



FY 2007 U.S. Forest Service Request

University-based forest research must be increased dramatically.

THE CHALLENGE

America's 749 million acres of forests comprise one third of the nation's land base and supply an essential flow of environmental and economic goods and services. However, these forests—especially the 430 million acres of non-industrial private lands that supply most of America's forest products—are experiencing great pressure due to reduced timber harvesting on federal lands, increased recreation use, urbanization and forest fragmentation, build-up of dangerous woody fuels, and invasive plant and animal species. More people are demanding more from forestland resources, yet some vital forest resources are undervalued and under utilized while at the same time forest based economies are being challenged by global competition.

THE RESPONSE

A new collaborative research, extension and technology transfer effort between the Forest Service and America's public universities is clearly needed. Critically important research needs are rapidly exceeding the agency's capacity. USFS leadership must take better advantage of resources within the nation's public universities to provide the scientific foundation and outreach activity necessary for sustained management of our forest resources.

Therefore, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) urges Congress and the Forest Service to:

Establish a competitive forest and natural resources research grant program to support our nation's forests and forest-dependent communities in "Adapting to Global Change," both economically and ecologically.

Recommended areas of emphasis include:

- **Sustainable woody plant systems** – including genetic technology, increased yields, improved utilization technologies, and development of energy-saving bio-based materials and international markets.
- **Managing forest ecosystems** – including issues of forest health, ecological services, proactive fire management, productivity, restoration, and adapting to climate-related change.
- **Alternative management strategies** – with emphasis on risk analysis, geospatial/landscape analysis, associated decision support systems, market development of ecological services, and global economic competitiveness.

A new competitive grant program for forest and natural resource research will greatly complement the valuable, but limited, research that currently takes place under cooperative research agreements between the Forest Service and the universities.

NASULGC'S PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2007

- Competitive Forest Research Grant Program..... \$30.0 M

