

# Changing Roles

## UPDATE



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### Special Feature: Changing Roles Program Priorities for 2010

The Changing Roles (CR) program is hitting the ground running in 2010! Our priorities this year are to develop new materials, increase program use, and increase program accessibility. Our top priority this year is the development of a new training module that will address emerging issues in natural resource management. This module will define and clarify emerging natural resource issues and identify new approaches and tools to address arising challenges. The new module will include fact sheets, case studies, and exercises addressing topics such as ecosystem goods and services, ecological restoration, green infrastructure, environmental justice, and climate change.

Additionally, we are conducting a series of one-day Changing Roles workshops in several states across the southern region this summer to increase program use and awareness. The main objectives of these workshops will be to explore ways in which CR has already been used successfully in southern states, examine ways CR can be used with different audiences, and to distribute CR materials. During these workshops, participants will use case studies and group discussions, problem solving, and action planning to design an approach to put CR into practice on the ground. Planning for these workshops is still underway; please call or email Nicole Wulff if you are interested in getting your agency or state involved in one of these workshops.

To increase program accessibility, InterfaceSouth will be hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> CR webinar series. Please submit your ideas and suggestions, particularly about the following: (1) **people** you would like to hear from; (2) **topics** you would like to learn more about; (3) **questions or problems** you find challenging; and (4) **your own work experiences** that you could share with your colleagues. We want to hear from you! Send a quick email or call Nicole with any ideas you have so we can create a webinar series that is relevant to the work you do every day.

To find out more about the new module, the CR Summer Tour 2010, or to contribute ideas for the webinar series, contact Nicole Wulff at: (352) 378-2451 or [nmwulff@fs.fed.us](mailto:nmwulff@fs.fed.us).

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### Trainer Spotlight:

#### Stanley Anderson, Alabama Forestry Commission

Stanley Anderson is the Fire Prevention/Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Coordinator for the Alabama Forestry Commission's (AFC) Forest Protection Division. He has worked for the AFC for 33 years. Since attending the 2006 Changing Roles Train-the-Trainer workshop, WUI education and training have been high priorities for Stanley. He has used CR materials in 27 workshop and training sessions, reaching over 700 participants including resource professionals, planners, agency personnel, and elected officials across South Carolina. He believes that both professional and public awareness of WUI issues is important for the sustainability of our forest resources.



For more information on the wildland-urban interface in Alabama, visit:  
[http://www.forestry.state.al.us/new\\_challenge.aspx?bv=4&s=0](http://www.forestry.state.al.us/new_challenge.aspx?bv=4&s=0)

### Trainer Tips:

#### Ten Tips for Facilitating a Discussion

Trainers often facilitate group discussions whether during exercises or Q & A sessions. The role of a facilitator is to manage the flow of comments from participants. The book *101 Ways to Make Training Active* by Mel Silberman outlines ten tips for facilitating discussions.

1. **Paraphrase** what a participant has said so that he/she feels understood and so that other participants hear a concise summary of what has been said. For example, "So what you are saying is that we have to take social, environmental, and economic factors into consideration."
2. **Check** your understanding of the participant's statement or ask the participant to clarify what he or she is saying. For example, "I'm not sure that I understand exactly what you meant. Could you please run it by us again?"
3. **Compliment** an interesting or insightful comment. For example, "That's a great point. I'm glad that you brought this to our attention."
4. **Elaborate** on a participant's contribution to the discussion with examples, or suggest a new way to view the problem. For example, "Your comments provide an interesting point from the perspective of a forester. It could also be useful to consider how a city planner would view the same situation."
5. **Energize** a discussion by quickening the pace, using humor, or if necessary, prodding the group for more contributions. For example, "Here's a challenge for you. For the next two minutes, let's see how many ways you can think of to increase collaboration between foresters and city planners."
6. **Disagree** (gently) with a participant's comments to stimulate further discussion. For example, "I can see where you are coming from, but I'm not sure that what you're describing is always the case. Has anyone else had an experience that is different from John's?"

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7. **Mediate** differences of opinion between participants and relieve any tensions that may be brewing. For example, “I think that the two groups are not really in disagreement but are just emphasizing different aspects of the same issue.”
8. **Pull** together ideas, showing their relationship to each other. For example, “As you can see from Dan’s and Jean’s comments, land-use planning and policy decisions have an immense influence on the natural resources we manage in the wildland-urban interface; therefore we have an important role to play in that process.”
9. **Change** the group process by altering the method for obtaining participation or by having the group evaluate ideas that have been presented. For example, “Let’s break into smaller groups and brainstorm ways in which foresters can serve as community resources in the land-use planning process.”
10. **Summarize** (and record) the major views of the group. For example, “I have noted four main categories of opportunities that have come from our discussion: (1) identify relevant risks and benefits associated with landscape changes, (2) articulate possible consequences of various land-use options, and (3) provide data and maps for species of conservation concern.”

### Did You Know?:

#### A New Tool from the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative: Introducing TELE

A new website called, Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE), is the latest effort from the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative (SFFI) which is a collaborative effort of the USDA Forest Service, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, MeadWestvaco, Yale Program on Private Forests, and the American Forest Foundation. This web site is designed to help natural resource professionals engage more family forest owners in a meaningful conversation about their woods. The site offers data and techniques to help resource professionals target their outreach activities to specific types of landowners in more meaningful and persuasive ways. This resource was developed using data from the National Woodland Owner Survey.

For more information on TELE, visit: <http://www.engaginglandowners.org/>

The Changing Roles program resources can be found on the InterfaceSouth website at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/changingroles>

### Contact Us!

For more information about the Changing Roles program, contact Nicole Wulff, US Forest Service, [InterfaceSouth](http://www.interfacesouth.org)—Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry  
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