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Subject: New Publication on Forest Service Support for Local Community Planning Efforts

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director

The Forest Service Open Space Conservation Strategy provides many suggestions for incorporating the conservation of open spaces beyond our boundaries into Forest Service programs and projects. One of these suggestions is for Forest Service staff to “train employees on how to engage in local, regional, and transportation planning in a constructive manner that respects local authority and decisionmaking.”

In order to facilitate such efforts, staff from our State and Private Forestry and National Forest System Deputy Areas have produced a new publication titled *Across the Green Line: How Forest Service Employees Can Support Local Land Use Planning Efforts*. The publication provides insights on why and how we can support efforts by local communities to plan for growth and the conservation of open spaces and other natural areas. It also provides suggestions for getting involved, in cooperation with line officers.

We encourage Forest Service line officers and planners to take a look at this publication, see how and whether it is useful for your local situation, and provide feedback.

Questions or comments can be directed to Susan Stein ([ssstein@fs.fed.us](mailto:ssstein@fs.fed.us)) of the State and Private Forestry Deputy Area, Cooperative Forestry staff, or Annie Goode ([aegoode@fs.fed.us](mailto:aegoode@fs.fed.us)) of the National Forest System Deputy Area, Ecosystem Management Coordination staff.

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