Technology and Development Innovations Now on the Internet

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The results of 50 years of innovation by the USDA Forest Service's Technology and Development Program are now available on the Internet at the address: http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d.

The site (figure 1) displays electronic versions of hundreds of reports, newsletters, and Tech Tips prepared by the Missoula and San Dimas Technology and Development Centers and the USDA Forest Service's Washington Office Engineering staff. It also includes some materials that only exist online, such as the Trail Bridge Catalog that helps land managers and engineers select the appropriate type of trail bridge for a particular recreational setting.

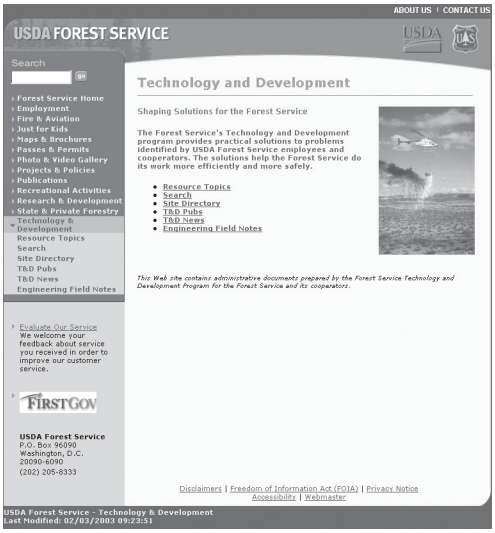

Figure 1. The National Technology and Development Program's Internet site (http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d) has electronic versions of hundreds of reports, newsletters, and Tech Tips.

Because the site contains administrative documents prepared for the USDA Forest Service and its cooperators, users need a username and password to gain access. Due to their technical nature or very limited audience, some documents may not meet USDA Internet requirements for access to the general public. Users can request a password by sending an e-mail request to t-d@fs.fed.us.

USDA Forest Service employees do not have to supply a username and password when they are using the site at work. But they will have to provide such identification if they log on from a personal account.

A special Web address (http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/t-d.php) opens a page that lets visitors know how to send an e-mail request for a username and password (figure 2). Several cooperators have established links from their Web sites to ours using this intermediate page. Standard links to the site would not work well, because visitors would not know how to get a username and password.

Figure 2. This page (http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/t-d.php) lets visitors know how to request a username and password for the National Technology and Development Program's Internet site.

This site does not show up on the Google search engine, but it does allow the Technology and Development Program to share electronic materials with cooperators who do not have access to the USDA Forest Service's internal computer network. Although the site has only been available to users since late 2002, it is attracting 500 to 600 visitors a week.

If you have suggestions or questions about this site, please contact Bert Lindler at the Missoula Technology and Development Center, blindler@fs.fed.us or 406–329–3930.