An Overview of the Southern Research

Dr. Jim Reaves, Ph.D.
Director
Southern Research Station

Association of 1890 Research Directors
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Forest Service Research & Development Capacity and Infrastructure

- 6 Research Stations
- Forest Products Laboratory
- International Institute of Tropical Forestry
- 77 Research Units
- 67 locations
- 83 Experimental Forests
- 370 Research Natural Areas
- Ca. 550 research scientists
- Ca. 3,200 total employees
Mission

“To create the science and technology needed to sustain and enhance Southern forest ecosystems and the benefits they provide”

The SRS provides the science and innovative technology needed to manage healthy forests and grasslands no matter who owns the land. We conduct research for use by a variety of agencies and organizations - not just for the national forests.
What We Do

- The Southern Research Station is a leader in innovative research on forest ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

- We are also the leading organization for research on natural resource management and sustainability.

- We maintain a healthy working environment and a dynamic and diverse cadre of employees who share a common goal of applying world-class science to critical emerging issues.

- People in public service and the private sector look to us for credible, useful, and timely products that inform their decisions and guide them toward successful and sustainable outcomes.
Southern Research Station Structure

• The Southern Research Station serves the 13 Southern States from Virginia to Texas.
• The Station has:
  – More than 500 employees, 130 of which are PhD-level scientists. Their expertise ranges from economics to ecology, hydrology to silviculture, and everything in between.
  – Employees are located in about 20 facilities in all of the Southern States (except Oklahoma and Kentucky), as well as the National Agroforestry Center (in Lincoln, NE).
Total Incoming Funds FY08

- Research: 83%
- Agreements: 3%
- National Forest: 2%
- State & Private: 5%
- Joint Fire Science: 2%
- Fire Plan: 4%
- Capital Improvement: 1%

Total Budget = $60 million
Funding by Science Area (FY08)

- Values: $5,187 (11%)
- Threats: $8,952 (19%)
- Watershed: $8,905 (18%)
- Restoration & Mgmt: $10,480 (22%)
- FIA: $14,668 (30%)
2008 Accomplishments

- Last year, the Station awarded more than $9 million in awards and grants to states, universities and other federal agencies.

- We produced close to 700 publications, delivering our science to decision makers, foresters and other natural resource professionals.

- Major newspapers across the South, including the *Charlotte Observer* and *Raleigh News & Observer*, wrote stories about our research.

- The Station’s scientific magazine, *Compass*, recently won an international award for technical publications.

- Also, several SRS scientists, including several right here in North Carolina, were recognized nationally for their contributions to natural resource management.
2009 Research Priorities

• Policy and Economics
• Urban and Urbanizing
• Climate Change
• Water
• Biomass and Bioenergy
• Fire
• Forest Inventory and Analysis
This year began a new effort called “The Director’s Initiative”. The goal is to expand our relationships beyond the traditional forestry institutions in the region.

- We also want to expand the cadre of people who seek out a career in the Federal government and the Forest Service.

- We requested proposals from students and faculty of 1890 Land Grant Institutions on short research or training projects.
Project Criteria

The focus of the proposals had to be on one of the following topics:

- Short research projects that address priority issues in forests in the South.
- Curricula focused on training students for federal employment in natural resources.
- Curricula focused on training students to be scientists or technicians.
- Research with one of the Stations 16 Research Work Units.
Projects Selected for 2009

The 5 projects selected were from students/faculty at:

- Bethune-Cookman University
- Florida A&M University
- Hampton University
- Southern University
- Tuskegee University

The projects totaling almost $250,000 will be funded for 2 years.
Economic Recovery Projects

• Earlier this year Congress passed and the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA.

• The Forest Service received $1.15 billion in ARRA funds.

• So far, more than 491 projects have been approved totaling over $936 million nationwide.

• The Southern Research Station had 2 proposed projects approved, totaling $650,000.

• One project upgrades an HVAC system at our lab in Auburn, AL.

• The other is a road paving project at our Santee Experimental Forest in South Carolina.
QUESTIONS?
SRS Contact Information

USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station
200 W.T. Weaver Blvd
Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 257-4832
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov