Annual Report for 2000

Southern Research Station

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

USDA Forest Service

Southern Research Station
200 W.T. Weaver Boulevard
P.O. Box 2680
Asheville, NC 28802

www.srs.fs.fed.us

March 2001

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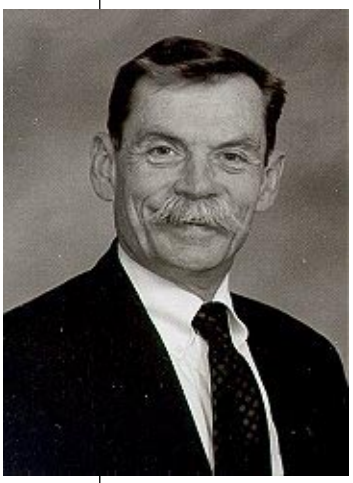
From the Director

Report for the Southern Research Station for FY00



As the turn of the century is completed, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on our proud history of accomplishment in forestry research and to look forward to a new century of advancing science and technology for the sustainability and productivity of southern forest ecosystems.

The first Annual Report for Forest Service research in the South was published in 1921 by the Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans, LA. Reports were prepared annually by the Experiment Stations in the South until the mid-1960s. After the 1995 consolidation of the former Southern and Southeastern units into the current Southern Research Station (SRS), regular publication resumed in 1998.

The cornerstones of research and development in the South are productivity and sustainability of southern forest ecosystems. We contribute to quality of life in the South by providing the knowledge and technology needed to sustain and enjoy the region's forests and waterways.

The Forest Service is committed to the goal of ***sustainability***, which is defined as the ability of the biophysical resources – or ecosystems – to meet human needs and wants without degradation, that is, to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. By maintaining forest health, diversity, and productivity, sustainable forest management ensures that the commodity and environmental needs of present and future generations can be met.

Biological productivity is the rate at which a biological system produces new biomass, by weight gain or reproduction over a period of time. Primary productivity, the productivity of green plants, is measured as the rate at which new organic matter is added to an ecosystem from the inorganic materials of the environment.

These tenets are at the heart of our Strategic Framework and its cross-cutting themes (CCTs).* The Framework provides us a dynamic guide for decisionmaking about our current and future research and development efforts. At the start of the 21st century we are realigning our research work units to more efficiently manage our work within

* see page 19 for a description of the SRS Strategic Framework

From the Director

Report for the Southern Research Station for FY00

the context of the CCTs. We are aligning our two "mountain ecosystems" CCTs – Southern Appalachian and Interior Highlands – under the leadership of one Assistant Director (AD). The Southern Pines CCT will be managed by another AD. A third AD will assume leadership for the Large-Scale Assessment and Modeling CCT and the Wetlands, Bottomlands, and Riparian areas CCT. And a fourth AD will lead the Inventory and Monitoring CCT. This will better align our supervisory structure with our Strategic Framework and provide us with the continued flexibility to meet the challenges that this century is expected to bring.

With this report on our significant accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2000 (FY00), I would like to express my continued pride in the successes of our workforce. As you read about the highlights of this past year in the following pages, you will notice the amazing breadth of our program, from microscopic to global. Our scientists represent a diverse array of disciplines, and along with our excellent technical and support staffs, are well prepared to address the questions of the modern era. We have been, and continue to be involved in a series of assessments of the sustainability and productivity of southern ecosystems, and the role of human population changes and pressures affecting them. Our long-term research and data sets, and our diverse workforce, provide invaluable tools to address the new challenges, questions, and problems affecting our forests.

We encourage you to contact us with any questions you may have about the work we do.

Web site: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station
200 W.T. Weaver Boulevard
P.O. Box 2680
Asheville, NC 28802

828-257-4832; Fax: 828-257-4840

PETER J. ROUSSOPOULOS

Director

Caring for the Land and Serving People

FY00 Accomplishment Summary

October 1999 – September 2000

Research work units	*25*
Publications	*592*
Web sites (Research work units)	*18*
Web sites (other SRS)	*5*
Publication requests filled	
Hard copy	*22,000*
Electronic	*207,400*
Site tours	*324*
Presentations	*603*
To scientific societies	*169*
To lay organizations	*208*
To other science groups	*226*
International activities	*75*
Conservation Education Intern Program contacts	*10,000*
Total employees	*454*
Scientists	*129*
Budget (research funds only)	*$ 42,180,420*
Awards to States, universities, and other Federal agencies (all funds)	*$9,408,746*
External funding received from non-Federal Sources and other Federal agencies	*$2,480,965*
Collaborating organizations	*100*

Caring for the Land and Serving People

The Basics:
Your Tax Dollars at Work

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

The Southern Research Station (SRS) is part of USDA Forest Service Research and Development, which is the Nation's largest forestry research organization. Forest Service scientists in the South have excelled in studies on temperate and tropical forest ecosystems,

forest resources, and forest products since the early 20th century. These studies provide a wealth of long-term data sets and conclusions on the dynamics of tree plantations and natural stands, watershed management, and wildlife habitats.

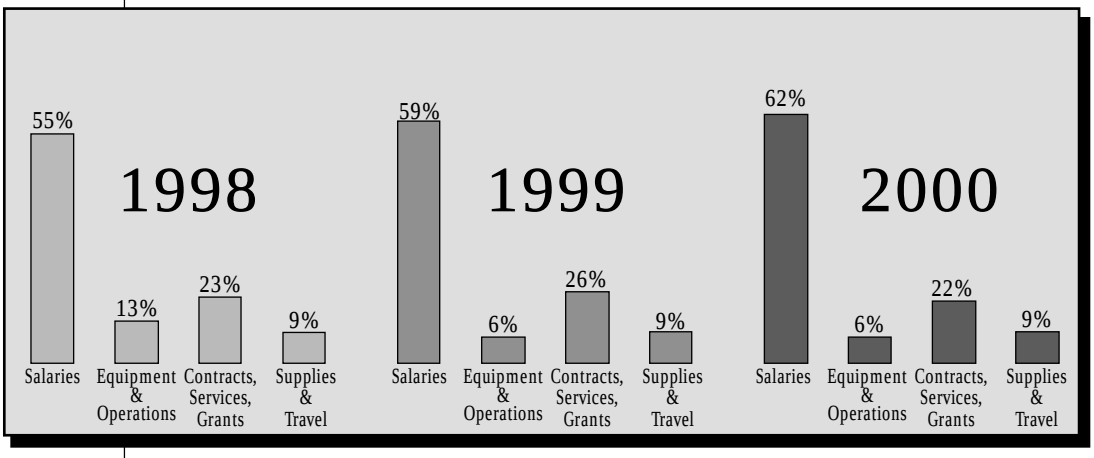
Working with partners at Federal laboratories, experimental forests, and universities throughout the South, SRS scientists produce research results that are useful to producers and consumers of forest products and services. These include forest landowners, commodity and industry associations, conservation groups, educators, legislative bodies, and managers of local, State, and Federal agencies. Our scientific workforce is divided into research work units that are headquartered at 16 locations throughout the South; we are responsible for forest land research, technology transfer, and inventory and monitoring for 13 Southern States. Our annual budget from Federal funds supports an extensive program, and provides for collaborative grants. We also receive some collaborative funding from other Federal and external sources.

This annual report describes our overall program and highlights many accomplishments from this past fiscal year, October 1999 through September 2000.

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Allocations to Resource Categories

FUNDAMENTAL PLANT SCIENCE	$3,803,000
SILVICULTURAL APPLICATIONS	4,528,000
QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS	1,252,000
FOREST AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT	1,836,000
FOREST OPERATIONS ENGINEERING	1,093,000
INSECTS/DISEASES/EXOTIC WEEDS	5,615,000
FIRE SCIENCE	1,135,000
TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE	1,940,000
AQUATIC HABITAT	878,000
WATERSHED	2,267,000
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES	1,445,000
ECONOMICS	1,655,000
WILDERNESS	75,000
SOCIAL/CULTURAL	924,000
FOREST PRODUCTS, UTILIZING AND PROCESSING	1,900,000
FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS	11,467,000
FOREST HEALTH MONITORING	174,000
MONITORING METHODS/APPLICATIONS	193,000
TOTAL	$42,180,000



The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Allocations to Research Work Units

4101	Southern Appalachian Forests Asheville, NC	$1,293,000
4103	Center for Forested Wetlands Charleston, SC	1,202,000
4104	Disturbance of Southern Pine Ecosystems Athens, GA	1,783,000
4105	Vegetation Management and Longleaf Pine Auburn, AL	1,157,000
4106	Upland Forest Ecosystems Monticello, AR	1,786,000
4111	Ecological Management of Southern Pines Pineville, LA	1,569,000
4153	Southern Institute of Forest Genetics Saucier, MS	1,793,000
4154	Biological Foundations of Sustainability Research Triangle Park, NC	2,343,000
4155	Bottomland Hardwoods and Wetlands Stoneville, MS	3,127,000
4201	Endangered (TES) Species Clemson, SC	603,000
4202	Coldwater Streams and Trout Habitat Blacksburg, VA	515,000
4251	Wildlife Habitat and Timber Resources Nacogdoches, TX	1,131,000
4351	Watershed Responses to Disturbance Franklin, NC	1,288,000
4501	Southern Pine Beetle Pineville, LA	1,005,000
4502	Wood Products Insect Research Starkville, MS	1,054,000
4505	Insects and Disease Athens, GA	1,832,000
4701	Southern Forest Resource Utilization Pineville, LA	1,171,000
4702	Tree Quality, Processing, and Recycling Blacksburg, VA	420,000
4703	Biological/Engineering Technologies Auburn, AL	1,200,000
4801	Forest Inventory and Analysis Asheville, NC, and Starkville, MS	11,467,000
4802	Legal, Tax, and Economic Influences New Orleans, LA	996,000
4803	Forest Health Monitoring Research Triangle Park, NC	342,000
4851	Economics of Forest Resources Research Triangle Park, NC	977,000
4852	Southern Global Change Program Raleigh, NC	1,445,000
4901	Trends in Recreation and Wilderness Athens, GA	681,000
	Total	$42,180,000

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Collaboration: The Key to Leveraging Appropriated Funds

Collaborative research and development with universities, private corporations, and other Federal and State agencies is a cornerstone of the SRS program. These activities involve the funding of extramural studies under cooperative agreements, grants, and interagency agreements. Working with partners is an effective way to leverage our funding to conduct research efforts that benefit a wide range of research results users.

A total of $9,408,746 supported research studies under these agreements in FY00 with the following:

Domestic non-Federal agreements

Alabama A&M University
Alabama Forestry Commission
American Phytopathological Society
Arkansas Forestry Commission
Arkansas State University
University of Arkansas
Auburn University
Clemson University
Duke University
Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education
Florida A&M University
University of Florida
Foundation for Sustainable Development
Furman University
Georgia Forestry Commission
University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.
University of Idaho
Kentucky Division of Forestry
University of Kentucky
Louisiana Department of Agriculture
Louisiana State University
Louisiana Tech University
University of Maryland
Michigan Technological University
University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
University of Missouri
University of Montana
University of Nevada
University of New Hampshire
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
North Carolina Geological Survey
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina at Asheville
Northern Arizona University
Northern Illinois University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Rutgers University
University of the South
University of South Carolina
South Carolina Forestry Commission
Stephen F. Austin State University
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Tennessee Technological University
University of Tennessee
Texas A&M Research Foundation
Texas Forest Service
Tulane University
Tuskegee University
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
University of Virginia
West Virginia University Research Corporation
University of Wisconsin

International

Beijing Forestry University
BioComposites Centre
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Interagency Agreements

USDA Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Energy
USDI Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division
USDI Fish and Wildlife
USDI National Park Service

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Collaborative Research Efforts

The Challenge Cost Share program for Research and Development leverages Federal forestry research funds with matching resources from non-Federal sources to accomplish research objectives. The criteria used by the SRS Leadership Team to evaluate and select the proposals to fund include:

- support of the Strategic Framework and cross-cutting themes, (see page 19),
- initiation of collaborative research and development with new partners,
- initiation of new research with existing partners,
- research that contributes to a balanced program aimed at meeting the demand of our multiple partners, and
- potential to complete research within a 1-year time frame.

In FY00, five proposals were funded:

- Net ecosystem productivity of intensively managed loblolly pine plantations (SRS-4154, $10,000; International Paper, $55,000)
- The development of a second generation southern timber market model (SRS-4851, $50,000, Southern Forest Resource Assessment Consortium (SOFAC), $125,000)
- Monitoring productivity and environmental quality in southern pine plantations: Phase VI—measurements of tree growth, soil properties, and data compilation (SRS-4111, $23,100; Temple-Inland Forest Products Corp, $7,700; Willamette Industries, $7,700; International Paper, $7,700)
- Effect of tree growth and juvenility on the structural performance of medium density fiberboard (SRS-4701, $25,000; Neste Chemicals, $15,000; Jeld-Wen Corp, $10,000)
- Effects of Hurricane Hugo on wood properties of loblolly pine – 10 years after the storm (SRS-4101, $10,000; Westvaco, $10,000)

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Collaborative Research Efforts

Many research work units have agreements to receive external funding from other sources. The FY00 total for these dollars was $476,602 from non-Federal sources. The SRS received $2,004,363 from other Federal sources to support research and development projects designed to meet the missions of the agencies involved.

This external funding came from the following:

Non-Federal Cooperators:

AgrEvo

American Cyanamid Company

Archimia (FL) Inc.

Arizona Chemical

Aventis Environmental Science

Bayer Corporation

Champion International

Derrill L. Hume

DowAgro Sciences, Inc.

Fiber Research International, Inc.

FMC Corporation

Hall/Westfield

Hauser Technical Service

International Paper

Jeld-Wen Research and Development

Lab Services

National Council of the Paper Industry for Air & Stream Improvement (NCASI)

Neste Resins Corporation

Novartis Crop Protection, Inc.

Stockhausen, Inc.

Sumitomo Chemical

Temple-Inland Forest Products

The Timber Company

University of Georgia

Valent USA

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Wes Min RC and DC

Westvaco

Weyerhaeuser

Willamette Industries, Inc.

Zenica Professional Products

Federal Cooperators:

Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service/International Cooperation and Development (FAS/ICD)

Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Department of the Army

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

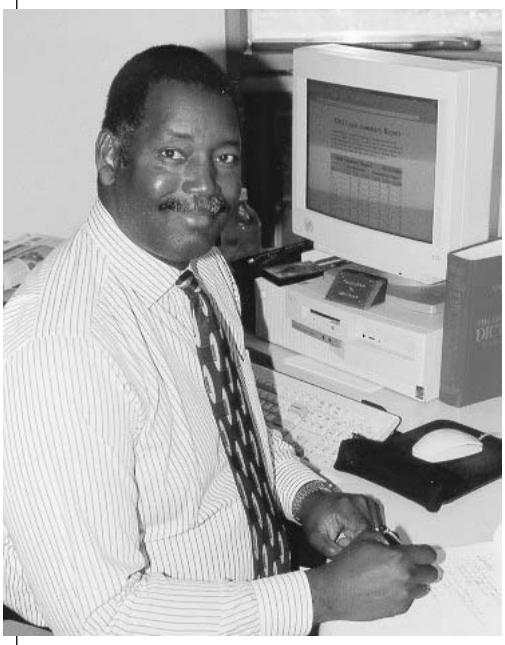
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS)

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Improving Administrative Efficiency

On October 1, 2000, we celebrated our first year of operation under the Eastern Administrative Zone (EAZ). Administrative service functions for several Forest Service units were



unified under the EAZ. The EAZ Service Center serves the SRS, the National Forests in North Carolina, the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests in South Carolina, Savannah River, the Lyndon B. Johnson and Schenck Civilian Conservation Centers, and Forest Health Protection in Asheville, NC. A full range of human resource services—staffing, classification, workforce management, employee relations, labor relations, employee development, pay and benefits—are provided to an internal client base of nearly 1,700 people. Acquisition services are also provided to the EAZ clients.

The Fiscal Resources staff provides accounting, auditing, processing, and financial analysis to internal and external customers. Fiscal year 2000 was a challenge to this staff as they changed to a new accounting system. This accounting system, Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS), is intended to achieve accountability in several ways for the Forest Service. Financial statements will be readable, reliable, and provide useful financial information; financial deficiencies will be corrected by adhering to financial accounting standards. We will be able to communicate better with internal and external constituencies and resolve long-standing audit issues. For the Forest Service to retain leadership in the natural resource arena, the agency must become expert at managing its financial resources. The FFIS should enable us to reliably reflect our diverse business operations and help us use financial information to plan, manage, and set priorities for programs to better carry out our mission.

Recruitment Initiatives

The SRS serves as the lead unit for two special recruitment initiatives at Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and Florida A&M University (FAMU). The purpose of the initiatives is to attract traditionally underrepresented individuals to forestry and other natural resource science occupations. Each initiative

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Improving Administrative Efficiency

has a Forest Service employee working as a liaison with the university and students, carrying out recruitment and placement activities. In FY00, eight FAMU freshmen enrolled in the Natural Resources program for the fall 2000 semester. There were seven students at AAMU, partially or fully supported by the Forest Service, who received undergraduate degrees in forestry, environmental, or plant science in FY00. Four graduates were placed in permanent full-time positions with the Forest Service. There were 21 students placed in summer jobs with the agency through the AAMU Initiative.

