



FLORIDA

FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

STATE FUNDING HISTORY	Enacted FY 2003 (\$)	Enacted FY 2004 (\$)	Pres. Budg. FY 2005 (\$)
GAINESVILLE			
SRS-4951 Wildland Urban Interface	0	100,000	353,000
FLORIDA TOTAL	0	100,000	353,000

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, a division of the USDA Forest Service (FS R&D), strives to be the "go to" organization for information and solutions to sustain forests and rangelands and the values they provide people. FS R&D has the flexibility to address today's issues effectively and to respond to tomorrow's needs. Among the world's leaders in forest conservation research, scientists contribute to the stewardship of land, real property and society by providing research results that help create jobs and affordable homes, and improve the health of trees, forests and forest ecosystems. Innovative research products permit the Forest Service and other public and private land managers to monitor and manage forest responses to environmental change, contributing significantly to the sustainability of the nation's forests and rangelands and improving human health.

FS R&D operates six research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry located in Puerto Rico. It employs over 500 scientists and hundreds of

technical and support personnel at 67 field sites throughout the nation. The FY 2005 President's Budget includes \$280,654,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research.

The **Southern Research Station**, with headquarters in Asheville, NC, and 26 Research Work Units in 11 States, conducts forest research and development in laboratories, on university campuses, and at experimental forests in the 13 Southern States (i.e., FL, LA, OK, NC, KY, GA, SC, TN, MS, TX, AR, AL, and VA). In Florida, the Southern Research Station manages a sub-unit of the Forest Genetics Research Work Unit and the Wildland-Urban Interface Center (both at Gainesville) and the Olustee Experimental Forest.

The FY 2005 President's Budget includes \$50,640,000 for the Southern Research Station, an increase of \$1,304,000 over FY 2004 Final Appropriation.

GAINESVILLE

SRS-4951 Wildland-Urban Interface Center.

This center deals with issues facing the wildland-urban interface throughout the South, with the primary focus on technology transfer and education. This center is maintained in partnership with the Southern Group of State Foresters and the University of Florida. In FY 2003, funds for the Center were funded from the National Fire Plan.

SRS-4153 Subunit, Southern Institute of Forest

Genetics. Research at the Gainesville research work subunit utilizes biotechnology to evaluate defense responses of southern pines to disease.

OLUSTEE

Olustee Experimental Forest. The 3500-acre Olustee Experimental Forest was established in 1931. For more than 60 years, Olustee was the site of research on gum naval stores, genetic improvement of forest trees, insuring maximum survival and growth of plantations, and protecting the forest from damage by insects, disease, and fire. Although the Research Work Unit at Olustee was closed in FY 1996, the Station continues to maintain the experimental forest for long-term experiments and as a reservoir for genetic material of historic value and continuing scientific interest.

RELATED RESEARCH

Forest Inventory and Analysis Research (FIA).

Forest Inventory and Analysis is administered in Knoxville, TN, Asheville, NC, and Starkville, MS. The FIA unit develops, analyzes, and maintains forest resource information for the Southern States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; and

conducts research to provide improved inventory and evaluation techniques. The FIA program includes plot-based forest health indicators along with comprehensive forest inventory data to provide information on the status, trends, and condition of forest resources. Annualized forest inventories are currently being implemented across the South. Researchers in the FIA unit are conducting annual inventories in Florida, in collaboration with the State. The within-State costs for annual inventory field data collection amount to approximately \$458,000.

RELATED PROGRAMS

National Recruitment Initiative, Florida A&M University/University of Florida.

A USDA grant supports recruitment of minorities into natural resources and related fields. The initiative provides funding for minority students pursuing natural resource degrees at Florida A&M University (FAMU) and continuing at the University of Florida. Eight students have graduated from the program, with five presently working with the Forest Service. Current students participate in summer internships at various Forest and Research Station locations throughout the U.S.

FIRE RESEARCH IN FLORIDA SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

National Fire Plan funding continues the long tradition of Forest Service Research and Development building and leading federal, State, and local partnerships (the guiding principle of the 10 year Comprehensive Strategy) to develop and deliver the scientific foundation of modern management practices.

FY 2005 PROGRAM CHANGES

- The FY 2005 President's Budget calls for increased research in areas associated with the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, including invasive species impacts, and the expansion of technology transfer activities. The FY 2005 President's Budget also provides new funding for research on water quality and quantity issues; and funding to cover inflationary fixed cost increases.
- An increase of \$153,000 on water and watershed issues will be used to expand research on urban expansion and water availability in the Wildland-Urban Interface Center Unit (SRS-4951).
- An increase of \$100,000 for fixed cost will be used to expand research on wildland/urban interface issues at the Wildland-Urban Interface Center (SRS-4951).
- Forest Service Research and Development will lead an Agency-wide effort to optimize the delivery and practical use of research findings. This is essential to successful implementation of Forest Service priorities, including the President's Healthy Forest Initiative. Opportunities have been identified that leverage current science and technology applications efforts in healthy forests applied science, watershed management, invasive species, hazardous fuels utilization and management, and community preparedness. New funds in FY 2005 will be targeted to leading-edge technical assistance on a competitive basis.

SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH PRODUCTS:

- The Wildland Urban Interface Unit was formally chartered this year as the result of a participative process with the State Foresters, the University and other public stakeholders. The unit's Research Work Unit Description was finalized in December 2004. This document serves as the strategic plan and basis for yearly work planning for the next five years.
- The Wildland Urban Interface Unit continues to provide technical assistance to local governments across the South on the use of prescribed fire and other fuel reduction strategies.
- Continued a major study of pre-treatment vegetation sampling assess fuel management options.
- Continued a multi-year study on the flammability of southern fuels.

SOME CLIENTS/COLLABORATORS

Cavenham Forest Industries
Eglin Air Force Base
Florida A&M University
Florida Department of Natural Resources
Florida Division of Forestry
International Paper
National Forests in Florida
St. Johns Water Management District
Tall Timbers Research Station
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