1915–2015
100 Years of Forest Service Research & Development

Jerry A. Sesco
Deputy Chief, Research & Development
1989–1997

Pictured: Forest Service R&D at work.
Sesco • 1989–1997

Research & Development

MILESTONES

Forest Service Research and Development produced “Strategy for the 90s,” a strategic plan that focused Research and Development efforts on understanding ecosystems, understanding people and natural resource relationships, and understanding and expanding resource options.

In 1990, Sesco unveiled a new Global Change Priority Research Program dedicated to understanding the effects of climate change and air pollution on the Nation’s forests. This research program was a part of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, used an ecosystem approach, and included long-term monitoring and ecosystem modeling to study effects of the atmosphere on forests and forests on the atmosphere.

In 1993, Sesco named Barbara Weber the Director of the Pacific Southwest Research Station, the first woman to hold a station directorship. Weber would later become a Research and Development Associate Deputy Chief under Deputy Chief Robert Lewis.

Under Sesco’s leadership, Forest Service Research and Development increased collaboration with the National Forest System to improve ecosystem and landscape management.

In 1996, the Urban Forestry Effects Model was developed at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station (now the Northern Research Station). The software was released in 2006 as i-Tree. i-Tree is now used internationally to analyze and assess the benefits of urban forests.

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