National Multicultural Recruitment Initiative at Alabama A&M University Web Site:
http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/aamu

Careers in Forest Service Research and Development Web Site:
http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/careers/index.htm

Branching Out to the Youth of America

The Conservation Education Outreach Program (CEOP) continues to be an integral part of the overall education effort of the Southern Research Station. Since SRS assumed the coordination responsibilities for the program in 1998, the program has grown to include five learning sites. Each learning site is supervised by a team leader and includes a team of four summer interns. During FY00, intern teams were located in Asheville, NC; Atlanta, GA; Huntsville, AL; Milwaukee, WI; and Philadelphia, PA. Each team provides a conservation education experience for children aged 7 to 12, at summer camps, community centers, schools, parks and recreation facilities, and American Indian reservations. The Asheville team also presents programs for high-school aged youth at extended learning programs, such as the Upward Bound program at Mars Hill College in western North Carolina. The Huntsville team continues to provide a bilingual program in four States in the Deep South. During FY00, the Branching Out to the Youth of America CEOP program contacted over 10,000 children in the area east of the Mississippi River, both in the Northeastern and Southern States.

The concept of the CEOP is to engage youngsters in conservation education activities in urban settings in the inner cities where they live. The target audiences are selected for

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Improving Administrative Efficiency

cultural, sociological, and economic diversity specifically including underserved, nontraditional publics. The goals of the program are: (1) to interact with urban youth from diverse age groups, socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnicities, and geographic locations helping them to gain an appreciation for natural resource conservation and sustainability; (2) to create an interest in Forest Service careers among underrepresented populations in urban environments; and (3) to provide contact between scientists and the summer interns to encourage them to pursue advanced degrees, thereby expanding the pool of diverse candidates for research positions.

The CEOP Web Site:

http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/consed/index.htm.

Improving Customer Service

The SRS Web site continues to grow in content and visitation, attracting a million hits from over 155,000 individual visitors, more than twice last year's use. The Web site contains a publications database, where articles and other materials can be downloaded in PDF format, as well as links to scientists and other employee contacts, SRS research work units, and other sites. We revamped the hard-copy catalog, which is now called "Compass," to meet the needs of those who use our information but may not have Internet access. It is sent by e-mail to over 1,000 people who do use the Internet. Our overall publication distribution has increased dramatically as our outreach efforts continue, and our customers are able to acquire publications directly from the Web. By September 2000, more than 1700 publications were online, and over 207,000 copies were downloaded during FY00. In addition to responding to direct requests, we distribute some publications to mailing lists and at meetings and conferences. Many SRS publications can be found at libraries throughout the country.

The Forest Service has a nationwide customer service comment card program that is used both electronically and through hardcopy mail. The SRS is among the units receiving the most responses from the comment card system, with the comments being overwhelmingly positive. The few negative comments are quickly addressed and we try to make improvements in our service accordingly.

SRS Comment Card Web Site:

http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/customer/commentcard_srs.htm.

Civil Rights and Workforce Diversity

We continue to emphasize the civil rights/human rights philosophy—"the right of everyone in the workplace to be treated fairly, impartially, and respectfully." We feel being proactive in addressing problems while they are small has kept our

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Improving Administrative Efficiency

number of internal grievances and complaints very low. We have provided "Effectiveness in Communications" and "Conflict Resolution" training for interested employees to help build needed communication.

We have continued our commitment to the internal Continuous Improvement Process (CIP). Our focus this year has been on using our CIP survey data to develop actions to make needed improvements to the work environment. All SRS locations have been implementing their action plans and assessing improvement throughout the year.

We held four All Cultures Celebrations throughout SRS during the year. Events included speakers, demonstrators and exhibits that were interactive learning experiences while being fun. This was a wonderful opportunity for our employees to learn about other cultures and the diversity in our workforce. July was again designated as Heritage Awareness Month to focus on the value all cultures bring to the workforce. The SRS also participated in the 18th Goombay Festival in Asheville, NC, which celebrates African, Caribbean, and African American cultures and is attended by over 20,000 people. This festival gave us an opportunity to interact with the community and to build relationships. SRS supported the "Agroforestry: Blending Agriculture and Forestry 1890 University Faculty Training Workshop" which was held in June at Alabama A&M University.

The SRS strives to make our programs and services available to all socioeconomic levels. We strengthen our relationships with southern minority landowners by participating in conferences and expanding our publication distribution services. We have a team of SRS employees whose mission is to broaden the arena of customers participating in SRS Technical Assistance Visits to include more representation from historically underserved groups.

We had a well-below average personal injury frequency rate and have continued to give deliberate attention to safety. All employees attend regular safety meetings on topics they help select. We have conducted an active program for the prevention of workplace violence, to ensure that our employees continue to share a safe and secure work environment.

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Individual and Team Recognition

Presidential Rank Award:

Peter J. Roussopoulos, Director of the Southern Research Station, was one of two Senior Executives in the Forest Service to receive the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive in 2000. Only 5 percent of the Federal government career Senior Executive Service may receive the award each year. He was recognized for outstanding service in natural resources and the environment.

Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE):

The PECASE awards, established by President Clinton in 1996, are the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals at the outset of their independent research careers.

Emile Gardiner was recognized at a ceremony at the White House on April 12 for sustained productivity and exceptional promise for significant future achievement from research on oak ecophysiology and the regeneration biology of bottomland hardwood forest ecosystems.

USDA Secretary's Honor Awards:

The purpose of this awards program is to recognize outstanding contributions to agriculture, the consumers of agricultural products, and the ability of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to serve rural America. The Honor Awards are the most prestigious awards presented by USDA.

Employees at all grade levels and private citizens are eligible to receive these awards. Thirteen SRS employees received Honor Awards from the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a ceremony in Washington, DC on June 5.

The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration Management Team received an Honor Award for "Promoting Sensible Management of Natural Resources" for outstanding research leadership related to restoring the imperiled longleaf pine ecosystem of the Southeastern United States. SRS members of the team included Group Leader Charles K. McMahon, James P. Barnett, David Bramlett (retired), William D. Boyer (retired), Rodney L. Busby, Noel D. Cost (retired), James D. Haywood, Kenneth Outcalt, Dale D. Wade, and Joan L. Walker.

Other group members recognized were Donald J. Tomczak, USDA-FS Southern Region; Dean H. Gjerstad, Rhett Johnson, John S. Kush, and Ralph Meldahl, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Anne Weiskircher received an Honor Award for providing outstanding customer service in domestic and foreign travel and transfer-of-station to employees of the Southern Research Station, Southern Region, and Schenck and Lyndon B. Johnson Job Corps Centers.

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Individual and Team Recognition

The Equal Opportunity Honor Award was received by the **Branching Out to the Youth of America CEOP Team** for organizing teams of interns who act as role models and bring an appreciation of natural resources conservation to summer camps in underserved communities. SRS team members included team leader **Rodney Kindlund** and **Louise Wyche**.

Chief's Awards:

The Chief of the Forest Service recognizes outstanding contributions that support the Department of Agriculture's Employee Recognition Programs and reinvention of government initiatives, major improvements in service to the public, workforce diversity, and ecosystem management initiatives.

Melvin L. Warren, Jr. and **Wendell Haag** received the Chief's Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Management National Award for their research work on freshwater mussels and warmwater fish.

Ken Cordell received the National Wilderness Award for excellence in wilderness management research for the 1994-95 USA Survey on Recreation.

The Southern Research Station received the Chief's Customer Service Award for continued excellence in creating a customer-driven Forest Service.

External and Collaborative Awards:

Richard Tinus received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his many contributions to nursery science from the Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer recognized the Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer (CATT) for efforts in scientifically-based management of aquatic habitat and resources on forested lands. Recipients included **Andrew Dolloff, Mel Warren, Kevin Leftwich, Martin Underwood, and Wendell Haag.** The CATT was also recognized with a Rise to the Future Collaborative Aquatic Resource Stewardship Award by several fisheries-related organizations.

The Iatt Creek Ecosystem Management Study on the Kisatchie National Forest, LA, was awarded the Taking Wing Award, Investigations, by Ducks Unlimited. SRS employees recognized were **John Stanturf, Carl Trettin, Marianne Burke, Cal Meier, Emile Gardiner, Paul Hamel, Mel Warren, Dexter Brand, and Al Brazzel.**

The book, *Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses*, by **James Miller** and **Karl Miller** was awarded the Printing Industry Association of the South's "Best of Category: Books & Manuals – Four or More Colors." The Southeast Section of the Wildlife Society of America has nominated the book for "Best Wildlife Book."

Successes -
Our Strategic Framework in Action

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

The Framework

We published "The Strategic Framework for the Southern Research Station" in 1997. The Strategic Framework enhances our ability to work with other members of the forestry community on a broader scale, across State and local boundaries, to respond to the complex issues challenging natural resource management. It provides a mechanism to leverage our science and resources in an integrated fashion and to assure accountability in our research programs. The Strategic Framework supports our commitment to collaborative stewardship by delivering usable information and technology to public and private customers to implement sustainable land and resource management. Sustainability is the concept that brings focus to the SRS research and development program.

The Strategic Framework establishes three emphasis areas for a dynamic system for setting goals, priorities, and making significant accomplishments: 1) measuring and monitoring forest resources; 2) understanding ecosystem structure, function, and processes; and 3) ensuring environmental quality and sustainable productivity. Achieving sustainability and incorporating human values into our research program requires a multidisciplinary approach and a customer-driven framework for applying that approach. To integrate the efforts of our 25 research work units, six cross-cutting themes (CCTs) were developed to address the three emphasis areas across the South: 1) Sustainability and Productivity of Southern Pine Ecosystems; 2) Ecology and Management of Forested Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Riparian Zones; 3) Southern Appalachian Ecosystem Research and Sustainability; 4) Sustainability and Productivity of the Interior Highlands Ecosystem; 5) Landscape and Regional Integrated (Large-Scale) Assessment and Modeling; 6) Inventory and Monitoring. The CCTs incorporate and address national concerns, and position us to be responsive with research direction to study those concerns.

This section highlights many of the accomplishments of our scientists that occurred in FY00 relating to the CCTs. The CCTs provide a thematic focus for much of our research and development program, but they are not mutually exclusive. Accomplishments may relate to more than one theme and the CCTs do not encompass our entire program. We produced nearly 600 publications and other materials in FY00 that are listed in the final section of this report; they are grouped under the most appropriate CCT.

Interest in collaboration in any of the CCTs is encouraged and welcomed. The research work units with the lead contacts for each CCT are listed at the end of the following CCT highlight sections. The research work unit addresses and telephone numbers may be found in Section Four.

The Strategic Framework is on our Web site at: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/about/framework.htm

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Southern Pines

The Sustainability and Productivity of Southern Pine Ecosystems cross-cutting theme includes components of the programs of 17 SRS research work units. This CCT embraces a major portion of our research on forest productivity – a primary driver of the South's economy. In the fall of 2000, we published a booklet describing this CCT's objectives, research questions, and collaborative opportunities. It is on the SRS Web site, at http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/about/PineCCT_book.pdf and is available in hard copy from SRS headquarters in Asheville.

Establishment and Management of Southern Pine Ecosystems

Expansion of southern pine plantation forests has become the best hope of meeting the increasing demand for forest products in the United States. The productivity and sustainability of these forests must be maintained, and increased, if we are to continue to meet society's needs. Restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem has become a high priority for public land managers in the South. Keys to accomplishing these tasks include improving reforestation efficiencies, increasing early stand development, and maximizing long-term forest productivity.

Southern pine forests play key role in meeting the Nation's demand for wood products.

We continue to expand our knowledge of reforestation-related issues such as improving production of quality seeds and seedlings, particularly for longleaf pine. We can now increase establishment of longleaf pine plantings by using container

stock and applying improved bareroot nursery technology. Understanding pine plantation responses to seasonal burning regimes helps stand establishment and increases the biological diversity in these plantations. Evaluation of seasonal prescribed fire regimes is providing data to the National Forest System on managing longleaf pine forests to achieve restoration of the ecosystem. The results of the seasonal burning programs are being used to manage the Kisatchie National Forest in a way that enhances biological diversity.

Results from long-term soil productivity installations provide guidance for enhancing sustainability of pine plantations by using management practices that minimize nutrient losses, or that use recommended

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Southern Pines

fertilization regimes. Other long-term studies are providing a better basic understanding of how plantations can be manipulated to compensate for potential changes in global climate and are the basis for improving predictive models of stand growth and development.

Technology and techniques to evaluate seedling cold hardiness have been transferred to about 15 nurseries. This information is being used to modify seedling lifting schedules with major savings by those nurseries. Guidelines for container production of longleaf pine seedlings are now being used across the South in about 30 nurseries. This technology has dramatically improved plantation establishment of longleaf pine. The data on seed and seedling production of longleaf pine is the basis for expanded reforestation and restoration efforts in the longleaf pine ecosystem. The national nursery consultation effort has resulted in lower nursery production costs and enhanced seedling establishment in Federal, State, and private nurseries.

Information on the ecophysiological effects of management of loblolly pine stands is being presented to teachers through the Temperate Forestry Foundation Summer Education Program. This information has become the basis of modifying teacher plans, and gaining an appreciation of the value of our forests to the nation and region and an understanding of the benefits of management of these forests.

Re-establishment of the Annual Crossett Forestry Field Day

For over 65 years, the Crossett Experimental Forest has served as an outdoor classroom for private landowners, university students, and visiting foresters seeking to learn more about natural stand management, especially selection silviculture. Several of the demonstration stands are among the oldest continuously-active silviculture studies in the nation. The Forestry Field Day was an annual tradition from 1983 to 1996. Scientists and staff presented the 15th Crossett Forestry Field Day on May 3, 2000 with the theme: "Welcome Back to the Crossett Experimental Forest."

Crossett Experimental Forest provides outdoor classroom for small forest property landowners.

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The event featured updates on several long-term demonstration studies, including the Good Farm Forestry Forty, the Reynolds Natural Area, the Block and Strip Clearcut Demonstration, the Stand Rehabilitation Study, and the Competition Control Study. Staff of the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation gave a presentation on opportunities for improving management on minority-owned forestland in the Arkansas Delta.

Since 1983, the 15 Forestry Field Days sponsored by the Monticello/ Crossett research work unit have attracted more than 3,500 foresters and private nonindustrial landowners who are interested in low-cost stand management techniques for perpetuating their forest investments. These techniques demonstrate success in management of native pine forest types using an array of management tactics other than clear-cutting and planting. The study and application of management alternatives is of keen interest to managers of public lands, industry foresters for application to company forestlands in sensitive areas, and nonindustrial private forest landowners who seek a diversity of products and values from small forest properties.

The Field Day attracted visitors from Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas. Visitors were able to select reprints of SRS publications, tour historic buildings (including several that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and view historic photographs of the Experimental Forest.

Mechanical Treatments for Midstory Reduction

Fire is an important natural element that shapes the structure of many forest types. Periodic natural fires open stands, reduce the numbers of trees, and promote recycling of nutrients in the ecosystem. The exclusion of fire, however, has led to an increasingly dense midstory component of shrubs and young trees. Dense midstories can adversely affect forest health and wildife habitat and increase fire risk. Resource managers attempting to return these stands to a more natural condition need a tool to reduce the midstory component. Mechanical treatments such as cutting or mulching the material are options that can be used to either replace natural fire, or to open stands up for prescribed fire management. Most of the mechanical treatments are adapted from right-of-way clearing equipment with little experience in broad-scale forest management prescriptions. Managers need information to guide the selection and application of mechanical treatments, including productivity and cost information as well as the expected results.

Machines tested for removing dense midstory growth.

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A South-wide study of mechanical treatments was initiated to examine the performance of mechanical treatments in a variety of applications. In New Bern, NC, tests of two types of machines were conducted in the urban interface as an example of fire replacement. On the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana, two types of machines were tested for strip thinning of dense pine reproduction as well as midstory removal in mature pine stands. These studies have led to an understanding of site factors that affect the production and cost of these operations. In addition, performance differences were identified that affect the resulting fuel composition. Estimates of production costs are now available for some treatments. The initial findings led to an expanded, continuing examination of midstory reduction treatments. The results of this research will be of value to contractors performing mechanical treatments and to resource managers as they plan for healthier forest ecosystems.

Developing Tools for Precision Forestry

Forest management is becoming more complex as we learn to consider the broader ecosystem in management prescriptions. Managing for wildlife, water quality, soil properties, commodity production, and maintenance of ecological functions requires more information about sites, stands, and the impacts of operations. New technology is available to help acquire and manage detailed information for resource management. An innovative system has been developed to track forest equipment as it operates. Electronic sensors on machines can measure tire slip, tree cutting, travel speeds and many other variables. The information collected in these advanced systems can be used to generate useful information for resource management.

Electronic monitoring of harvesting equipment aids in site remediation.

For example, the resource manager can develop detailed maps of plans for treatments including unit boundaries, restricted areas, locations of landings, and other features. The plan can also detail expected cutting patterns such as density of the residual stand. The electronic system can then monitor the operation, provide real-time direction to

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equipment operators on position and performance, and produce an updated map of the resulting stand after the treatment is complete. The post-treatment mapped information can be used to target site remediation activities such as seeding exposed soil or ripping heavily trafficked areas.

This research project has developed and demonstrated a prototype system which tracks machines and records operational functions. Trafficking maps have been generated from the data and are being evaluated for application in targeted site preparation prescriptions. Summaries of operational data have been created for performance monitoring by the contractors. New technology offers the potential to redefine forest management for the future. This research will define opportunities, costs and benefits, and requirements for further developments.

In Vitro Processes for Pine Host Fusiform Rust Pathogen Challenge Using Single Genotypes of the Fungus Versus Pine Somatic Embryos

The ability to easily produce fusiform rust cultures from single basidiospores and the ability to produce somatic pine embryos over a longer period will permit us to challenge the monogenic somatic embryos in the laboratory to study gene-for-gene interactions in the commercially important pine:fusiform rust pathosystem. We are now able to simply and directly produce cultures of the fusiform rust fungus from single basidiospores as opposed to the common use of several thousand spores to develop a colony of this difficult-to-grow pathogen on laboratory media.

New method to culture fusiform rust fungus expedites genetic investigation.

