



Strategic Framework for Climate Change

Strategic Aspirations

October 2, 2008

The Strategic Framework for climate change is based on the Forest Service mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forest and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The goals listed below are from the Strategic Framework. Actions, products, and milestones will be developed around these goals. The following strategic aspirations were adopted by the National Leadership Council at its September 2008 meeting. These statements support the vision laid out in the Framework in a measurable and meaningful way. They also identify areas for critical choices for Forest Service leadership.

GOAL 1 - SCIENCE - Advance our understanding of the environmental, economic, and social implications of climate change and related adaptation and mitigation activities on forests and grasslands.

Aspirations:

- The Forest Service is recognized for world-class scientific information and tools regarding forests and grasslands and their relation to climate change.
- The Forest Service demonstrates excellence in the delivery of science findings and tools to users and in the application of science to land management problems in climate change.

GOAL 2 - ADAPTATION - Enhance the capacity of forests and grasslands to adapt to the environmental stresses of climate change and maintain ecosystem services.

Aspirations:

- The Forest Service is the world's leader in integrating forest management and protection practices into innovative strategies for adaptation of forest and range ecosystems.
- The National Forests and Grasslands are an international model of excellence in sustaining forest health, diversity, and productivity in the face of climate change.
- The Forest Service leads the nation in improving the adaptive capacity of the nation's most vulnerable forests and grasslands through management to restore or enhance resistance and resilience.

GOAL 3 - MITIGATION - Promote the management of forests and grasslands to reduce the buildup of greenhouse gases, while sustaining the multiple benefits and services of these ecosystems.

Aspirations:

- The Forest Service is the nation's center for technical information, protocols, and assessments of carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's forests.

- The nation's forests sequester a sustainable annual flow of additional carbon by 2020 through better forest management and utilization.
- The nation's forest provide 10-20 % of the nation's energy needs with fuels from forest biomass by 2020.

GOAL 4 - POLICY - Integrate climate change into all Forest Service policies, program guidance, and communications and put in place effective mechanisms to coordinate across and within Deputy Areas.

Aspirations:

- Policymakers appropriately consider the roles of forests and forest management in new federal and state legislation on climate change.
- The Forest Service is actively involved with the forestry community in the formation of new federal and state policies regarding climate change by providing science-based information, management evidence and expertise, and advocacy for sustainability principles.
- The Forest Service explicitly and appropriately considers climate change in all its internal policies, procedures, and programs.

GOAL 5 - SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS – Reduce the environmental footprint of Forest Service operations and be a leading example of a green organization.

Aspirations:

- Forest Service leaders are international models for the best sustainable practices.
- Forest Service operations exceed green standards in fleet and transportation, energy, watershed, purchasing, and waste.
 - Achieve zero green fleet and transportation emissions by 2015.
 - Become an energy neutral Agency by 2020; 25% by 2012; 50% by 2016; and 100% by 2020.
 - Become the world leader for water conservation and water source protection by 2020.
 - All purchased goods and services and the performance of our suppliers, contractors, and partners exceed green standards.

GOAL 6 - EDUCATION AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING -Advance awareness and understanding regarding principles and methods for sustaining forests and grasslands, and sustainable resource consumption, in a changing climate.

Aspirations:

- Trees, forests, and grasslands are widely recognized as solutions and opportunities for assuring sustainability in a changing climate.
- The Forest Service and its partners manage an integrated national network of resource centers, demonstration areas, observation sites, and experimental forests and ranges that engage citizens in learning about trees, forests, and grasslands and their relationship to climate change.
- The Forest Service is a visible and credible source of information regarding trees, forests, and grasslands in and around major metropolitan areas of the United States.
- Forest Service employees understand the relevance of what they do in helping address climate change.

GOAL 7 - ALLIANCES - Establish, enhance, and retain strong alliances and partnerships with federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations and international partners to provide sustainable forests and grasslands for present and future generations.

Aspirations:

- The Forest Service is a founding partner in a new coalition of traditional and non-traditional partners dedicated to environmental learning and active support for well-managed and adaptable forests and grasslands.
- The Forest Service participates in critically important coalitions for climate change action at the international, national, regional, and local scales. This participation includes leadership, land management expertise, scientific knowledge and tools, and other means of service.