

Today's Challenges and Opportunities Climate Change

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What the Forest Service is Doing About Climate Change

The Forest Service strategy for dealing with climate change is based on 20 years of targeted research and a century of science and management experience. As a result, the Agency has internationally recognized climate scientists and a body of peer-reviewed scientific information for developing responses to climate change. The Forest Service strategy includes:

Helping Forests Adapt

On the national forests, the Forest Service strategy is to restore the resilience of forest, range, and aquatic ecosystems. This may involve such things as:

- Reducing overstocking that creates risks of fire, insect, and disease
- Providing opportunities for new and changing species mixes
- Restoring wetlands and streams
- Increased control of invasive species
- Relocating, redesigning, and managing human use

On non-Federal forests, the Forest Service provides information, technical assistance and targeted grants to help landowners do similar things.

Managing Forests To Increase the Carbon Dioxide They Capture and Store

The Forest Service mitigation strategy is aimed primarily at non-Federal forest land. The Forest Service is providing technical assistance to DOE and to regional and state climate action programs to help insure that rules for the forestry sector are technically sound and practical for non-Federal forest owners. The Forest Service is also engaged in a number of demonstration projects to support the development of private markets for ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, as proposed by the Farm Bill. Through the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, we are tracking carbon stocks.

Using Forest Products To Reduce and Replace Fossil Fuel Energy

The Forest Service provides research, technical assistance, and targeted grant programs to foster substitution of wood based building projects for energy-intensive materials (like aluminum and concrete), more use of excess and waste wood as sources of heat and power, and development of cost-competitive wood-based biofuels, such as cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel, to replace gasoline and diesel.

Reducing the Agency's Environmental Footprint

The Forest Service is reexamining all its operations and is reducing its consumption of non-renewable energy and materials. As part of this effort, the Forest Service has officially joined the EPA Climate Leaders Program and the California Region has joined the California Climate Action Registry. Few other Federal entities have done so.



Climate Change: Selected Forest Service Websites

This is a highly selected list from among hundreds of Forest Service web pages with information on various aspects of climate change. Recommended for those seeking an overview of Forest Service activities in climate change research and forest management.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/kidsclimatechange/climate.shtml>

Links to further resources on climate change. Principal links are for research & development, ecosystem services, sustainable resource management, ecosystem restoration, biomass utilization, and sustainable operations.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/fsgc/climate-change.shtml>

The main page for Forest Service research information. The links on the upper right lead to copies of briefing papers on a variety of topics. The links on the lower right lead to main pages for the various research stations, all of which have additional information related to climate change research.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/research/climate-change/>

The main page for the Pacific Northwest Research Station, which is a rich source of information on climate change. The first link on this page, "Scientists talk about climate change in the west," goes to a page with links to 10 excellent web videos done by Forest Service researchers on various aspects of climate change.

<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/geowater/PEP/ClimChange/Millar/>

"Rethinking Forest Management in the West," an outstanding web video by Connie Millar of the Pacific Southwest Research Station. Although focused on the west, the principles are universally applicable. 45 minutes

http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pep/climatechange/peterson_ohalloran/

"Adapting to Climate Change in the Olympic National Forest," an outstanding web video by Kathy O'Halloran, Resources Staff Officer on the Olympic National Forest and David Peterson, Pacific Northwest Research Station. how scientific information is starting to be used for planning and managing a unit of the National Forest System today. 34 minutes

<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>

The main page for the Forest Products Lab in Madison, Wisconsin, with multiple pages describing its work in biofuels and biomass utilization.

http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sustainable_operations/index.shtml

Annual report on Forest Service efforts to reduce its environmental footprint. Main topics are energy use, recycling, water conservation, vehicle management, and green purchasing. This link has the 2006 report for the Rocky Mountain Region, which designed and pilot tested the report. The 2007 report, which covers all Forest Service regions, will be available soon.