Because the expression of resistance is a function of the genetics of the host, the genetics of the pathogen, the environment, and their interaction, it is necessary to control these factors under experimental conditions in order to understand the system. The long-term goal is to develop efficient systems for genotyping host resistance loci and pathogen cultures at their complementary avirulence loci. This information will give breeders a way to monitor pathogen avirulence allele frequencies in potential planting areas, and then to select the appropriate families for planting. It will serve as a model for investigating the genetics of other complex, coevolved host:pathogen systems.

Research involves developing and maintaining individual clonal isolates of the fungus with varying levels of pathogenicity, and in challenging individual clones of pines as somatic emblings via tissue culture in vitro, with these fungal isolates in an artificial inoculation system.

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A Proactive Approach to Increasing Below-ground Carbon Sequestration

Below-ground carbon is critical for both nutrient and water cycling. Below-ground carbon typically is of greater quantity than that found above-ground. Soil scientists often assess the impacts of forest management activities on below-ground carbon pools. In 1997, a collaborative study with forest industry was implemented in Washington County, North Carolina in an attempt to proactively increase below-ground carbon pools by incorporating forest slash below-ground as a site preparation treatment. A second study was inititated at Savannah River in 2000.

Increasing soil carbon leads to improved long-term sustainability in forest plantations.

Initial results are positive as both short-term and long-term soil carbon fractions have increased with treatment. Soil carbon has increased while tree growth has been as high, or higher, than traditional site preparation treatments. The experiments will continue to be assessed over time.

This approach may prove useful in proactively increasing below-ground carbon in forest plantations to both increase carbon sequestration and to improve soil quality and thus long-term sustainabilty.

A Bark-shaving Technique to Prevent Rat Snake Predation on Red-cockaded Woodpecker Cavities

Red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) nest in living pines in the Southeastern United States. Rat snakes (*Elaphe* spp.) are known to prey on nestlings of this endangered woodpecker. Antipredator behavior exhibited by red-cockaded woodpeckers includes pecking off the loose bark on their cavity trees to create a smooth bole. They also excavate small wounds (termed resin wells) around their cavity entrance that produce a sustained flow of sticky resin that flows down the tree's bole, creating a barrier against rat snakes. In most cases rat snakes cannot climb over the barrier of sticky pine resin because it interferes with the movement of their scales. Rat snakes attempt to climb red-cockaded woodpecker cavity trees significantly more often than other pines in the forest and climbing occurs exclusively during the breeding season, when rat snakes appear to be actively seeking woodpecker nests. Predation attempts are only successful when an inadequate resin barrier is present on the cavity tree.

New method protects red-cockaded woodpecker nestlings.

Researchers at the SRS Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Lab in Nacogdoches, TX, developed a bark-shaving technique to deter rat snakes from climbing red-cockaded woodpecker trees that is aestheti-

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cally pleasing, more cost effective, and a safer alternative to other snake excluder devices currently available for cavity trees. A drawknife is used to carefully shave the bark in a one meter high band around the circumference to eliminate any furrows or rough surfaces without cutting into the cambium. Shaved barriers should be placed near breast height to facilitate installation, which can be performed by one person in less than five minutes. A very sharp drawknife must be used because a dull knife may pull the bark from the trees, exposing the pine's cambium. When compared to unshaved pines the method was nearly 100 percent effective in preventing rat snakes from climbing, whereas control trees were successfully climbed on every attempt. The bark-shaving technique retains its effectiveness for about 4 months after which tree growth causes an increase in the roughness of the bark, permitting snakes to breach the barrier. The technique is most effective when applied immediately prior to the nesting season so it can protect the nesting effort through the entire woodpecker breeding season.

Reintroduction of red-cockaded woodpeckers generally requires that the birds be placed into a new artificial cavity. Initially, this creates a situation where the woodpeckers are forced to use a roost tree lacking both a smooth bole and a resin barrier for protection from rat snakes. The bark-shaving technique can provide an initial defense against snake predation, and can also be used on nest trees known to have low resin production. The bark-shaving technique developed by the Nacogdoches lab has been incorporated into red-cockaded woodpecker management practices Southwide.

Impacts of Roads and Vehicular Traffic on Snake Populations

The impact of roads on vertebrate species has been primarily investigated for large mammal species. There is a need to assess impacts on other groups of vertebrates. Our research has resulted in significant advances in understanding the impacts of roads and associated vehicular traffic on populations of rare snakes and snake populations in general. Initial research demonstrated that the timber rattlesnake, which is listed by the State as threatened, was most likely eliminated from significant portions of its eastern Texas distribution by road traffic. Similarly, a primary cause of mortality for the Louisiana pine snake, a species under consideration for listing under the Endangered Species Act, was vehicle related. These results motivated a general assessment of the impact of road traffic on snake populations. The preliminary results demonstrate that the impact

Populations of endangered or threatened snake species are adversely affected by roads.

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is very substantial, affecting large portions of the landscape due to the nearly ubiquitous road network. Significant impacts on snake populations in forested habitats were documented for hundreds of yards from road rights-of-way.

These data should allow more detailed assessments of the proportion of landscapes that are ecologically affected by roads, a type of assessment just beginning to be attempted by researchers. These data are being used to make status and management decisions for these species, especially by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service in the case of the Louisiana pine snake. Results of this research have led to significant modifications of the management of off-road vehicle use on the Angelina National Forest. In addition, the approach taken in this research is being implemented in research currently in progress on the Federally-listed endangered eastern indigo snake. This research should be of interest to conservation biologists, resource managers, agency personnel responsible for regulation of resource issues, and others working to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

Understanding the Role of Predators in the Population Cycles of Southern Pine Beetle

In economic terms, southern pine beetles are the most significant insect in southern forests. These bark beetles must kill their tree host to reproduce (most pine species are acceptable hosts in an outbreak) and can cause millions of dollars of losses. In 1999 alone it was estimated that southern pine beetles destroyed over $34 million of timber. However, this insect cycles between being incredibly abundant and very damaging and being barely noticeable and colonizing mainly lightning struck trees. Suggested factors which affect these extreme fluctuations in the numbers of beetles have included environment, tree nutrition, and fungal associates and natural enemies of the beetle. However, little has been done to quantify the relative contributions of these factors to southern pine beetle population cycles. In collaboration with the University of Connecticut we have been studying the role of predator beetles that eat southern pine beetles.

Predatory beetles affect population fluctuations of the damaging southern pine beetle.

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It appears that the population fluctuations in the southern pine beetle may be largely due to their interactions with predators. Specifically, mortality of southern pine beetles caused by predation affects their population dynamics in a delayed density dependent manner. In other words, predation by a natural enemy is a factor that significantly contributes to the fluctuations we see in southern pine beetle populations. This knowledge may help us devise biological control strategies and may help us create computer models that can predict when and where southern pine beetles will become epidemic next.

When models are developed, forest managers will benefit by being better able to predict when they will need to plan for southern pine beetle activity. The scientific community will benefit from a better understanding of the ecology and biology of this complex system, as well as from insights into the way in which insects interact with their natural enemies. The public will benefit from new, safer control methods for protecting their trees.

Longleaf Pine Characteristics Influence Prey Available for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers

The red-cockaded woodpecker is an endangered species occurring throughout the Southern United States where it is most often found in association with longleaf pine. Longleaf pine forests have declined from an estimated 24 million hectares to less than 1.3 million hectares today. This loss of habitat is thought to be one of the major reasons for the woodpecker's decline. The majority of the remaining woodpeckers occur on national forests and these forests are expected to support 80 percent of the woodpeckers in the future. Because of this dependence on national forests it is important that we understand what the woodpeckers need and how stand conditions and management practices might affect the species and the arthropods (insects, spiders, centipedes, etc.) they depend on for food.

The red-cockaded woodpecker spends most of its time looking for food on the boles of living pine trees. We conducted a study to see how tree characteristics (age, diameter, bark thickness) and stand conditions (tree density, site quality, and understory plant community) affected the numbers and biomass in dried weight of arthropods that crawl onto trees where they are available as food for the woodpeckers.

Food availability for woodpeckers correlates with tree size.

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We looked at over 50,000 arthropods in 470 genera. The results show that the number and biomass of arthropods increased with increasing tree age up to about 65-70 years. After that arthropod biomass changed little on 70-90 year old trees. Arthropod biomass was correlated with bark thickness and tree diameter in a similar way. However, when we estimated the biomass of arthropods in stands of trees, we found that stands of younger trees had more biomass per hectare than stands of older trees. We did not see relationships of arthropod biomass with the quality of the sites or the condition of the understory plant community.

These results show old trees (more than 70 years old) do not have more arthropods crawling onto them and available for red-cockaded woodpeckers, and that the understory plant community is not critical in supporting arthropods that crawl onto tree boles. In addition, since arthropod biomass on trees was correlated with tree diameter and bark thickness, land managers might be able to provide optimum foraging habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers sooner than 65-70 years by growing trees faster. These results should benefit public and private land managers charged with managing and improving habitat for this endangered woodpecker.

Lead contacts for the Sustainability and Productivity of Southern Pine Ecosystems cross-cutting theme: RWU SRS-4105 at Auburn, AL, and RWU SRS-4111 at Pineville, LA.

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Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Streams

Approximately 50 percent of the wetland resource in the United States occurs in the South, and the majority of these wetlands are forested. In addition to jurisdictional wetlands, nonhydric bottomlands and riparian areas occur in a setting similar to wetlands. Sustainable management of these forests, a majority of which are in private hands, provides research challenges addressed by SRS scientists. Our work in the Ecology and Management of Forested Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Riparian Zones Cross-Cutting Theme investigates ways in which the critical ecosystem functions can be maintained effectively in a social and economic context acceptable to those who own, manage, and care about the resources.

A workshop, "Research on Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Riparian Areas in the Southern United States: Status and Frontiers" was held in conjunction with the Association for Southeastern Biologists in April in Chattanooga, TN. The workshop was a forum to help plan future research priorities for this CCT. Panelists representing the following interests and disciplines presented their view of research needs: silviculture, biodiversity, restoration, riparian area management, water quality, and noncommodity interests.

Contrasting Nutrient Dynamics in Two Bottomland Hardwood Ecosystems

Mainly due to a difference in watershed size, brownwater rivers, blackwater rivers, and low-order streams carry very different sediment and nutrient loads. To date, comparisons have been made between the former two stream types, but nowhere have nutrient dynamics in floodplains of blackwater rivers and low order streams been compared. We hypothesized that the floodplain forests of these systems would differ markedly in both their nutrient capital and the way nutrients were cycled. To test this, net primary productivity (NPP) and nutrient dynamics were contrasted in four forest community types along flooding gradients in each of two neighboring blackwater and low-order streams.

Understanding nutrient cycling difference in ecosystem types will improve restoration efforts.

The blackwater site proved to be nutrient rich, nutrient balanced, and productive, and the low-order stream quite nutrient poor, nutrient imbalanced, and unproductive. Given the greater and more balanced

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nutrient availability and relatively high NPP on the blackwater site, we hypothesized that NPP on the low-order site would respond to microsite fertilization with nitrogen (N), because, based on soil N mineralization and foliar analyses, N was determined to be the most deficient nutrient on that site. To test whether nitrogen or other nutrients might limit NPP at either study site, an experiment employing soil cores fertilized with calcium (Ca), potassium (K), phosphorus (P), or N, was used to assay ecosystem response to nutrient rich microsites.

Although N was highly available on the blackwater site, NPP on that site responded more dramatically to enhanced microsite N availability than any other nutrient. Also, the N-response on the blackwater site was substantially greater than that on the nutrient-poor low-order site. These results suggest that 1) N limited NPP more than Ca, K, or P on the blackwater site, 2) forests on the blackwater site are more vigorous and thus better able to respond to nutrient-rich microsites than those in the nutrient-poor floodplain of the low-order stream, 3) N assimilation and NPP at the nutrient poor site may not be limited by N availability, and 4) external (to the trees) nutrient cycling is more important at the blackwater site than at the low-order stream site, suggesting turnover of both nutrients and biomass is greater and more rapid on more fertile bottomland hardwood sites.

This work is fundamental to sustainable management of bottomland hardwood forests in the Southeastern United States. It also provides a critical foundation for wetland restoration programs. Without reference wetland systems, there is little basis for knowing how effective the restoration effort has been.

Restoration of a Severely Impacted Riparian Wetland System

The Savannah River Swamp is a 3020 hectare (ha) forested wetland on the floodplain of the Savannah River at the Department of Energy's site near Aiken, SC. Historically the swamp consisted of approximately 50 percent bald cypress-water tupelo stands, 40 percent mixed bottomland hardwood stands, and 10 percent shrub, marsh, and open water. Major impacts to the swamp hydrology and vegetation occurred with the completion of nuclear production reactors at the site in the early 1950s. Water was pumped from the Savannah River, through secondary heat exchangers of the reactors, and discharged into tributary streams that flowed into the swamp. From 1954 to 1988, high temperature effluents in excess of 65 ˚C were discharged into one of the tributaries, Pen Branch, at rates often 20 to 40 times greater than normal flow. The sustained increases in water volume resulted in overflow

Success in restoring part of DOE Savannah River site provides valuable information for future wetland restoration.

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of the stream banks, erosion of the original stream corridor, and deposition of a deep silt layer in a newly formed river delta. The nearly continuous flooding of the swamp,

the thermal load of the water, and the heavy silting resulted in complete mortality of the original vegetation in large areas of the floodplain.

Once the pumping was reduced, natural reestablishment of herb, grass, and shrub species occurred in the affected areas; however, few volunteer seedlings of bottomland hardwoods or bald cypress were evident. Given these circumstances, a research program was established by the Savannah River Institute, in cooperation with the Westinghouse Savannah River Technology Center and the SRS Center for Forested Wetlands Research to determine methods for reintroducing forested wetland tree species into this drastically disturbed area. From 1993 to 1995, the Forest Service planted approximately 75 percent of the affected Pen Branch floodplain area in desirable bottomland hardwood tree species, while the remaining area (25 percent) was kept unplanted for experimental purposes. Three restoration strategies were formulated to address the differing conditions of the impacted floodplain. Approximately 8700 seedlings were planted in the lower corridor (15 ha) without any site preparation. The upper corridor (24 ha) was planted after the application of a wetland-approved herbicide and a prescribed burn. The delta (12 ha) was planted after herbicide application in the absence of burning. Herbicide application and prescribed burning were performed to control a dense black willow overstory and to clear brush and vines from the planting area. Tree species included in the plantings were overcup oak, swamp chestnut oak, nuttall oak, willow oak, cherry bark oak, water hickory, persimmon, green ash, sycamore, swamp black gum, water tupelo, and bald cypress.

The research program developed was intended not only to answer questions pertaining to vegetation reestablishment, but also to document ecosystem response and to evaluate whether or not the restored system is following a path toward recovery. The impact of disturbance and its effect on restoration and ecosystem health were evaluated through studies that examined the following parameters: stream hydrology, seedling survival and competition, aquatic insect community dynamics, fish ecology and

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stream habitat, organic matter decomposition and nutrient transport, and animal community distribution. In most of these studies, measurements were made in both the restored system and in one or more minimally disturbed reference systems, and/or control systems, which experienced a thermal impact similar to that of Pen Branch, but were hydrologically restored at an earlier date.

Tree seedling studies indicated that many site preparation techniques (burning, herbicides, thinning) did not significantly impact growth and/or survival. However, tree shelters and root pruning were effective silvicultural techniques that enhanced survivability in areas prone to stress from herbivory and competition. A seedling survey performed in 1997 showed that water tupelo, green ash, sycamore, and persimmon had the highest percent survival in the upper corridor, while bald cypress exhibited the best survival in the wetter lower corridor and delta areas. The restored floodplain contained many of the functional capabilities exhibited by an undisturbed wetland with respect to animal life, however certain species were dominant in Pen Branch when compared to later successional wetlands. Fish populations, for instance, exhibited a higher density in Pen Branch compared to that observed in the undisturbed reference wetlands. Preliminary results also indicated that density of insects in Pen Branch was significantly higher than those observed in reference systems. Results from terrestrial vertebrate studies indicated that birds, small mammal, reptile, and amphibian communities are well established in Pen Branch. For some animal communities, it appears that Pen Branch is providing a greater opportunity for establishment and survival than the later successional systems. Although species abundance and in some cases diversity are higher in Pen Branch than in the reference systems, structural differences with respect to animal communities and key energy sources such as soil carbon and nutrients revealed that the Pen Branch floodplain remains an immature, early successional system, but it is moving toward recovery.

Information from the above studies is being utilized to develop a quantitative assessment method for evaluating riparian wetland restoration success. It is evident from the research that Pen Branch is currently functioning as a viable wetland. The

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degree of function and level of recovery, however, is subject to debate. By utilizing biotic and abiotic metrics obtained from research in hydrology, soils, vegetation, carbon and nutrient cycling, and animal communities, predictions of wetland function in response to the restoration activity can be ascertained. As succession proceeds and research continues in the restored and the relatively unimpacted reference sites, information is being accumulated to validate our predictions and further contribute to the development of our assessment procedure. As a consequence, these efforts will serve as a template for future wetland restorations.

Ecology and Reproductive Biology of Pondberry

Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia* [Walt] Blume) is an endangered shrub of the Southern United States that grows in seasonally flooded wetlands and on the edges of sinks and ponds. Thirty-six populations are known in several Southern States. Many of the existing pondberry colonies are small and occupy only a portion of the apparently suitable habitat. The species has been affected by habitat destruction and alteration, especially timber harvest, clearing of land, and drainage or flooding of wetlands. In addition stem dieback is a problem and sexual reproduction is sparse in some populations.

Endangered shrub may recover with human intervention.

Pondberry is a shrub that grows to a maximum of 2 meters in height with small yellow flowers that bloom in spring. Pondberry has always been a rare species, and knowledge of its ecology and reproductive biology is lacking. Male plants outnumber females by a ratio of 7:1; female clones are smaller than male clones, and are often absent from stands. Seed production is erratic, and as in many other clonal species, few seedlings occur even when seed production is high.

We have studied pondberry populations in Mississippi and Arkansas and visited populations in several other States. The most vigorous pondberry populations we observed occurred in locations with abundant light. Stem dieback appears to be widespread in populations. We have isolated three fungal pathogens from stems. Six insect species were found in association with pondberry, but do not appear to be limiting factors for the plant.

The hydrology of the pondberry habitat has changed, so areas that were suitable in the past are now less than ideal and some populations are not thriving. However, potted plants in the greenhouse are flourishing, indicating that the plant grows well under the proper conditions. Many populations occur in small wooded areas that have not been cut and planted with crops only because they are slightly

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lower in elevation than the surrounding agricultural land, thus the plant's ability to spread or to migrate to more favorable habitats is limited. Because of the conditions in which it occurs, the survival of this species may depend on human intervention.

Work to establish new populations in protected locations across the species' range should bring about its downgrade from endangered species to threatened and eventually lead to delisting as a threatened species.

Recalcitrant Seeds

The majority of seeds from temperate forest species can be dried to a moisture content of less than 12 percent without damage. Seeds that are sensitive to drying are called recalcitrant seed. Sensitivity to drying makes it difficult to store seed for any useful period. Examples of recalcitrant seeds include many tropical species and acorns of commercially important oaks. Their incapacity for long-term storage presents many problems in producing seedlings for afforestation and reforestation, and for conservation of genetic diversity. If we can determine the causes of the loss of seed viability during drying, we may be able to devise treatments or storage conditions that counteract recalcitrant behavior. Successful storage of seed from species such as the oaks would allow collection during years of heavy seed production (mast years), providing for adequate supplies of seed in other years.

The physiological basis of recalcitrant behavior is not fully understood. One possibility is that recalcitrant seed behavior is based on aberrant metabolism of the seed as water is lost during storage. The role played by carbohydrates such as sucrose in this process is complex, and results reported in the literature are conflicting. The result of an experiment examining the carbohydrates in acorns showed a significant increase in sucrose content of white oak *(Quercus alba)* acorns as seeds slowly desiccated for 9 days. However, we could not be certain whether the increase in sucrose content was due to the drying process, or to the initiation of germination.

We conducted further experiments and found that the drying acorns had higher levels of sucrose than the wet acorns in both the embryo and cotyledon tissue throughout the 9-day experiment. Sucrose contents of the cotyledon and embryo tissue were initially much the same but as the experiment progressed, the

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sucrose content of the embryo tissue became significantly greater than that of the cotyledon tissue in both the wet and dry acorns. The results show a clear effect of desiccation on the sucrose levels in embryos and cotyledons of white oak acorns. The overall higher sucrose contents in dry acorns indicate that this is not due to germination alone. Even as the embryos developed, the drop in sucrose in dry acorns was less than that in wet acorns. A surge in sucrose levels in day 7 dry embryos was more than twice that in wet embryos, suggesting that sucrose transported to the embryo is no longer being used for growth and development but may be preventing cellular collapse as moisture stress increases.

Successful storage of sensitive seeds will broaden opportunities for planting of important species.

Further evidence supporting sucrose as a "glycoprotectant" is found in electron micrographs of desiccating tissues of white oak acorns. Despite the stress imposed by falling moisture contents, cell membranes of white oak tissues remain intact. In contrast, water oak (*Q. nigra)* seeds have a high lipid content and little fluctuation in the cotyledon carbohydrate content during desiccation. In these acorns, membranes may be damaged after only 3 days of drying.

Importing sucrose to the drying embryos of white oak may begin as a germination response, but the continued increase suggests a protective mechanism. Since no evidence of membrane damage was found in the acorn tissues, the combination of high sucrose and a fairly high axis moisture content (26 percent after 10 days) may protect cell membranes; but the mechanism is obviously not successful in preserving viability, which drops rapidly after day 5. Thus while membranes are kept intact in desiccating seeds, perhaps by the protective increase in sucrose content, some as-yet undiscovered metabolic failure must be responsible for the recalcitrant nature of white oak acorns.

This information puts us one step closer to determining the causes of deterioration in recalcitrant seeds. Ultimately, this information will be of great benefit to seed companies and nursery operators who at this time have to rely on current-year seed crops from species that produce recalcitrant seeds.

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The Iatt Creek Ecosystem Study

In the Southern United States, forested wetlands occupy less than half their original 12.5 million acres. To manage, maintain, or restore ecosystems, the initial need is to identify important functions that characterize undisturbed or stable communities or landscapes. The 320-ha Iatt Creek Study area, located on the Kisatchie National Forest in central Louisiana, occupies a segment of a braided stream bottom dominated by Iatt Creek. The 195 km^2 upstream watershed, typical of the Coastal Plain, is primarily forest and pasture. The study area varies in width from 550 to 1000 m with an overall length of 5000 m and is occupied by a mature sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and sweetgum-cherrybark oak (*Quercus falcata* var. *pagodaefolia*) overstory forest. The initial objective of the study was to quantify the physical, chemical, and biological functions of a mature bottomland forest community. We located our study in a minor alluvial bottom to represent the 60 percent of the remaining bottomland forest acreage in this bottomland type.

Initial analyses have shown the forest is mature (66 to 75 years old), tall (33 m), multi-sized, and dominated by large diameter sweetgum, cherrybark oak, and water oak (*Quercus nigra*). Basal area averages 35 m^2 per hectare, with some 73 species appearing in the woody vegetation layers and an additional 80 species in the herbaceous layer. Aboveground net primary productivity averages approximately 14,100 kg/ha/yr, placing the study area among the highest reported for Southeast wetland forests. As expected in a mature forest, approximately 70 percent of net primary productivity is in litterfall (predominantly leaf and branch).

Decomposition studies have shown that the decay and nutrient turnover of fine litterfall is very rapid, suggesting a close linkage between the detrital pathways and plant growth. Evaluation of nutrient and carbon storage within the study area is ongoing.

Increased understanding of a mature bottomland forest will enhance sustainable management.

Repeated winter and summer avian counts have revealed more than 75 bird species. Of these species, 23 were neotropical migrants and 17 were north temperate or short distance migrants. Use of the bottom by nesting and migrating wood ducks is common.

Flooding regime, soils, fluvial geomorphology, and landscape environment of minor bottomlands vary

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Streams

dramatically from major bottomlands and from deepwater cypress swamps. The mature minor bottom hardwood forest is a botanically very diverse community that is responsive to site characteristics and reflective of the turn of the century harvesting that led to its development. The mature forest is changing in species composition due to mortality and plant recruitment associated with canopy gap formation. The area supports a biologically very productive mature plant community with much of its net primary productivity associated with leaf production rather than wood or stem production. Leaf production is indicative of the high leaf area, multilayered canopy, that the mesic bottomland supports and illustrates the important role that litter decomposition must play in the rapid return of nutrients to the soil for continued sustained production.

This study has demonstrated that bottomland hardwood forests differ significantly in the levels of functions, between minor and major bottoms, that together differ significantly from deepwater swamps. These results highlight how these minor bottomland systems differ substantially from popular conceptions of forested wetland functions, which are taken largely from research on deepwater swamps. This enhanced understanding of forested wetland functions will aid in managing these systems, identifying feasible and relevant goals for wetland restoration activities, and specifying criteria and indicators of sustainable management.

The intent of this research was to better understand how a mature bottomland forest in a minor bottom setting functions. The results reveal a very diverse, highly productive, nutritionally dynamic, and plant compositionally varied ecosystem that is changing in space and time. To maintain the ecosystem and ecosystem functions while managing a minor bottomland for multiple uses will be exciting and challenging. Beneficiaries of this research include forest managers, regulatory agencies, and interested nongovernment organizations. Ultimately, the public benefits from sustainable management of this important resource.

Lead contacts for the Ecology and Management of Forested Wetlands, Bottomland Hardwoods, and Riparian Zones cross-cutting theme: RWU SRS-4103 at Charleston, SC, and RWU SRS-4155 at Stoneville, MS.

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Southern Appalachians

The objectives of the Southern Appalachian Ecosystem Research and Sustainability Cross-Cutting Theme are to: 1) identify and test principles and develop ecologically based information applicable to management of Southern Appalachian forest ecosystems, focusing on natural and planned disturbances; 2) increase our knowledge of social and economic influences on forest resource management and the values derived from them; and 3) develop and provide tools to forest managers in a form useful for integrating ecological and socioeconomic information to aid in forest management decisionmaking.

Collaborative Work Continues on Decisionmaking Support Software

Recent events have increased the pressure on forest managers to make ecologically sustainable, socially acceptable, and economically feasible decisions. Managers are expected to predict short- and long-term effects of implementing different alternatives. The scope and complexity required to support decisions which directly affect ecosystem management is extensive. Although a large body of scientific knowledge exists on relations between forest structure and pattern and ecosystem attributes, this information is spotty, widely scattered in technical journals, and frequently difficult to interpret and apply. Furthermore, the incorporation of stakeholders' knowledge and goals, the adoption of a "soft" science approach and the integration of social disciplines, theories, and measurement techniques is a significant challenge to many traditionally trained resource managers. One of today's greatest scientific challenges is the development and testing of new theories and tools that describe the multiple ramifications of management decisions and that provide a practical, understandable decision process. Developing, evaluating, and adapting new decision processes and their supporting software tools is a critically important endeavor.

NED decision analysis process receives award for continued development and application.

To meet these needs, scientists from the Northeastern and Southern Research Stations have been cooperating since 1992 to design, construct, and test NED, an ecosystem management decision support system. The objectives of NED are to develop and test 1) an operationally practical decision

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Southern Appalachians

analysis process and 2) the necessary decision support tools for conducting ecosystem management. The adoption and use of efficient and affordable decision processes and their supporting software tools would represent significant progress in ecosystem management. Forest managers and interested stakeholders can have 1) a transparent, clear, and understandable process, that 2) provides logical and concise results, where 3) choices are explicit and open to examination, and 4) limits on time, expertise, and money are expressly accommodated. The NED decision analysis process and software tools can provide research scientists with a vehicle to synthesize and deliver biological and socioeconomic knowledge in a useable format. NED can provide managers with a powerful, yet understandable, decision support tool to help them cope with the biological and political complexity inherent in their job. The completion of the first version of NED in 1999 was impressive enough to result in winning a $325,000 award from the USDA National Research Initiative in their year 2000 competitive grants cycle. This award is meant to help fund the next generation of NED software and to perform numerous case studies for real clients in real-world forest management situations.

Forest Inventory and Analysis Data Used to Develop New Analysis Tools

The Forest Inventory and Analysis database (FIA) represents a significant outlay of taxpayers money, so new applications and uses of these data represent efficiency. The Southern Appalachian CCT has included working cooperatively with the Growth and Yield Group at the USDA Forest Service Forest Management Service Center in Fort Collins to use the FIA database to develop a regional prototype of a general tree growth simulator. This computer-based simulator will be used by the National Forest System as the primary source of growth data in the development of forest plans and for the implementation of project-level and NEPA-level planning analyses. A comprehensive accuracy test of the prototype is in progress, involving the performance of individual model components, such as the mortality, diameter growth, and height growth constructs. The species list and growth information from FIA plots is being used to develop a species-list-driven method of classifying lands into productivity classes. This will provide an easier-to-use method based on measured tree heights and stand age. Another new application of these FIA data involves populating geographic

FIA data use enhances Southern Appalachian cross-cutting theme

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Southern Appalachians

information system (GIS) databases with plausible estimates of diameter distributions for delineated stands GIS data layers that do not contain FIA sample plots. The idea is to use extensive GIS databases that are either already available or are inexpensive to develop which contain variables that serve as linkages to the information in the detail-rich FIA database. A major component of this research is to find a way to use remotely sensed data as a surrogate for mean size of trees in a stand. This stand mean tree size surrogate will serve as a strong linkage variable to the measured diameter distribution data in the FIA database.

Roost Site Selection by the Indiana Bat in the Southern Appalachians

Conservationists and wildlife biologists have grown increasingly concerned over the status of forest bats in the United States and worldwide. Almost half of the 18 species of bats that inhabit Eastern United States forests are considered to be threatened, endangered, or sensitive. The status of many other species is simply not known. The Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*, is one of the species that is of the greatest immediate concern. Indiana bats were listed as an endangered species by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service in 1967. The major cause of their decline was thought to be disturbance and destruction of their winter hibernation sites. Therefore, caves and mines used by Indiana bats in winter have been protected from human disturbance. However, despite this protection, Indiana bat populations have declined from 808,000 in 1960 to 353,000 in 1995-97. This substantial decline suggests that factors other than disturbance to the hibernacula are responsible for the decline. Therefore, research and conservation efforts have turned to summer maternity habitat as a possible limiting factor.

New information about maternity roost trees will lead to models to predict potentially suitable sites for Indiana bats.

Female Indiana bats form small maternity colonies of 10-20 individuals during late spring and summer. Colonies are usually located between the bark and the bole of snags or trees with a lot of exfoliating bark (e.g., white oaks and shagbark hickories). Until recently, no maternity colonies had been found south of Kentucky. However, in 1999, a maternity colony was located on the Nantahala National Forest in western North Carolina. This provided us with the opportunity to learn more about roost site requirements of Indiana bats and to determine potential habitat factors that may be limiting their populations. We initiated a cooperative study in the summer of 2000 to determine the factors that

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Southern Appalachians

contribute to maternity roost site selection at the tree, stand, and landscape levels.

Researchers from Tennessee Technological University captured three adult female, one juvenile male, and one adult male Indiana bats in July 2000 in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in eastern Tennessee. Tiny (0.5g) radio-transmitters were glued to the backs of the bats and they were located in their roost sites over the following 5-8 days. We obtained habitat data from the six roost trees that were found by researchers in 2000 and the maternity roost tree on the Nantahala National Forest in 1999. Before this study, maternity roosts have only been found in hardwoods, primarily ash, oaks, and hickories. In contrast, the maternity roost on the Nantahala National Forest was in a hemlock snag and 3 of the 6 maternity roosts found in or near Great Smoky Mountains National Park were in pine snags. This suggests that the Indiana bat may be able to utilize a wider range of roost tree types than previously thought.

Data on the habitat immediately surrounding each roost tree, the stands in which each tree was located, and the landscape surrounding each of the stands will be used to develop habitat models of Indiana bat roost site selection in the Southern Appalachians. These models will help scientists isolate important habitat features that are associated with Indiana bat maternity roost selection and aid the National Forest System, National Park Service, and managers of other public and private lands to develop appropriate habitat management strategies for Indiana bats. The models can be applied across the landscape to predict other potentially suitable sites. Managers and scientists will thus be able to use these models to select the best sites for searching for new colonies.

Using Trees to Clean Polluted Groundwater

Groundwater pollution is a major problem in many areas of the United States and conventional clean-up methods, such as pumping and treating groundwater, are costly. Researchers at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in North Carolina are engaged in a collaborative project with the Department of Defense, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the use of trees to accumulate and metabolize pollutants in shallow groundwater in Texas, Florida, Colorado, and South Carolina. To be an effective tool, vegetation must transpire a substantial quantity of water from the primary location of the pollutant plume (such as the soil horizon and/or groundwater). Coweeta's role in the project is to quantify transpiration in young poplar plantations as well as native vegetation, and to develop and apply physiologically based models to predict future stand level transpiration rates. In the first phase of study, transpiration was

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measured using sapflow collars and sapflow probes. In addition, leaf level water relations were measured to determine sensitivity to climatic and seasonal variation. Results showed that in the first year after planting, poplar plantations in central Texas transpired approximately 25 cm, which is equal to about one-third to one-half the amount of transpiration for mature hardwood forests in other regions of North America. Model projections indicate that the stand will transpire and metabolize enough water in future years to be an effective phytoremediation tool. Because of the importance of transpiration in evaluating the efficacy of using phytoremediation, these estimates and the methods developed to quantify transpiration represent a major advance in phytoremediation technology. Coweeta has developed modeling and measurement tools to be used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Defense (DOD), and other resource managers evaluating site clean-up alternatives. Where phytoremediation is applicable, a significant cost savings will be realized compared to conventional methods. Because of the importance of this work, a Coweeta scientist was invited to the EPA "State-of-the Science" Conference on Phytoremediation to share research results.

Poplar stands are expected to be an effective "phytoremediation" tool.

Lead contacts for the Southern Appalachian Ecosystem Research and Sustainability cross-cutting theme: RWU SRS-4101 at Bent Creek, NC, and RWU SRS-4351 at Franklin, NC.

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Interior Highlands

The Interior Highlands are among the most important but least intensively studied regions in the mid-South. Four major ecological provinces comprise the Interior Highlands – the Ozark Highlands of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas, the Boston Mountains of north Arkansas, the Arkansas River Valley, and the Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. The Sustainability and Productivity of the Interior Highlands Ecosystem Cross-Cutting Theme is designed to provide the scientific basis and integrating framework to support management of the Interior Highlands forests for public, forest industry, and nonindustrial private forest landowners.

Prediction Systems for the Growth of Shortleaf Pine in the Interior Highlands

Shortleaf pine is the premier species of the Interior Highlands, yet our knowledge of the growth and development of shortleaf pine lags far behind the other southern pine species. Predicting future stand conditions is an important element of land-resource management, and a long-term goal has been to develop systems for projecting the development of shortleaf pine stands. Two papers published this fiscal year consolidate the information contained in earlier works into functional prediction systems for shortleaf pine growth in even- and uneven-aged stands.

Before the current effort, predicting the development of shortleaf pine was very restrictive, and management alternatives were difficult to compare. For example, thinning regimes were fixed to the specific levels and intervals tested by the research. However, the development of the new prediction systems allows a high degree of flexibility because they are based on the behavior of individual trees rather than a group or population of trees. In the new systems, a tree's growth is predicted from a number of stand and site features that are provided by the user. In addition, the chances of tree mortality are also predicted. In this approach, the individual trees making up a stand are 'grown' through time.

Predicting future stand conditions will be both more accurate and more flexible.

The prediction systems presented in the FY00 publications make predicting future stand conditions both more accurate and more flexible.

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They allow managers to make wise choices among different management systems, different rotation lengths, and different silvicultural treatments, such as thinning interval and intensity. Managers of the shortleaf pine resource will benefit from the developed prediction systems. It will make their jobs easier because they will have greater flexibility in testing management alternatives.

Release of the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands Assessment

The Southern Research Station played a key role in the writing, editing, and publication of the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands Assessment. Over two years in preparation, the assessment pulls together information on terrestrial vegetation and wildlife, air quality, aquatic conditions, and social and economic conditions in the assessment area of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. SRS scientists in Arkansas provided lead authorship for two chapters in the terrestrial vegetation and wildlife report: Chapter 3, Status and Trends of Vegetation, and Chapter 4, Silvicultural Practices.

Assessment provides valuable reference document for planners and managers of public and private forest lands.

The assessment did not develop new information in and of itself. Instead, the assessment represents a compilation and summary of data from hundreds of sources, and places those data in a single five-volume set. It reports a wealth of information about conditions in the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains, and the relationship of national forest lands within the context of the forested land base across the assessment area.

One primary use of the assessment will be to assist national forest managers and planners with the process of revising the forest plans on the Ouachita, Ozark-St. Francis, and Mark Twain National Forests—which together have accounted for roughly 10 percent of the timber harvest from public lands over the past few years. However, the data contained in the assessment can be used by State, county, and municipal governments, by forest industry and other industries that rely on natural resources, by nongovernment organizations interested in forest resources and values, and nonindustrial private forest landowners. The assessment is a reference document that will be of significant value to scientists, planners, and managers of public and private forestlands, and the public.

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Interior Highlands

Symposium on Ecosystem Management Research in the Ouachita and Ozark Mountains

The 1999 Symposium on Ecosystem Management Research in the Ouachita and Ozark Highlands was held October 26-28, 1999 in Hot Springs AR. Mr. F. Dale Robertson, retired Forest Service Chief, presented the keynote address entitled "A history of ecosystem management research in the USDA Forest Service." Seventy other papers and posters were presented at the Symposium. The meeting concluded with a field tour of ecosystem management research stands.

Latest scientific information on a diversity of forest management practices presented.

Information was presented in three major lines of research. In the stand-level Phase II research line, papers and posters were offered in the context of post-treatment results five years after treatments were imposed for overstory vegetation, understory vegetation, wildlife, soil and water quality, logging and economics, visual quality, and arthropods and microbial diversity. In the landscape-scale Phase III research line, papers and posters were offered based on 5 years of baseline pre-treatment data collection with respect to vegetation, wildlife, aquatic ecology, hydrology, and social sciences. In the category of related Interior Highlands research, papers and posters were offered on Missouri ecosystem projects, the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands Assessment, and the National Forest Communities Project.

Papers presented during the Symposium offered participants a look at the latest scientific information available on the effects of a diversity of forest management practices on a host of resources and values. The greatest value will be achieved with the release of the Symposium proceedings.

Bird and Small Mammal Responses to Alternative Pine Regeneration Methods in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas

Research underway on the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma is providing forest managers with a wealth of information on responses of various forest resources (timber, water, wildlife, etc.) to alternative pine regeneration systems. As one component of this long-term, multidisciplinary research and demonstration initiative, SRS and university scientists monitored responses of forest birds and small mammals to two even-aged (clearcut/plant and

Initial data suggest that harvested stands have increased numbers of small mammals and birds over unharvested stands.

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shelterwood) and two uneven-aged (single-tree and group selection) regeneration systems. Spring songbird and winter small mammal communities and a diversity of wildlife habitat features (e.g., acorn and fruit availability) were studied in four 35- to 40-acre stands of each of these treatments plus four untreated, late-rotation (60 + year old) reference stands. These 20 stands were located randomly over the Ouachita National Forest in eastern Oklahoma and west-central Arkansas and the southern-most district of the Ozark/St. Francis National Forest. All study areas are located predominantly on southerly aspects, as these are the sites from which most of the timber is harvested on these national forests. Two years of data were collected before stand harvesting during the summer of 1993. All preharvest data from this research were summarized in a 1994 Forest Service General Technical Report (GTR-SO-112). Findings for the first 5 post-harvest years, which were presented at an October 1999 symposium, will be published as an SRS GTR.

Because all stands were largely even-aged at study initiation, single-tree and group selection stands are in transition to an uneven-aged stand structure having three or more pine age classes; before they attain this structure, these stands must be thinned additional times and obtain satisfactory pine regeneration and survival. Consequently, it is too early to draw definitive conclusions regarding comparative advantages of even- and uneven-aged systems for birds and small mammals. However, initial data suggest that early-transition single-tree and group selection stands should have similar bird and small mammal abundance, species richness, and diversity as clearcut and shelterwood even-aged stands. Harvested stands had higher bird abundance, richness, and diversity than untreated stands within years, and these measures increased each year after harvest. Small mammal numbers were highest after the first post-harvest growing season, declined markedly in subsequent years, but remained 2.6 (single-tree) to 4.1 (clearcut) times greater than unharvested stands after the fifth post-harvest growing season. As with birds, within-year small mammal abundance, species richness, and diversity measures were not statistically different among the four regeneration methods, but these measures were generally higher than for unharvested stands. While periodic surveys are scheduled to continue for many years, initial findings are already being used to aid in forest management decisions on these two national forests.

Lead contact for the Sustainability and Productivity of the Interior Highlands Ecosystem cross-cutting theme: RWU SRS-4106 at Monticello, AR.

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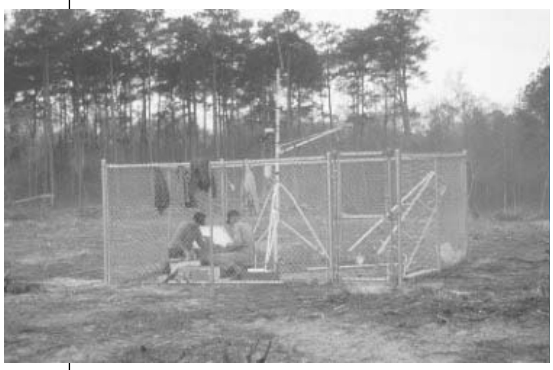
Large Scale Assessment and Modeling

The goal of the Landscape and Regional Integrated (Large-Scale) Assessment and Modeling cross-



cutting theme is to understand how biological, climatic, physical, and social sciences operate at large spatial scales under historic, current, and future conditions. Research and development under this CCT is contributing to conceptual frameworks for interdisciplinary research to address regional environmental questions in the South.

National Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on the United States

The national Global Change Program has a $1.7 billion annual budget. The program has studied climate change impacts on forest ecosystems since 1991. The 2000 National Assessment is the first opportunity to synthesize the body of information that has developed since the beginning of the program. The national assessment report will have a wide distribution to the U.S. House, Senate, and Executive Offices. The Southern Global Change Program, based in Raleigh, NC, took the lead in the development of the forest sector for the national and southeastern regional report.

This is the first complete assessment of climate change impacts ever assembled for United States forests. Some of the information has been published separately, but this was the first integrated assessment. We learned that forest productivity would largely increase across the South during the 21st century. Hardwood productivity will increase more than pine productivity. Pine forests will shift northward. Increased productivity will likely result in reduced timber prices. This could shift land area away from forests and toward alternative land uses such as agriculture and development.

Forest productivity is expected to increase across the South during the 21st century.

The information is being transferred via a wide range of outputs that includes special issues of the journals *BioScience*, *Science and the Total Environment*, and *Ecosystems*, a foundation and summary report, regional report and sector reports in order to reach many customer levels including policy makers, land managers, and the general public. This information will have practical application for use in mitigating the impacts of climate change on our forests.

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Large Scale Assessment and Modeling

Human Influences on Southern Forests: The Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Assessment

Wildland-urban interface issues being studied.

As populations and urbanization expand in the South, human influences on southern forests are increasing. Managing natural resources in the wildland-urban interface presents new challenges and opportunities for natural resource professionals. For example, the 1998 fire season in Florida and the 2000 wildfires out West demonstrate that fire management, prevention, and control in the interface are increasingly important. Additionally, new management techniques are required for increasingly smaller forestland parcels in the interface.

Acquiring additional skills, knowledge, and tools for managing resources, and forming collaborative partnerships are essential for those working in the interface.

The Southern Research Station and the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service, along with the Southern Group of State Foresters, are assessing wildland-urban interface issues to help address this growing need for information and tools. The main products of the assessment are an assessment publication, a summary report, a project Web site (Interface South: www.interfacesouth.org) and a regional wildland-urban interface conference to be held in November 2001. The assessment findings will be unveiled at the conference.

Assessment focus groups were conducted in six locations across the South: Birmingham, AL; Loudoun County, VA; Houston, TX; Biloxi, MS; Helen, GA; and Daytona Beach, FL. These focus groups helped to identify, refine, and validate interface issues to be explored in the assessment. Participants came from a variety of professional backgrounds, including foresters, firefighters, developers, planners, realtors, forest industry, and nonindustrial private forest landowners. The summary focus group report is available on the Interface South Web site.

The Status of Southern Forests: Productivity, Ecological Diversity, and Sustainability

Cooperative assessment evaluates the status of forest resources in the Southern United States.

The USDA Forest Service Southern Region and SRS initiated a two-year effort to compile and analyze data and information necessary to evaluate the status of the forest resources of the Southern United States — their productivity, ecological diversity and sustainability. Forest resources being assessed include timber and forest products, biological attributes, and aquatics. The geographic scope of the assessment includes the 13 States of the Southern Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and

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Large Scale Assessment and Modeling

Virginia. The Southern Forest Sustainability Assessment is being conducted in close cooperation with Southern State forestry agencies, the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Tennessee Valley Authority.

Some initial issue identification was completed as part of the Federal interagency staff's recent effort to define issues surrounding forest ecosystem sustainability for the Southeastern Natural Resource Agency Leaders Group. More detailed and comprehensive analyses will be required to ensure that all pertinent and answerable questions are surfaced for this assessment.

While the geographic scope of the project is the 13 Southern States, data and information will be retrieved and analyzed at the State and "section" ecological unit levels. Reporting at these scales will maximize the assessment's usefulness at the State and local level and provide an ecological context that transcends political boundaries.

State-level analysis and reporting fits well within traditional means of collecting, storing, and reporting forest inventory data. Questions answerable by the SRS Forest Inventory and Analysis data will be readily addressed at this scale. The ecological unit "section" level analysis will prove useful in answering questions on an ecological basis. This scale of analysis, however, provides challenges regarding data compilation and interpretation, as data of different ages and formats must be combined in order to be analyzed.

The scope of subjects to be evaluated will be limited to those for which data and information are available and which contribute answers to the critical questions regarding forest resource sustainability. During the region-wide assessment, collection of new data will not be feasible, given the limited time and resources available to address the 13-State area. It is likely, therefore, that some important questions will not be answered by this evaluation. These will be noted as requiring further study.

Because some resource questions are best addressed at a smaller scale, a second tier assessment also is planned. Its purpose will be to focus on smaller areas, i.e., ecological units, States, or portions of states, where sustainability appears to either be in question or demands additional attention. This scale of assessment should facilitate more detailed data analysis and evaluation of potential cause/effect relationships.

The assessment will result in a bound publication containing a variety of tabular, graphic and geographic information system (GIS) data accompanied by narrative analysis. The region-wide assessment will be reported separately from the smaller area assessment. The latter will also include tabular, graphic and GIS displays and narrative analysis, but will also likely reflect the use of satellite imagery.

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Large Scale Assessment and Modeling

Diversity, Distribution, and Conservation Status of the Native Freshwater Fishes of the Southern United States

The Southern United States supports more native fishes than any area of comparable size on the North American continent north of Mexico but also has a high proportion of its fishes in need of conservation action. The Southern Research Station led an expert panel in a comprehensive review of the diversity, distribution, and status of all native freshwater and diadromous fishes across 51 major river basins of the southern United States. Up-to-date information is critically needed to fill communication gaps among scientists, natural resource managers, policy makers, and the public. The sheer number of native southern fishes, the rapidity of taxonomic discovery in the region, the backlog of fishes awaiting analysis, and the growing numbers of imperiled fishes act to preclude rapid, accurate communication of science-based information on native fishes. The information is essential to planning and resource development as the Southern United States experiences rapid changes in population, demography, and development accompanied by increased demands on water resources and forests and increased conflicts among user groups.

Comprehensive review of status of native and diadromous fishes in the South completed.

The area of coverage included all of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, as well as the Delmarva Peninsula of Delaware and Maryland, southern West Virginia, southern Missouri, southeastern Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, and the Gulf Slope rivers of Texas, exclusive of the Rio Grande drainage. Scientists representing 10 universities, museums, and Federal agencies served on the panel that was coordinated by SRS.

The review synthesized for the first time the entire known fish fauna across all major river basins of the Southern United States, including all described and well-documented, but undescribed, species and subspecies. The review included 661 native freshwater and diadromous fishes. Of this total, 560 native fish species were documented, and 49 other fishes await formal analysis and taxonomic description. Many fishes (43) have recognized subspecies that may represent full species. Notably, 28 percent of these fishes are known from only one river basin, and 37 of 51 river basins had at least one unique fish.

The panel regarded 186 fishes, or 28 percent of the entire fish fauna, as extinct, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable. Three fishes are extinct and at least two others may be extinct, 41 are endangered, 45 are threatened, and 101 fishes are vulnerable. These results represent

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a 125 percent increase in fishes regarded as jeopardized in the region in the last 20 years during which time fishes ranked as endangered have more than doubled. Overall,

the trend is clear. Jeopardized fishes are successively being moved from the vulnerable category to that of imminent threat of extinction.

The information will serve as a planning tool to help set priorities for conducting species recovery efforts, status surveys, and biological research on management of watersheds to maintain aquatic biodiversity. The list will play a primary role in considering species as candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act or for recognition as species of concern at the State level. The information has already been used as a benchmark analysis by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The information provided an up-to-date science-based assessment of fishes for their recently published "Strategy for the Recovery and Conservation of Southeastern Fishes" (Biggins et al. 2000. Proceedings of a Workshop, Southeastern Imperiled Fishes Working Group, October 26-28, 1999, Chattanooga, Tennessee). The strategy is a consensus-based action plan developed through a multi-State and Federal agency coalition of resource agencies that provides direction and guidance for the conservation and recovery of southern fishes. The national office of The Nature Conservancy used the review as a source document to refine and update heritage rankings of fishes across the Southern United States. The Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and the Southeastern Fishes Council hosted a daylong symposium (Savannah, GA, February 5-6, 1999) for which the information was featured as the leadoff presentation and along with the USFWS strategy, set the framework for the symposium. Importantly, the synthesis brings to the fore the potential for extreme losses in aquatic biodiversity if land management development is not carefully conceived and implemented to protect water resources.

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Large Scale Assessment and Modeling

Economic Effects and Risk-Mitigating Factors of Catastrophic Wildfires in Florida

The catastrophic wildfires in northeast Florida during the summer of 1998 consumed nearly a half million acres of forests and agricultural crops and fields. The scale of the catastrophe and its proximity to urban areas in the State left land managers and government decisionmakers asking about the economic costs of the disaster, why it happened, and what would be the best management options for avoiding such events in the future. We conducted a full-scale economic analysis of the 1998 wildfires to assess the degree to which vegetation management can mitigate economic losses from wildfires in Florida. We conducted a variety of analyses to answer the described questions. First, we reassessed the economic costs of the 1998 wildfires in northeast Florida. Second, we evaluated the stand and neighborhood factors that affected wildfire risk in the 1998 catastrophic season in northeast Florida. Third, we evaluated changes in the size distributions of wildfires over time and across ecoregions in the State. Fourth, we evaluated how the annual amount of wildfire in counties of Florida was affected by the interactions among ecological factors, climate, previous wildfires, human population pressures, and prescribed fire.

Urbanization linked to increased wildfire risk.

We refined and expanded the scope of an earlier Federal effort to quantify the economic costs of the 1998 wildfires in Florida. This analysis revealed that losses to the economy were higher than previously estimated. We identified the types of forests in northeast Florida with the highest and lowest risk of burning during the extreme 1998 season. We found that the primary risk-mitigating factor in wildfire in Florida is past levels of wildfire. The analysis indicated that prescribed burning activity had no significant effect on wildfire area beyond the current year. Our analyses confirmed that the extent of wildfire in a county is strongly associated with La Niña events. We determined that urbanization, as measured by housing density relative to forest area in a county, was significantly and negatively related to wildfire area in most years.

The research findings of these analyses can be used to inform public debate on the costs of wildfire and help develop more effective wildfire risk mitigation strategies in Florida and nearby States. The improved understanding of the nature of the wildfire size-frequency distribution in Florida can be used to better estimate the relationship between small fires and the large, catastrophic fires that account for the majority of damage. The wildfire area models could be used to de-

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velop county-level wildfire risk prediction models able to predict annual wildfire activity, aiding the Florida Division of Forestry in allocating wildfire suppression and presuppression resources across the State. They could also be used by resource managers to develop long-term strategies for reducing wildfire risks in extreme La Niña events.

Our findings will benefit three groups: the research community, resource managers, and the public. Researchers will be better able to model broad-scale wildfire risk and quantify the economic and production risks associated with alternative vegetation management strategies. The wildfire area models that we estimated can serve as one component of a larger economic model of the loss-minimizing levels of suppression and presuppression activities by resource managers. Resource managers will use the wildfire area prediction capabilities to better manage expenditures and allocate wildland fire resources. The ultimate beneficiary will be the public, which finances wildfire suppression and presuppression activities of land managers, experiences direct economic losses, and suffers health problems from smoke.

Lead contacts for the Landscape and Regional Integrated Assessment and Modeling cross-cutting theme: RWU SRS-4851 at Research Triangle Park, NC and RWU SRS-4852 at Raleigh, NC.

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Inventory and Monitoring

The goal of this CCT is to provide current resource information and analysis on forest ecosystem sustainability issues and to improve techniques to inventory, monitor, and evaluate resources.

The Southern Annual Forest Inventory System

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program collects, analyzes, and reports information on the status and trends of America's forests. The FIA program is America's forest census. The southern FIA program is responsible for 13 Southern States, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Timely information is a high priority for southern forest ecosystems, which occupy 40 percent of the region's 535 million acres of total land area. These 213 million acres of forest provide important economic, social, and esthetic values to the region and nation in recreational opportunities, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and economic benefits from timber production.

New and improved techniques developed for implementing annual inventories.

For the year 2000, FIA collected annual inventory data in seven States (Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia), completed data collection for the final periodic survey of Alabama and North Carolina, and participated in the planning of 2001 annual inventories for Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico.

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Inventory and Monitoring

The Southern FIA Program has changed dramatically over the last several years. The FIA program has been converting to an annual inventory system, with a sampling scheme that is consistent across State and regional boundaries. While the initial implementation of an annual system in the South used traditional procedures and protocols, we have been making significant progress in devising new and improved techniques for implementing annual inventories. In addition to new sampling protocols the program has derived new statistical methods and estimators of forest resources.

Through publication of four journal papers and five conference and proceedings papers, we have documented significant changes in Southern FIA's sample design and protocols for forests and other land uses, and new statistical methods and estimators of forest resources. We have developed new volume estimation procedures for individual trees, with equations which are capable of estimating volume for any length or section of a tree.

Other important research areas are under development. These areas include the development of sampling, analysis, and reporting protocols for nontimber products output such as ginseng and pine straw. The use of digital camera systems to measure plot and tree level variables is being investigated and pilot-tested for operational use on FIA plots.

Research results and inventory information are used extensively to assess resource sustainability by forest industry, State forestry agencies, State economic development programs, consultants, and other Forest Service units. The research results and inventory methods and information are increasingly important for policy formulation and management of resources because of the importance of the resources to State, regional, and national economies and the environment.

Forest Health Monitoring Program

The Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) program focuses on the health, broadly defined, of the nation's forest resources. FHM uses information from many sources to analyze and assess several Criteria and Indicators of health that have been adopted by the Federal government for national assessments such as the Resource Planning Act (RPA) Assessment. FHM also has research and evaluation components that are aimed at developing new ways to collect and interpret data and facilitating assessments of specific regional issues such as air pollution and tree decline. States are active participants in the management and implementation of the FHM program, as are other Forest Service programs including Forest

Information published assessing the health of forest resources.

Successes - Our Strategic Framework in Action

Inventory and Monitoring

Inventory and Analysis (FIA), and Forest Health Protection (FHP). The SRS hosts the four-person National Program Office and three University cooperators at the Research Triangle Park Laboratory and one FHM scientist at the Asheville Headquarters. The FHM National Program Manager is part of the FHP staff in the Washington Office and works collaboratively with the SRS to maintain the National Program Office.

In 2000, the transfer of responsibility for plot measurements nationwide to FIA was accomplished, resulting in a new focus for FHM on research, evaluation, and assessment topics. Many of the changes in the FIA program (such as measurement protocols, quality assurance, and statistical design) were developed and prototyped by the FHM program over the past decade. Two reports on forest health were prepared including a forest chapter for the interagency Mid-Atlantic Integrated Assessment, and the National Technical Report on FHM data for the years 1991-1998. In addition, the national FHM office produced several manuscripts for publication, pamphlets and fact sheets about FHM, and other products. Significant research products included the publication of the first global assessment of forest fragmentation, a contribution to the National Electronic Atlas, and the further development and public distribution of the National Land-Cover Pattern Database. FHM managers often participate in regional user group meetings, engage in cooperative agreements with universities to provide additional expertise in forest health measurements and data management on behalf of FIA and FHP, and handle briefings and budgets for the National FHM program.

Lead contact for the Inventory and Monitoring cross-cutting theme: Program Manager for Southern Forest Inventory, Monitoring, and Analysis Program and RWU SRS-4801 at Asheville, NC.

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In addition to the work that is related to the individual cross-cutting themes, many studies are continuing under our overall mission that respond to several of the CCTS and meet other critical information needs. Many result from ongoing work that was begun several years, or even decades, before the current Strategic Framework was developed.

"Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses" Published

A forest plant identification field guide has been a critical need to further wise management, support precision research studies, and stimulate a wider appreciation of forest plants. There are over 4,000 plant species in the Southeast that inhabit forests, their openings, margins, and rights-of-way. There are a number of species that are common across the region. This book presents the common, as well as some unique, species by genera, including wetland plants, exotic invasives, and keystone species. The genera treatment permits users to know the characteristics of the most prevalent species in that genus where similar looking plants are also listed. This is the first research report summary on uses of these plants by mammals, birds, butterflies, and moths.

The need for a plant identification field guide to assist natural resource managers and researchers was identified and discussed for many years at the annual meeting of the Forest Vegetation Management Section of the Southern Weed Science Society. In 1990, a committee was formed to develop this concept. Over a 4-year period, ideas on content, coverage, and format were shared and discussed. Photography and writing was accomplished in 4 years with thousands of images paired down to 644 and the species number expanded to 330 from the original list of 50.

The book was written for the most part in lay terms, with necessary botanical terms illustrated along with descriptions in a glossary. As stated in the review in the July 2000 issue of *Forest Science*,

New field guide summarizes use of plants by mammals, birds, and insects.

"Several important features separate this book from other floras. Each description includes sections on the ecology and wildlife value of the species. Ecological information on a given species includes whether it is a nitrogen fixer, the types of stand conditions and communities in which it is found, and how it persists and spreads…..An important service of the book is to provide ecological and wildlife information in a highly palatable format that represents decades of literature and field experience."

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An interactive CD-ROM version of the book will be developed. These plant identification and ecological tools should yield a new level of knowledge and appreciation of the local flora and fauna, needed for wise management.

This "one-of-a-kind" book will benefit forest managers, researchers, technicians, owners, and administrators; wildlife managers, researchers, technicians, and hunters; conservation managers and botanists; forestry, wildlife, botany, and secondary students; wildflower and wildlife enthusiasts; and general public. An informed public should yield wiser use and management of our forests for multiple use and sustainability. The book also provides a firm scientific foundation for the formulation of scientifically based forest management policy.

Forest Service Tests Contribute to the Labeling of Two New Termiticides

The Southern Research Station has a long history of providing reliable termiticide efficacy data to our pest control stakeholders. This nationally recognized program provides unbiased and authoritative data to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for product registration.

The cost of controlling subterranean termites and repairing their damage is estimated at $2 billion annually in the United States. These losses do not include those incurred by the U.S. military or the growing impact from the Formosan termite. Termite control also carries with it the highest risk for the pest control industry of all the categories associated with urban pest management, and increasing restrictions on and cancellations of insecticides make termite control less reliable and more costly. Two new products, Termidor SC and Termidor WG (Aventis Environmental Science), were registered by EPA this year, in part based on our long-term testing. These products are now commercially available to the American public for termite control.

New termite control products made available to the public.

Recovery of Tannins from Spent Liquors in Vegetable Leather Manufacture

Through a collaborative effort with E.H. Hall/Westfield Tanning Co., Westfield, PA, Gannett Fleming Inc., Clearfield, PA, and Louisiana College, Pineville, LA, we have been working to find a way to use the spent tanning liquor generated in the leather manufacture process. Because this spent liquor cannot be added to their wastewater treatment process and since only low value uses can be found for a part of it, the product (in amounts of approximately 40,000 pounds per week) has been dried and stored.

We have demonstrated a novel tannin recovery process both at a laboratory and pilot plant scale and have shown that the recovered tannin can be reused in the leather

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manufacturing process. Close to 50 percent of the spent liquor tannins can be recovered as purified tannins. The recovered tannin has been shown to have excellent penetration rate and the leather produced has good physical properties. Recovery and use of these tannins in Hall/Westfield's process alone can save on the purchase of about a million pounds of tannin per year, and can reduce the disposal problem. This recovery process will reduce the use of fresh water at a rate of about 1 million gallons per year. It also assures that no tannin from spent tanning liquors will enter wastewater streams. The construction of a recovery plant could allow Hall/Westfield to process spent vegetable tanning liquors from other tanneries in the region.

Novel tannin recovery process demonstrated that will reduce fresh water use and disposal problems.

Having found a high-value use for a waste stream amounting to nearly 2 million pounds per year and approximately 1 million gallons of fresh water per year, this process offers a way to assure improvements in water quality in northwest Pennsylvania. E.H. Hall/Westfield could process spent liquors from neighboring smaller tanneries and make even more significant improvements to water quality as most of those spent liquors are discharged to rivers.

Footprints on the Land: Demographic Trends and the Future of Natural Resources in The United States.

Population and demographic change are accelerating nationwide. Public and private natural lands are impacted. A national assessment was conducted to identify where the greatest impacts are likely to occur over the next decades. This book, published by Sagamore Publications in Illinois, is the first nationwide treatment to interpret the meaning of population and demographic trends for the fields of forest and natural resources management.

Book will interpret population trends for natural resource managers.

Hotspots of population, economic and recreation pressures on natural lands, public lands, protected wilderness, water/wetlands, and wildlife habitat have been identified. Identification of such hotspots provides information to Federal, State, local and private natural resource interests for developing comprehensive local strategies for sustaining the integrity and productivity of natural lands before the opportunities to do so are lost.

Grant to Study Fuel Reduction Alternatives

Widespread fuel reduction treatments are needed throughout the United States to restore ecological integrity and reduce the risk of destructive wildfires. Prescribed

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burning can be used but smoke management and public policy continue to be problems. Alternative fuel treatments are attractive but the appropriate balance among cuttings, mechanical fuel treatments, and prescribed fire is often unclear.

National fire and fire surrogate study will shed light on alternative fuel treatments.

We received a grant of $2.3 million from the interagency Joint Fire Sciences Program to cooperate in the National Fire and Fire Surrogate Study. This study will compare the effects of alternative fuel reduction treatments on numerous ecological and sociological variables in 11 ecosystems across the country. Study sites are being established in a Piedmont pine-hardwood ecosystem on the Clemson University Experimental Forest and in a Florida flatwood ecosystem at Myakka River State Park. Three SRS scientists are cooperating with nine faculty members of Clemson University, the University of Florida, and Florida A&M University to compare the effects of prescribed fire and mechanical removal on vegetation, fuels, fire behavior, ecosystem structure, soil compaction, nutrient cycling, forest floor dynamics, mammals, herpetofauna, avifauna, entomology, pathology, treatment costs, and utilization economics.

Each individual study will contribute to a combined analysis of how fuel reduction treatments affect ecosystem function on the local and national scale. During the 5 year study, the grant will provide support for 11 graduate students, 10 undergraduate students, and nine SRS employees. Two SRS scientists serve on the national steering committee for the Fire and Fire Surrogate Study and one serves on the study's executive governing board.

Prescribed Burning Survey in the National Forest System

Recent analyses of fire policy have called for increased prescribed burning to prevent wildfire damage and to enhance fire-dependent ecosystems and forest health. The Forest Service has set a goal of burning 3 million acres per year by the year 2010. Achieving such a goal requires a solid baseline assessment of current activity, wise allocation of prescribed-fire resources, and an understanding of the barriers to implementation of burning programs. The results of a survey of burning activity and costs on national forest lands from 1985 to 1995 were published in an attempt to provide the needed baseline information. Ninety-five of 114 national forests responded. Acreage burned and costs for conducting burns were reported for four types of prescribed fire: slash reduction; management-ignited fires; prescribed natural fires; and brush,

Survey of burning activity and costs provides valuable baseline information for future decisionmaking.

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grass and rangeland burns. Anticipated burning levels over the next 10 years and burning levels needed to achieve desired management goals were presented. Survey rankings also were presented for 9 resource enhancement targets, 14 potential barriers to increased burning, and 12 factors influencing burning costs. The information provided should be useful in identifying opportunities for reintroducing fire and choosing appropriate environmental, social, and economic tradeoffs.

GPR technology shows promise in studying root biomass.

The Use of Ground-penetrating Radar (GPR) to Study Tree Roots

Approximately 20 to 40 percent of forest biomass is in root systems. Many forest management activities — fertilization, tree improvement, site preparation — impact the percentage of biomass that gets partitioned into root systems. Roots are critical for the function of trees and they provide a large sink for sequestering carbon. Although roots are such a critical part of forest function, they are below-ground and very difficult to study. Roots and below-ground processes are now among the least understood components of forest ecosystems. In collaboration with a scientist from the Agricultural Research Service, we have explored using ground penetrating radar (GPR) to quantify root biomass on a range of site types in the Southeast. The goal was to find a faster and cheaper method to measure root biomass.

Current GPR technology was not found useful on very wet or very clayey sites. On other sites GPR analysis was able to explain over 50 percent of the variation in root biomass across different management treatments. Because root biomass harvesting is so time consuming and expensive, GPR shows great promise for augmenting root biomass sampling.

Science for Tomorrow's Forests

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Response to National Fire Plan

The National Fire Plan was developed in response to the report to the President by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior on the wildfires of 2000 ("Managing the Impact of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment" September 8, 2000). Implementation of the National Fire Plan will ensure sufficient firefighting resources for the future, restore ecosystems damaged by the recent fires, rebuild community economies, and reduce future fire risk through fuel reduction efforts. Forest Service Research and Development will take steps to address an increasingly complex set of problems in fire-adapted ecosystems and the urban wildland interface and to produce new knowledge and tools that will contribute to solving fire-related problems. The Southern Research Station will undertake several studies designed to add to an already strong base of information about fire ecology, smoke management, fuel reduction treatments and tradeoffs, economic effects, fire protection programs, and fire severity prediction. A new research work unit – Human Influences on Southern Forest Ecosystems: Research in the Wildland-Urban Interface — is being established in Gainesville, FL that will include an emphasis on fire prevention, risk reduction, behavior, and management.

Specific SRS proposals funded under the National Fire Plan are:

- Southern Regional Models to Predict Smoke Movement and Mitigate Impacts at the Wildland-Urban Interface.
- High-resolution Model Predictions for Fire Weather and Smoke Impacts: the Southeastern Interagency Modeling Consortium.
- Long-Range Forecasting of Fire Season Severity.
- Quantifying the Ecological and Economic Tradeoffs of Fire and Fire Surrogate Options – Piedmont and Southern Appalachian Mountains.
- Quantifying the Tradeoffs of Fire and Fuels Management Options – Longleaf and Slash Pine Ecosystems of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain.
- An Integrated System for Mechanical Reduction of Fuel Loads at the Wildland-Urban Interface in the South.
- Fire and Herbicide Combinations to Reduce the Threat of High Intensity/Severity Fires.
- Impacts of Wildfire on Local Economies.
- Quantifying Tradeoffs of Alternative Vegetation Management Strategies, Wildfire, and Suppression in Fire Prone Regions of the United States.

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Response to National Fire Plan

- Develop Methods for Assessing the Conditions of Fuels and Values at Risk at Various Scales of Analysis.
- Enhancing Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Firefighting Capacity and Collaboration.
- Fuel and Fire Risk Reduction Needs of Smaller Forested Landownerships in the Southern Wildland-Urban Interface.

Prior to the National Fire Plan, we received a grant from the interagency Joint Fire Sciences Program to cooperate in the National Fire and Fire Surrogate Study. This national study will compare the effects of alternative fuel reduction treatments on numerous ecological and sociological variables in 11 ecosystems across the country. SRS study sites are being established in a Piedmont pine-hardwood ecosystem on the Clemson University Experimental Forest and in a Florida flatwood ecosystem at Myakka River State Park.

Response to New Planning Rule

After more than 11 years of preparation, the National Forest and Grassland planning regulations are finalized and the Agency is beginning implementation. The new planning rule will help guide management on 191 million acres of public land over the next several decades. Consistent with the recommendations of the Committee of Scientists paneled by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman in 1999, the new planning rule is based on the premise that in order to meet the needs of people now and in the future, the health, diversity, and productivity of the land must be secured. Ecological sustainability serves as the guiding star of the new regulations.

The new rule:

- Integrates the principles of ecological, economic, and social sustainability to provide a wide variety of uses, values, products, and services.
- Requires actively engaging the public and other Federal, State, local, and tribal partners in the stewardship of National Forests and Grasslands;
- Integrates science into planning, requiring a focus on managing entire ecosystems rather than single species; and
- Institutes innovative problem solving approaches to the management of natural resources.

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Response to New Planning Rule

Science will play a greater role in nearly every stage of this new land and resource management planning process because the new rule requires that the best available science be used to provide the Forest Service and the people, communities, and organizations involved in the planning process with sound information on which to base informed recommendations and decisions. Science will be used to identify new issues, inform broad-scale assessments and local analyses, and help managers and the public formulate potential solutions to issues. The rule provides for independent scientific review during the plan revision process to determine if land and resource management plans are meeting sustainability goals. Scientists from a broad range of disciplines and institutions may be involved in the planning process in a variety of roles and relationships.

The public will have more opportunities to interact with scientists during the planning process.

