



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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State Foresters Handbook



CONTENTS

WELCOME TO STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY	2
FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT (FAM)	9
FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION (FHP)	11
COOPERATIVE FORESTRY (CF)	15
SHARED STEWARDSHIP AND STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY – WORKING TOGETHER	21
SPECIAL PROJECTS	22
GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS (GCA)	26
SOUTHERN RESEARCH STATION (SRS)	30
NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM	35
APPENDIX A: CONTACT LIST	40
APPENDIX B: WEBSITES AND RESOURCES	43
APPENDIX C: R8 S&PF ORG CHARTS	46
APPENDIX D: COMPARISON OF STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING & GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY	47

WELCOME TO STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

State Foresters:

On behalf of the USDA Forest Service (USFS) Southern Region (R8), I want to welcome you to an enduring and valued partnership. Many of you have been doing important work in natural resources and conservation for years and we are excited to work alongside you to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the region's forests and grasslands.

The USDA Forest Service commitment to land stewardship and public service is the framework within which our agency's natural resources are managed. A major piece of this statement is the agency's collaboration with partners and the public. We simply cannot do our work without the relationships we have with our state foresters.

Landscapes have no boundaries. We are in this together and value our partnerships and the opportunities they present for us to all make an impact on the land. A key priority of the Southern Region is the collaborative work with state foresters and more specifically through the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF).

This handbook is designed to familiarize recently appointed State Foresters and other key State Forestry Agency Leaders with the USDA Forest Service Southern Region, Southern Research Station, and more specifically with the USFS State and Private Forestry organization, personnel, programs, and operations.

We continue to strive to build even stronger partnerships with our state land managers, and in particular with SGSF, so please do not hesitate to reach out and connect with us to share your thoughts on how we get better together. Each of you are an important member of our team. We look forward to seeing the implementation of your agendas for your states and the region this year. Welcome!

Jan Davis

USDA Forest Service Southern Region

Deputy Regional Forester, State and Private Forestry

State and Private Forestry (S&PF)

The mission of State and Private Forestry is to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners, state agencies, tribes, and community resource managers to sustain the nation's urban and rural forests and to protect communities and the environment from wildland fires, insects, diseases, and invasive plants. The State and Private Forestry organization works in partnership with SGSF to help sustain the South's forests and protect communities and the environment from wildland fires. Through programs outlined in this handbook, S&PF brings forest management assistance and expertise to a diversity of landowners and natural resource managers.

Jan Davis, Deputy Regional Forester, S&PF janette.davis@usda.gov p. 404-347-7248 c. 202-860-6275

www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/state-private-forestry

S&PF TIMELINE

1862 Morrill Act established the Department of Agriculture.

1876 The Office of Special Agent for forest research is created to assess the state of the nation's forests.

1881 The Office of the Special Agent is expanded into the newly formed Division of Forestry.

1891 The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 authorizes withdrawing land from the public domain as "forest reserves," managed by the Department of the Interior.

1901 The Division of Forestry is renamed the Bureau of Forestry.

1905 The Transfer Act of 1905 transfers the management of forest reserves from the General Land Office (within the Department of the Interior) to the Bureau of Forestry (within the Department of Agriculture). The name of the agency changes to the USDA Forest Service.

1911 The Weeks Act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase cutover, denuded, and other forested lands for flood and fire control and enabled the USDA Forest Service to form relationships with State Foresters. This led to the expansion of National Forests in the Eastern states and the protection and restoration of millions of acres of land.

1922 The General Land Exchange Act of 1922 authorized the Secretary of Interior to obtain title to privately owned land located within national forest boundaries.

1924 The Clarke-McNary Act promoted the efficient management of woodlots and the purchase of lands.

1934 S&PF program created in the USDA Forest Service Washington, D.C. headquarters office (WO).

1944 The USDA Forest Service begins a campaign stating, "Only YOU can prevent forest fires".

1978 Passage of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (Replaced 1950 Cooperative Forest Management Act)

1983 Southeast Area merged with Region 8 to become the Southern Region

1989 The Chief's New Perspectives initiative stresses ecosystem management and sustainability and is aimed to place timber management in line with other forest values including biodiversity, water quality and recreation.

1990 Farm Bill (Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990) passed, established Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy and expanding Urban and Community Forestry programs. It also:

- Created four new forestry assistance programs;
- Revised two existing forestry assistance programs;
- Amended two forestry assistance programs;
- Revised the administrative provisions for forestry assistance;
- Created five special forestry research programs;
- Amended three existing forestry research programs;
- Authorized a private, nonprofit tree planting foundation; and
- Created new FS branch: International Forestry.

1996 Farm Bill (Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996) amended Forest Legacy Program to include State acquisitions.

2001 The National Fire Plan is created to address the buildup of fuels caused by decades of fire suppression, as well as climate change and urban/suburban developments adjacent to forests.

2002 Farm Bill (the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002)

2008 Farm Bill (the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008):

- Required statewide forest assessments and strategies for assistance
- Provided for competitive funding for certain programs
- Created new programs for open space conservation and for emergency reforestation
- Did not reauthorize the Forest Land Enhancement Program
- Revised the definition of conservation actions to include forestry activities for several programs
- Included two new woody biomass energy programs.

2014 Farm Bill (The Agricultural Act of 2014)

- Repealed programs that had expired or had never received appropriations.
 - Forest Land Enhancement Program
 - Watershed Forestry Assistance Program
 - Expired Cooperative National Forest Products Marketing Program
 - Tribal Watershed Forestry Assistance Program
- Includes provisions to modify the existing public notice, comment and appeals process for land and resource management plans.
- Includes provisions addressing the management of the National Forest System.
 - Permanently reauthorizes stewardship contracting and extends the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) nationwide.
 - Authorizes the designation of treatment areas within the National Forest System due to insect or disease infestation and allows for expedited project planning within those designated areas.

2018 Farm Bill and Omnibus Bill

- Expanded Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) to include agreements with counties and tribes and more types of management practices.
- Expanded stewardship contracting agreements to 20 years.

- Includes new Categorical Exclusions.
- Amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA), to establish a competitive Landscape Scale Restoration grant program to provide financial and technical assistance to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes.

2019 The 115th Congress

- Congress passed the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill in 2019 which directed the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program or Working Forest Lands to "consider developing outcome-based reporting for this program and urges the Service to reevaluate whether allocating program funding using the current allocation formula is the most effective use of program resources (Senate Report 115-276, 2019)."

2020 Great American Outdoors Act

- Provides permanent and expanded funding for land and water conservation programs which includes Forest Legacy.
- Enables federal land managers to take aggressive steps to address deferred maintenance and other infrastructure projects on national forests and grasslands.

S&PF BUDGET

Although part of the US Department of Agriculture, the USDA Forest Service receives its budget through the House Appropriations - Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

S&PF Nationally	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Program Changes (FY19-20)
Fire and Aviation Management – Hazardous Fuels	418,000,000	420,694,000	431,004,000	10,310,000
Fire and Aviation Management – Preparedness	1,323,520,000	1,339,620,000	1,339,620,000	-
Fire and Aviation Management – Cooperative Fire	80,000,000	81,000,000	82,000,000	1,000,000
Fire and Aviation Management – Volunteer Fire	16,000,000	17,000,000	18,000,000	1,000,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000	-
Forest Health Management – Federal	55,500,000	56,000,000	56,000,000	-
Forest Health Management – Cooperative	41,000,000	42,000,000	44,000,000	2,000,000
Forest Stewardship Program	20,500,000	20,500,000	21,000,000	500,000
Forest Legacy Program	60,625,000	57,590,000	57,590,000	-
Forest Legacy Program – Program Admin	6,400,000	6,400,400	6,400,400	-
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	-
International Forestry	9,000,000	9,000,000	12,000,000	3,000,000
Urban and Community Forestry	28,500,000	29,500,000	32,000,000	2,500,000
Total	885,877,000	864,646,400	911,956,400	47,310,000

S&PF BUDGET PROCESS

The development of the budget has four steps:

- Budget Formulation (*2 years in advance*)
 - The USDA and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) determine budget planning levels
 - USDA Forest Service’s Washington Office (WO) creates *Chief’s Agency Request to USDA Budget Package*
- Presentation to Administration (*2 years in advance*)
 - Secretary develops *USDA Budget Request*
 - OMB develops *Draft Budget Proposal*
 - OMB and President’s Office prepare *President’s Proposed Budget Request* for Congress
- Presentation to Congress (*1 year in advance*)
 - OMB submits *President’s Proposed Budget Request* to House Appropriations Committee
 - Interior, Environment and Related Agency Subcommittee reviews the request and holds hearings

- A *House Report* is prepared and approved for transmittal to the Senate
- The Senate holds hearings and prepares a *Senate Report*
- A *Conference Report* is prepared jointly by House and Senate Committees
- The *Conference Report* is assigned a Public Law number and submitted to the President
- Execution (*in the new fiscal year*)
 - President approves *Conference Report*
 - OMB releases approved funds to USDA
 - Department releases funds to USFS WO
 - WO prepares *Planning & Budget Advice (PBA)* report for use by field units, identifying funds available by region/area and program
 - S&PF funds are budgeted in terms of
 - State grant funds (Domestic Grants, Cooperative Agreements, etc.)
 - Congressional earmarked funds (Legacy)
 - National investment project funds (identified by WO; also known as “National Priorities”)
 - Regional operating expense funds (SPSE)
 - Regional projects

Budget Modernization

The current budget modernization effort was initiated by Office of Management and Budget in November 2017 through a directive to the agency in the FY 2019 Passback to move away from cost pools by FY 2020. In March 2018, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-141) passed and the accompanying Congressional conference report also directed the Forest Service to cease assessing for cost pools by FY 2020. The report also directed the agency to propose a new budget structure that considered the feasibility of salaries and expense budget line items. The goal of those combined actions focused on the agency creating a transparent budget that could be more responsive to changes in appropriations. The FY 2020 Forest Service Budget Justification responded with a proposal to eliminate cost pools and streamline the Forest Service budget. This proposal provided the starting point for Congressional appropriations staff to work with the agency to ultimately find agreement on a new budget structure to use beginning Oct. 1, 2020.

WHAT IS THE CHANGE? The agency’s new appropriated budget structure for FY 2021 realigns recent expenditures, many of which are multi-funded from a broad array of budget line items. Those funds are now in budget line items authorized for specific purposes. This realignment provides a well-defined means of communicating how the agency spends our appropriated budget and will better facilitate prioritization discussions within the agency on the use of these funds. The new appropriated budget structure consists of:

- The new Forest Service Operations Treasury account that includes the following budget line items:
 - Forest Service Operations Salary & Expenses
 - Facilities Maintenance and Leases
 - Information Technology
 - Organizational Services and Support
- Salary and expenses budget line items for:
 - Research & Development
 - State & Private Forestry
 - National Forest System
 - Wildland Fire Management.

- Existing program budget line items for the discretionary program of work and fleet.

Sources of funding for S&PF programs:

- Southern region budget
- Emergency appropriations
- Restoration of fire transfer funds
- Unplanned adjustments

FIRE AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT (FAM)

Shardul Raval

Director

shardul.raval@usda.gov

p. 404-347-3464

c. 404-909-0239

Annually, the South experiences more wildfires than any other region in the nation. The South's extensive network of roads, dense forests and population has led to the development of homes and other structures throughout much of the forested areas. Many of these homes and valuable forests are at risk to wildfires.

Region 8 FAM works closely with the fifteen Southern Region national forests, the thirteen southern states, Puerto Rico, FEMA, and other federal and local interagency cooperators to provide program management and technical oversight for the delivery of quality fire and aviation program. FAM has three functional areas: Operations, National Fire Plan and Aviation.

OPERATIONS

Dave Martin

Assistant Director, Operations

dave.martin@usda.gov

c. 706-949-4610

Operations includes the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC), advanced training, workforce development, and all phases of wildfire suppression.

