



Forest Service Accomplishments Summary FY 2003

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service Strategic Planning and Resource Assessment



MISSION

The USDA Forest Service works to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Forest Service is committed to the best possible land stewardship. This is accomplished by implementing the four goals of the Forest Service Strategic Plan (2000 Revision), addressing Ecosystem Health, Multiple Benefits for People, Scientific and Technical Assistance, and Effective Public Service.



"Caring for the land and serving the people"



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STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS

Providing the best possible stewardship means confronting the realities of diverse interests, finite budgets, and environmental considerations, and recognizing that each influences the choices made in the management of forest and grassland resources.

The agency's commitment to the stewardship of public lands requires understanding the public's interests through direct discussions and collaboration; obtaining financial support through Congressional appropriations, volunteers, partners, and user fees; development and use of scientific information; and gaining broad support for the agency's long-term goals and objectives.

The four goals of the 2000 Strategic Plan Revision address sustainability. Associated with each goal are objectives and strategies to achieve these objectives, and measures of progress. Collectively, these components of the strategic plan provide purpose and context for

future management actions and investments, as well as a set of milestones for evaluating progress toward the goals.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

To deliver the agency's mission, the Forest Service achieved high quality land management results. The agency's success in sustainable multiple-use management serves the diverse needs of its constituents under each of four goals.

The Forest Service worked with the White House to enact The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (H.R. 1904). This Act establishes high priority fuel treatment areas and forest restoration projects, and provides guidance on projects involving endangered species.

To reduce risk of wildfires, the Forest Service treated approximately 1.6 million acres of National Forest System lands. Approximately 1 million of these acres are in wildland-urban interface areas, reducing fire threat to sensitive habitat and American homes.

Other top priorities focus on business and financial

operations, as reflected in the second unqualified ("clean") audit opinion issued to the Forest Service on financial statements in 2003. To continue this trend, the Forest Service has developed a comprehensive plan to implement a *Performance Accountability System* (PAS), designed to ensure progress toward achieving performance accountability.

Forest Service executives also identified the four major threats to the national forests and the Nation's forest lands: fuels and fires; invasive species; loss of open space; and unmanaged outdoor recreation; and revised the agency's 5-year strategic plan to address these challenges.

Reaffirming the agency's commitment to Civil Rights, the Civil Rights budget was linked to the Forest Service strategic and annual performance plans, placing outreach accountability on all levels of leadership.

In addition, the Forest Service supports Homeland Security objectives by participating with USDA and the





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Department of Homeland Security on border issues and antiterrorist contingency planning, and is in the process of implementing necessary actions as identified in the security assessment of air tanker bases and Regional aviation facilities.

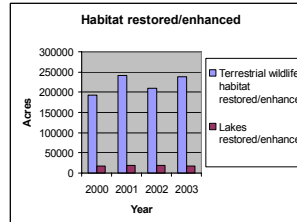
Goal 1: Promote ecosystem health to sustain the Nation's forests, grasslands and watersheds.

To promote or sustain ecosystem health, the Forest Service:

- Restored or enhanced 238,199 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat
- Restored or enhanced 1,687 miles of stream
- Restored or enhanced 17,329 acres of lake habitat
- Treated 135,726 acres of noxious weeds
- Completed 308 grazing allotment decisions
- Managed 76 wilderness areas to standard

- Improved 923,318 acres of vegetation.

Acres of Habitat Restored/Enhanced



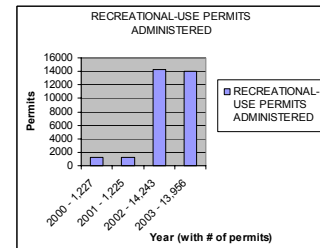
Goal 2: Provide a variety multiple benefits for present and future generations.

To provide multiple benefits, the Forest Service:

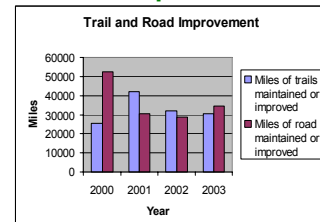
- Maintained or improved 30,551 miles of trail
- Maintained or improved 72,988 miles of road
- Sold and harvested 200 million cubic feet (CCF) of timber
- Offered for sale 100 million cubic feet (CCF) of salvage timber
- Assisted 3,868 volunteer fire departments

- Provided 8,187 communities with funding assistance for fires
- Assisted 2,271 volunteer fire departments.

Recreation



Miles of Trail and Road improved



Goal 3: Develop and use the best scientific information available to deliver technical and community assistance.

To provide scientific and technical assistance, the Forest Service:

- Measured 73 percent of the Forest Inventory and Analysis target plots



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- Developed 340 products, tools, and technologies for Forest Inventory and Analysis program, including: an annualized forest inventory system that provides updates of yearly extent, health, and trends of 749 million forested acres by State; produced the first nationwide fine scale map of the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- Developed 783 products, tools, and technologies for fire research, including: the creation of a powerful computer system assisting the National Weather Service to provide nationwide fire weather projections 48 hours in advance; produced the "Hayman Fire Case Study Analysis", a comprehensive review of the behavior and impact of the June 2003, 138,000 acre Colorado fire
- Developed 750 additional products, tools, and technologies for

research, including: the expanded production of the *Natural Inquirer*, a science education journal for middle school students and teachers; produced *Draft Greenhouse Gas Accounting Rules and Guidelines* in response to a Presidential directive, describing accounting rules and guidelines for crediting forestry and agriculture carbon sequestration projects.

Goal 4: Ensure effective public service through the delivery of a variety of uses.

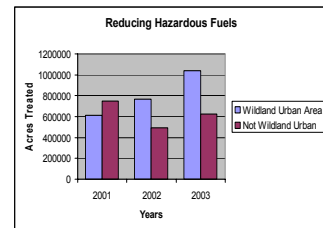
To provide effective public service through a variety of uses, the Forest Service:

- Provided 3,999 communities with technical assistance
- Treated 1,041,094 acres of hazardous fuels in wildland/urban interface areas
- Treated 623,060 acres of hazardous

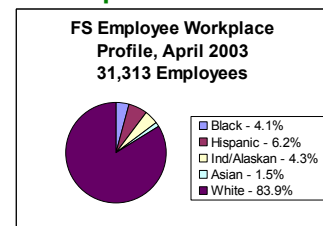
fuels in non wildland/urban interface areas

- Conserved 292,583 acres of environmentally important forests threatened by conversion to non-forest uses
- Improved 699 rural communities' capacity to handle changes associated with natural resources management.

Fuels Reduction



Workplace Profile April 2003



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