



RHODE ISLAND

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 **Northeastern Research Station**, headquartered at Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, maintains forest and rangeland research and development programs across 13 northeastern

states (i.e. CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY, NH, ME, OH, PA, RI, WV, and VT). The FY 2005 President's Budget for the Northeastern Research Station is \$34,697,000. The Northeastern Research Station does not currently have a research work unit in Rhode Island. However, there is research conducted that does directly affect the state as described below:

FS Research Programs Directly Affecting Rhode Island

- The Forest Service, in cooperation with the State Forester and other state organizations, conducts inventories of Rhode Island's forest resources. Data from these inventories are widely used to help make decisions about forest-based economic development and other aspects of the state's resource management and development. Data from the most recent inventory was collected in 1997-1998 and a state report was released in 2000.
- Since 1991, Rhode Island has been included as part of the Forest Health Monitoring Program. This is a joint effort by both Research & Development and the State and Private Forestry branches of the Forest Service and the Rhode Island Department of Agriculture.

FS Regional Research Applicable to Rhode Island

- **Invasive Species Research:** Methods and technologies are being developed to prevent or

control the introduction and establishment of exotic invasive species. Ways to control, prevent damage from, or eradicate exotic invasive species that are already established, such as gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, and Dutch elm disease are also being developed.

- **Urban Forestry Research:** Research is focused on understanding how urban vegetation and its management significantly influences human health and environmental quality in and around cities. The research seeks to determine which trees and management practices will optimize the net benefits to society from urban vegetation.
- **Global Change Research:** The goal is to determine the role of airborne pollutants and climate change on eastern forests by studying the impacts of chronic nitrogen deposition on forest ecosystems and water quality of mid-Atlantic watersheds.
- **Hardwood Processing Research:** Research will encourage and support increased value-added manufacturing through better use of the abundant eastern hardwoods. Processing research at the Northeastern Station is centered in Princeton, West Virginia.

FY 2005 PROGRAM CHANGES:

- **Watershed Management:** An increase of \$610,000 will focus on global climate change. The Forest Service national initiative for global change research in FY 2005 consists of three linked research thrusts designed to insure continued protection and utilization of U.S. forest resources under an uncertain climate: Improved observations of forest carbon stocks and flows, analysis and prediction of the likely effects of climate change on forest services, and development of management practices to both

mitigate and adapt to expected climate change. Research to provide important and required basic knowledge for analysis of future impacts and development of management practices is being relied on.

- **Science-based Technology Transfer:** 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:

- Conducted forest resources surveys and published statistical tables on the status and trends of the state's forests.

SOME CLIENTS/COOPERATORS:

Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment