



United States Department of Agriculture

# 10 Accomplishments of the USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR)

## Fiscal Year 2017

Presenter:

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USFS-SR operates under  
Interagency Agreement  
Number DE-EM000362.



Savannah River

May 2018

# Purpose

To satisfy a Strategic & Legacy Management  
Committee 2018 Work Plan topic

# Fast Facts



Has over 70 employees who work in Engineering and Environmental Services; Fire Management and Fleet; Natural Resources; Operations; Public Affairs; Research; and Safety



Manages approximately 170,000 acres of natural resources on the Savannah River Site (SRS) under the terms of the Interagency Agreement DE-EM0003622 in support of the missions of the Department of Energy



Helps control nuisance animal populations and manages 65,000 acres for Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat; annually completes over 20,000 acres of prescribed fire; maintains SRS secondary roads, boundary, and wellness trails



Through partnerships, conducts applied research; responsible for daily operation and maintenance of the Phytoremediation project; and hosts annual turkey hunt and fishing challenge for wounded veterans and mobility-impaired individuals

# Safety First



Safety is involved in all aspects of work planning and project accomplishment. USFS-SR is an active participant in the DOE's Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS).

In FY17, we

- Drove over 259,000 miles without a vehicle to vehicle accident, injury, or ticket.
- Worked over 174,000 hours with only one recordable injury.

# Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW)

1



- In 1986, the site had a total population of **four** RCW. The current population stands at **556**. We presently manage **131** RCW clusters.
- In FY17, we participated in the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative for RCW. Breeding data was shared, and we received six RCW to supplement our population. Additionally, we assisted Hitchcock Woods with RCW translocation.

# Timber Harvesting

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Seven million cubic feet of timber is sold annually with an average of \$5 million in revenue.



# Prescribed Burns



In FY17, we accomplished 27 prescribed burns on 7,158 acres helping us to meet our longleaf habitat improvement and hazardous fuels objectives.

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# Pollinator Habitat Support

## 4

- An average of 3,500 acres of forest are thinned annually.
- Ten acres of native flowering plants are annually sown in openings to enhance pollinator habitat where it was once lacking diversity.
- Since 1994, native grass plugs have been planted annually ranging from 20,000 to 130,000 plugs.



# Site Collaborations



# 5

In FY17, we...

- supported the management of over 900 acres of closure sites.
- worked with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) on a new memorandum of understanding including eight Functional Service Agreements.
- worked with the Savannah River Ecology Lab (SREL) and DOE to revise compliance monitoring of employees while working in radiologically contaminated streams.

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## Research Highlights and Collaborations

In FY17, coyote research studies have been published in *The Journal of Wildlife Management*. Studies and publications were done in collaboration with USDA Forest Service-Southern Research Station, University of Georgia-SREL, Auburn University, and/or the SC Department of Natural Resources. The findings follow:

- Despite conventional wisdom that coyote removal increases coyote reproduction and coyote population, our research indicates the reduction in average age reduces reproduction.
- Recruitment from coyote populations outside the area resulted in quick population recovery which eliminates the effectiveness of removal.
- Fawns are shown to be twice as likely to avoid predation if their home range has forest edge conditions.



# Nuisance Species Management

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- Since 2005, over 9,000 feral hogs have been removed from the site with aid from nuisance wildlife control contractors.
- We continue to closely work with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and SREL to enable and assist feral hog research.

# 8

## Roughness Buffer Support

We worked with DOE and SRNL to complete a harvest plan to implement in FY18 to ensure the integrity of the roughness buffer above the National Lab. A diverse age class of trees was created to minimize catastrophic losses that could cost DOE \$50 million.



# Roads, Boundary, Trails Management

# 9



In FY 17, we maintained over 1200 miles of secondary roads and 70 miles of wellness trails.



# 10

## Community Outreach

In FY17, we:

- Established a timber apprenticeship for Job Corps students
- Participated in various career fairs and made contact with over 2000 potential/future applicants
- Provided a three-day prescribed fire training for University of Georgia forestry students
- And then some...



# Closing

We will continue to:

- uplift and empower employees.
- provide exceptional customer service.
- connect to communities.
- strengthen and empower partners.
- increase forest and rangeland management.



Questions?

**The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to:**



**Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.**

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