



U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program



The New Normal

May 12, 2014
Salt Lake City, Utah



2010 Chattanooga





2012 Chicago



SoV Photography



Forest Legacy Program Conservation Excellence



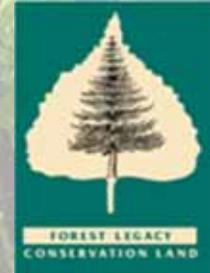
- **2007 Ann Price-UT**
- **2008 Susan Francher-NH**
- **2009 Mike Fleming-MA**
- **2010 Emily Cope-SC**
- **2011 Kerry Wieber-MI**
- **2012 Larry Mikkelsen-VA**
- **2013 We'll find out tomorrow**



Sci Photography



Others in the news



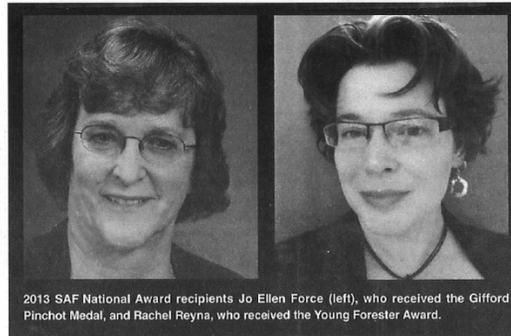
The Forestry Source

News for forest resource professionals published by the Society of American Foresters

March 2014 • Vol. 19, No. 3

SOCIETY AFFAIRS:

Talking with Award Winners Jo Ellen Force and Rachel Reyna



2013 SAF National Award recipients Jo Ellen Force (left), who received the Gifford Pinchot Medal, and Rachel Reyna, who received the Young Forester Award.



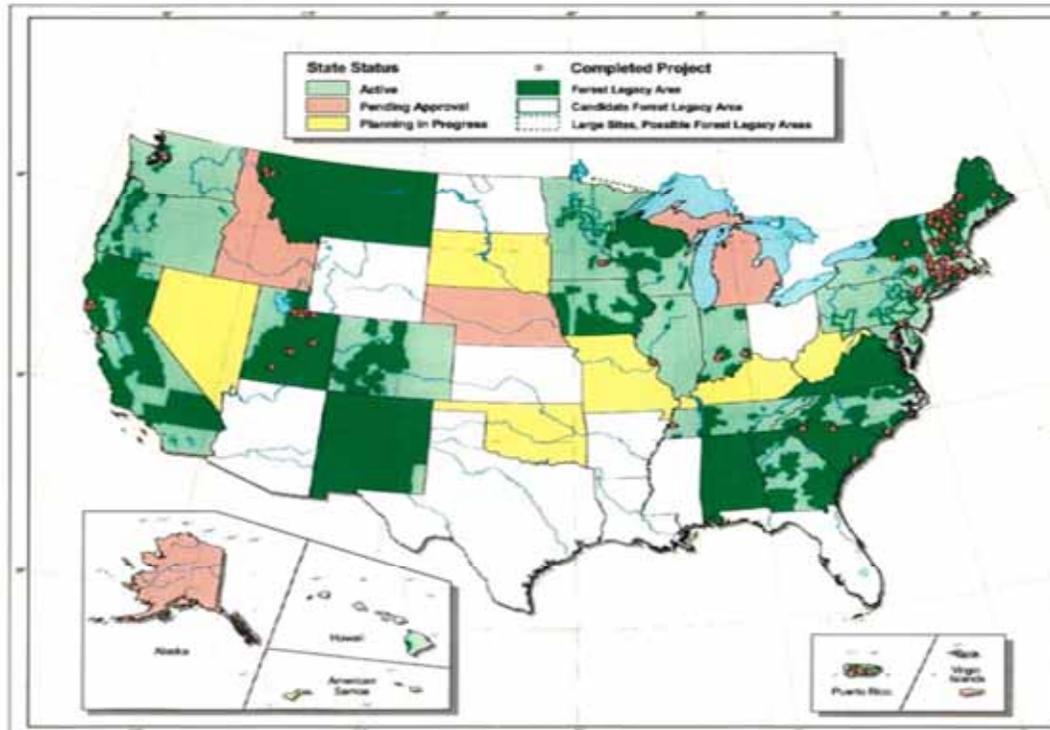
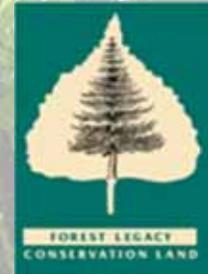
Two Chiefs' Award



Randy Moore (right), Regional Forester of the Pacific Southwest Region, presented the USDA's prestigious Two Chiefs' Award to M. Irene Sprecher of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, Jan. 13.



