

Planning Workshop
Timber Recovery and Wood Utilization Response to Wind Events and Disturbances
Myrtle Beach, SC
April 15, 2008

Breakout Session on Developing the Information System: What is needed?

Desired Characteristics of the system:

1. Make it simple to use, like Google Earth.
2. Much information will be geo-referenced. Use Google Earth as GIS engine?
3. Make it updatable by a cadre of authorized users from agencies and other stakeholders.
4. Webmaster will annually request authorized users to review and update their content.
5. Agencies will each decide what information to make available through the system.
6. Feature a news blog that will organize news about a particular disaster. Hosted by external organization.
7. Include info on facilities that buy wood (Forest Service Timber Product Output database).
8. Include state IMPLAN data to assess extent of economic loss and importance to the state and regional economy.
9. Include georeferenced info on road and bridge load limitations.
10. Include information on housing and other support for out-of-state loggers and other service providers.

Questions:

1. Who is the target audience? Who will use the system?
2. Federal agencies have security concerns about listing personnel contact information, homeland security issues.
3. What entity will host the Web site? Many agencies will be constrained if they host it.

Process of building the information system:

1. Two pilot states: Mississippi and (FL, GA, or NC?)
2. Develop a communication strategy to establish stakeholders and potential users.
3. One stakeholder meeting in each of two states to solicit information on what to include and to create a user group who will agree to help develop the system.
4. Develop the system and beta test on users groups in the two states.

Stakeholders identified:

1. Southern Group of State Foresters
2. Utilities, especially their line maintenance system people.