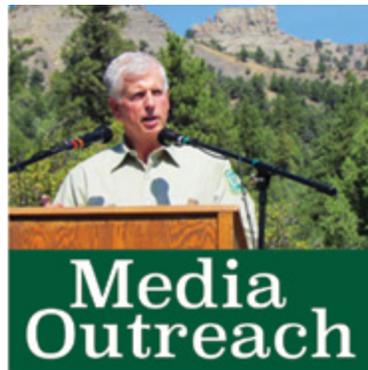
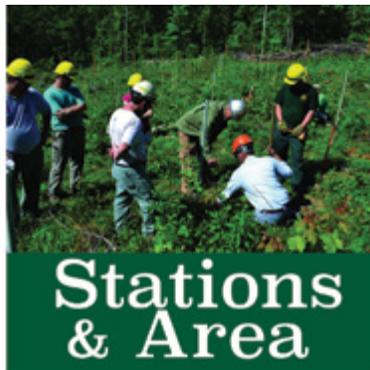
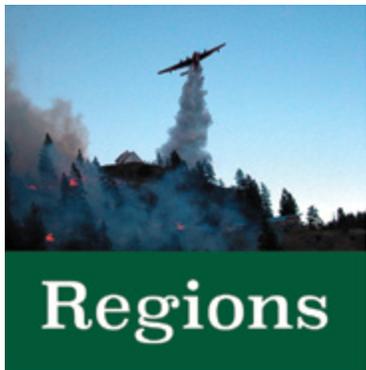




Friday, July 24, 2015



From The Chief's Desk: Availability of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan

It is my pleasure to announce the availability of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. This document will help galvanize our mission and strengthen our connection to communities over the next five years. The plan was built around four main goals that we all should embody each and every day as we continue to serve the American people. The document encourages us to **SUSTAIN** our nation's forests & grasslands, **DELIVER** benefits to the public, **APPLY** knowledge globally, and **EXCEL** as a high performing agency.

I ask that you all take the time to look at the plan. It truly is an easy-to-read document with an aesthetically pleasing design. The Strategic Plan, as well as a short video message from me and other materials, can be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/strategicplan>.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the individuals who invested their time and effort into the design of the plan. A lot of work went into this document that will help guide us into the future. And to the rest of the nearly 30,000 employees across the Forest Service, you are the backbone and heart of this organization. You amaze me on a regular basis with the great feats you accomplish. I could not be more proud than to serve as your chief. Thank you for all that you do.

- Chief Tom Tidwell

G-WOW holds institute for teachers on changing climate and culture

The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) participated in the Gikinoo'wizhiwe Onji Waaban or "G-WOW" Changing Climate, Changing Culture Institute, a week-long professional development workshop for middle school and high school educators. G-WOW is organized by the University of Wisconsin Extension, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Forest Service and other partners. Stephen Handler presented on climate change impacts and adaptation for Northwoods forests and led a field activity demonstrating a technique to help students visualize possible change in a forest.

PNW

Pacific Northwest Research Station



Employees help communities in Puget Sound see benefit from urban waterways

The Pacific Northwest Research Station led the effort in 2012 to establish the Green-Duwamish—the most ecologically and economically diverse watershed in the Pacific Northwest—as an Urban Waters Federal Partnership site, which connects citizens with watershed restoration efforts. During a yellow bus tour of some of the ensuing restoration sites around Seattle this month, Station Director Rob Mangold gave opening remarks and welcomed other key partners in the watershed, including Boeing, the Green Duwamish Youth Corps and King County. Also attending were representatives from state and local agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

PSW

Pacific Southwest Research Station



Study monitors mangroves for resilience to sea level rise in the western pacific

Mangrove forest floors appear to be keeping up with rising sea levels in Palau and Vietnam, according to preliminary results from a study conducted by aquatic ecologist Richard MacKenzie and collaborators. Scientists measured how fast the forest floors of mangroves are rising or falling relative to current rates of sea level rise. That mangroves have shown to adapt to changing sea levels is important as these aquatic trees help protect shorelines, prevent erosion and maintain water quality.

RMRS

Rocky Mountain Research Station



Scientists study convective and radiative heat transfer in wildfire spread

Rocky Mountain Research Station Research Forester Mark Finney led a team of scientists in a study, [Role of buoyant flame dynamics in wildfire spread](#), published this week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Flame dynamics produces and transports convective heat, which occurs with radiative heat during wildfire spread. Previous studies focused on radiation heat so little was known about convection heat transfer. This study reveals flame dynamics, not radiation heat as once believed, effectively governs wildfire spread. This new information can improve the development of fire predictive models and firefighter safety.

Crossing the pond to learn about climate change and alternative energy

Ten delegates from the United Kingdom participating in the U.S. Embassy in London's Climate Change/Alternative Energy Program visited the Rocky Mountain Research Station Headquarters July 20. The group included the Energy and the Environment Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of England; the head of engagement for the European Union Department on Energy and Climate Change; business leaders; and other professional leaders in the field of alternative energy. The delegates were interested in how USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub was implementing the actions of President Obama's Climate Action Plan.



Southern Research Station



Study shows fire prevention programs cut the number of wildfires on tribal lands

An analysis, [Effect of fire prevention programs on accidental and incendiary wildfires on tribal lands in the United States](#), led by Forest Service researcher [Karen Abt](#) provides evidence that fire prevention programs reduce wildfire incidents on tribal lands. These programs include mandatory burn permits, public service programs/announcements, outreach efforts to youth and equipment operators and law enforcement. Co-authors include Southern Research Station project leader [Jeff Prestemon](#), David Butryof of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Samuel Scranton from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Study confirms effectiveness of Southern Pine Beetle prevention

A recent study led by entomologist [John Nowak](#), coordinator for the Southern Pine Beetles Prevention Program with state forestry agencies, shows that thinning and prescribed fire can protect stands of southern pines on a landscape level from infestations by Southern Pine Beetles. The results, published online in the [Journal of Forestry](#), also provide first-time confirmation of the effectiveness of the treatments supported by the prevention program.

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Media Outreach

There were no releases this week.

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