At the end of FY 2002



Forest Legacy Program Status Across the United States

...conserving valuable, beautiful forests...forever.

Summary of Completed Projects as of 9/30/02

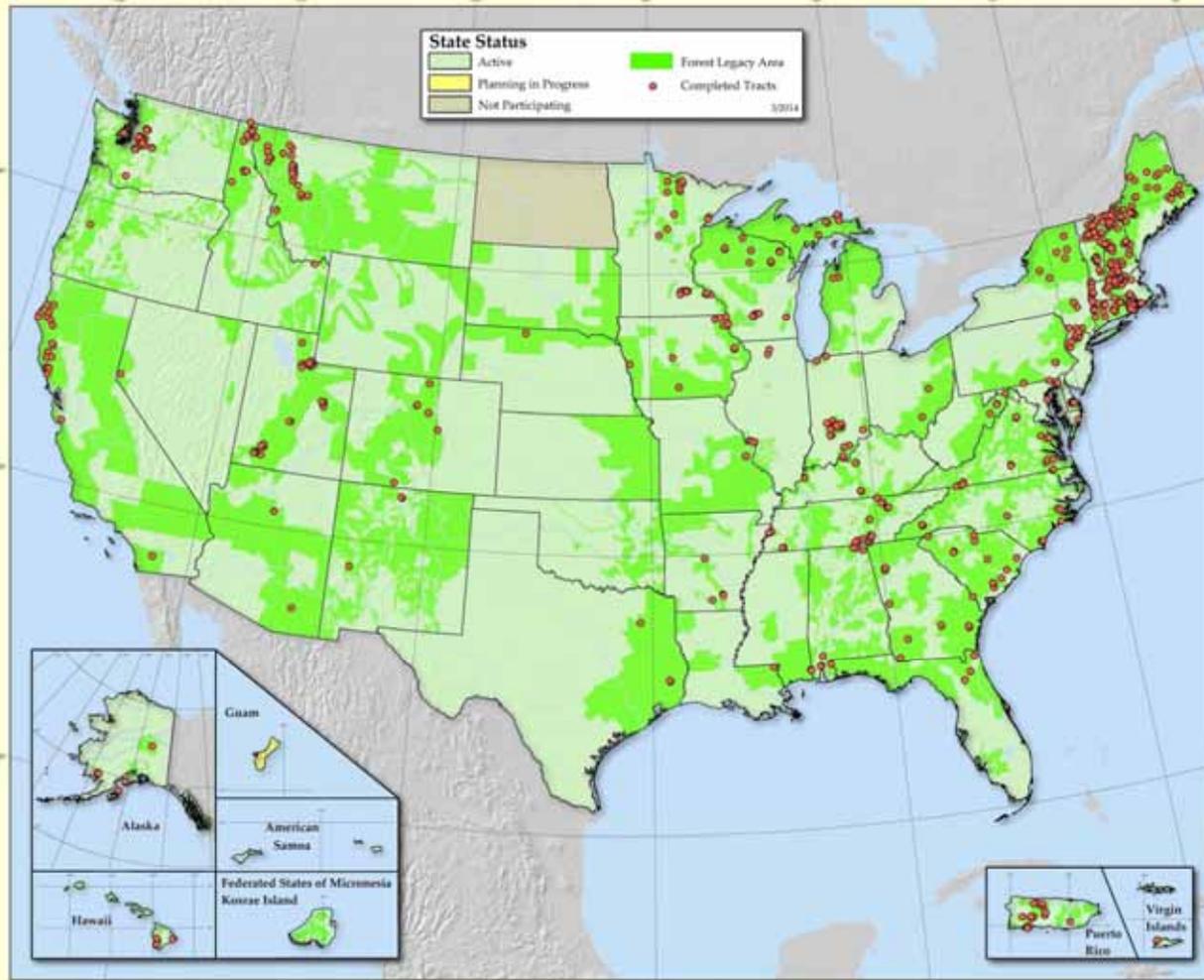
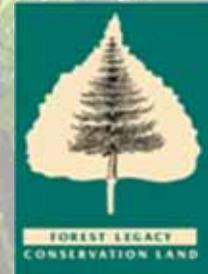
State	Reassessment of Need Approval Date	Number of Projects	Total Acres	Total Value of Rights Acquired	Forest Legacy Payment
Alabama	March 22, 2001	--	--	--	--
California	January 22, 1999	--	--	--	--
Completed	January 22, 2001	2	2,842	\$4,122,000	\$101,000
Colorado	March 22, 2001	--	--	--	--
Completed	October 26, 1994	12	1,261	\$2,271,000	\$260,000
Connecticut	December 22, 1999	--	--	--	--
Georgia	March 22, 2001	--	--	--	--
Idaho	November 25, 1994	--	--	--	--
Illinois	November 25, 1994	2	142	\$116,000	\$400,000
Indiana	December 22, 1999	2	1,282	\$126,000	\$412,000
Iowa	May 7, 2002	--	--	--	--
Maine	March 22, 1999	6	22,192	\$1,212,000	\$2,041,000
Maryland	January 22, 1999	4	994	\$1,225,000	\$500,000
Massachusetts	August 9, 1993	--	--	--	--
Completed	January 12, 2001	14	2,422	\$3,873,000	\$1,200,000
