



**USDA Forest Service- Savannah River
(USFS-SR)
Fiscal Year 2007
Environmental Report**

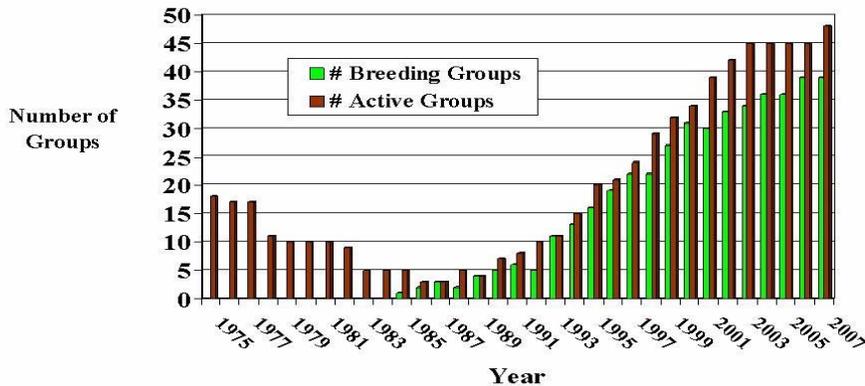
USFS-SR manages the natural resources at the United States Department of Energy’s (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS). Operating under an interagency agreement, USFS-SR follows SRS Strategic Plan goals and objectives to implement the SRS Natural Resources Management Plan.

In support of SRS environmental stewardship, USFS-SR

Maintained and improved habitat to meet recovery population objectives for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species

In fiscal year 2007, USFS-SR improved conditions for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) by removing 132 acres of midstory vegetation and prescribe burning within 19,030 acres of habitat. Successful habitat manipulation increased the number of active groups from one in 1985 to 45 in 2003, and 48 in fiscal year 2007. USFS-SR also conducted surveys of threatened and endangered plants on 2,000 acres, reducing detrimental impacts of forest management to their habitat and to maintain their viability.

**Total Number of Active and Breeding RCW Groups
on Savannah River Site, 1975-2007**



Number of red-cockaded woodpecker groups at SRS

Evaluated the effects of management on the environment

USFS-SR teamed with a number of universities, as well as the Forest Service Southern Research Station, to develop and demonstrate effective management and to improve our knowledge and understanding of southern forest ecosystems. By leveraging with outside organizations, USFS-SR progressed in the following on-going tasks:

- Productivity for bioenergy wood - completed winter measurements of all sample plots and summarized nutrition response data for biomass sampling;
- Impact of large woody debris on wildlife - completed treatments and the annual inventory of large woody debris;
- Data for assessing impact of bridge and timber management – completed monitoring of roost shift between SRS bridges and trees and foraging behavior of big-eared bats;
- Management of wetlands - completed the final report of the Carolina Bay restoration; completed field surveys for the SRS streamline restoration and developed the database;
- Restoration of the longleaf pine/savanna - initiated monitoring of influence of corridors on savanna restoration;
- Management of hazardous forest fuels - completed components of a forest fuel loading analysis in relation to fire behavior and potentials for fuel classification system, fuel loading equations for fire hazard assessment, and a landscape analysis of wildland fire potential at SRS; and
- Monitoring of particulate matter related to prescribed fire – monitored downwind particulate matter from prescribed fire, completed data analysis on plume dynamics, sampled firefighter smoke inhalation, and completed on- and off- Site smoke sampling for radiological baseline.

Excelled in safety and health performance

USFS-SR treated hazardous forest fuel on 20,839 acres using prescribed fire to reduce wildfire risks to site facilities and infrastructure, people, and local communities.

USFS-SR continued an excellent safety record. During 2007, the USFS-SR had no lost-work-days due to injuries and only one “OSHA 300 Log” recordable injury out of 144,804 hours worked and 248,662 vehicle miles driven.

USFS-SR’s spot light surveying of 500 miles contributed to SRS data on deer that was used in determining appropriate SRS deer harvest strategies, with the goal of a healthy wildlife population while reducing deer/vehicle collisions. The data collected includes the impact of coyotes on the deer population.

Continued Environmental Restoration

USFS-SR continued operations and maintenance at the Mixed Waste Management Facility Tritium Phytoremediation Project. Approximately 8.7 million gallons of tritiated water were treated through irrigation. This project supports the site’s program to achieve accelerated cleanup and risk reduction.

Maintained infrastructure systems in a safe and environmentally sound state of operational readiness

USFS-SR suppressed 12 SRS wildland fire incidents ranging in size from 0.1 to 33 acres and responded to four mutual aid fires which threatened SRS, ranging from one to 35 acres.

USFS-SR maintained 800 miles of SRS secondary roads and constructed 0.65 miles of road for timber harvesting. USFS-SR also maintained 27 miles of multipurpose trails, used primarily by SRS wellness programs. Boundary management included 27.1 miles maintained, 44 gates repaired, 12 fence breaks repaired, and posting No Trespass signage in the Lower Three Runs corridor.

Maintained community outreach programs to communicate SRS stewardship

Outreach efforts to educate stakeholders about managing SRS natural resources reached 1,375 individuals in fiscal year 2007, through *Woodsy Owl* visits to schools, Environmental Justice presentations, *Take your Kids to Work Day*, and the SRS Safety Conference. Public communication included news releases (1), elementary school visits and parades by *Smokey Bear* (10), newsletters (12), and participation in professional conferences and SRS tours. Internal and external planning and communications included participation in SRS Citizens Advisory Board meetings. USFS-SR provided support to the SRS Heritage Foundation and the Ellenton Heritage Trail committees interpreting the stewardship of the former private lands

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<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/srfs/srfs.htm>
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