Programs

- Priority Trainee List
- Fire Training and Qualifications; support for state fire academies
- Regional Incident Management Teams (IMTs)
- Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs)
- Resource Coordination with the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC): SACC is the focal point for mobilization of resources between the thirteen states within the Southern Area, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SACC also supports the resource needs of the other 10 USDA Forest Service Regions by working in concert with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) in Boise, ID.

SACC Webpage: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc>

NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

Mike Dueitt

Assistant Director, National Fire Plan

Michael.dueitt@usda.gov

c. 850-228-0320

Vacant

Cooperative Fire All-Hazard & Prevention Manager

Lex Gabaldo

Deputy Coop Fire, All Hazard, & Prevention Manager

alexis.gabaldo@usda.gov

p.404-347-3734

c. 775-443-7145

National Fire Plan includes the Cooperative Fire Program, Fuels Management, Federal Excess Property, Fire Planning and Decision Support, Fire Prevention, and All-Hazard emergency response.

Programs

- Cooperative Fire Program (including State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, and Community Fire Protection Grants)
- All-hazard, Emergency Support Function #4 (ESF #4) response
- Fire Prevention
- Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and the Firefighter Program (FFP)
- Fuels Management, Hazardous Fuels Mitigation, and the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS)
- Fire Planning and Wildfire Decision Support
- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
- Partnership with the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Prescribed Fire Working Group
- Other Cooperative partnerships with federal, state, local and private partners

AVIATION

Vacant

Regional Aviation Officer

Provides aerial assets and equipment for fire suppression and prescribed fire, training opportunities and guidance for Federal, State and County aviation programs.

Programs

- Aviation Fleet Management
- Aviation Contracting
- Support to State Aviation
 - Carding aircraft and pilots
 - Assistance with Aviation Operations Program

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION (FHP)

Don Duerr

Director

donald.duerr@usda.gov

c. 404-909-9543

Forest Health Protection (FHP) protects and improves the health of America's rural, wildland, and urban forests. Through Forest Health Management, Forest Health Monitoring, Pesticide Use Management and Technology Development programs, FHP provides forest insect, disease and invasive plant survey and monitoring information, and technical and financial assistance to prevent, suppress and control outbreaks threatening forest resources. Forest Health Protection is responsible for the protection of all forested lands.

Common practices to protect and restore the health of the South's forests:

- Thinning forests to reduce the risk of diseases and insects from both private and public forestlands.
- Teaching and training professional foresters and landowners about the prevention, detection, evaluation, and suppression of pest outbreaks.
- Providing financial assistance to private forest landowners for prevention and suppression efforts.
- Suppressing native and suppressing/eradicating non-native forest pests.
- Visiting and evaluating sites with pest problems across the South.
- Use of the latest technology, such as remote sensing, to detect infested areas.

FHP maintains three offices in the Southern Region. Headquarters are in Atlanta, Georgia and there are two field offices. The Alexandria, Louisiana field office serves Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama. The Asheville, North Carolina field office serves Virginia, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. FHP also administers the Resistance Screening Center near Asheville where seedlings are screened for genetic resistance to destructive diseases.

Brian Strom Alexandria Field Office Representative brian.strom@usda.gov p. 318-473-7235 c.318-613-8876

Bill Carothers Asheville Field Office Representative william.carothers@usda.gov p.828-257-4321 c.828-273-4327

COOPERATIVE FOREST HEALTH PROGRAM (CFHP) Each state is fully funded by formula (\$1.77 million overall). A process took place over the last two years to assess the level of financial assistance provided from FHP to support CFHP capacity. It was determined that a revision in the formula was warranted and the funding formula was adjusted in 2020 which led to an increase in funds for each state agency. All states receive Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) funding (\$1.12 million overall). Some states receive additional special survey/project funding (Southern Pine Beetle [SPB], Hemlock Woolly Adelgid [HWA], Emerald Ash Borer [EAB], Sudden Oak Death [SOD], Early Detection and Rapid Response [EDRR], Thousand Cankers Disease [TCD], invasive plants, etc.). All states face internal budget issues and several states have implemented reorganizations and have new forest health specialists.

CFHP state requirements to receive funds:

- One full-time professional entomologist or pathologist
- A program that provides technical assistance and training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- A program to detect significant insect and disease conditions
- A program to evaluate the need for control action against insects and diseases
- A system that provides an annual report to USFS on forest insect and disease conditions within the state
- An annual grant expenditure and accomplishment report

THE FOREST HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM (FHM) is designed to determine the status, changes, and trends in forest health conditions on an annual basis. The FHM program collects data from ground plots and surveys, aerial surveys, and remote sensing techniques to monitor and study forest damage due to insects, diseases, and abiotic disturbances. FHM develops analytical approaches to address forest health issues that affect the sustainability of forest ecosystems. Data gathered through FHM is the foundation for making management recommendations, silvicultural prescriptions, and other prevention tactics recommended by FHP. FHM covers all forested lands through a partnership involving USDA Forest Service, State Foresters, and other state and federal agencies and academic groups.

FHP surveys 6 million acres per year on National Forest Service (NFS) land, but most areas in the South are surveyed by state forestry agency partners. In 2019, there were 158 million aerial survey acres in total and 200,000 ground survey acres.

Chris Asaro FHM Program Manager christopher.asaro@usda.gov p. 404-347-2718
<https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/protecting-forest/forest-health-monitoring/>

NATIONAL GYPSY MOTH SLOW THE SPREAD PROGRAM (STS) represents one of three cooperative programs to reduce the spread and impact of the exotic European gypsy moth. The program continues to be cited as the most biologically effective and economically justified integrated pest management program managed by FHP. Benefits of the program outweigh costs by a factor of more than 3 to 1. States and the USDA work together to slow the spread of gypsy moth to surrounding states. An annual investment of \$7.25 million, for intensive monitoring and treatment of about 290,000 acres, reduces the rate of spread by more than 60%, the main objective of the program. The STS program has treated >9 million acres from North Carolina to Minnesota since 2000.

Tom Coleman STS Program Manager tom.coleman@usda.gov p. 828-257-4399 c. 828-446-5142
 National Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Story Map: <https://arcg.is/1WHuO9>

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID (HWA) a non-native invasive insect, is a national pest management problem currently impacting 18 states. FHP leads management efforts to: expand predator rearing and releases; apply insecticide treatments; identify and work with new potential biological control agents; perform surveys; and work on genetic conservation of hemlock species.

In the South, ongoing chemical suppression efforts on State and federal lands (including USDA Forest Service, US Department of Interior (USDI) Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs) have saved in excess of half a million trees and protected 12,000 acres of critical habitat. Biological control agents have also been established on most of these lands and offer a long-term sustainable solution to this problem.

Rusty Rhea HWA Program Manager rusty.rhea@usda.gov p. 828-257-4314

THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (SPB) PREVENTION PROGRAM was designed to take a comprehensive and integrated approach for preventing and mitigating the impacts of SPB on federal, state, and private lands. This program is administered by Forest Health Protection and implemented by 12 National Forests and 10 southern states with an annual average funding level of \$4 million (\$2.3 million for states and \$1.7 million for National Forests). Increasing forest resiliency through good forest management is a key feature of this plan. These treatments include forest thinning and restoring native pine forests.

More than 1.4 million acres have been treated and nearly 18,000 private landowners and loggers have participated in state run cost-share programs. FHP evaluated the effectiveness of program treatments on the 2012 SPB outbreak on the National Forests in MS. Results show statistically fewer spots in treated areas – only 2 spots occurred in thinned stands out of more than 900 spots on the Bienville and Homochitto National Forests.

John Nowak SPB Prevention Program Manager john.t.nowak@usda.gov, p. 828-712-0238

Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Story Map:

<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=64cda6d74a5749efbe300fe83806d442>

INVASIVE PLANTS PROGRAM FHP has authority to fund non-native invasive plant projects on non-federal land. Priorities include supporting landowner cost-share programs, early detection and rapid response treatments, education and outreach, the formation of invasive plant cooperatives, and on-the-ground treatments across state and private landscapes. Cooperators include state forestry agencies, state departments of agriculture, Universities, and non-governmental organizations.

Anna Grossman Program Manager anna.grossman@usda.gov, p. 404-347-2961 c. 404-831-6631

FOREST NURSERY PROGRAM FHP provides southern nurseries technical assistance and training on nursery disease problems and control options. The forest nursery program routinely works with scientists from state, university and other federal agencies on technology development and gaps in information relating to nursery pests.

Michelle Cram Program Manager michelle.cram@usda.gov p. 706-559-4233

RESISTANCE SCREENING CENTER (RSC) was established in 1973 to support loblolly and slash pine improvement efforts in response to timber losses from fusiform rust. Screening programs have expanded to include pitch canker, *Phytophthora* root rot screening on chestnut, butternut canker, dogwood anthracnose, and brown spot needle blight. The RSC provides a fee-based service where seedlings are grown and maintained in greenhouse facilities and pathogens are reared in the onsite laboratory to develop the inoculum for screening. Specialized equipment and protocols are used to inoculate trees. Data are collected and analyzed to provide reports to clients. In 2019, the RSC screened more than 6,000 pine seedlings for resistance to fusiform rust and nearly 10,000 pine seedlings for resistance to pitch canker using standard operational procedures. Another 7,200 pine seedlings were screened for rust resistance using customized protocols to support fungicide efficacy programs for reforestation nurseries. More than 2,500 blight-resistant hybrid chestnut seedlings from The American Chestnut Foundation's breeding program were screened for resistance to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and a cooperative study to assess differences in virulence among seven isolates of *P. cinnamomi* was established with support from Clemson University. Screening programs implemented by the RSC benefit a wide range of stakeholders including universities, state departments of agriculture & forestry, federal partners, non-profits, and private industry.

Katie McKeever Program Manager kathleen.mckeever@usda.gov 828-667-5089 x202

HAZARD TREE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM Outdoor activities on National Forests and other public lands, including activities at recreation sites or along managed roadways, have inherent risks due to the natural setting in which they occur. Trees may pose a significant risk to safety and infrastructure if they or their parts suffer a structural failure. Forest Health Protection (FHP) provides technical and programmatic guidance and assistance to federal and state cooperators to reduce, to the extent practicable, the risks posed by hazardous trees at recreation sites and other public use areas while also emphasizing tree preservation to maintain the natural, historic, or cultural settings present at these sites. In Region 8, this is accomplished through Forest-level Hazard Tree Risk Management Programs (HTRMPs) that are comprised of annual hazard tree risk assessments, risk analysis, and timely mitigation actions that prevent or correct hazardous conditions that pose an unacceptable level of risk to visitors, workers, and infrastructure. In addition, an effectively implemented HTRMP protects government agencies from litigation when tree failure results in property damage, injury, or death on public lands. FHP provides our federal and state cooperators with HTRMP development and establishment guidance, assists in program implementation through science-based risk assessments using the latest technologies and techniques, provides detailed post-incident tree failure assessments and expert testimony in legal cases when necessary, and conducts regular hazard tree assessment trainings across the region to ensure qualified personnel are available for proper HTRMP implementation.

Ryan Blaedow Program Manager, ryan.a.blaedow@usda.gov; 828-257-4328

FOREST PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM FHP provides pesticide use technical assistance to national forest and state organizations. The program coordinates with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other related organizations to insure new and existing pesticide products are registered and registrations maintained. The pesticide program manager coordinates two small RFP programs: the Biological Control of Invasive Forest Pests and Forest Service Pesticide Impact Assessment Programs.

Michelle Frank Program Manager michelle.frank@usda.gov p. 404-347-2229

COOPERATIVE FORESTRY (CF)

Kay Reed

Director of Cooperative Forestry

kay.reed@usda.gov

p. 404-347-7200

c. 404-805-8827

The Cooperative Forestry staff of the USDA Forest Service works with states, private landowners, and other partners to promote healthy forests and enhance community life. State forestry agencies work in partnership with Cooperative Forestry, to assist American Indian tribes, local communities, organizations, groups, and citizens of urban and rural communities.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/state-private-forestry/coop-forestry>

THE COMMUNITY FOREST AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAM (CFOSP) authorizes the USDA Forest Service to provide grants of financial assistance to local governments, tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities to establish forests that provide long-term community benefits. The Community Forest Program was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill (Section 8003 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 [Public Law 110-234]), which amends the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.

- Full fee title acquisition is required. Conservation easements are not eligible.
- Community Forests can be owned by local governments, tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities.
- The program pays up to 50% of the project costs and requires a 50% non-federal match.
- Public access is required for Community Forest Program projects.
- Lands acquired through the program are actively managed in accordance with a community forest plan to provide community benefits.

Susan Granbery Program Manager susan.granbery@usda.gov c. 770-883-8925

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM (FLP), with state partners, protects private forestlands from being converted to non-forest uses through conservation easements and fee simple acquisition. The program is voluntary and it assists states in carrying out State Forest Action Plans. Projects are developed, sometimes in partnership with local, regional, or national non-governmental organizations, up to 2 years in advance of acquisition. States submit proposals through a Forest Service Regional process to the National competition, which takes place annually. FLP was established in 1990 through an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978 (16 USC 2101 et seq.).

Susan Granbery Program Manager susan.granbery@usda.gov c. 770-883-8925

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy/>

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) The CRP is a USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) program. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. In the South the primary alternative species are trees. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

The USDA Forest Service enters into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation and FSA. The agreement establishes the responsibilities of each partner with respect to CRP forestry practices and technical assistance. The FSA provides the Forest Service funds that are then awarded through grants to the state forestry agencies to cover costs associated with providing technical assistance to landowners. Reimbursement rates to state agencies are set by FSA. Acreages and associated funds are established by National, State and Local FSA in collaboration with state forestry agencies based on technical assistance need.

Lynn Lewis Landowner Assistance Program Manager lynn.lewis@usda.gov c. 803-507-5681
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>

EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM (EFRP) This program, administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), helps owners of non-industrial private forests to restore forestland damaged by natural disasters. After a natural disaster, state forestry agencies join with FSA to assess damage for landowners and determine the amount of funding needed.

Cooperative Forestry and FSA have a Memorandum of Agreement for coordination of technical assistance for the EFRP. The USDA Forest Service provides grant awards to state forestry agencies to provide technical assistance for forest resources that were damaged by a natural disaster occurring on or after January 1, 2010.

Lynn Lewis, Landowner Assistance Program Manager lynn.lewis@usda.gov c. 803-507-5681
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration/index>
https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/1-efrp_r00_a01.pdf

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (FSP) helps non-industrial forest landowners to be wise stewards of their property and implement practices that will enhance and sustain multiple forest resources and healthy landscapes. The program also helps create jobs in rural communities by sustaining local markets for forest products and increasing demand for qualified private forestry consultants and state field foresters.

The Forest Stewardship Program focuses on three main areas:

- Assisting landowners to actively manage their land and related resources
- Keeping land in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners
- Increasing the economic benefits of land (timber harvesting, for example) while conserving the natural environment

Despite the program's critical role and positive impact, communicating successful outcomes has been a challenge. The current reporting measures, management plans and acres, have not proven to be very representative of the total work accomplished. Because of budget pressures and the difficulty in measuring the impact that the federal investment has on desired outcomes, the program has experienced an approximately 50% decline in funding since its creation in 1990. For fiscal years 2017-2019 Senate appropriation marks specifically requested that the USDA Forest Service develop outcome-based reporting and re-evaluate the current allocation funding formula.

An executive team and working group were formed in February 2018 with representatives from both state forestry and Forest Service agencies to present recommendations to the National Association of State Foresters for approval and adoption. Modifications to the program are still ongoing, with an anticipation of being implemented in fiscal year 2021.

Rural Forestry Assistance is another authorized program of the Cooperative Forestry. Its funding comes through the Forest Stewardship Program. Rural Forestry Assistance authorizes the USDA Forest Service to provide financial assistance to State Foresters (or equivalent state officials) for the following:

- Develop genetically improved tree seeds
- Develop and contract for the development of field arboretums, greenhouses, and tree nurseries, in cooperation with a State, to facilitate production and distribution of tree seeds and seedlings in States where the Secretary determines that there is an inadequate capacity to carry out present and future reforestation needs
- Procure, produce, and distribute tree seeds and trees for the purpose of establishing forests, windbreaks, shelterbelts, woodlots, and other plantings
- Plant tree seeds and seedlings on non-Federal forest lands that are suitable for the production of timber, recreation, and for other benefits associated with the growing of trees
- Plan, organize, and implement measures on non-Federal forest lands, including thinning, prescribed burning, and other silvicultural activities designed to increase the quantity and improve the quality of trees and other vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and water yielded therefrom
- Protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forestlands and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields therefrom.

Lynn Lewis, Landowner Assistance Program Manager lynn.lewis@usda.gov c. 803-507-5681
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-stewardship>

LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION (LSR) This program, which was codified in the 2018 Farm Bill, is focused on optimizing current and future public benefits from large-area (landscape level) forestlands. Landscape Scale Restoration projects are competitive, supported through Cooperative Forestry funds, and used to help state forestry agencies and others implement their State Forest Action Plans or similar restoration strategies. Project must result in measurable outcomes on the landscape. Proposals are open to partners other than state forestry agencies, but they must be in consultation and concurrence with the state forestry agencies. The Region typically sends a request for abstracts in August of each year followed by the submittal of full proposals in November.

Program objectives:

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires;
- Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including for threatened and endangered species;
- Maintain or improve water quality and watershed function;
- Mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease;
- Improve important forest ecosystems;
- Measure ecological and economic benefits including air quality and soil quality and productivity.

Paul Gellerstedt, Landscape Scale Restoration and Water Resources Program Manager, paul.gellerstedt@usda.gov
 c. 470-585-9154
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/landscape-scale-restoration>

OUTREACH is an integral part of the Forest Service program delivery strategy. Our outreach efforts ensure that socially disadvantaged communities and landowners, including underserved individuals and groups are aware of, understand, and have access to USDA programs and services. Outreach includes performing natural resource

program coordination and liaison functions, as well as providing region-wide technical assistance and resources for forestry and agroforestry, to limited resource and historically underserved communities and individuals.

We focus on supporting landowners and organizations that work every day to promote sustainable forests and communities. Through our diverse partnerships, we reach out, and create relationships with landowners, particularly small and underserved landowners. We bring forest management support and expertise to assist landowners in meeting their forest management objectives, to better take advantage of their land-based assets. For example, the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program (SFLR) is a partnership between forestland owners in 8 states across Southern U.S. and several organizations and agencies that serve private landowners. The program works to help families retain landownership and increase the ecological, aesthetic, and economic value of their forestland. We also work closely with a range of stakeholders including the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, American Forest Foundation (AFF), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), state forestry agencies, and several public groups, colleges, and conservation organizations in the South to advance forest stewardship.

Amadou Diop Outreach Liaison amadou.diop@usda.gov p. 404-347-4569 c. 404-719-9488

REFORESTATION, NURSERIES AND GENETIC RESOURCES (RNGR) This program assists Federal, State, Tribal, and private agencies, and organizations in producing reasonably priced, high quality, genetically appropriate seedlings to achieve restoration goals. The RNGR Program provides technical assistance and technology transfer to the growers and users of native plants on cost-effective propagation and planting methods that improve seedling survival and growth.

RNGR supports the “All Lands” mission of the USDA Forest Service by improving survival, growth and of seedlings planted to improve timber production, rural economies; and counteract drought, fire, pests, invasive species, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. RNGR and its collaborators provide technology transfer to the more than 1,000 nurseries and genetic resource programs. These programs produce over one billion trees and other plants for restoration. The RNGR Team currently consists of three S&PF regional specialists, two Research & Development scientists, the Director of the National Seed Laboratory, and a FS Washington Office national program coordinator.

VACANT

<https://rngr.net/>

THE NATIONAL SEED LAB (NSL) The lab has supported forest restoration and regeneration efforts across the South for more than 60 years. The lab works with forest industry and public agencies to produce quality seed for the regeneration of public and private lands. The Lab performs seed tests for private industry, state governments and federal agencies. Results help nurseries to make efficient use of seeds, to evaluate seed quality in processing plants, and appropriately set seed prices.

Our mission is to provide:

- Testing to determine the quality of seeds, pollen, and seedlings for forest restoration.
- A national center of technical expertise and information about tree, shrub, and native plant seed.
- Germplasm Conservation

The program:

- Support for the Longleaf and Shortleaf Restoration initiatives
- Protocols for collection, cleaning, testing, germinating, and storing seeds
- Training on seed collection, processing, testing and other related topics through workshops and conferences

Highlights:

- From 2012-2019, NSL conducted more than 45,000 seed tests for over 200 public agencies, non-governmental organizations, commercial businesses, and private landowners. During this same time, NSL partnered with 75 public and private partners by processing and testing 2,500 seed collections and providing technical assistance in support of a wide range of research and management objectives.
- The NSL partnered with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and Roundstone Native Seed in 2013 to establish 40 acres of seed production of native grasses, forbs, and legumes used for restoration of longleaf pine understory. Over 1,500 pounds of seed from 20 different species have been produced since 2014.
- We have accepted more than 5,900 seed collections of ash, five needle pines, and other species. Seed collections of native tree, shrub, and herbaceous plants are entered into the USDA National Plant Germplasm System for long term storage and preservation and serve as a valuable backup of genetic material that can be used to manage the impact of loss due to insects, disease, invasive weeds, habitat loss from climate change and development.
- The NSL was re-accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) in 2019. The ISTA Accreditation program audit verified that the NSL is technically competent to conduct seed tests on tree and shrub species and is running a quality management system that meets the requirements of the ISTA Accreditation Standard.

Victor Vankus Director, National Seed Lab victor.vankus@usda.gov p. 478-751-6656 c. 478-258-4742
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/ns/>

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY (UCF) helps communities manage the forests where people live, work, and play. We provide technical and financial assistance to communities so they can implement urban forestry programs to plant, protect and maintain community trees and forests. The UCF Program improves the condition and extent of community trees and forests, and promotes and expands the social, economic, and ecological benefits they provide in populated areas across the south.

What UCF does:

- Ensures effective program delivery including current technical guidelines
- Elevates regional priorities of national significance
- Promotes partnerships
- Collaborates with researchers to identify needs
- Develops and transfers resulting tools and products to advance urban and community forestry
- Integrates with forest health and community fire protection to educate homeowners and landowners about maintaining their property to protect their homes and families
- Support the smallest communities as they work to serve thousands of people in the rural counties
- Engage partners in community health efforts to reduce the burden on health care systems

To take part in the UCF program, states must have:

- A full-time urban and community forestry program coordinator
- Volunteer/partnership coordination, equivalent to 1 Full-time Employee
- An urban and community forestry council
- State program strategic planning, incorporated into the State Forest Action Plan

UCF is often among the first recovery specialists after hurricanes, tornadoes, and ice storms through our Urban Forest Strike Teams (UFST). The strike team collects data for the town, ensuring communities can account for the recovery funding from Federal Emergency Management Agency.

USDA Forest Service Southern Region UCF Team includes both Regional Office and Southern Research Station Employees:

- Paula Randler – UCF Program Manager; partnership and budget lead, policy liaison
- Katie McAndrew and Jorge Campana Paez– Natural Resource Specialists, UCF
- Annie Hermansen-Baez – Education lead, communication specialist, and research liaison

Paula Randler Program Manager paula.randler@usda.gov p. 404-347-1647 c. 404-909-0266
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

WOOD INNOVATION and BIOMASS UTILIZATION (WIBU) priorities include:

- Providing technical support, assistance, and guidance on mass timber, other wood products and wood energy markets to the National Forest system (NFS), states forestry, industry partners, & others
- Managing the Wood Innovation Grant Program and the Community Wood Energy Wood Innovation Program for the Region
- Collaborate with NFS, states forestry, industry partners, & universities, other partners to identify and help develop new mass timber, other wood products and wood energy market opportunities
- Work with the Forest Service Washington Office Wood Innovation, Forest Products Lab, and FS Research to stay current on new wood product and wood energy market and grant opportunities for the Southern Region

Vacant, Regional Wood Innovation Coordinator
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation>

SHARED STEWARDSHIP AND STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY – WORKING TOGETHER

Shared Stewardship

Shared Stewardship is a strategy to integrate or coordinate decision making around mutual priorities with states and partners to achieve specific, mutually beneficial outcomes for forest conservation and restoration across the landscape. The conceptual framework for Shared Stewardship was released in August 2018 by USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue (*Toward Shared Stewardship Across Landscapes: an outcome-based strategy*). The intention is to increase USDA agencies' internal communication and partnership, as well as external state and local agencies to facilitate more cross-boundary/jurisdiction conservation work.

Essentially, there are 4 elements of Shared Stewardship:

- Issues are addressed at the appropriate scale
- Shared priorities are identified with states and partners
- Decision making among states and partners is integrated or coordinated
- Strategies focus on mutually beneficial outcomes

In recent years the Forest Service has been granted a suite of authorities, or existing authorities have been expanded, related to natural resource management through Farm Bills and appropriations legislation. The 2014 Farm Bill gave the Forest Service Good Neighbor Authority and that provided for cross-boundary work with state forestry agencies and the 2018 omnibus and Farm bills expanded that authority (the agency can enter into agreement with counties and tribes, a larger suite of management activities are authorized like work on roads, etc.). Also, the 2018 omnibus expanded Stewardship Contracting to 20 years (the Forest Service can tap into capacity outside the agency through contracts or agreements to achieve land management goals for the National Forests or public lands at a larger scale). Additionally, the 2018 omnibus provided new Categorical Exclusions that will help the agency expedite our work and get more done on the ground. These authorities apply primarily to National Forest System land BUT Shared Stewardship incorporates all forestland...not just federally owned forestland.

Eighty-six percent of the forestland in the South is privately held so, fortunately, there's already a long history of working across boundaries among federal agencies, states, and partners.

The focus for Shared Stewardship in the Southern Region has been on getting high level agreements of intent signed with states to raise the political profile of forestry in the South. This will continue to be the focus in the near term, and we will also focus on the process of Shared Stewardship and developing outcomes and measures for that process.

Success for Shared Stewardship in the South looks a lot like what we are already doing. Together with states and other partners we may be able to do even better with our limited resources through identifying our shared priorities and integrating our decision making.

Daniel McInnis Program Specialist daniel.mcinnis@usda.gov p. 404-347-1649 c. 404-695-6376

SPECIAL PROJECTS

KEEPING FORESTS (KF) The Keeping Forests partnership envisions a world where Southern forests are valued as critical infrastructure that support the health, prosperity, security, and well-being of the American people. To achieve this vision, the goal of KF is to create, by 2060, the economic, political, and social enabling conditions needed to sustain 245 million acres of Southern forests and the myriad of values they represent.

KF was created as a broad regional initiative with a focus on maintaining the long-term economic and ecological viability of Southern forests. KF is supported by a diverse coalition of both private and public stakeholders ranging from human health professionals to traditional forest products manufacturers and conservationists. This uniquely diverse partnership has coalesced around a common appreciation for the ecological, economic, and social importance of our Southern forests – and the need to develop new and innovative approaches to its long-term stewardship.

The ability of KF to reach its goals will depend on the successful implementation of three overarching strategies:

- Forests must be repositioned as critical infrastructure worthy of public and private investment and valued for the myriad of critical services they provide.
- A common Regional identity must be adopted to shape collective action in the South, thereby creating a unified platform to influence policy leading to greater support for the conservation of Southern forests.
- A voluntary policy across the Region of “no net loss” of forestland must be adopted. Understanding that some forest will be converted to other land uses, by adopting a no net loss approach we can stabilize existing forest cover and target reforestation to the most appropriate and critical areas.

The challenges we face transcend the abilities of any individual organization. KF’s theory of change is that at these scales, the Partnership can only achieve its goals by working collaboratively across traditional institutional boundaries. To that end, throughout 2019, representatives from agencies and organizations across the South came together to refine and focus the collaboration’s existing strategic plan. That process identified three important leverage points considered critical to catalyze action toward the long-term sustainability of Southern forests:

- The recruitment of a new generation of forest champions and leaders
- The development of sustainable markets for traditional forest products
- The creation of new markets for life-supporting forest services such as carbon sequestration and the maintenance of water resources for both human and ecosystem health.

Teams of partners built around each of the three levels have developed a suite of actions intended to test and support these strategic approaches. Progress, impact, and associated learning is continually being evaluated and strategies modified as needed.

Daniel McInnis Program Specialist daniel.mcinnis@usda.gov p. 404-347-1649 c. 404-695-6376
<https://www.keepingforests.org>

SOUTHERN FOREST OUTLOOK In 2002 and again in 2012, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Southern Group of State Foresters, led assessments of key issues regarding natural resources in the South. The 2002 Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA), motivated by a broad debate regarding chip mills and sustainability, and the 2012 Southern Forest Futures Project (SFFP), motivated by accelerating urbanization, forest ownership changes and market dynamics, represent the latest two chapters in a long dialogue about the condition

and dynamics of forest resources within the region. Taken together, these two assessments produced 42 technical reports on important resource issues using science synthesis, trend data, and explicit forecasts of future conditions. This “southern forest assessment library” has proven to be an effective means of interpreting the broad and varied scientific literature on topics relevant to forestry in the South.

Social, market, and biophysical dynamics continue to affect change in the South’s forest sector. Decision makers and the public need authoritative insights into anticipated changes and issues critical to the future of forests and the crucial benefits they provide to the region. The Southern Forest Outlook aims to inform forest sector decision makers and the interested public about observed trends, anticipated futures, and critical issues based on authoritative synthesis and interpretation of existing science, data, and projections.

The Southern Forest Outlook (SFO) is the latest update to the resource assessment library. The SFO will focus on three main issues: water and forest interactions, fire in a changing ecological and social landscape, and timber markets futures. An assessment of anticipated shifts in land use and forest conditions will provide the context through data and projections for use in the issue analyses. As with the Southern Forest Resource Assessment and the Southern Forest Futures Project, the SFO will rely on engagement through direct interaction with the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) and SGSF committees. In order to hone the science, management, and policy questions relevant to the focal issues and the assessment of forest and land use change, we have presented draft research questions to the water resources, forest protection, and fire committees (February 2020), SUM committee (March 2020), management committee and State Foresters (June 2020). The draft study plan was finalized in July 2020.

In early August the draft study plan was circulated to a list of 20 key organizations. The southern forest assessment library (<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/southern-forest-assessment-library/>) web link has been created as a repository for all past assessments, as well as new information specific to the SFO, the draft study plan, and team member contact information.

Analyses are expected to begin in October 2020 with a target timeframe of late 2022 for publication of a summary document. Unlike previous assessments, there will be a rolling release of data and information from issue areas as the work is completed. Additional details can be found at: <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/southern-forest-outlook/>

SFO Leads: [John Coulston](#) , [Daniel McInnis](#), and [Stephanie Laseter](#)

GULF OF MEXICO FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM(GMFRP) This program is committed to the recovery of the Gulf Coast Region from the April 20, 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill and, in a broader context, the increased frequency and severity of storms, and coastal development. The S&PF program works with federal, state, and local governments, as well as non-governmental organizations, to develop recovery plans and projects. The Gulf of Mexico Forest Restoration Program Manager coordinates efforts with the USDA Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Team as well as the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Implementation Groups. Currently, S&PF is working with the Florida Forest Service and the Apalachicola National Forest on the \$7 million Tate’s Hell Strategy 1 RESTORE project to restore the damage to the Apalachicola Region which was part of the path of destruction of Hurricane Michael.

Ben Battle Gulf of Mexico Forest Restoration Program Manager benjamin.battle@usda.gov c. 601-723-1155
<https://www.restorethegulf.gov/>

LONGLEAF PINE RESTORATION (LPR) America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) is a collaborative effort of multiple public and private sector partners, including the USDA Forest Service, working to restore and conserve longleaf pine ecosystems. The goal, through the Longleaf Pine Conservation Plan, is to have healthy longleaf pine ecosystems increase Longleaf from 3.4 to 8 million acres, consistent with ecological, economic, and social values.

Kyle Jones Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Coordinator kyle.r.jones@usda.gov p. 850-523-8577
<http://www.americaslongleaf.org/>

SHORTLEAF PINE RESTORATION (SPR) Launched in the spring of 2013, the Shortleaf Pine Initiative (SPI) is a response to decline of shortleaf pine ecosystems that once covered landscapes from eastern Texas to Florida and up the eastern seaboard to New Jersey. Over the last 30 years, more than 50% of these shortleaf pine forests have been lost mostly east of the Mississippi River. The SPI represents public and private organizations along with state and federal agencies. While some restoration has occurred; much needs to be done. A range-wide conservation plan for shortleaf pine was released in June 2016 which includes restoration strategies. In 2020, SPI moved to American Forest Foundation for organizational support.

Kyle Jones Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Coordinator kyle.r.jones@usda.gov p. 850-523-8577
<http://shortleafpine.net/>

WHITE OAK INTIATIVE (WOI) The White Oak Initiative works to ensure the long-term sustainability of America's white oak and the economic, social and conservation benefits derived from white oak dominated forests. While currently white oak growing stocks are sufficient to meet demand, forest monitoring, and long-term projections indicate problems in maintaining high-quality white oak regeneration. The initiative, advanced by the American Forest Foundation, is supported by two coordinated USFS landscape scale restoration (LSR) grants and significant private and state financial contributions.

Kay Reed Cooperative Forestry Director/WOI Representative kay.reed@usda.gov
p. 404-347-7200 c. 404-805-8827
<https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/>

MAKING TRACKS PROGRAM (MTP) The USDA Forest Service Making Tracks Program's mission is to work in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) to promote the conservation of wild turkey habitat and the preservation of America's hunting heritage. The Making Tracks Program has been in place since 1990. The USFS and NWTf have responsibilities and interests in the management and conservation of America's natural resources. The parties have agreed that wildlife species and forest resources in the United States need to be conserved and managed to meet growing public demand for environmental conservation, wildlife viewing, hunting opportunities and timber production. Management and restoration efforts include coordination at a landscape and watershed level with private landowners, other organizations, and agencies.

The program has a National Making Tracks Coordinator (Forest Service employee) and a Steering Committee comprised of approximately 11-16 members from within the Forest Service and NWTf. The Committee is Co-Chaired by an upper-level leadership representative from each agency/organization. The Co-Chairs are responsible for overseeing the direction of the Committee and providing the motivation necessary to accomplish priority goals. Two committee members are the NWTf's Senior Directors of Conservation Operations. The USFS Committee membership includes a diverse representation from various levels of the agency, including representation from each Region (excluding Region 10), Research & Development, and State & Private

Forestry. The Steering Committee's mission is to help guide the USFS-NWTF partnership and the National Making Tracks Program Coordinator's program of work as partner needs change, stakeholder expectations increase, new opportunities develop, and available resources fluctuate. The Committee prepares action plans and annual accomplishment reports for key internal and external audiences.

Kelle Reynolds Making Tracks Coordinator kelle.reynolds@usda.gov p. 404-347-4082

Lynn Lewis Making Tracks S&PF Representative lynn.lewis@usda.gov c. 803-507-5681

<https://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/tracks.html>

REGIONAL PROJECTS AND WATER RESOURCES ISSUES Regional projects and water issues includes Cooperative Management and Best Management Practice Program Reviews, Southeast Partnership for Forests and Water, Forest2Faucets 2.0, Performance Source Water Protection Bonds, and working closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 liaison who is the EPA lead for the National Interagency Coastal Wetlands Working Group.