The planning rule incorporates science in the planning and decisionmaking by 1) recognizing the lessons learned in recent years about developing and analyzing information at the regional ecosystem level; 2) emphasizing monitoring and evaluation of resource conditions and trends over time so that management can be adapted as conditions change; 3). providing for the establishment of science advisory boards, independent scientific review to determine if land management plans meet sustainability goals, and, when appropriate, science consistency evaluations to determine whether the planning process is consistent with the best available science.

The SRS has identified key scientists as contacts in every State who will serve as liaisons with national forests for planning issues and facilitate boundary-spanning scientific review and input.

Science for Tomorrow's Forests

Large-Scale Watershed Restoration

Watershed restoration is one of the most significant issues facing the nation for the 21st century. The Forest Service has begun nationally to identify and to restore some large watersheds; four watersheds in the Southern Region (Chattooga, Conasauga, Chesapeake Bay, and Lower Mississippi Valley) were chosen as part of the national pilot. This watershed work is designed to develop a science-based Agency-wide strategy that focuses resource actions on significant opportunities to enhance clean water, wetlands, migratory birds, fisheries, and riparian areas. SRS and the Southern Region have had a long relationship of cooperation for science-based management in strategic areas. Research on the Chattooga, Conasauga, and Shenandoah Rivers includes sedimentation modeling, watershed restoration techniques, monitoring, biodiversity, nutrient carbon cycling as well as work on prescribed burning.

Restoring Ecosystems in Southern Forests

There is rising interest in the public for restoring southern forest ecosystems. Restoration of three native forest ecosystems is critical for the South to meet and maintain sustainable forests for the future: greater longleaf pine ecosystem; American chestnut; and upland oak forest community.

The Southern Region and SRS have three programs that contribute to the regional strategy for restoration of longleaf pine: 1) expanding of longleaf pine forest type and fire dependent understory communities on national forests; 2) providing technology transfer information and incentives through State and Private Forestry, and expansion of collaborative research programs; and 3) reaching out to private forest landowners, States, and others interested in managing longleaf pine through the Longleaf Alliance.

A preliminary examination of silvicultural strategies for chestnut restoration is underway. A formal study plan is being developed, seed are in the nursery, and experimental areas area being chosen; outplantings are scheduled for spring, 2001.

Collaboration on sustaining upland oak communities has been well established during the past decade following decades of work on nursery practices for growing high quality seedlings and improving artificial regeneration techniques. Work continues on examining heritabilities for acorn production and understanding the biological basis of artificial oak regeneration management.

Science for Tomorrow's Forests

Managing and Using Small-Diameter Timber

Densely overstocked stands of small-diameter trees are at increased risk for fire, pest, and pathogen damage, have low value as wildlife habitat, and offer little economic value relative to productive, healthy stands. Although there is an urgent need to treat overstocked stands, it is often not feasible because of the low value and costs of harvesting small-diameter trees. Improvements are needed in forest management and wood utilization in order to integrate the use of small-diameter trees into bio-based products to extend our natural resources, increase carbon sequestration, reduce fire and pest risks, and improve forest health in the South. Scientists anticipate increasing focus in this area on wood properties and product potential for small-stem pines and solid products for wood from different management regimes; behavior of juvenile wood in composite systems and its influence on material properties; solid-wood products options for the economic removal of small-diameter hardwoods for forest health prescriptions; cost-effective technologies for extraction of small-diameter trees and site and stand impacts of removal; and institutional and economic factors that affect the export potential of southern forest products.

Understanding Recreation Demands

There has been dramatic growth and shifting in the demographic makeup of the South's population. The social science research unit in Athens, GA has been working with the Southern Region and nationally to develop effective approaches, data, and delivery systems for tracking population, demographic, land development, and resource demand changes.

A national assessment was conducted to identify where the greatest impacts are likely to occur over the next decades. The book, *Footprints on the Land: Demographic Trends and the Future of Natural Resources in The United States,* due out this coming fall, is the first nationwide treatment to interpret the meaning of population and demographic trends for the fields of forest and natural resources management. Areas of significant population, economic and recreation pressures on natural lands, public lands, protected wilderness, water/wetlands, and wildlife habitat have been identified. Identification of such "hotspots" provides information to Federal, State, local and private natural resource interests for developing comprehensive local strategies for sustaining the integrity and productivity of natural lands before the opportunities to do so are lost.

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Understanding Recreation Demands

A Southwide data system, the Social, Economic, Environment, and Leisure Assessment (SEELA) has been developed to enable tracking population and demographic trends and the spatial distribution in the region. A Web-based delivery system (www.hdf.itos.uga.edu) is on-line cooperatively among the Southern Region, SRS, and the University of Georgia to enable forest-level query and analysis with mapping of analysis results. A GIS-based method for place identification and mapping of interactions between (1) population, urbanization, economic, and recreation demand changes and (2) natural lands, public lands, forests, water-wetlands, wildlife habitat, and wilderness has been developed and is being published for resource managers.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Threatened and endangered species issues continue to dominate national forest management. While progress has been made in the conservation of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, there is still work to be done. Other threatened and endangered species and their habitats need strong research and conservation efforts. Four areas of particular concern currently are:

1. Forest bats: habitat needs and requirements for the Indiana bat and gray bat are the source of administrative appeals and litigation, but there are very few ongoing investigations and limited conservation work.

2. Upland pine/grass ecosystems: managers need strategies that focus on restorations of these upland pine ecosystems that are habitat for at least 27 threatened and endangered species and over 75 sensitive species. SRS has ongoing activities investigating restoration efforts at Clemson, SC and Hot Springs, AR. Eleven national forests are undertaking projects in upland pine/grass ecosystem restoration.

3. Aquatic and riparian habitats: coldwater streams have received some attention, but warm-water streams need greater emphasis to provide better strategies for enhancement.

4. Freshwater mussel populations: 248 of 300 mussel species in the South are found in or near national forests and many are listed as threatened or endangered. Currently the national forests face many unanswered questions regarding the reproduction of those species.

Science for Tomorrow's Forests

International Activities

Much of the research and development carried out by the SRS has value beyond the South, nationally and internationally. The needs and demands of the American people for benefits from forested lands are met, in part, by resources from many other countries. It is critically important that sustainable forest management science and practices be advanced throughout the world. Our scientists continue their participation in the worldwide science community through attending international conferences – making presentations, displaying posters, and publishing papers. They host scientists from other areas and travel to other places to provide expert advice on a wide range of subject, for instance, controlling exotic invasive species of plants, insects, or disease.

The following examples illustrate the range of SRS international activities in FY00:

- Presented a paper at the Conference on Carbon Cycling in Boreal Ecosystems, Edmonton.
- Developed new research capabilities for assessing the carbon balance in managed wetland forests; Swedish Agricultural University, Umeå.
- Presented paper at Tenth World Water Congress and invited lectures by CSIRO (Forestry and CRC Sustainable Production Forestry) related to Chemical and Sediment movement in Forested Landscape and Pesticide Movement and Streamside Management Zone Effectiveness. Gave scientists concrete illutrations on how herbicides (when applied correctly) can often protect rather than harm forested ecosystems and associated water quality, when compared to alternative mechanical treatments.
- Presented research paper at 43rd Annual meeting of the International Association of Vegetation Science, "Restoring fire as an ecological process in shortgrass prairie ecosystem." Followup field study tour and discussions with Environmental Management Staff with Japanese Ministry Officials on benefits of community involvement in the ecological restoration process.

Science for Tomorrow's Forests

International Activities

- Paper presented at 7th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Bellingham, WA, "Restoring the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem of the Southeastern United States." Summarized ecological, economic and social driving forces behind the ongoing restoration of longleaf pine in the Southeast.
- Served as representative to the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) that is located in Malaysia and to determine the sustainability of tropical plantations.
- Served as principal organizer of 16th North American Forest Biology Workshop in Merida, Mexico. Several SRS scientists participated in the North American Forest Biology Workshop that was held in Merida in July.
- Funded by FAO to visit Mongolia to evaluate their nursery production facilities and make recommendations for improvement.
- Gave tours of the Southern Institute of Genetics to Chinese and Korean scientists.
- Participated in a biodiversity study of the Ivimka Research Station in a bottomland habitat of Papua, New Guinea. In collaboration with entomologists from the Silvard Institute and the Bohart Museum at the University of California at Davis, collected specimens using different techniques, including fogging of canopy trees.
- Visited the laboratory at the Shikoku Research Institute in Kochi, Japan. Gave seminars on several aspects of their research on the symbiotic relationships between woodwasps and wood decay fungi and developed ideas for collaborative projects. Visited the Yanase district which is one of the three major *Cryptomeria japonica* (Sugi) growing regions of Japan and studied the damage caused by the woodwasp *Urocerus japonicus* and its associated fungus *Amylostereum laevigatum*.
- Invited by Universidad Federal de Rio Grande de Sol, Dept. of Botany, to teach a two-credit, postgraduate Seed Physiology course.

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International Activities

- Presented an invited seminar on seed research to Centro de Biotechnologia, FEPAGRO (Brazilian Dept of Agriculture), and a second university, Universidad de Pelotas, Department of Plant Sciences.
- Visited Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute to begin a collaborative study on rehabilitating natural forests and plantations through enrichment planting, comparing light availability and seedling performance under several levels of overstory removals.
- Met with foresters and research staff of Coillte, COFORD (Council on Forestry Research and Development), the Forest Ecosystem Research Group (FERG) at University College Dublin, and Bord na Mona, the Irish Peat Board. Forest restoration, rehabilitation, and reclamation research and practice were reviewed.
- Assessed damage to the tree and nursery facilities in Nicaragua from Hurricane Debbie, at the request of the Foreign Agriculture Service and International Forestry.
- Presented an invited paper, *Determinacion de la viabilidad de las semillas a traves de imagenes obtenidas usando Tomografia Computarizada y Resonancia Magnetica*, and two posters at the II Simposio sobre Avances en la Produccion de Semillas Forestales en America Latina in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- Attended the International Conference on Forest Ecosystem Restoration, held at the Agricultural University (BOKU), Vienna, Austria. Presented two posters, "Promises and pitfalls of reference wetlands in forested ecosystem restoration" and "Soil quality and productivity responses to watershed restoration in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas, USA."
- Presented a paper, "Restoration of Temperate and Boreal Forests," at the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) meeting in Chengdu, China on "Forest Ecosystems—Ecology, Conservation, and Sustainable Management".

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International Activities

- Presented a seminar entitled "Dendroecological Analysis of *Cordia alliodora, Pseudobomax septenatum, and Annona spraguei* along a Climate Gradient in Central Panama" at the Universitat für Bodenkultur in Vienna, Austria.
- Attended the IUFRO World Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Helped IUFRO Secretariat organize the technical program and helped edit the congress proceedings. Presented a poster, "Ecology and reproductive biology of pondberry (Lindera melissifolia [Walt] Blume)" and a paper "Dendroecology of *Fagus grandifolia* var. *mexicana*, a beech species growing in an extinct volcano in Mexico."
- Helped organize an international conference on *Sustainability of Wetlands and Water Resources*, held at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. The conference proceedings will be published as a Southern Research Station General Technical Report.
- Began a consultation with Alberta Environment, which is the agency governing water quality regulations for this Canadian province. Assisted in data review and planning and recommended a combination of field and laboratory studies for assessing reproductive effects in fish.
- Invited presentation to scientific organization, British Society of Plant Pathology, Presidential Meeting, Oxford.
- Invited lecture to scientific organization, Third International Congress on Symbiosis, Marburg, Germany.
- Attended International Research Group Conference on Wood Preservation in Kona, HI and presented the paper, "Detrimental effects of boric acid on symbiotic protozoa in *R. flavipes* and *C. formosanus* (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae)."
- Conducted research in the Australia and Thailand on the ability of wood preservatives to protect against subterranean termites.

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International Activities

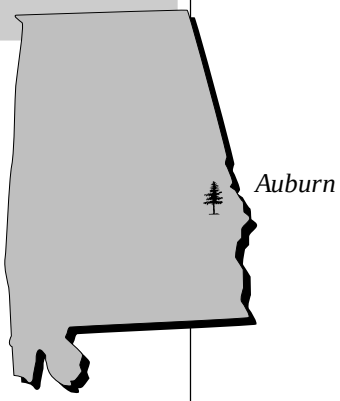
- Attended/Presented at the 3rd European Panel Products Symposium, Llandudno, Wales, UK; Lectured at Chalmers Institute of Technology, Polymer Science Department, Göteborg, Sweden; visited with researchers at Oxford University and Shell Renewables; toured manufacturing facilities of Perstorp (Sweden).
- Worked with University of Wales, Bangor, Wales on the characterization of wood and wood fiber properties.
- Coordinated research project with The BioComposites Centre (University of Wales, Bangor, Wales) that utilizes their pilot-scale pressurized-disc refiner to study the effect of refining pressure on southern pine fiber characteristics.
- Directed research with University of Bordeaux-II, Bordeaux, France on the complexation behavior of tannins with protein segments.
- Hosted visiting scientists from the Chinese Academy of Forestry (Dr. Fu Feng and Dr. Wu Shuhong). Experiments were completed on the product potential of short-rotation woody crops and process optimization for the phenolation of preservative-treated wood.
- Established collaborative research with Kyoto University, Japan to study recycling of preservative-treated wood by liquefaction of the wood with phenol.
- Initiated cooperative research with Dr. Higuchi (Kyushu University, Japan) to develop co-reacted soy/phenol-based wood adhesives.
- Collaborated with USAID, USDA Forest Service International Programs, Tropical Forest Foundation and Funda o Floresta Tropical to investigate the economic costs and benefits of reduced impact logging in the eastern Amazon.
- Accepted an adjunct faculty position at Beijing Forestry University, Beijing China with the intent of increasing collaboration on soil erosion modeling.
- Presented over a dozen formal and informal lectures in association with two separate trips to China. The Southern Global Change Program continued to collaborate with Chinese scientists and hosted a visit from one Chinese graduate student.

Our Scientists at Work:
Programs, People, Facilities

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

Our research work units (RWUs) are located in offices and laboratories in nine States across the Southern United States. Our research and development work covers 13 Southern States, with findings that are applicable throughout the Nation and internationally. While each RWU has a central location, listed below, subunits or individual scientists are located at additional sites in 11 Southern States. The SRS RWUs are identified by name and a four-digit number, for example, SRS-4505, Insects and Diseases of Southern Forests. The numbers provide helpful internal shorthand for budget and cross-referencing purposes. Our Directory of Research Scientists, which includes more detail about the expertise of each scientist, is located on our Web site at: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/staff/scientist/index.htm

SRS-4105 and SRS-4703



G.W. Andrews Forestry Sciences Laboratory
520 Devall Drive
Auburn, AL 36849 • (334) 826-8700

The G.W. Andrews Forestry Science Laboratory is located on the campus of Auburn University. The modern office and laboratory facility contains well-equipped environmental chemistry and soil laboratories and a large engineering research laboratory. Adjacent buildings house greenhouse, shop, warehouse, and chemical storage facilities.

SRS-4105, Vegetation Management Research and Longleaf Pine Research for Southern Forest Ecosystems.

The mission of this unit is to: 1) determine the environmental fate and impact of forest herbicides and develop integrated vegetation prescriptions for multiple resource benefits in southern forestry; and 2) develop systems and models for the development of a variety of regeneration and management alternatives for longleaf pine ecosystems. Long-term longleaf studies and demonstrations are maintained on the 3,000-acre Escambia Experimental Forest in south Alabama.

SRS-4703, Biological/Engineering Systems and Technologies for Ecological Management of Forest Resources.

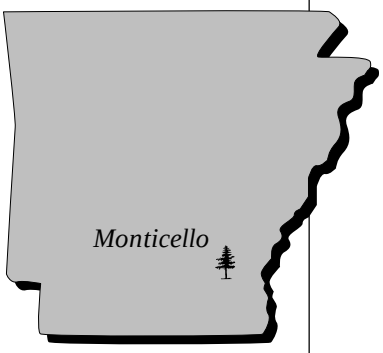
The mission of this unit is to develop an understanding of the interaction between biological and engineering systems in forest ecosystems and to provide engineering knowledge and improved, economically viable forest operations for sustained resource management.

Web site for SRS-4703: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/forestops/

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4106

Forest Resources Building
University of Arkansas at Monticello
P.O. Box 3516, Room 211
Monticello, AR 71656-3516
(870) 367-3464



The Monticello facility is located at the University of Arkansas, in cooperation with the School of Forest Resources and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. The 1,675-acre Crossett Experimental Forest, located 7 miles south of Crossett, is maintained as a research and demonstration forest.

SRS-4106, Managing Upland Forest Ecosystems in the Midsouth.

This unit provides scientific information to understand, manage, and sustain the ecological processes, structures, and benefits of loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, mixed pine-hardwood, and hardwood forests in the uplands of the Midsouth. Research includes the development of:

1. A better understanding of the environmental factors and ecological processes influencing establishment and growth of forest reproduction which is needed to fully develop silvicultural alternatives for upland forests in the Midsouth;
2. Silvicultural alternatives for regenerating and managing upland forests which requires a better understanding of forest stand dynamics, including the role of disturbance; and
3. A better understanding of the effects of silvicultural treatments on forest stands and interactions between stands which is needed to make landscape-level decisions.

Web site for SRS-4106: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/4106/

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4104, SRS-4505, and SRS-4901

Forest Sciences Laboratory
320 Green Street
Athens, GA 30602-2044
(706) 559-4222

The Forestry Sciences Laboratory is on 4 acres of land near the University of Georgia's School of Forest Resources. The facility, containing 17,962 square feet of laboratory space, and 14,000 square feet of office space, consists of two buildings, an insectary, greenhouses, a nursery, a fully equipped woodworking and fabricating shop, and a wood products testing laboratory.

