On the occasion of the Endowment’s fifth anniversary as a not-for-profit seeking to advance the needs of working forests and family wage jobs in forest-rich communities, the organization’s Board and staff used 2011 to intentionally reach out to a wide range of audiences to gain input on the programmatic focus and direction.

Over 2011 Endowment program staff used several high-level presentation opportunities to solicit feedback and input. Among those venues were the Society of American Foresters Annual Convention, Northeast Biomass Conference, National Association of State Foresters and an on-line survey.

Key findings included:
1. Increase focus on retaining and extending markets for forest products as a primary tool to advance forest health and retention;
2. Expand work on markets for low-value (dead, dying and small-diameter) wood;
3. Work to pull the broader forestry community together as a counter to its natural tendency to fragment along specific product lines; and,
4. Greater emphasis on non-traditional forest products (e.g. water).