Paul Gellerstedt, Landscape Scale Restoration and Water Quality Program Manager, paul.gellerstedt@usda.gov

c. 470-585-9154

<https://southeasternpartnership.org/>

https://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystems-services/FS_Efforts/forests2faucets.shtml

JOINT CHIEFS' LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP (JCLRP) USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to improve the health of forests where public forests and grasslands connect to privately owned lands.

Through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the two USDA agencies are restoring landscapes, reducing wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protecting water quality, and enhancing wildlife habitat. The partnership began in 2014, and each year the agency selects new three-year projects.

Paul Gellerstedt, Landscape Scale Restoration and Water Quality Program Manager, paul.gellerstedt@usda.gov

c. 470-585-9154

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=stelprdb1244394>

GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS (GCA)

Willis Mitchell

Grants Management Specialist, Supervisory

willis.mitchell@usda.gov

p. 404-347-2658 c. 202-913-3942

Vanessa Hardnett

Grants Management Specialist

vanessa.hardnett@usda.gov

p.404-347-2716

John Litherland

Grants Management Specialist

john.litherland@usda.gov

p. 404-347-5047

Yvonne Holmes

Grants Management Specialist

yvonne.holmes@usda.gov

p.404-347-3560

Shelia Loomis

Grants Management Specialist

shelia.loomis@usda.gov

The Grants and Cooperative Agreements team is housed under Cooperative Forestry, but also serves Fire and Aviation and Forest Health. Grants and Cooperative Agreements are Federal Financial Assistance transactions for work in partnership with state forestry agencies that focus on the public good.

It is important that funds dispensed to state forestry agencies and partners through various agreements be expended in a fiscally responsible manner and by the agreement expiration to demonstrate to Congress the need for additional funds to implement programs. Having multiple open grants with large amounts of unspent funds is strongly discouraged.

Domestic Grant Agreement (DG) is a legal instrument of financial assistance between a Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity and a non-Federal entity that, consistent with 31 U.S.C. 6302, 6304:

- Is used to enter into a relationship the principal purpose of which is to transfer anything of value from the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity to the non-Federal entity to carry out a public purpose authorized by a law of the United States (see 31 U.S.C. 6101(3)); and not to acquire property or services for the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity's direct benefit or use.
- Is distinguished from a cooperative agreement in that it does not provide for substantial involvement between the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity and the non-Federal entity in carrying out the activity contemplated by the Federal award.
- Does not include an agreement that provides only: (1) Direct United States Government cash assistance to an individual; (2) A subsidy; (3) A loan; (4) A loan guarantee; or (5) Insurance.

Cooperative Agreements (CA) carry the same requirements as Grants except that USDA Forest Service personnel or their representatives shall have substantial involvement, that is, the Agency engages in planning and carrying out the project with the cooperator for those activities specified in the agreement.

Examples of Cooperative Agreement or Grant uses include program of work for State Fires Assistance, Cooperative Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and Urban and Community Forestry.

APPROPRIATIONS

Each year Congress appropriates Federal dollars to the USDA Forest Service to help prioritize the agency's focus and activities. Even though the USDA Forest Service is part of USDA, it receives its budget through the Subcommittee on Appropriations, Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Budgetary considerations impose

limitations on partnerships and affect which partnerships can be pursued and what funding can be used for a particular purpose. An agreement cannot move forward without congressionally appropriated funding.

Sometimes Congress approves funds for a specific purpose, but typically, it appropriates funds based on categories, such as National Forest System lands, Research and Development, etc. According to Appropriations Law, the USDA Forest Service must ensure that the use of appropriated funds corresponds to given authorities.

AGREEMENT AUTHORITIES

In order for the USDA Forest Service to carry out any activity, a Federal law must permit the agency to perform that activity or the USDA Forest Service cannot do it. The authority for the USDA Forest Service to partner is mandated by Congressional legislation.

Food, Conservation and Energy Act (Farm Bill). This bill congressionally passed every five years or so, has significant implications for USDA's budget for grant and partnering programs.

Cooperative Funds Act of June 30, 1914. This act authorizes the USDA Forest Service to accept cash contributions from a cooperator to work on USDA Forest Service projects that benefit the national forests.

Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of December 12, 1975. This act authorizes the USDA Forest Service and a partner to perform work from which they would accrue mutual non-monetary benefit in the areas of cooperative pollution abatement; cooperative labor, job training and development programs; development and publication of cooperative environmental education and forest history materials; and forestry protection.

The Economy Act of June 30, 1932. Section 601 of this act authorizes one Federal agency to requisition work, services, supplies, materials, or equipment from another Federal agency.

Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950. Section 5 authorizes the USDA Forest Service to perform work to benefit a cooperator when the work is related to the administration, protection, improvement, reforestation and the like of State, county, municipal or private land within or near National Forest Service (NFS) land. The authority also allows work to occur on NFS or USDA Forest Service administered lands when the party requesting USDA Forest Service services occupies or uses that land. The type of work being completed must be work that the USDA Forest Service can otherwise do for itself on NFS lands

Interior and Related Appropriations Act of 1992. This act authorizes the USDA Forest Service to cooperate with others in developing, planning, and implementing mutually beneficial projects that enhance agency activities. It requires that the partner provide matching funds or in-kind contributions.

Wyden Amendment (Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Authority). This authorizes the USDA Forest Service to enter into cooperative and participating agreements with willing Federal, tribal, state, and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for three purposes: (1) the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other natural or cultural resources on public or private lands; (2) the reduction of risk for natural disaster where public safety is threatened; or (3) a combination of both.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the USDA Forest Service to enter into agreements with state forestry agencies to implement critically important management work on national forests when the Forest Service is unable to do the work alone. Since GNA was first authorized by Congress with the 2014 Farm Bill, 32 states have broken ground on more than 130 GNA projects. Through these GNA projects, states are contributing to the restoration of federal forests on a scale never before realized.

As a result of GNA's success, Congress expanded Good Neighbor authorities to allow necessary road reconstruction and repairs (FY 2018 appropriations omnibus) and to empower tribes and counties to enter into GNA agreements (2018 Farm Bill).

<https://www.stateforesters.org/state-defined-solutions/good-neighbor-authority/>

OTHER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT TYPES

Challenge Cost-Share Agreements are available on a year-to-year basis and require recipients to match Federal money with non-Federal funds, labor, materials, equipment, or land and water. These agreements generally result in direct benefit to the USDA Forest Service versus public benefit.

Collection Agreements are used to collect cash contributions to perform specific tasks authorized by law that benefit partners on either NFS land or land adjacent to or with direct impact to NFS land. Partner financial contributions may cover all or part of the work costs.

Interagency and Intra-agency Agreements are used when one agency is providing payments, goods, or services to another agency or when internal USDA Forest Service programs collaborate.

Memorandums of Understanding are commonly used to establish partnerships and document specific responsibilities and/or coordinate efforts among parties, with each partner carrying out its separate activities. Partners agree to work toward mutual goals, perform joint work or share research results, but no funding is involved.

Participating Agreements are used when the USDA Forest Service and its partners wish to perform work from which they will accrue non-monetary mutual benefit. Activities in these agreements are generally limited to forest history materials publication; forest protection; interpretive associations; manpower/job training; prescribed fire; pollution abatement; Resource Advisory Committee support; and watershed restoration and enhancement.

Joint Venture Agreements pool resources in support of agricultural research activities of mutual interest.

Stewardship Agreements and Stewardship Contracts are used to achieve mutual objectives and land management goals on the national forests that meet local and rural community needs.

Volunteer Agreements are used to secure services of individuals or groups without compensation.

GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://www.grants.gov/> single access point for over 900 grants offered by 26 federal grant-making agencies

<https://beta.sam.gov/> a database of all federal programs available

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/prc/tools-techniques/funding/?cid=STELPRDB5200611> funding resources both federal and private

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/mbs/workingtogether/partnerships/?cid=stelprdb5158088> lists deadlines.

<https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs> - National Forest Foundation Grant Programs and Resources

<https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/grants> USFS Grant Page

<https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/partnerships> Partnership Resources

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/prc/tools-techniques/partnership/?cid=stelprdb5438298> Partnership Guide

SOUTHERN RESEARCH STATION (SRS)

Rob Doudrick
Station Director

rob.doudrick@usda.gov
p. 828-257-4300

Vacant
Assistant Station Director,
Research

Gerry Jackson
Assistant Station
Director, Operations

gerry.jackson@usda.gov
p. 828-257-4825

Jennifer Parsell
Executive Assistant

jennifer.b.parsell@usda.gov
p. 828-257-4300

Executive Board

Bill Burkman, bill.burkman@usda.gov, 865-862-2073
 Scott Goodrick, scott.l.goodrick@usda.gov, 706-559-4237
 Tara Keyser, tara.keyser@usda.gov, 828-667-5261
 Danny Lee, danny.c.lee@usda.gov, 828-257-4854
 Jeff Prestemon, jeff.prestemon@usda.gov, 919-549-4033
<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov>



Our mission is to engage in high-quality research leading to the scientific and technological advances needed to sustain and enhance forest ecosystems and the full range of benefits they provide. The direction of SRS research is shaped by communication with and feedback from federal, state, tribal, and local agency forest managers and policy makers, nongovernmental organizations, family forest landowners, private industry and investment companies, university academics, outdoor enthusiasts, small business owners, teachers, students, and other stakeholders.

SRS scientists combine existing long-term studies with modern innovations to support a responsive research program that continually expands to address emerging challenges. These challenges include impacts of invasive plants and pathogens, wildfire, increasing climate variability, and the loss of forestland to urban development.

SRS conducts research on forestry best management practices, timber harvesting, forest inventory, recreation usage, wildlife viability, and ecosystem services like clean air and water supply. SRS delivers research results through publications, online tools, workshops, webinars, and the online science magazine *CompassLive*.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis program (FIA) helps to improve the understanding of southern forest ecosystems. FIA reports on the status and trends in forest area and location; on tree species, size, and health; on total growth, mortality, and harvest removals; on wood production and utilization rates by various products; and on forestland ownership. This information is available through a series of [FIA Annual Reports](#).

SCIENCE CENTERS AND WORK UNITS

CENTER FOR FOREST ASSESSMENT AND SYNTHESIS, Danny Lee, Center Director

Center for Forest Watershed Research aims to provide information, methods, and guidelines on the effects of management practices on water, soil, and forest resources. A major focus is on improving knowledge, baseline data, and predictive methods needed to evaluate the effects of weather and climate on forested watersheds in the southeastern US. Scientists are located in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Andy Dolloff, Project Leader andy.dolloff@usda.gov p. 540-230-8220
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cfwr/>

Center for Integrated Forest Science addresses complex questions that require science to inform natural resource management and policy decisions, as well as understanding both biophysical and human dimensions. Scientists collaborate with a wide range of research partners to deliver high-level scientific syntheses on topics such as the future effects of drought on the nation's forests; the future of southern forests under different economic and land use scenarios; and how forest managers can address the effects of climate change. Scientists are located in North Carolina and Virginia.

John Coulston, Project Leader john.coulston@usda.gov p. 540-231-4674
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cifs/>

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center works with a variety of federal, state, and local government agencies, universities, and non-governmental partners to address forest threats. Areas of research include climate change, insects and diseases, loss of open space, invasive plants, and wildland fire. Scientists have developed advanced tools and technologies to provide an early warning system for forest health threats and to assist land managers in landscape-level planning. Scientists are located in North Carolina.

Ge Sun, Project Leader ge.sun@usda.gov p. 919-549-4070
<http://www.forestthreats.org/>

Forest Economics and Policy works to improve the economic foundation for natural resource policy and sustainable management at regional, national, and international levels. Areas of research include the economics of forest disturbances; forest policies, programs, and taxes; forest products markets and trade; and forest ecosystem services economics and policy. Scientists are located in North Carolina.

Jeff Prestemon, Project Leader jeff.prestemon@usda.gov p. 919-549-4033
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/econ/>

Integrating Human and Natural Systems focuses on understanding how people living in rural, wildland interface, and urban landscapes influence – and are influenced by – the natural environment and ecology of the South. Studies include those on social vulnerability in relation to climate change and other disturbances; relationships among people, forests, and natural resources; the social and ecological benefits of nature-based recreation and tourism; and the use of urban green spaces. Scientists are located in Florida and Georgia.

