

What Is Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment (IMA)?

IMA is a comprehensive Forest Service (USFS) strategy that addresses opportunities for the agency to more effectively collect and assess resource information. It emphasizes a landscape scale approach and the need to cooperate internally, externally, and across political boundaries to answer important questions about the status of natural resources, infrastructure, and associated socio-economic systems. The implementation of the IMA Strategy began November 2013.

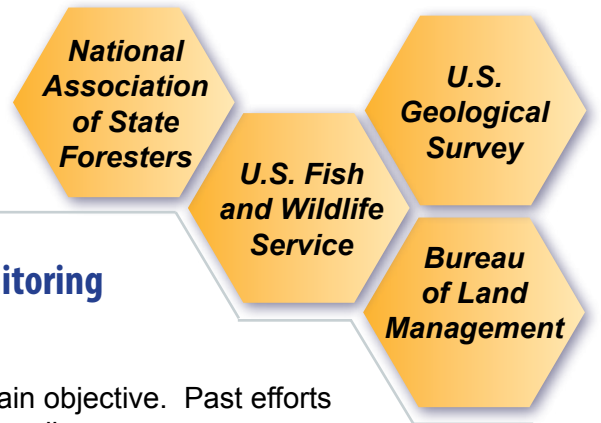
IMA Strategy Vision

Land managers have the natural resource information they need to collaboratively manage forests and rangelands.

IMA STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE PARTNERS

Why Is This Effort Different Than Past Inventory And Monitoring Initiatives?

- Collaboration with partners and external stakeholders is a main objective. Past efforts have focused inward rather than working collaboratively externally;
- Implementation from the ground up. At each level of USFS, units are identifying implementation actions that fit their information and assessment needs rather than a directed top-down approach;
- A cross-deputy effort. There is full support and a shared interest in the success of the IMA Strategy implementation from the USFS Deputy Chiefs for State and Private Forestry, Research and Development and National Forest System; and
- A mandate from the USFS Chief. The IMA Strategy was released in a letter from the Chief, Thomas Tidwell, on July 26, 2013 with a list of goals and high priority actions for implementation.



Current Implementation Activities

Pilots in each USFS region, station, and the northeast area are being established to show how the objectives of the IMA Strategy can be met. They will show how working across USFS deputy areas and with partners and external landowners will lead to information that is inclusive, credible, and scalable and supports effective decision-making.

A team of USFS staff has developed a national-level plan to continue effectively engaging partners and stakeholders during the implementation process.

An information needs assessment is currently underway to review the internal and external data sources and information needed to answer a set of national management questions.

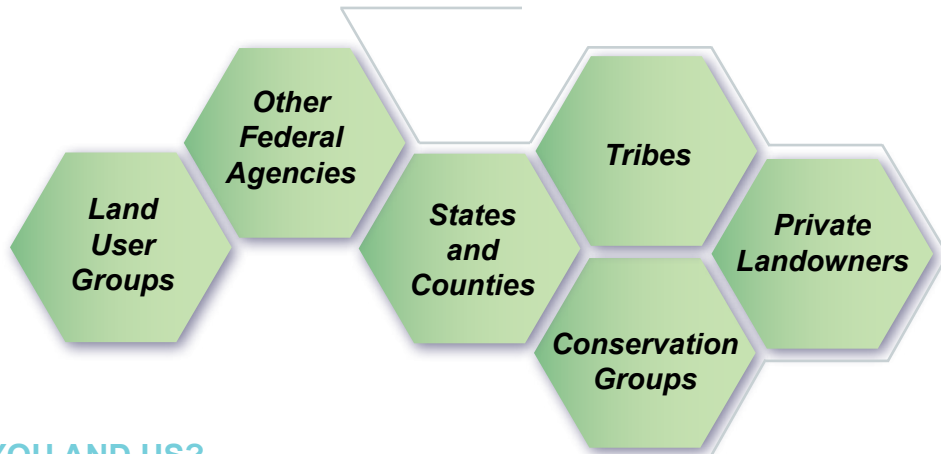
Working Together Across Boundaries

The USFS Chief has made it clear that this is to be an all-lands approach. The migration movements of wildlife and the spread of wildfire are not contained by political boundaries – why should our resource management efforts continue to be limited to these?



"HEY SUE, COULD I BORROW A CUP OF SUGAR?"

WHO IS ENGAGING?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT... TO YOU AND US?

Land management partners can work together to deliver highly credible information and assessments that meet shared objectives. Some benefits include:

- Transparent and accessible high quality ecological, social, economic, and infrastructure data;
- Gained efficiency by “collecting data once, using many times”;
- Effective tools for landscape decision-making that take into account our collective management actions;
- Proactive management of risks and impacts to the nation’s forests and grasslands; and
- Opportunities to better work with and learn from partners.

Paths to Collaboration

Create Awareness. Organizations can share the benefits of “all-lands” management with their members by promoting strategic land management across federal, state and private boundaries. The USFS can provide information to be shared through blogs, newsletters, monthly calls, e-news, wikis, etc.

Build Information Bridges. Evaluate options for sharing inventory and monitoring data and collaboratively building products such as assessment tools and models. We have a lot of information, let’s show what that information can do.

Establish Pilots. Consider where USFS can collaborate with you to establish a pilot project or help us highlight an existing effort that demonstrates the benefits of cooperation when planning and implementing landscape scale conservation activities.

start a conversation today

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