SRS-4104, Disturbance and the Management of Southern Pine Ecosystems. The unit conducts research to sustain and enhance the productivity of southeastern forests, whether intensively cultured or extensively managed. Specific research is being conducted in the areas of forest ecology, fire ecology, smoke management, and harvesting and wood properties of forests of the Piedmont and Atlantic Coastal Plain. The 5,000-acre Hitchiti Experimental Forest near Julietta, GA is the location of the Ernst Brender Demonstration Forest, which hosts approximately 40 workshops and tour groups each year.

SRS-4505, Insects and Diseases of Southern Forests. The unit conducts research to provide the knowledge about insects and microorganisms needed to manage productive, healthy seed orchards, nurseries, plantations, and native forests. Interactions of land use and forest management practices on arthropod populations are studied with regard to their functional role as decomposers, as pollinators of rare plants, and as prey for endangered species, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker. The unit also works to develop control measures for nonnative, invasive species, such as the fungi that cause dogwood anthracnose and butternut canker.

SRS-4901, Assessing Trends, Values, and Rural Community Benefits from Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness in Forest Ecosystems. The unit applies research theory and methodology to assessments of outdoor recreation and wilderness, with emphasis on supply-and-demand trends, economic values, and benefits to rural communities.

Web site for SRS-4901: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/recreation/

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4802

T-10034 U.S. Postal Building
701 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70113
(504) 589-6652

SRS-4802, Evaluation of Legal, Tax, and Economic Influences on Forest Resource Management. This is the Forest Service's principal unit concerned with effects of Federal, State and local taxes, laws, and regulations on forestry. The unit also analyzes export markets for southern softwood products and the economics of innovative silvicultural practices for southern forests.

SRS-4111, SRS-4501, and SRS-4701

Alexandria Forestry Center
2500 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, LA 71360
(318) 473-7215

The Alexandria Forestry Center in Pineville was constructed in 1963 to house the Forest Sciences Laboratory of the Southern Forest Experiment Station (now Southern Research Station), the Supervisor's Office of the Kisatchie National Forest, and Forest Pest Management of State and Private Forestry. The Center is located on about 27 acres and includes an insectary, two greenhouses, a forest products building, and a main office/laboratory building. The nearby Palustris Experimental Forest consists of two separate tracts that total 7,500 acres.

SRS-4111, Ecology and Management of Even-aged Southern Pine Forests. This unit provides fundamental knowledge on the ecology and physiology of southern pine species and even-aged management options to enhance and sustain the productivity of southern pine ecosystems. The program is the basis for improving our knowledge of the physiological responses to silvicultural treatments during plantation establishment and development.

SRS-4501, Southern Pine Beetle: Ecology, Behavior, and Management. This unit is responsible for Forest Service research on improved methods for predicting and managing the southern pine beetle through acquisition and use of basic knowledge of its ecology and behavior.

SRS-4701, Utilization of Southern Forest Resources. This unit defines and applies fundamental chemistry, material science, and engineering principles to the utilization and processing of southern forest resources in an environmentally sound way.

Web site for SRS-4111: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/4111/
Web site for SRS-4501: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/4501/
Web site for SRS-4701: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/4701

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4153

Harrison Experimental Forest
23332 Highway 67
Saucier, MS 39574-9344
(228) 832-2747

The Southern Institute of Forest Genetics was established July 1, 1954 on the Harrison Experimental Forest, located 25 miles north of Gulfport, MS. The Experimental Forest covers 4,111 acres that typify about 31 million acres of land with similar soils and topography in the South. The Institute is housed in some buildings that date back to the mid-1930's, constructed by the CWA, WPA, and CCC; four new laboratories for molecular genetic analyses on southern pines were recently added to the site.

SRS-4153, Southern Institute of Forest Genetics (SIFG). Research at the SIFG focuses on developing procedures to improve the health, productivity and genetic diversity of southern forests through better understanding of the genetics, ecology and evolutionary relationships in forest ecosystems.

SRS-4502

P.O. Box 6124
Mississippi State, MS 39762-6124
(601) 325-0199

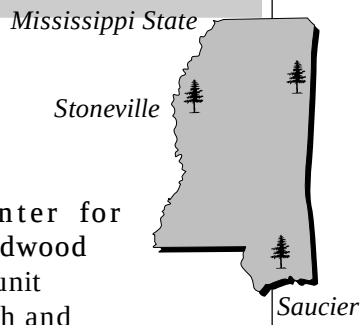
The Forestry Sciences Laboratory is on a 7-acre tract adjacent to Mississippi State University. The Forest Inventory and Analysis research work unit moved to the site in 1983. Computer facilities include data base management, image analysis, and geographic information systems.

SRS-4502, Wood Products Insect Research. The mission of this unit is to define the role of termites in forest ecosystems, to improve protection of wood against damage, and to understand the impact of termites on forest health. All new termiticides must undergo extensive laboratory and field testing by this unit prior to Environmental Protection Agency registration.

Web site for SRS-4502: www.srs.fs.fed.us/termites/

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4155



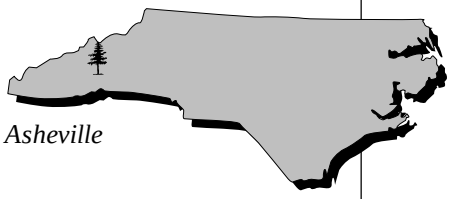
Southern Hardwoods Laboratory
P.O. Box 277
Stoneville, MS 38776
(601) 686-3154

The Southern Hardwoods Laboratory is located on a 3.45-acre site that is part of the Mississippi State Forestry and Agricultural Experiment Station. The 18,000-square-foot building houses offices, a photo lab, and lab facilities for plant pathology, entomology, plant physiology, and soils. The site also has 2,000 square feet of greenhouse space, and separate soils building, and an insectary. The 2,900-acre Delta Experimental Forest, 3 miles north of Stoneville, is the site of numerous research plots.

SRS-4155, Center for Bottomland Hardwood Research. This unit conducts research and technology transfer in management and ecology of bottomland hardwoods, including tree seed technology and regeneration, stand management and forest health, threatened, endangered, and sensitive terrestrial and aquatic fauna, hydrology, and wetlands restoration.

Web site for SRS-4155: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/cbhr

SRS-4801



P.O. Box 2680
200 W.T. Weaver Blvd.
Asheville, NC 28802
(828) 257-4350

The headquarters of the Southern Research Station occupies 11 acres of land leased from the University of North Carolina and houses the Station Director and staff, administrative units, and SRS-4801. A Forest Health unit of the National Forest System's Southern Region is also located at this site.

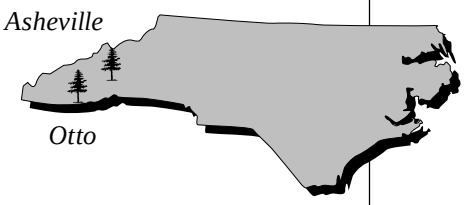
SRS-4801, Forest Inventory and Analysis. This unit develops, analyzes, and maintains forest resources information for Southern States and conducts research to provide improved inventory and evaluation techniques. In 1996, this unit became part of the Southern Research Station's new Southern Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Program which consolidates Forest Inventory and Analysis research conducted at Asheville, NC and Starkville, MS, Forest Health Monitoring for Southern States and the Biometrics unit, both in Asheville, NC.

Web site for SRS-4801: http://www.srsfia.usfs.msstate.edu

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4101

Bent Creek Experimental Forest
1577 Brevard Road
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 667-5261



The Bent Creek Experimental Forest is located near Asheville, North Carolina on land that was once part of the Vanderbilt Estate. Today, scientists at this 6,300-acre tract study regeneration of red oak, site classification, and intermediate stand management. The demonstration forest allows resource managers, students, and private landowners to learn the latest forest management practices.

SRS-4101, Ecology and Management of Southern Appalachian Hardwood Forests. This unit's mission is to develop and disseminate the scientific knowledge and silvicultural techniques needed to provide a full range of benefits in Southern Appalachian hardwood forests.

Web site for SRS-4101: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/bentcreek/

SRS-4351

Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory
3160 Coweeta Lab Road
Otto, NC 28763
(828) 524-2128

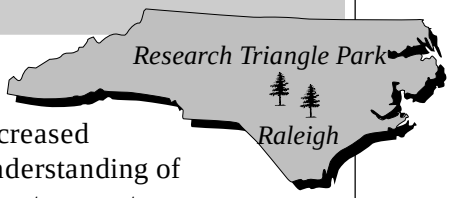
The Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory is located in the 5,400-acre Coweeta Basin, near Franklin, NC; watershed responses have been studied here for over 60 years. This world-renowned research operation was selected by the National Science Foundation as one of eleven Long-Term Ecological Research sites, and was included in the International Biological Program, the International Hydrologic Decade, and UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" Program.

SRS-4351, Evaluation of Watershed Ecosystem Responses to Natural, Management, and Other Human Disturbances of Southeastern Forests. This unit's mission is to evaluate, explain, and predict how water, soil, and forest resources respond to ecosystem management practices, natural disturbances, and the atmospheric environment; and to identify practices which mitigate impacts on these watershed resources.

More information available at: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4852



Southern Global Change Program
1509 Varisity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27709
(919)-515-9849

This unit is part of the Air Resources Consortium and is located on the North Carolina State University campus.

SRS-4852, Southern Global Change Program. Through cooperative research efforts and in-house research, this unit is charged with providing increased understanding of forest ecosystem response to global change. Global change impacts include air pollution, current and potential future climate stress, and changing human resource demands. The program develops and evaluates science-based strategies to ensure sustained productivity and ecosystem health.

Web site for SRS-4852: http://www.sgcp.ncsu.edu/

SRS-4154, SRS-4803, and SRS-4851

Forestry Sciences Laboratory
3041 Cornwallis Road, P.O. Box 12254
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(919) 549-4093

The Forestry Sciences Laboratory was built in 1962 on a 26-acre tract donated by the Research Triangle Foundation. A greenhouse, nursery, and service buildings were added later. Its location enables close contact with the forestry schools and libraries at Duke University and North Carolina State University.

SRS-4154, Biological Foundations of Southern Forest Productivity and Sustainability. This unit's mission is to quantify aboveground and belowground processes governing forest productivity and sustainability. This research is conducted by scientists at two locations: Research Triangle Park, NC, and Athens, GA.

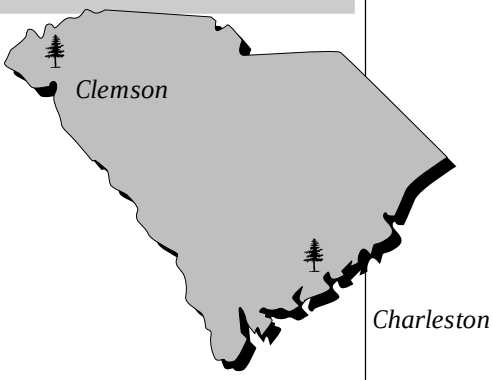
SRS-4803, Forest Health Monitoring. This unit monitors the Nation's forests in order to detect unexpected deviation from established baseline conditions or trends, identify cause, and define basic relationships sufficient to predict consequences.

SRS-4851, Economics of Forest Protection and Management. This unit's mission is to analyze the uses and values of forests in the South, including the function of land and resource markets, the effects of social change on forest conditions, measures of sustainable forestry, the formation of values for private and public forests, and the economic and social impacts of forest policies and programs.

Web site for SRS-4154: http://www.rtp.srs.fs.fed.us/soils/soilhome.htm
Web site for SRS-4803: http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/fhm/fhm_hp.htm
Web site for SRS-4851: http://www.rtp.srs.fs.fed.us/econ/

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4103



Center for Forested Wetlands Research
2730 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29414
(843) 727-4271

The Center for Forested Wetlands Research is located in Charleston, SC. Facilities include a soil and water laboratory, offices, greenhouses, and a library. The Center also administers the 6,100-acre Santee Experimental Forest, northeast of Charleston.

SRS-4103, Center for Forested Wetlands Research. The specific mission of the Center is to develop, quantify, and synthesize ecological information needed to sustainably manage and restore the structure, functions, and productivity of forested wetland landscapes.

Web site for SRS-4103: www.srs.fs.fed.us/charleston/

SRS-4201

Department of Forest Resources
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29414
(864) 656-3284

This unit has office and laboratory space at Clemson University's School of Forest and Recreation Resources.

SRS-4201, Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Species in Southern Forests. This unit's mission is to determine habitat and population relationships of wildlife and plant species associated with fragmented and isolated forest communities.

Web site for SRS-4201: www.srs.fs.fed.us/4201

Our Scientists at Work: Programs, People, Facilities

SRS-4251

Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Laboratory
Box 7600, SFA Station
506 Hayter Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75961
(409) 569-7981

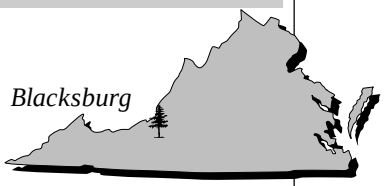
The Nacogdoches Wildlife Habitat and Silviculture Laboratory is located near the 2500-acre Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest.

SRS-4251, Integrated Management of Wildlife Habitat and Timber Resources. This unit investigates questions concerning wildlife and habitat interactions. It is the only Forest Service wildlife research unit in the South whose mission focuses on game and nongame species in addition to threatened and endangered species.

More information available at: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us

SRS-4202

Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Services
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-4016



SRS-4202, Coldwater Streams and Trout Habitat in the Southern Appalachians. This unit's mission is to acquire new knowledge about the factors that influence the distribution, abundance, and productivity of trout and other coldwater fish in the Southern Appalachians and to provide the technical basis for protecting, enhancing, and restoring coldwater streams and their fauna. The Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer is part of this unit.

Web site for SRS-4202: http://www.trout.forprod.vt.edu/

SRS-4702

Brooks Forest Products Center
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
1650 Ramble Rd. • Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-4016

SRS-4702, Integrated Life Cycle of Wood: Tree Quality, Processing, and Recycling. This unit's mission is to enhance wood resource conservation and sustainability through advanced timber analysis and wood processing, and effective wood product recovery, reuse, and recycling.

Web site for SRS-4702: http://www.srs4702.forprod.vt.edu/

The Basics: Your Tax Dollars at Work

Experimental Forests

The SRS maintains 19 experimental forests located on or near National Forest System lands. Scientists in research work units use these as sites for their studies and demonstration projects in conjunction with the managing national forest unit. Experimental forests are designated to represent a specific ecosystem or forest type, and to present opportunities for the study of different approaches to sustaining forested ecosystems. Several of the experimental forests in the South were selected for their potential to demonstrate rehabilitation of deteriorated farm forests and soil resources that occurred during early European settlement and plantation farming of the region.

Among the experiments conducted on these forests are studies on stand management and regeneration; restoration of wildlife and plant populations; watershed management; and the effects of pollution, climate change, and timber harvest. Many experimental forests also provide educational and nonmotorized recreation activities, including interpretation to enhance public understanding of forest management principles. Research on experimental forests plays a vital role in the conservation of America's natural resources.

State	Experimental Forest	National Forest	Acres	Date Established
Alabama	Escambia	___[1]	2,990	06/14/61
Arkansas	Alum Creek	Ouachita	4,281	04/02/59
	Crossett	Ouachita	1,675	08/27/40
	Henry R. Koen	Ozark	720	09/17/51
	Sylamore	Ozark	4,180	03/28/34
Florida	Chipola	___[1]	2,760	06/21/61
	Olustee	Osceola	3,135	03/28/34
Georgia	Hitchiti	Oconee	4,602	12/04/61
	Scull Shoals	Oconee	4,487	09/17/38
Louisiana	Palustris	Kisatchie	7,515	07/19/35
Mississippi	Delta	___[1]	2,580	06/14/61
	Harrison	DeSoto	4,111	07/19/34
	Tallahatchie	Holly Springs	4,569	04/12/50
North Carolina	Bent Creek	Pisgah	5,242	06/25/27
	Blue Valley	Nantahala	1,400	06/23/64
	Coweeta	Nantahala	5,482	03/28/34
South Carolina	John C. Calhoun	Sumter	5,082	10/08/47
	Santee	Francis-Marion	6,000	07/06/37
Texas	Stephen F. Austin	Angelina	2,499	06/28/61

1 Private land

Our Most Important Product:
Knowledge

Our Most Important Product: Knowledge

Each year our scientists publish several hundred journal articles, book chapters, Southern Research Station publications, and other materials. This list of the materials produced in FY00 is sorted according to the primary cross-cutting theme (CCT) that they support, but many of them relate to more than one CCT. The seventh subsection lists materials that relate to multiple CCTs or continue important studies that are in addition to the CCTs. Many of these publications are available online at the SRS Web site: http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/pubs/index.htm

Southern Pines

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Achtemeier, Gary L. 2000. PB-Piedmont: a numerical model for predicting the movement of biological material near the ground at night. In: 24th conference on agricultural and forest meteorology; 14th conference on biometeorology and aerobiology; 2000 August 14-18; Davis, CA. Boston: American Meteorological Society: 178-179.

Amerson, Henry V.; Wilcox, Phillip; Sederoff, Ronald R. [and others]. 1999. Methods for within family selection of disease resistance in woody perennials using genetic markers. U.S. patent 5,908,978. June 1. 50 p. Int. Cl. A01H 1/04.

Ayres, Matthew P.; Wilkens, Richard T.; Ruel, Jonathan J. [and others]. 2000. Nitrogen budgets of phloem-feeding bark beetles with and without symbiotic fungi. Ecology. 81: 2198-2210.

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Our Most Important Product: Knowledge

Southern Pines

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Brose, Patrick H.; Van Lear, David H.; Keyser, Patrick D. 1999. A shelterwood-burn technique for regenerating productive upland oak sites in the Piedmont region. Southern Journal of Applied Forestry. 23(3): 158-163.

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Asheville, NC 28802

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