John Schelhas, Project Leader john.schelhas@usda.gov p. 706-559-4260
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/humanandnaturalsystems/>

CENTER FOR FOREST HEALTH AND DISTURBANCE, Scott Goodrick, Center Director

Center for Forest Disturbance Science focuses on the study of disturbance processes across different scales to develop innovative strategies to reduce the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to degradation. Studies include fire behavior and ecology in the southeastern states and tropics, management practices to restore fire dependent ecosystems, interactions of forests with weather and climate, and future effects of climate change on southern forests. Scientists are located in Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Joe O'Brien, Project Leader: joseph.j.obrien@usda.gov p. 706-559-4336
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/forestdisturbance/>

Forest Genetics and Ecosystems Biology 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. Research includes genome-level research on forest trees and their pests. Research from this unit has led to new technologies for managing forests in relation to major disturbances. Research is also guiding efforts to restore forest trees such as American chestnut to their former ranges. Scientists are located in Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas.

Dana Nelson, Project Leader charles.d.nelson@usda.gov p. 859-257-7606
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/sifg/>

Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants seeks to provide the knowledge and innovative strategies needed to manage and control native and nonnative insect pests (including bark beetles and termites). Researchers also study tree disease pathogens, and invasive plants in changing forest ecosystems. Current work includes research on emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid biocontrol, effects of invasive plants on forest pollinators, and control of invasive cogon grass. Scientists are located in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and North Carolina.

JT Vogt, Project Leader james.t.vogt@usda.gov p. 706-226-4272
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/idip/>

CENTER FOR FOREST RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT, Tara Keyser, Center Director

Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research provides the science needed to manage southern bottomland hardwood and wetland forests and associated stream ecosystems for the sustained yield of forest products and other desired values. Four separate teams conduct research on silvicultural methods to regenerate tree stands; stand management and forest health; the ecology of aquatic and terrestrial fauna; and methods to restore animal and plant communities in bottomland hardwood habitats. Scientists are located in Arkansas and Mississippi.

Ted Leininger, Project Leader ted.leininger@usda.gov p. 662-336-4801
<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cbhr/>

Forest Operations conducts basic and applied research on forest operations – machines and systems used to manage forests and to produce forest products. Unit scientists seek to provide the information needed to conduct forest operations efficiently, safely, and sustainably. In addition to publishing scientific journal articles, unit scientists provide technical consultations, presentations, and demonstrations to forest industry, the National Forest System, other government agencies, private landowners, contractors, equipment manufacturers, and university researchers. Scientists are located in Alabama.

Dana Mitchell, Project Leader dana.mitchell@usda.gov p. 334-826-8700 x123
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/forestops/>

Utilization of Southern Forest Resources integrates ecology and engineering to develop economically and ecologically viable forest operations practices. Techniques provide maximum benefits with minimal environmental consequences. Research areas include wood quality; characterization of woody biomass feedstocks for conversion

to energy and other bio-based products; material properties of wood and wood composites; and improvement and reuse of solid wood products. Scientists are located in Alabama.

Dana Mitchell, Project Leader dana.mitchell@usda.gov p. 334-826-8700 x123
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/usfr/>

Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine Ecosystems provides knowledge and strategies for restoring, managing, and sustaining longleaf pine ecosystems in the southeastern states. Researchers conduct studies to provide fundamental knowledge about the processes that affect longleaf pine seedling production and establishment. Research also addresses the ecology of longleaf pine ecosystems and provides the practices, strategies, and models that managers need to maintain and restore these important ecosystems. Scientists are located in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and South Carolina.

Don Bragg Project Leader don.c.bragg@usda.gov p. 870-367-3465
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/longleaf/>

Southern Pine Ecology and Management conducts research on the plants, wildlife, and soils in pine-dominated forests of the southeastern states, with an emphasis on mixed loblolly-shortleaf pine and pine-hardwood forests of the West Gulf Coastal Plain in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas and the shortleaf pine and the pine-hardwood forests of the Ouachita and Ozark Mountains in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Research is concentrated in four areas: ecology and silviculture; landscape-level effects on southern pine-dominated forests; the effects of forest management on insect pests; and the effects of climate change on wildlife in southern pine-dominated forests. Scientists are located in Alabama, Arkansas, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Don Bragg, Project Leader don.c.bragg@usda.gov p. 870-367-3465
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4159/>

Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management develops and disseminates knowledge and strategies for restoring, managing, and sustaining the vegetation and wildlife of southern upland hardwood forests. Researchers conduct experimental studies on how these forests and wildlife species present in forests are affected by natural disturbances or silvicultural practices and develop methods to help land managers meet their management and restoration goals. Researchers are also developing practices for species and ecosystem restoration, including genetic conservation of upland species. Scientists are located in Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Susan Loeb, Project Leader susan.loeb@usda.gov p. 64-656-4865
<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/uplandhardwood/>

Forest Inventory and Analysis collects, analyzes, and reports on data pertaining to forests in the southern region. FIA research improves the understanding of forest ecosystems through inventory and analysis of the status and trends in resource conditions, use, productivity, and sustainability. Government, private agencies, industry, and the public use the data collected by FIA on both private and public land to monitor forest resources, forest use, and forest health. FIA is headquartered in Tennessee and has foresters in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Puerto Rico.

Bill Burkman, Program Manager bill.burkman@usda.gov p. 865-862-2073
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/>

EXPERIMENTAL FORESTS

SRS maintains 19 Experimental Forests (EFs) located on or near National Forest System lands in the South. In 2015, SRS began an effort to redesign this network to include sites strategically located across geographic domains and environmental gradients that sample a full complement of conditions (e.g., rural to mixed-use landscapes), forest types and management regimes. This coordinated network allows SRS researchers to address broader, larger scale questions that leverage the long-term investment in EFRs within and outside of the USDA Forest Service. This has promoted new partnerships that extend well beyond the current reach of the individual sites.

Throughout this process, SRS has met with partners to discuss approaches for networking across the Southeast. We would welcome any opportunity to visit with our state forest partners to discuss these ideas further and hear about new opportunities.

Stephanie Laseter, Biological Scientist, stephanie.laseter@usda.gov, 828-200-6352
<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/locations/forests/>

Learn more about the EFR network and individual EFRs in this [Story Map](https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=06ad5d25ceba4c1d9c39c3ffa79066c1).
<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=06ad5d25ceba4c1d9c39c3ffa79066c1>

STATE LINE MEETINGS

State Line Meetings are annual opportunities for SRS scientists to meet with State Foresters and their staffs to discuss key issues and research questions provided by the States. In 2020, a State Line Meeting was held in Johnson City, TN with state foresters and key staff from Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. This engagement also included Forest Supervisors from the Cherokee, Daniel Boone, George Washington-Jefferson, and North Carolina National Forests.

Discussions focused on ecosystem restoration, hardwood forest management, non-timber forest products, and forest monitoring tools. SRS scientists shared state-of-the-science presentations on these topics.

Stephanie Laseter, Biological Scientist, stephanie.laseter@usda.gov, 828-200-6352
<https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/stateline/>

SRS WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

[New Publications](#): browse or search for the newest publications by SRS authors or co-authors.

[CompassLive](#): an online science magazine that highlights SRS research and accomplishments.

[Story Maps](#): a collection of multi-media tools featuring interactive maps, text, videos, and photos.

[Southern Forest Futures Project](#): a multi-year research effort to forecast changes in southern forests between 2010 and 2060 under various scenarios, based on concerns identified in public meetings held throughout the 13 southern states.

[Science in Practice](#): live and on-demand learning sessions that include continuing education credits from the Society of American Foresters, International Society of Arboriculture, The Wildlife Society, and others.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

The USDA Forest Service manages about one-fifth of the Nation's forested area and nearly 10 percent of the Nation's rangelands. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. These lands provide recreational settings and opportunities; cultural and heritage resources; scenery; resources such as clean air and water, minerals, fish, wildlife, livestock forage, and firewood; various sources of renewable and nonrenewable energy; corridors for communication and energy transmission; and many other ecosystem services and benefits.

ALABAMA

Cherie Hamilton

National Forests in Alabama Forest Supervisor

p. 334-228-0150

Cherie.hamilton@usdagov

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama>

Conecuh - 83,983 acres

The dry, sandy uplands support longleaf pine forest, while bottomlands have sinkhole ponds, springs and swamps.

Tuskegee – 11,349 acres

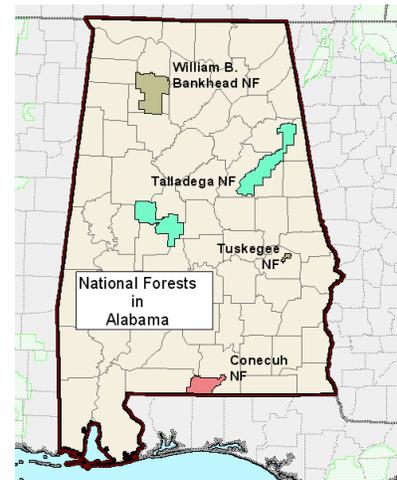
Tuskegee is one of the smallest National Forests

Talladega – 393,006 acres

Includes the Cheaha and Dugger Mountain wilderness areas

William B. Bankhead – 181,988 acres

Contains the Sipsey Wilderness, which, at 24,922 acres, is the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River.



ARKANSAS

Lori Wood

Ozark-St. Francis Forest Supervisor

p. 479-964-7200

lori.wood@usda.gov

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/osfnf>

Troy Heithecker

Ouachita Forest Supervisor

p. 501-321-5275

c. 501-282-6518

troy.heithecker@usda.gov

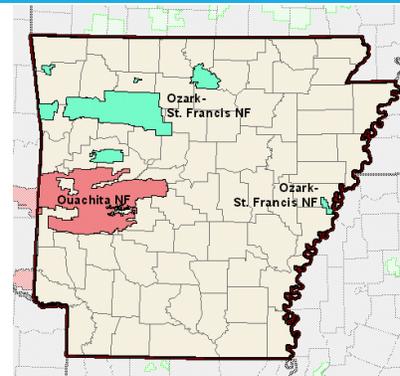
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/ouachita>

Ozark-St. Francis – 1,153,374 acres

Has more than 400 miles of trails and a three-level cave system, Blanchard Springs Caverns.

Ouachita – 1,785,468 acres

Has nearly 800,000 acres of old-growth forest.



FLORIDA

Kelly Russell

National Forests in Florida Forest Supervisor

p. 850-523-8547

c. 850-294-8400

Kelley.russell@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/florida>**Ocala** – 384,693 acres

Protects the world's largest sand pine scrub forest.

Apalachicola – 576,119 acres

Includes the Leon Sinks Geological Area and Fort Gadsen.

Osceola – 160,192 acres

The Civil War Battle of Olustee occurred here.



GEORGIA

Ed Hunter

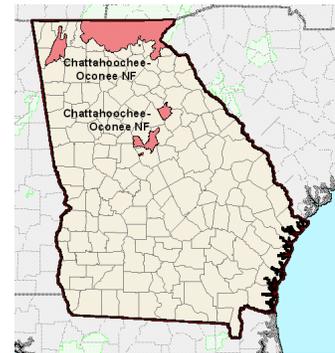
Chattahoochee-Oconee Forest Supervisor

p. 770-297-3010

c. 770-540-4800

edward.hunter@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/conf>**Chattahoochee-Oconee** - 866,763 acres

Contains the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, Georgia's highest point, Brasstown Bald and the location of several Civil War battles.



KENTUCKY

Scott Ray

Daniel Boone Forest Supervisor (Acting)

p. 859-745-3101

harvey.ray@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf>**Vacant**

Land between the Lakes Recreation Area Supervisor

p. 270-924-2001

<https://landbetweenthelakes.us>**Daniel Boone** – 564,168 acres

Encompassing part of the Cumberland Plateau and Appalachian Mountains, includes Cumberland Falls, Red River Gorge, Yahoo Arch and many caves.

