

SMART News



ForMAP Update

ForMAP By the Numbers:

	Jan 1 2015	Apr 1 2016
Users—Total	572	838
Users—LaSR Project Preparers	21	273
Approved Forest Stewardship Plans in SMART (Acres)	21,562,673	25,427,395.70
LaSR Projects	506	610

Inside this issue

- Update 1
- New Help Desk Website 2
- DB Spring Cleaning..... 3
- ForMAP Contact Info.....3
- USFS Contact Info 4

Greetings from the New Forest Stewardship Program Manager

By Laurie Schoonhoven

I am honored and excited to be working with you as the Forest Stewardship Program Manager. Many thanks to Matt Tansey for his outstanding leadership last year. I also want to thank you for your commitment to the Forest Stewardship Program and diligence in reporting SMART and LaSR accomplishments. We have a lot to be proud of this year. Our community has grown by 40% and there are over 200 new LaSR project preparers. Thanks to you and your partners’ outreach to private forest landowners, there are 1.37 million new acres in Forest Stewardship Plans and 100 new LaSR projects. In January 2015 we initiated the Stewardship Plan monitoring component. State administrators can ensure a sample of landowners are implementing the forest management activities outlined in their Forest Stewardship Plan. In a few months Prism and SMART version 5 will be released. Prism is a public tool that summarizes SMART and LaSR accomplishments.

Your input is vital in making enhancements and development decisions that are relevant, useful, and demonstrate the benefits of our program and efforts. Please contact the ForMAP Help Desk, Matt Tansey or myself with feedback and suggestions—contact info on last page.

Points of interest

- Greetings from Laurie
- Meeting update from Tom
- www.formap.info now live!
- USFS ForMAP Help Desk
1-800-908-7550
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NAASF CFM Meeting

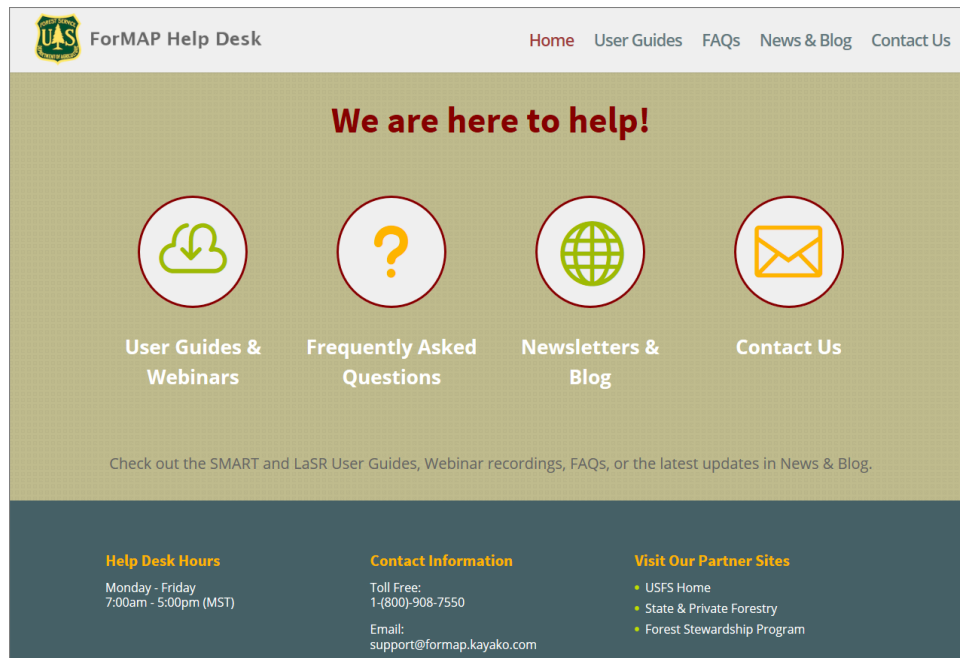
By Tom Luther

The Cooperative Forest Management Committee of the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) held their annual meeting April 11-14 in DuBois, PA. Josh Baldwin provided a summary of SMART usage by the states as well as an updated status on the upcoming release of SMART v5. They are looking forward to using SMART v5 and all the enhancements that will be made available through this release. The states are also looking forward to the release of Prism, and discussed strategies for using it to help tell the Stewardship Program story, including incorporating it into Esri Story Maps currently under development.