Minnesota	February 2, 2000	2	226	\$600,000	\$260,000
Missouri	February 22, 2002	2	\$1,820	\$22,124,000	\$12,200,000
New Hampshire	February 11, 1994	--	--	--	--
Completed	February 26, 2002	10	27,264	\$12,276,000	\$1,000,000
New Jersey	October 26, 1994	4	2,242	\$12,144,000	\$1,000,000
New Mexico	March 22, 2001	--	--	--	--
New York	October 26, 1994	--	--	--	--
Completed	December 12, 1999	6	1,262	\$4,222,000	\$2,000,000
North Carolina	February 22, 2002	2	2,242	\$1,200,000	\$2,000,000
Oregon	March 22, 2001	--	--	--	--
Pennsylvania	May 7, 2002	--	--	--	--
Puerto Rico	October 26, 1994	6	1,462	\$1,212,000	\$700,000
South Carolina	December 22, 1999	6	812	\$2,202,000	\$1,400,000
South Dakota	February 1, 2000	2	6,222	\$2,202,000	\$2,012,000
Tennessee	February 2, 2000	4	6,222	\$2,202,000	\$2,000,000
Utah	February 22, 1999	14	22,222	\$2,202,000	\$2,000,000
Vermont	February 11, 1994	11	22,222	\$2,202,000	\$2,202,000
Virginia	January 12, 2001	--	--	--	--
Washington	October 26, 1994	11	2,222	\$2,202,000	\$2,000,000
Wisconsin	January 12, 2001	--	--	--	--
Total		62	26,222	\$24,222,000	\$2,202,000

