome: Participants learn about diverse examples of how partners are cooperating to implement the MOU at the State, field, multi-state/landscape/watershed level.

3:35-3:45	Joint Forestry Team Update	Bruce Wight/Karl Dalla Rosa James Melonas/Andy Mason Ralph Thier
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Desired Outcome: Participants are briefed about:

- *progress by a Joint Forestry Team task group on integrating planning tools/databases/processes to improve assistance to landowners*
- *Farm Bill webinars and workshops*
- *new Joint Forestry Team website*

3:45-4:00 Questions and Comments ALL

Desired Outcome: Opportunity for participants to ask questions and comment on any of the information that was presented

4:00 ADJORN

NOTE: After the national web conference MOU partners at the State level are encouraged to meet to discuss opportunities for enhanced cooperation and to reach agreement on follow-up actions. We recommend you address these topics:

- Priority State-level Joint Forestry MOU actions to be implemented
 - How will you address the five barriers?
 - Discuss roles/functions of each organization and how to provide more seamless forestry-related conservation assistance to landowners
 - State-level MOU/agreement? If MOU/agreement exists, does it need to be revised to align with the national MOU and to implement the 2008 Farm Bill?
- 2008 Farm Bill
 - State-wide assessments and strategies for forest resources
 - State priorities for programs, application processes, ranking, etc.
 - Forest Stewardship Plans and forest management plan requirements
 - Technical Service Providers (TSP) and TSP agreements
- Multi-state/Landscape/Watershed
 - Opportunities to address conservation priorities that transcend administrative/political boundaries
 - Rapid watershed assessments
- Recovery Act
 - Opportunities for cooperation on projects?