Land Between The Lakes Recreation Area – 171,251 acres*(also in TN)*

Covers the largest inland peninsula in the United States between Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley.

LOUISIANA

Lisa Lewis

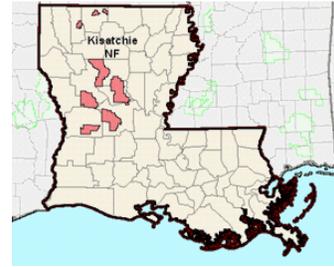
Kisatchie Forest Supervisor

p. 318-473-7160

c. 337-208-9239

lisa.w.lewis@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/kisatchie>**Kisatchie** - 607,540 acres

Contains old-growth pine forest and bald cypress groves in the bayous.



MISSISSIPPI

Carl Petrick

National Forests in Mississippi Forest Supervisor

p. 601-965-1602

carl.petrick@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/mississippi>**De Soto** - 532,100 acres

Contains Mississippi's wilderness areas: Black Creek & Leaf River.

Homochitto – 192,237 acres

Most of the forest is densely forested hills.

Bienville – 180,251 acres

Includes the Harrell, the largest and least disturbed prairie in MS.

Delta – 62,109 acres

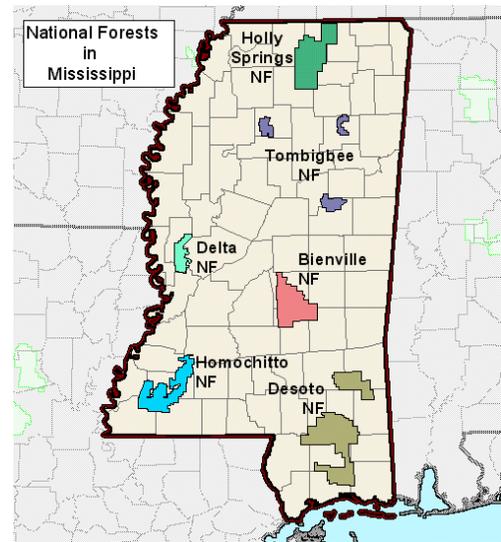
Contains the only bottomland hardwood forest in the National Forest System.

Tombigbee – 67,468 acres

Was abandoned farmland before the forest was established.

Holly Springs – 156,243 acres

Has small lakes in upland forests and unique bottomlands.



NORTH CAROLINA

James Melonas

National Forests in North Carolina Forest Supervisor

p. 828-257-4969

james.melonas@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc>**Croatan** - 161,325 acres

Home to carnivorous plants such as the Venus flytrap and pitcher plant.

Nantahala – 532,300 acres

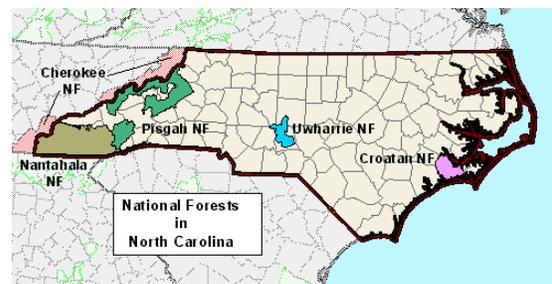
Includes the Nantahala Gorge, Nantahala River and the 5,800 Ft. Lone Bald.

Uwharrie – 51,218 acres

Borders the eastern side of Badin Lake and includes the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness.

Pisgah – 509,283 acres

Elevations reach over 6,000 Ft. and there are 46,600 acres of old-growth forests.



OKLAHOMA

Troy Heithecker

Ouachita Forest Supervisor

p. 501-321-5275

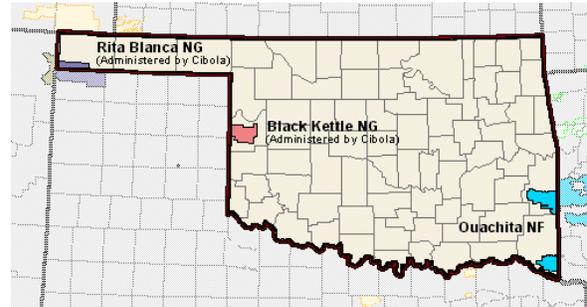
c. 501-282-6518

troy.d.heithecker@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/ouachita>**Black Kettle National Grassland – 31,286 acres**

Has sandy red slate hills as well as grassland and oak brush.

Ouachita – 1,785,468 acres

Has nearly 800,000 acres of old-growth forest.



PUERTO RICO

Keenan Adams

El Yunque Forest Supervisor

p. 787-888-8605

keenan.adams@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque>**El Yunque - 28,683 acres**

The only tropical rainforest in the National Forest System, higher elevations receive nearly 200 in of rainfall per year. There are 240 tree species in the forest, 23 of which are endemic to the forest, being found nowhere else in the world.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Rick Lint

Francis Marion and Sumter Forest Supervisor

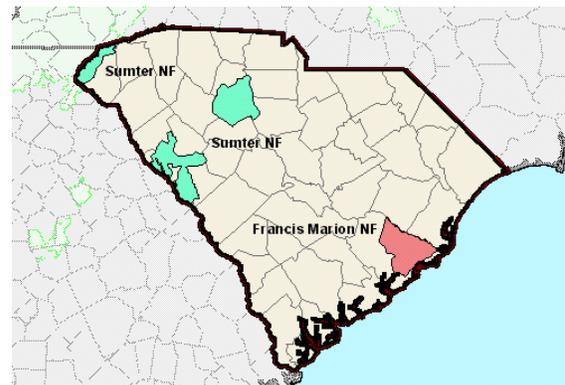
p. 803-561-4081

rick.lint@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs>**Francis Marion – 258,673 acres**

Home to 150 miles of streams and a variety of wildlife, including the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Sumter – 372,778 acres

Contains 22 waterfalls with drops ranging from 12 Ft. to 150 Ft. and part of the Ellicott Rock Wilderness.



TENNESSEE

JaSal Morris

Cherokee Forest Supervisor

p. 423-476-9703

jasal.morris@usda.gov<https://www.fs.usda.gov/cherokee>**Cherokee - 656,394 acres**

Includes 150 mi of the Appalachian Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains.



TEXAS

Eddie Taylor

National Forests in Texas Forest Supervisor
p. 936-639-8505

eddie.taylor@usda.gov

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/texas>

Sam Houston - 163,264 acres

Borders part of Lake Conroe and Lake Livingston.

Angelina – 154,140 acres

Primarily longleaf, loblolly and shortleaf pine, the forest provides habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and wintering habitat for bald eagles.

Davy Crockett – 161,140 acres

Located where the southeastern pine forests meet the blackland prairies of central Texas, consists primarily of hardwood forests.

Sabine – 161,088 acres

Borders the western side of Toledo Bend Reservoir and old-growth forest can be found in the Indian Mounds Wilderness and at Mill Creek Cove along the reservoir's shores.

Lyndon B. Johnson National Grassland – 20,309 acres

Used primarily for recreation.

Caddo National Grassland – 17,873 acres

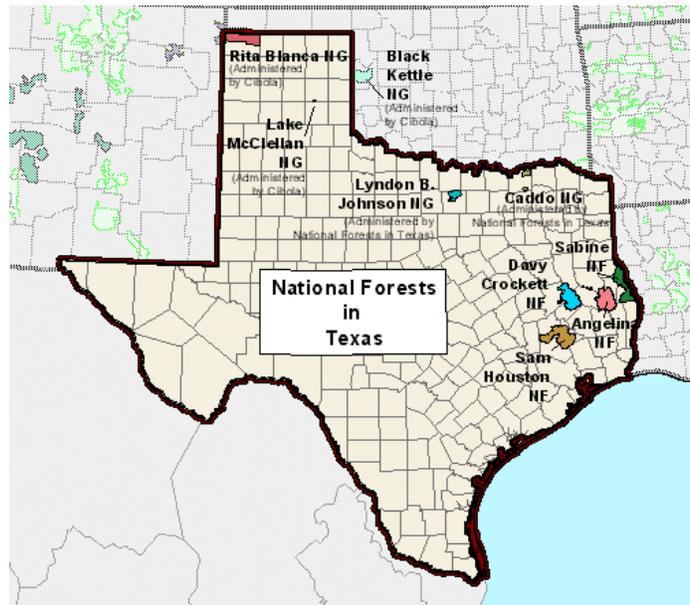
Caddo is divided into two units and has two developed recreation areas around Lake Davy Crockett.

McClellan Creek National Grassland – 1,449 acres

Administered by Cibola National Forest. Surrounds Lake McClellan.

Rita Blanca – 92,989 acres

Administered by Cibola National Forest. Includes grasslands, marshes, and woodlands.



VIRGINIA

Joby Timm

George Washington and Jefferson Forest Supervisor

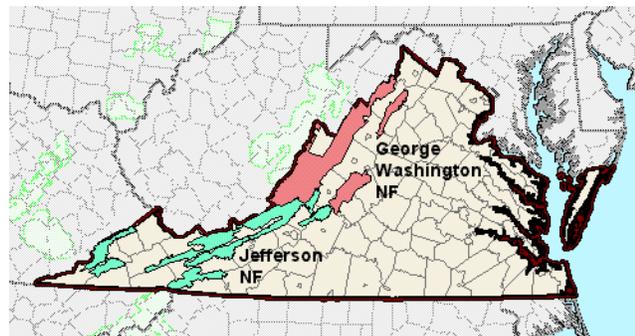
p. 540-265-5118

joby.timm@usda.gov

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj>

George Washington & Jefferson – 1,792,209 acres

In the Appalachian Mountains, the highest point of the forest is Mount Rogers, also the highest point in Virginia at 5,729 Ft. in Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. There are 230,000 acres of old-growth forest here, and the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail both run through the forest.



APPENDIX A: CONTACT LIST

Regional Leadership			
Ken Arney	Regional Forester	404-347-4177	ken.arney@usda.gov
Jan Davis	Deputy Regional Forester, State and Private Forestry	404-347-7248	janette.davis@usda.gov
Fire and Aviation			
Shardul Raval	Director of Fire and Aviation	404-347-3464	shardul.raval@usda.gov
Dave Martin	Assistant Director Fire and Aviation Operations	706-949-4610	dave.martin@usda.gov
Mike Dueitt	Asst. Director, National Fire Plan	850-228-0320	michael.dueitt@usda.gov
Vacant	Cooperative Fire, All Hazard, & Prevention Manager	404-347-7626	
Lex Gabaldo	Deputy Cooperative Fire, All Hazard & Prevention Manager	775-443-7145	alexis.gabaldo@usda.gov
Vacant	Regional Aviation Officer	404-558-3075	
Forest Health Protection			
Don Duerr	Director of Forest Health Protection	404-347-3541	donald.duerr@usda.gov
Brian Strom	Alexandria Field Office Representative	318-473-7235	brian.strom@usda.gov
Bill Carothers	Asheville Field Office Representative	828-257-4321	william.carothers@usda.gov
Anna Grossman	Forest Health Program Manager; Invasive Plant Program Manager	404-347-2961	anna.grossman@usda.gov
Chris Asaro	Forest Health Monitoring Program Manager	404-347-2718	christopher.asaro@usda.gov
Tom Coleman	Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Program Manager	828-257-4399	tom.coleman@usda.gov
Rusty Rhea	Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Program Manager	828-257-4314	rusty.rhea@usda.gov
John Nowak	Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program Manager	828-257-4326	john.nowak@usda.gov
Michelle Cram	Forest Nursery Program Manager	706-559-4233	michelle.cram@usda.gov
Jaesoon Hwang	Special Technology Development Program Manager	318-473-7176	jaesoon.hwang@usda.gov
Michelle Frank	Pesticide Use Program Manager	404-347-2229	michelle.frank@usda.gov
Katie McKeever	Resistance Screening Center Program Manager	828-667-5089 x202	kathleen.mckeever@usda.gov
Ryan Blaedow	Hazard Tree Risk Management Program Manager	828-257-4328	ryan.a.blaedow@usda.gov
Cooperative Forestry			
Kay Reed	Director of Cooperative Forestry	404-347-7200	kay.reed@usda.gov
Lynn Lewis	Program Manager, Landowner Assistance	803-507-5681	lynn.lewis@usda.gov
Susan Granbery	Program Manager, Forest Legacy Program	404-347-5214	susan.granbery@usda.gov
Amadou Diop	Outreach Liaison	404-347-4569	amadou.diop@usda.gov
Victor Vankus	Director, National Seed Lab	478-751-6656	victor.vankus@usda.gov
Paula Randler	Program Manager, Urban & Community	404-347-1647	paula.randler@usda.gov
Paul Gellerstedt	Program Manager, LSR & Water Resources	470-585-9154	paul.gellerstedt@usda.gov
Vacant	Regional Wood Innovation Coordinator		