* The "Total Value" may not reflect the complete cost where projects include State funding in the 22,222,000 figure for total value.

Map produced by USDA Forest Service, Durham, NH (11/1992)



End of FY 2013



Forest Legacy Program Status

Summary of Completed Tracts as of 9/30/13

State	Assessment of Need Approval Date	Number of Tracts	Total Acres	Total Project Costs*	Forest Legacy Contribution
Alabama	March 22, 2002	8	13,819	\$ 20,964,467	\$ 11,614,688
Alaska	November 1, 2002	7	4,928	\$ 5,686,595	\$ 2,841,431
American Samoa	January 23, 2004	--	--	--	--
Arizona	August 5, 2005	8	6,707	\$ 2,119,836	\$ 1,579,458
Arkansas	February 15, 2006	4	18,916	\$ 23,142,871	\$ 8,958,000
California	January 22, 1996	21	66,186	\$ 64,340,061	\$ 15,244,876
Colorado	March 22, 2002	6	15,218	\$ 24,667,003	\$ 14,546,000
Connecticut	October 26, 1994	30	8,125	\$ 20,121,888	\$ 8,385,820
Delaware	December 10, 1998	8	2,764	\$ 23,931,903	\$ 14,090,000
Federated States of Micronesia	August 20, 2010	--	--	--	--
Florida	April 11, 2005	3	5,854	\$ 30,954,112	\$ 8,043,000
Georgia	March 22, 2002	15	33,029	\$ 93,149,686	\$ 20,805,057
Hawaii	November 29, 1994	7	46,555	\$ 58,476,985	\$ 11,528,000
Idaho	November 1, 2002	13	62,585	\$ 27,184,941	\$ 18,466,607
Illinois	November 29, 1994	10	558	\$ 1,429,784	\$ 2,516,858
Indiana	December 10, 1998	25	8,485	\$ 13,165,926	\$ 9,920,450
Iowa	March 7, 2002	11	1,986	\$ 2,906,944	\$ 1,684,681
Kansas	August 20, 2010	--	--	--	--
Kentucky	December 3, 2003	9	10,220	\$ 30,358,280	\$ 13,185,636
Louisiana	November 18, 2008	1	182	\$ 455,000	\$ 341,250
Maine	March 18, 1994	29	722,157	\$ 133,887,324	\$ 65,771,496
Maryland	January 22, 1996	9	2,924	\$ 7,844,164	\$ 4,613,000
Massachusetts	August 5, 1993	90	14,472	\$ 42,916,631	\$ 25,406,129
Michigan	February 20, 2004	9	153,917	\$ 36,125,656	\$ 14,462,392
Minnesota	February 29, 2000	34	145,865	\$ 37,443,222	\$ 15,950,950
Mississippi	December 3, 2007	2	568	\$ 510,000	\$ 310,000
Missouri	August 5, 2005	2	583	\$ 4,760,180	\$ 2,000,000
Montana	February 29, 2000	84	226,583	\$ 116,364,659	\$ 52,310,531
Nebraska	March 30, 2004	1	130	\$ 642,904	\$ 382,904
Nevada	April 11, 2005	1	111	\$ 585,000	\$ 418,000
New Hampshire	February 11, 1994	50	222,391	\$ 57,516,143	\$ 36,568,078
New Jersey	October 26, 1994	13	6,510	\$ 47,735,417	\$ 13,083,000
New Mexico	March 22, 2002	4	8,515	\$ 6,506,344	\$ 4,248,044
New York	October 26, 1994	13	135,820	\$ 34,264,824	\$ 12,060,400
North Carolina	February 29, 2000	10	8,106	\$ 23,641,284	\$ 10,980,269
Ohio	August 5, 2005	2	7,402	\$ 8,046,131	\$ 5,398,000
Oklahoma	August 20, 2010	--	--	--	--
Oregon	March 22, 2002	1	25	\$ 795,197	\$ 460,000
Pennsylvania	March 7, 2002	4	4,422	\$ 11,785,633	\$ 6,515,833
Puerto Rico	October 30, 1997	19	2,857	\$ 4,781,358	\$ 2,387,400
Rhode Island	December 30, 1993	22	3,583	\$ 22,495,895	\$ 8,107,900
South Carolina	February 7, 2000	13	73,866	\$ 127,229,949	\$ 36,482,467
South Dakota	November 2, 2009	--	--	--	--
Tennessee	February 7, 2000	24	45,013	\$ 40,256,275	\$ 28,489,607
Texas	December 29, 2004	3	13,636	\$ 5,471,000	\$ 3,855,250
U.S. Virgin Islands	June 20, 2003	2	76	\$ 1,158,667	\$ 669,000
Utah	February 27, 1997	37	74,355	\$ 66,493,051	\$ 30,480,363
Vermont	February 11, 1994	85	60,116	\$ 34,034,394	\$ 22,945,894
Virginia	January 16, 2001	19	13,947	\$ 19,920,000	\$ 12,725,250
Washington	October 26, 1994	40	41,763	\$ 62,412,671	\$ 27,476,179
West Virginia	December 2, 2003	4	3,791	\$ 5,761,124	\$ 3,205,343
Wisconsin	January 16, 2001	39	89,271	\$ 45,133,704	\$ 21,598,000
Wyoming	November 2, 2009	--	--	--	--
TOTAL		765	2,377,545	\$ 1,454,630,000	\$ 635,317,688

* The Total Project Costs are subject to the availability and amount of Federal Fiscal Year-to-Year Discretionary Authority. Source: USDA Forest Service.



Going on 25 years...



So far we have protected...

2,390,928

\$641,771,356 FLP Funds

\$1,448,692,805 Total Value of Interests





FY2014 Budget



- **President's Budget: \$84,800,000**
- **Enacted: \$50,965,000**
 - \$6,400,000 administration
 - 14 Projects (from 11 States)
 - 58 project applications
 - total request \$154,000,000





FY2015 Budget



- **President's Budget: \$100,000,000**
 - \$53,000,000 Discretionary \$47,000,000 Mandatory
 - \$6,400,000 administration
 - 44 Projects
 - 58 Project applications
 - total request \$156,000,000





Discretionary/Mandatory



Why is the 2014 list divided between discretionary and mandatory and what does that mean?

Or

“I thought I knew what those words meant.”





Discretionary? Mandatory?



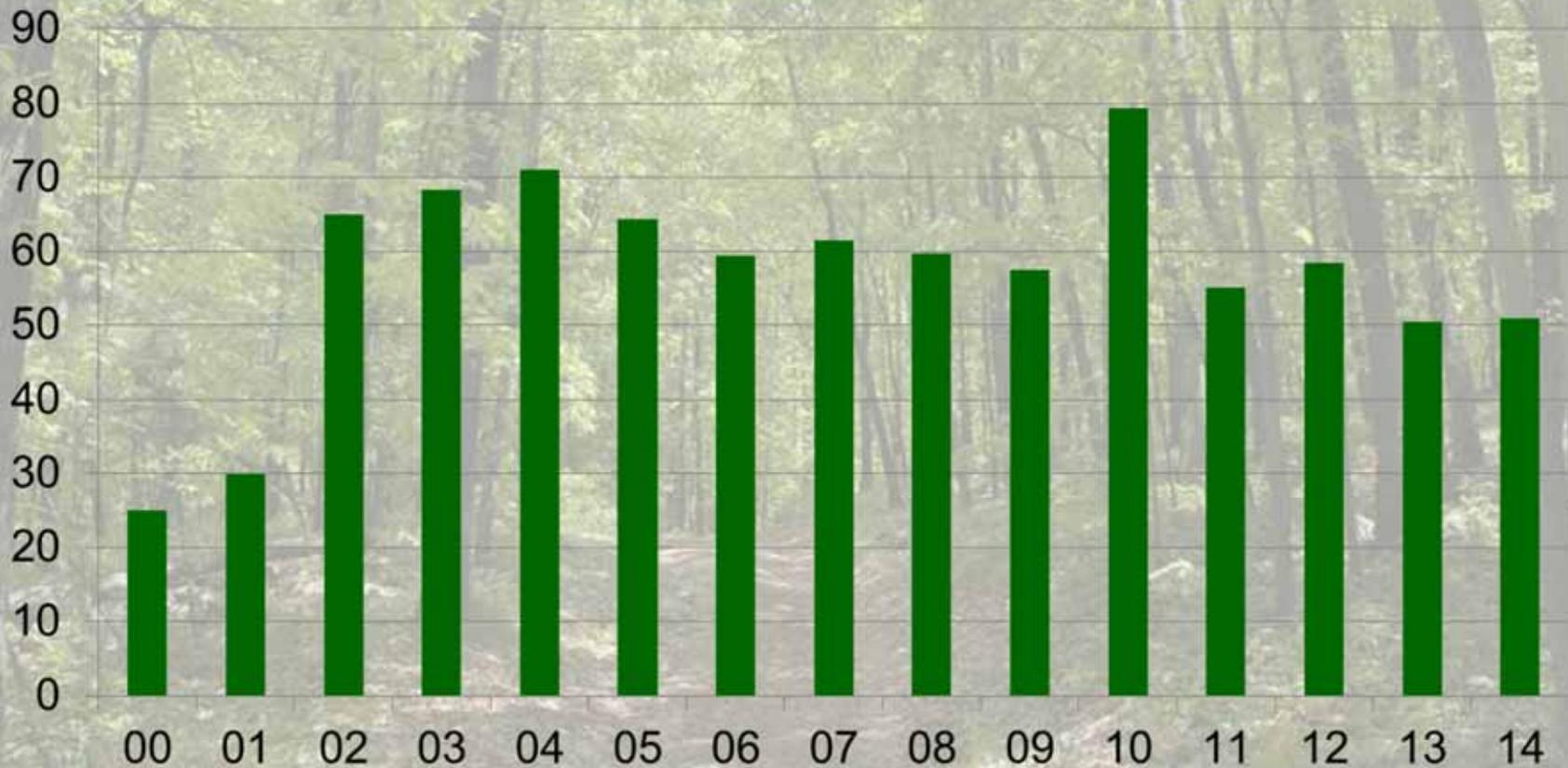
- **Apportioned by OMB.**
- **Authorized by Congress but is not appropriated.**
- **Does not count against agency cap provided by Appropriations Committee.**
- **Mandatory funding does not have to be offset by reductions elsewhere in budget.**



FLP Funding History



Funding in Millions





Recent (ongoing) Developments



- **Farmbill was resolved.**
- **House Legislation to allow land trusts to hold conservation easements introduced May 1st. Referred to Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy and Forestry May 6th.**
- **Land and Water Conservation fund authority expires in 2015.**
- **Updated Implementation Guidelines being developed.**