New Help Desk Website Goes Live

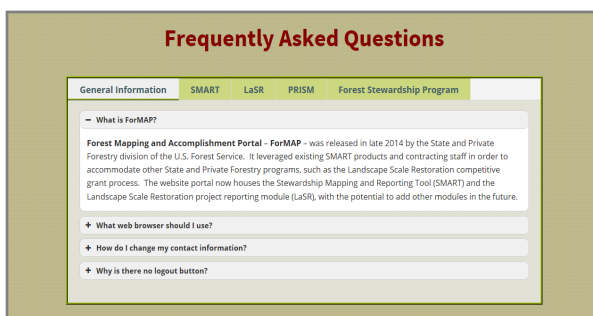
By Kelli Groy

The ForMAP Help Desk website was officially released for our users on February 17, 2016. The new website features a user-friendly interface, so finding what you need is an easy, streamlined process. To check it out, go to this web address: <http://www.formap.info/>

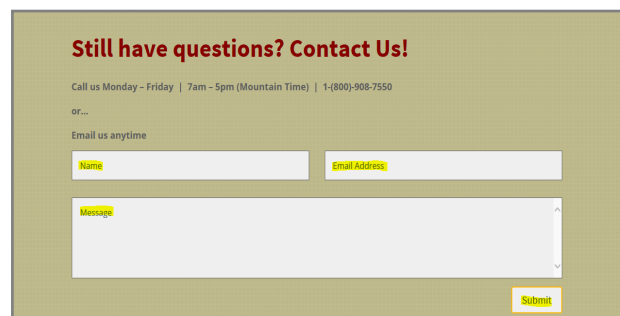


Home Page on the ForMAP Help Desk website

You will find up-to-date ForMAP information, Help Desk hours of operation and contact information at the bottom of each webpage. Should you choose to explore our partner websites, the direct links are in the footer of each page as well. Training materials are more available to you now with user guides ready for download, direct links to our most recent webinar recordings, and all the archived newsletters and blog posts to keep you updated. Users can even leave comments on our blog posts—so let us know what you think!



FAQ page in the ForMAP Help Desk Website



Contact Form on the *Contact Us* page

The *FAQ* page provides quick answers for our most common questions about all the modules and tools within ForMAP. Can't find the answer you are looking for? Our *Contact Us* page is directly integrated with our ticketing system. Just by filling out the form and clicking 'Submit', we are able to track your inquiries and messages while we get your solution.

We encourage you to take the time and explore the new website and give us feedback!

Database Spring Cleaning

By Josh Baldwin

As we approach the 6 month due date for Forest Stewardship reporting data, there's no time like the present for SMART state Administrators to work on cleaning up their databases, and fine tuning data management plans for the coming summer field season.

Users — SMART State Administrators are responsible for user management. We recommend going through your state's list of users annually to deactivate old accounts and update user information if needed, especially email addresses; this can be done from the 'Manage Users' module. Additionally, we encourage all ForMAP users—State Admins, Management Plan Preparers, as well as LaSR Project Preparers—to log into SMART every few months to ensure your eAuthentication account stays active. If your eAuth account does get deactivated, you will be prompted to change your password during the login process.

Accomplishments Reporting — Forest Stewardship Program regional managers will notify state coordinators of the official due date. If you have any questions about the date or what is expected, please communicate with them directly. We will do our best to answer your questions here at the Help Desk, but defer to the Forest Stewardship Program on region-specific details. With that said, we do our best to accommodate state needs and look forward to inquiries ramping up through the summer months.

SADL — For states that use the SADL to upload plans in bulk, there will be two new fields in the next version of ForMAP. More information will be available when SMART Version 5 is released, but here is the gist:

- The EQIP field will be replaced with a funding field; this field will be required and there will be 15 federal funds to choose from (e.g. CREP, EQIP, FSP); if the plan is not being federally funded, this field must be set to "None".
- "Surveyed Acres" will be a new optional field. Any number in this field will overwrite the GIS Acres that are calculated upon import. Many states use in situ GPS data in their operational workflow, so this field will help accommodate states that want to include this data in their SADL uploads.

