“Texas is changing” and natural resource professionals are being called upon today to provide solutions to increasingly complex challenges that they have not historically faced. With communities rapidly expanding and urban citizens moving into the “interface”; landowners’ management goals often conflict and residents may not understand the benefits of resource management, resulting in risks to the environmental quality and human quality of life. Changing Roles Professional Development Program was created to build skills and provide the tools needed for natural resource professionals to tackle interface challenges.

Changing Roles stresses the need for natural resource professionals to understand the needs, motivations and concerns of interface landowners.

Changing Roles Professional Development Program modules:

Module 1: Wildland-Urban Interface Issues and Connections
Introduces participants to key interface issues and how they are interconnected. Explains why natural resource agencies should focus on interface issues.

Module 2: Managing Interface Forests
Provides tools and knowledge for effectively managing fragmented forests in the WUI. Includes practicing silviculture at the interface; small-scale harvesting systems; managing for wildlife, fire, and visual and recreational amenities; enterprise opportunities for landowners; and forest cooperatives.

Module 3: Land-Use Planning and Policy
Explains land-use decision-making tools, the role of natural resource professionals in the decision-making and land-use planning process, and how natural resource professionals can get involved.

Module 4: Communicating with Interface Residents and Leaders
Discusses key tips for effective communication with WUI residents and community leaders, beginning with the need to understand the audience, strategies for effectively sharing information and planning programs, and working to resolve conflict and support changes in behavior.

The program materials are very flexible and can be adapted to meet the needs of any organization who works with interface landowners. Materials are provided in PowerPoint presentations, exercises, case studies, fact sheets and a video. A trainer’s guide is also provided to introduce topics with key points for training emphasis. All of the materials are provided on a CD and may be copied as often as needed.

If you would like to set up a workshop or want more information on Changing Roles Texas, send a message to Angie Soldinger asoldinger@tfs.tamu.edu.

The Changing Roles curriculum was created by the Southern Group of State Foresters, the USDA Forest Service’s Southern Center for Wildland-Urban Interface Research and Information, the University of Florida’s School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional resources are provided online at, http://www.interfacesouth.org.