Developments Continued



- **New OMB Circulars for Grants.**
- **New Cooperative Forestry Director**
- **National project selection panel change: 2 States will be added.**
 - **6 State (2 Northeast, 2 South, 2 West)**
 - **6 Forest Service**



Discussion





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the Chief
Financial Officer

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW

Washington, DC
20250



March 14, 2013

TO: Thelma Strong
Agency Audit Liaison Official
Forest Service

FROM: Ava Lee, Director 
Planning and Accountability Division

SUBJECT: Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program
Report No. 08601-56-SF (Recommendation 7)

Based on the Forest Service's memorandum dated October 12, 2012, and the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) memorandum dated March 13, 2013, we accept final action on Recommendation 7 in the subject audit. With this action, final action has been achieved on the subject audit in its entirety. No further reporting to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) is necessary on this recommendation. However, OCFO and OIG reserve the right to perform follow-up reviews of the actions taken.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Lennetta Elias on (202) 720-0979.

cc: Sandy T. Coleman, FS
Janet Roder, FS





Accountability



- **Starting in FY12, States need to satisfy core program requirements**
 - Completed baseline reports
 - Completed forest stewardship/management plans
 - Completed annual conservation easement monitoring
 - Addresses known easement violations
 - Implements record keeping protocols
 - Developed a quality assurance inspection (QAI) action plan
 - Limited backlog
 - Up-to-date grant reporting
- **States deficient in core program requirements will not be considered by National Panel**



OIG Topics (cont'd)



1. Conservation Easement Monitoring

- Conduct annual monitoring for all easements
- Better tracking by the FS
- Integrated in FLIS 2.0





OIG Topics



2. More accountability for cost share tracts

- Documentation of value and certification that sufficient cost share is provided
- Clarify what info needs to be provided to the FS and retained by the State
- Appendix C- updated





OIG Topics (cont'd)



3. Improve Quality Assurance Inspections (QAI) process

- On-time completion of QAIs by the Forest Service
- Timely follow-up by the State
- Better tracking by the FS-twice yearly reporting on QAI action plan.
- Appendix O



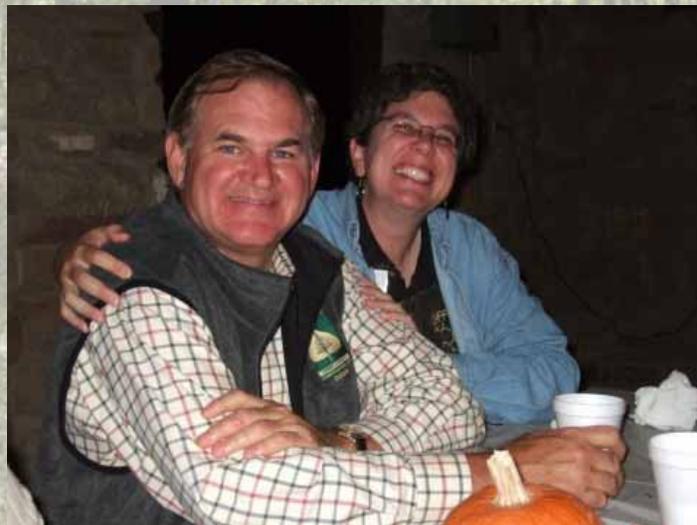


OIG Topics (cont'd)



4. Accuracy of FLIS Data

- State and FS need to cross check FLIS data with project files
- FLIS 2.0 will implement some oversight changes





OIG Topics (cont'd)



5. Consistent Record Retention

- Clarify records retention requirements for States and Forest Service
- Appendix G- updated



OIG Topics (cont'd)



6. Conservation Easement Guidance

- Develop a consistent approach for the FS to review easements, making sure all program requirements are addressed
- Appendix M





OIG Topics (cont'd)



- **Other new guidance documents**
 - **APPENDIX L- Five Year Program Reviews**
 - **State and Forest Service internal review**
 - **APPENDIX N- Guide to Evaluating Appraisal Risk Factors**



What does the Future Look Like?



- Budget looks uncertain
- Farm Bill changes are a possibility
- More accountability on core program requirements





Community Forest Program



- **First project grants issued in 2012.**
- **49 applications with total request of \$14.53.**
- **24 from local governments, 22 from non-profits, 3 from tribes.**
- **10 projects received grants.**