



**BRIEFING SHEET: CSFS/CFRI STATEWIDE REGIONAL FOCUS GROUPS FOR
Colorado Statewide Forest Resource Assessment Project**

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PURPOSE AND NEED

With increasingly constrained budgets, there is a need to invest scarce financial resources in forestry projects that address the greatest areas of need and contribute to a clear public interest. To this end, the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) has completed a Statewide Forest Resource Assessment to identify areas of need across Colorado. An accompanying Statewide Forest Resource Strategy will identify how to accomplish the work to address these needs in Colorado. The Strategy will focus on non-federal forests lands and opportunities to coordinate stewardship activities across federal and non-federal ownership boundaries, while fully respecting private property rights.

The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) at Colorado State University is assisting the CSFS to conduct a series of regional Strategy Focus Group discussions in March and April 2010. The purposes of the regional strategy discussions are to:

- 1) Initiate dialogue on how to address areas of need identified in the Assessment on non-federal forest landscapes and issues that cross non-federal and federal boundaries.
- 2) Identify which areas of need on non-federal forest lands and issues that cross non-federal and federal boundaries are already being addressed through existing plans, strategies, partnerships, or projects
- 3) Identify which areas of need on non-federal forest lands and issues that cross non-federal and federal boundaries are not being addressed

The information generated from the regional discussions will be incorporated by the CSFS into a Strategy document. The completed Strategy will identify opportunities for investing state, federal, and other resources to manage priority landscapes articulated in the assessment, focusing on landscapes where federal investment can most effectively stimulate or leverage desired action and engage multiple partners.

For more information about the Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy, see http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/state_assess_strategies.pdf

REGIONAL FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute will conduct a series of regional forest strategy discussions around Colorado. A list of discussion locations is as follows:

Fort Collins (Northern Front Range)	– Thursday, March 11, 2010
Steamboat Springs (Northwest Colorado)	– Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Durango (Southwest)	– Tuesday, March 23, 2010
Glenwood Springs (Mountain Central)	– Wednesday, March 31, 2010
Alamosa/Salida (South Central and SLV)	– Tuesday, April 6, 2010
Colorado Springs (Southern Front Range)	– Thursday, April 8, 2010

PROCESS FEATURES

Regional strategy discussions will be co-convened and facilitated by CFRI in coordination with local partners. Discussion are intended to be highly focused, efficient events that concentrate on a core set of questions regarding areas of need and strategies/processes to address these needs. The outcome is a set of forest-related needs, current strategies to address identified needs, and opportunities to enhance existing strategies or build new strategies.

The discussions will not be forums for airing grievances or delve into the details of specific projects or management prescriptions (tactics vs. strategies). The discussions are open invitation, although there will be efforts to actively solicit the participation of individuals and organizations that represent a broad range of perspectives and possess a high degree of knowledge, experience, and interest in forestry issues. Discussion facilitators will be unbiased and are charged with ensuring the process is open, transparent, fair, and efficient, and that all individuals' perspectives pertaining to the topic at hand are reflected in the outcomes of the discussions.

All discussion notes and summary reports will be distributed to participants and posted on the CSFS website (<http://csfs.colostate.edu>).

Prior to the strategy discussions, CFRI will compile and distribute a packet of materials providing background information from the Assessment, Statewide Forest Resource strategy guidance, and a clearly defined description of how the strategy discussion outcomes will be used by the CSFS.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Strategy discussions will be organized around the following general framing questions:

- 1) What are the data gaps and what are the opportunities to fill those gaps?**
- 2) Does the Assessment and resulting priority themes resonate with your understanding of the forest values and stewardship potential at the State level?**

3) How does the work you are currently doing in your local region fit into these Statewide priority themes? Non-federal and across jurisdictional boundaries?

4) If you have received CSFS funds, how might these funds be structured/managed in a way that would allow you, your partners, or organizations and agencies directly involved in forest stewardship and be more effective and efficient?

DELIVERABLES

- Reports summarizing regional discussions, priorities, resource needs, and recommended strategies will be distributed to discussion participants and posted on CFRI's website
- The final report summarizing areas of need, current strategies, and recommendations for further strategies will be provided to the CSFS.

CSFS will consider all the information compiled by CFRI in completing the final strategy.

TIMELINE

February 2010: CFRI will organize, prepare, for the regional focus groups. We will also develop an Executive Summary of the *Colorado Statewide Forest Resource Assessment*.

March 9 – April 8, 2010: CFRI will convene, facilitate, and write-up notes for the regional discussion groups. Post notes on the CSFS website.

April 9 – May 15, 2010: CFRI will complete and distribute regional strategy discussion reports, prepare draft summary report. Post on website and ask for comments due May 31, 2010

June 15, 2010: CFRI will deliver final report to the CSFS.