



USDA Forest Service National Information Center for State and Private Forestry

Purpose: The purpose of the National Information Center for State and Private Forestry is to coordinate the collection, synthesis and dissemination of corporate information.

Need: A corporate database can increase the efficiency of the Washington and Area/Regional Offices by providing 'one stop shopping' for information requests. In addition, this system will eliminate redundant requests to our cooperators for information and reduce costly retyping of information. A corporate database is being developed with the following features:

- User-friendly entry of text and financial information
- Internet-accessible forms and reports
- Direct entry of data by State cooperators and Field Offices
- Limited accessibility, as necessary, for security reasons
- Minimal software/hardware needs
- Standard reports of information by program area

Current Direction: The current direction for the National Information Center is to design user-friendly database applications to compile corporate information for the National Fire Plan, the Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Legacy programs as well as develop an application for tracking key State and Private Forestry contacts. Other State and Private Forestry program information will be added in the future.

Status of the Corporate Database:

- A web-based library of corporate documents related to the National Fire Plan has been developed and is maintained regularly.
- A database for Urban and Community Forestry grant and sub-grant information is nearing completion. Currently reports of FY99 information can be printed for 40 states. We are working with the Urban and Community Forestry program managers and state cooperators to gain feedback and to gather information for FY00.
- A database for Forest Legacy program information will be ready for deployment by December 2000.
- A database of key contacts for State and Private Forestry has been completed.
- The National Information Center has a new address: <http://www.spfnic.fs.fed.us>

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