Special Projects			
Ben Battle	Gulf of Mexico Forest Restoration Program Manager	334-241-8154	benjamin.battle@usda.gov
Kyle Jones	Regional Longleaf Restoration Coordinator	850-523-8577	kyle.jones@usda.gov
Kelle Reynolds	Making Tracks Coordinator	404-347-4082	kelle.reynolds@usda.gov
Lynn Lewis	Landowner Assistance Program Manager, Making Tracks S&PF representative	803-507-5681	lynn.lewis@usda.gov
Kay Reed	Director of Cooperative Forestry, White Oak Initiative	404-347-7200	kay.reed@usda.gov
Southern Research Station			
Rob Doudrick	Station Director	828-257-4300	rob.doudrick@usda.gov
Vacant	Assistant Station Director	828-257-4305	
Gerry Jackson	Assistant Station Director	828-257-4825	gerry.jackson@usda.gov
Jennifer Parsell	Executive Assistant	828-257-4300	jennifer.parsell@usda.gov
Danny Lee	Director, Center for Forest Assessment and Synthesis	828-257-4854	danny.c.lee@usda.gov
Ted Leininger	Bottomland Hardwoods Project Manager	662-686-3178	ted.leininger@usda.gov
	Forest Disturbance Science Project Manager	706-559-4321	
Andy Dolloff	Watershed Research Project Manager	540-230-8220	andy.dollof@usda.gov
	Integrated Forest Science Project Manager	828-506-0924	
Kurt Riitters	Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Project Manager	919-549-4015	kurt.riitters@usda.gov
Jeff Prestemon	Forest Economics and Policy	919-549-4033	jeff.prestemon@usda.gov
Bill Burkman	Forest Inventory and Analysis	865-862-2073	bill.burkman@usdagov
Dana Nelson	Forest Genetics and Ecosystems Biology	859-257-7606	charles.d.nelson@usda.gov
Dana Mitchell	Forest Operations	334-826-8700 x123	dana.mitchell@usda.gov
JT Vogt	Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants	865-862-2035	james.t.vogt@usda.gov
	Integrating Human and Natural Systems	706-559-4270	
Don Bragg	Longleaf and Southern Pine	870-367-3465	don.c.bragg@usda.gov
	Upland Hardwoods	828-667-5261 x113	
Grants and Agreements			
Willis Mitchell	Grants Management Specialist Supervisor	404-347-2658	willis.mitchell@usda.gov
Shelia Loomis	Grants Management Specialist		Shelia.loomis@usda.gov
John Litherland	Grants Management Specialist	404-347-5047	John.litherland@usda.gov
Vanessa Hardnett	Grants Management Specialist	404-347-2716	Vanessa..hardnett@usda.gov
Yvonne Holmes	Grants Management Specialist	404-347-3560	Yvonne.holmes@usda.gov
National Forest System			
Cherie Hamilton	AL Forest Supervisor	334-241-8165	cherie.hamilton@usda.gov
Lori Wood	AR Ozark-St. Francis Supervisor	479-964-7202	lori.wood@usda.gov
Troy Heithecker	AR Ouachita Supervisor	501-321-5275	troy.d.heithecker@usda.gov
Kelly Russell	FL Forest Supervisor	850-523-8549	kelly.russell@usda.gov
Edward Hunter	GA Chattahoochee-Oconee Supervisor	770-297-3010	edward.hunter@usda.gov
Scott Ray	KY Daniel Boone Supervisor, Acting	859-745-3102	harvey.ray@usda.gov
Vacant	KY/TN Land Between the Lakes Supervisor	270-924-2002	

Appendix A: Contact List

Devela Clark	F.S. Savannah River Site	803-725-0296	devela.clark@usda.gov
Lisa Lewis	LA Kisatchie Supervisor	318-473-7102	lisa.w.lewis@usda.gov
Carl Petrick	MS Forest Supervisor	601-695-1602	carl.petrick@usda.gov
James Melonas	NC Forest Supervisor	828-257-4969	james.melonas@usda.gov
Keenan Adams	El Yunque Supervisor	787-888-8605	keenan.adams@usda.gov
Rick Lint	SC Francis Marion & Sumter Supervisor	803-561-4081	rick.lint@usda.gov
JaSal Morris	TN Cherokee Supervisor	423-476-9703	jasal.morris@usda.gov
Eddie Taylor	TX Forest Supervisor	936-639-8505	eddie.taylor@usda.gov
Joby Timm	VA George Washington & Jefferson Supervisor	540-265-5118	joby.timm@usda.gov

APPENDIX B: WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

Shared Stewardship	
SS	https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r8/home/?cid=fseprd661778
State and Private Forestry	
S&PF	www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/state-private-forestry
Fire and Aviation	
SACC	http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc
Forest Health Protection	
Forest Health Monitoring	https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/protecting-forest/forest-health-monitoring/
Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Story Map	http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=64cda6d74a5749efbe300fe83806d442
Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Story Map	https://arcg.is/1WHuO9
Cooperative Forestry	
Cooperative Forestry	https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/state-private-forestry/coop-forestry
Conservation Reserve Program	https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index
RNGR	https://rngr.net/
Seed Lab	https://www.fs.usda.gov/nsi/
Urban & Community	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf
Forest Legacy Program	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy/
Emergency Forest Restoration Program	https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration/index
Forest Stewardship Program	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-stewardship
Landscape Scale Restoration	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/landscape-scale-restoration
Wood Innovation & Biomass Utilization	https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation
Special Projects	
Keeping Forests	https://www.keepingforests.org/
Southern Forest Outlook	https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/southern-forest-outlook/
Gulf of Mexico Forest Restoration Program	https://www.restorethegulf.gov/
Longleaf Pine Restoration	http://www.americaslongleaf.org/
Shortleaf Pine Restoration	http://shortleafpine.net/
White Oak Initiative	https://www.whiteoakinitiative.org/
Making Tracks Program	https://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/tracks.html

Regional Projects and Water Resources Issues	https://southeasternpartnership.org/ https://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/FS_Efforts/forests2faucets.shtml
Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=stelprdb1244394
Grants and Agreements	
Federal Grants Access Point	https://www.grants.gov/
Database of federal programs	https://beta.sam.gov/
Federal and private grants	http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/prc/tools-techniques/funding/?cid=STELPRDB5200611
Lists grant deadlines	http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/mbs/workingtogether/partnerships/?cid=stelprdb5158088
National Forest Foundation Grant Resources	www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs
USFS Grant Page	https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/grants
Partnership Resources	https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/partnerships
Partnership Guide	https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/prc/tools-techniques/partnership/?cid=stelprdb5438298
Southern Research Station	
Southern Research Station	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/
Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research	https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cbhr/
Center for Forest Disturbance Science	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/forestdisturbance/
Center for Forest Watershed Research	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cfwr/
Center for Integrated Forest Science	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cifs/
Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center	https://forestthreats.org/
Forest Economics and Policy	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/econ/
Forest Inventory and Analysis	https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/
Forest Genetics and Ecosystems Biology	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/sifg/
Forest Operations	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/forestops/
Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/idip/
Integrating Human and Natural Systems	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/humanandnaturalsystems/
Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine Ecosystems	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/longleaf/
Southern Pine Ecology and Management	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4159/
Upland Hardwood Ecology & Management	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/uplandhardwood/
Utilization of Southern Forest Resources	http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/usfr/
SRS Publication Search	https://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/newpublications

CompassLive	https://srs.fs.usda.gov/compass
SRS StoryMaps	https://srs.fs.usda.gov/products/story-maps
Southern Forest Futures Project	https://srs.fs.usda.gov/futures/index.html
SRS Webinars	https://srs.fs.usda.gov/products/courses
National Forest System	
AL NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama
AR Ozark-St. Francis NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/osfnf
AR Ouachita NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/ouachita
FL NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/florida
GA Chattahoochee-Oconee NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/conf
KY Daniel Boone NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf
KY/TN Land between the Lakes	https://landbetweenthelakes.us
LA Kisatchie NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/kisatchie
MS NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/mississippi
NC NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc
El Yunque NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque
SC Francis Marion and Sumter NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs
TN Cherokee NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/cherokee
TX NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/texas
VA George Washington & Jefferson NF	https://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj

APPENDIX C: R8 S&PF ORG CHARTS

Forthcoming in subsequent revisions

APPENDIX D: COMPARISON OF STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING & GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

Term	Stewardship	Good Neighbor Authority
Approval of projects needed	Proposal approved by appropriate line officer (RF or FS)	No approval needed
Partners	Non-profits only, including universities and non-federal governments, tribes, local governments, individuals	State agencies, universities not included unless state agency is imbedded. 2018 Farm Bill now allows for agreements with tribes and counties.
Length of instruments	Up to 20 years	Up to 10 years
Types of instruments	IRTCs, IRSCs, stand-alone contracts, Master agreements, SPAs, Stand-alone agreements, Short form agreements	Master agreements, SPAs, Stand-alone agreements
Timber sale preparation	Contract marking or marking in agreements (partner cannot mark timber they sell through stewardship agreement) for only stewardship sales (through contracts/agreements)	State can prepare and sell the same timber, or prepare timber for FS to sell for any timber sales
Marking paint	Must use tracer paint	Only use tracer paint on sales that FS will sell
Planning documents	NEPA, Stewardship Proposal approved by RF or FS	NEPA
Allowable activities	7 Land Management Goals of Stewardship (restoration-related), planning not included (e.g., NEPA, surveys)	Restoration-related activities, including planning of projects
Where to implement	Within proposal boundary, contract area boundary, or agreement boundary	Within agreement boundary
Collections	Retained Receipts (managed by Forest Service) from IRTC	Program Income (managed by state agency) in agreements with product removal
Matching contribution	20% partner match in agreements	None
How is work completed?	Contracts or Agreements	Agreements
Pay FS salaries?	Yes	No
Handbook Reference	FSH 2409.19 Renewable Resources Handbook Chapter 60 – Stewardship Contracting	FSH 2409.19 Renewable Resources Handbook Chapter 80 – Good Neighbor Timber Sales Interim Implementation Instructions

Appendix D: Comparison of Stewardship Contracting and Good Neighbor Authority

3rd party involvement	Partners/Contractors responsible for getting work done, but can subcontract to 3 rd party	Partners responsible for getting work done, but can subcontract to 3 rd party
Ability to bundle projects	Yes	Yes
Ability to trade goods for services	Yes	No
Collaboration required for project development	Yes	Yes
Best value award	Yes	No
Sole source award	Yes, RF permission	Yes
KV/SSF/BD fund plans allowed	KV not allowed	Yes
Timber sale subject to payment to states	No	Yes
SBA set aside	No	No
Includes specified road construction	Yes in IRTCs, but comes off the top like regular green sale	No
Includes specified road reconstruction	Yes	Yes
Subject to Federal financial assistance regulations	No	Yes
Subject to Davis-Bacon or Service Contract Act wage rates	Agreements and IRSCs	No
Funding Collections	Partner contributions in agreements, collections in contracts with product removal (retained receipts)	Outgoing funding only
Can use Wyden Authority	Yes, and can use retained receipts to pay for work on non-FS if approved in proposal	Yes

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