Forest Service R&D Program Priorities

A Look Ahead to 2006-2008

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Strategic Planning at 3 Levels

- USDA strategic goals
- Forest Service strategic plan objectives
- Forest Service R&D strategic program areas

USDA Strategic Goals

- Enhance economic opportunities for agricultural producers
- Support increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life in Rural America
- Enhance protection and safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply
- Improve the Nation's nutrition and health
- Protect and enhance the Nation's natural resource base and environment

Forest Service Strategic Plan for FY 2006 - FY 2008

- Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire
- Reduce the impacts of invasive species
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities
- Help meet energy resource needs
- Improve watershed condition
- Conduct mission-related work

Forest Service Research & Development Strategic Program Areas

- Fire and fuels - $18.5 mill.
- Invasive species - $40.1 mill.
- Outdoor recreation - $7.6 mill.
- Resource management & use - $93.8 mill.
- Water & air - $34.9 mill.
- Wildlife & fish - $26.2 mill.
- Inventory, monitoring, & analysis - $63.7 mill.
- Strategic opportunities

Relative Emphasis in R&D

- Four areas are growing:
  - Fire & fuels
  - Inventory, monitoring, & analysis
  - Water & air
  - Invasive species
- Three are being maintained:
  - Wildlife & fish
  - Resource management & use
  - Outdoor recreation

Looking Ahead – Emerging Departmental Issues

- Increase breadth and enhance the quality of *cooperative conservation* as a driving force
- *Healthy watersheds*
- Create new programs to *support private land conservation*
- Better position the U.S. in *global forestry markets* through market-based approaches to traditional forest products & ecosystem services

Looking Ahead – Emerging Departmental Issues

- *Reduce the threats to America's forests and grasslands* by:
  - Decreasing fuel loads
  - Reducing invasive species
  - Limiting the loss of open space
  - Meeting recreation challenges

Looking Ahead – Emerging FS R&D Issues

- Carbon accounting and credit trading
- Markets for environmental services
- Biomass and bioenergy
- Documenting the loblolly pine genome
- Impacts of globalization
- Inventory & monitoring at multiple scales