

**US Forest Service
Climate Change Alliances Team
Charter
March, 2009**

The Climate Change Alliance Team is appointed by the Climate Council and works under their guidance. The Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change and related documents serve as the guide for actions implemented by the Alliances team.

The team is responsible for Goal 7.2 – Actively seek new partnerships and cooperative relationships with federal and non-federal entities, including non-traditional partners, to address the multiple challenges of climate change across the U.S. and internationally. Coordination and consultation with the other chartered Framework teams is essential.

The team is responsible for identifying existing and potential national level partnerships and alliances on behalf of the Climate Council. The Climate Council will lead the effort to establish dialogues at the national level and encourage such activities at all levels of the Forest Service. This effort contributes to the efforts of the Executive Branch.

The team is to provide their plan of work by March 20, 2009. The team will provide periodic updates as their work is ongoing. Extension or modification of the charter must be approved by the Climate Council.

Background

As stewards of 8% of land area of the United States, the Forest Service has a responsibility to share information and expertise and to work with other landowners. Climate change will impact ecosystems everywhere and will require coordinated action across ownership boundaries. The Forest Service has extensive experience in working with partners to achieve shared objectives, such as cooperative research, forest health, and fire suppression. The missions of State & Private Forestry and Research & Development clearly extend the Forest Service's responsibility to provide knowledge, tools, and assistance applicable to all lands.

The significant challenge of climate change will mean building on this experience and making special efforts to expand existing partnerships and actively seek new ones in order to address common objectives. Many federal agencies are developing their own climate change strategies. Many conservation groups and other non-governmental organizations have been developing strategies or positions on climate change as well. Examples include the Forest Guild, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, the Wilderness Society, the Society of American Foresters, and the National and Western Governors' Associations.

The Forest Service can contribute to and learn from working with these groups toward the common goal of adapting to climate change. The Forest Service also has an important role for the U.S. Government as technical experts on forests, grasslands, and sustainable resource issues. Expanding traditional partnerships and actively seeking new ones will be

essential to effectively addressing the multiple challenges of climate change across the United States, and internationally.

Roles and Responsibilities

The work of the team should:

- Contribute to the efforts of the Administration.
- Work with federal agencies, national associations (including state and local government associations), national Tribal organizations, national private landowner organizations, corporations, conservation organizations, and environmental advocacy groups that have identified climate change as a priority or have developed a climate change policy/strategy/position statement.
- Identify common interests.
- Identify additional Forest Service actions needed.

The team is to consult and coordinate with the other chartered Framework teams to avoid duplication and maximize effectiveness. The team will also consult with other experts and users during their work for advice, review, and feedback.

Team Operations

Additional task teams and support staff from the Washington Office and the field can be requested as needed through the Climate Council, appropriate Directors and line officers. Team members may seek some relief of their current duties to meet limited duration high priority assignments if approved by the employee's Director or line officer and recommendation of the Climate Council Executive Sponsor, Dave Cleaves.