1915–2015
100 Years of Forest Service Research & Development

Jim Reaves
Deputy Chief, Research & Development
2010–2015

Pictured: Forest Service R&D at work.
Research & Development MILESTONES

Forest Service Research and Development analyzed and summarized research to support the restoration of western forests. Some of the scientific themes that emerged included using fire as a tool for restoring forests, addressing the impact of wildland fire smoke, promoting tribal values, and undertaking large demonstration projects.

Forest Service scientists collaborated with the United Nations and scientists worldwide to produce the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Fifth Assessment Report in 2013.

Forest Service researchers applied for patents on their work with super absorbent aerogels made from cellulose nanofibrils, which are particles found in wood. These aerogels offer a sustainable and novel method for oil-spill cleanup and have been jointly developed by the Forest Service and researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In 2014, scientists and staff from the Washington Office and the stations played a leading role in planning the XXIV International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress.

Research and Development, with eight other USDA agencies, established Regional Hubs for Risk Adaptation to and Mitigation of Climate Change. These hubs provide scientific information to farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and resource managers to support informed climate change decision-making.

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