Data Quality Assurance/Quality Control — In order to maintain a clean and functional database, it's important to monitor incoming data. We recommend SMART State Administrators review data entry and management protocols annually to ensure data quality and consistency. The easiest way to do this is to download the state Geodatabase (GDB) and inspect its data, update plans in SMART if needed, and attend to plans with duplicate IDs with the Duplicate Management tools.

LaSR Projects — Forest Stewardship regional program managers and USFS grant managers should be checking on their region's LaSR projects throughout the year. There are many projects in the database that are still in draft form, but it's never too early to start working together to manage and update projects.

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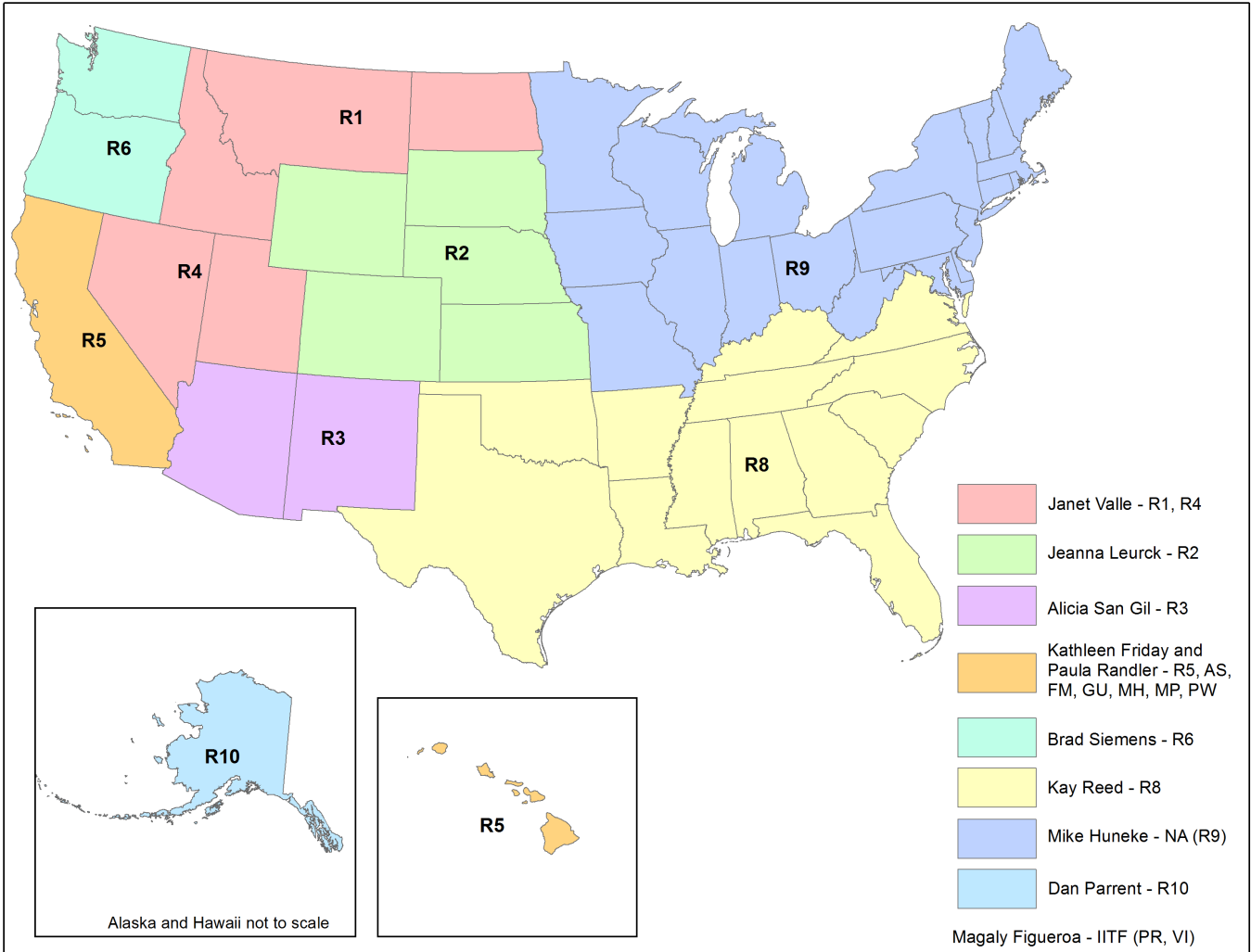
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