



## USDA Forest Service-Savannah River Fiscal Year 2004

Operating under an interagency agreement with the U. S. Department of Energy-Savannah River (DOE-SR), the USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) manages the natural resources at SRS. In support of the SRS stewardship mission, USFS-SR follows these SRS Strategic Plan goals and objectives to implement the SRS Natural Resource Management Plan:



### ***ES2.1.4 Continue to deploy monitoring and control mechanisms to reduce the potential movement of contaminants offsite.***

USFS-SR mitigated non-point source pollution, and provided direct and indirect assistance to Soil and Groundwater programs. Our effort stabilized 18 acres of critical erosion, and maintained 1,457 acres. Estimated targets for the year were 50 acres, and 1,000 acres, respectively.

### ***ES 3.1.1 Operate existing facilities such that tritium discharges are as far below regulatory limits as reasonably achievable.***

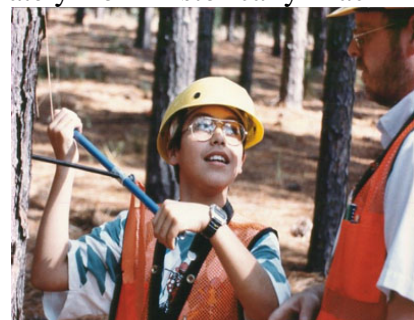
USFS-SR continued operations and maintenance at the MWMF SW Plume, and the D-Area 488 Ash Basin Vegetative cover project. Approximately 22.3 million gallons of tritiated water were evapotranspired at the MWMF.

***ES4.1.2 Maintain outreach and education programs to contribute to improve science education and stakeholder involvement.***

USFS-SR participated in SRS internal and external planning and communications, including Citizens Advisory Board meetings and the SRS Deer Hunt Stakeholder Meeting. USFS-SR also presented mission-related messages through 6 news releases published, the SRS Safety Conference, CSRA conservation education activities, including the CSRA Earth Day, and Smokey Bear’s fire prevention program. These efforts, combined with parades and school presentations, reached almost 18,000 individuals.

We provided education program oversight for 160 student-enrollments in 8 summer courses through the Savannah River Environmental Sciences Field Station. Students were predominately from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

We also provided oversight of the Natural Resources Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Education Program (NRSMEEP) for third through twelfth grade students and teachers in the Central Savannah River Area. NRSMEEP provided hands-on instruction on- and off-site through 6,617 student-visits and conducted 11 teacher workshops. More than one-half of the participants were ethnic minority students.



USFS-SR also supported environmental science education in the CSRA and the South Carolina ‘lowcountry’ in partnership with the State Department of Education.

***ES4.1.4 Ensure commitment to National Environmental Research Park (NERP) status by continued maintenance of the DOE Research Set-Aside Program as well as research and evaluation of the effects of human activities on the environment.***

USFS-SR promoted SRS as a National Environmental Research Park with 18 presentations at scientific and technical meetings on SRS research.



***ES 4.2.1 Continue habitat improvements to maintain or meet the recovery plan population objectives of endangered, threatened and sensitive species.***

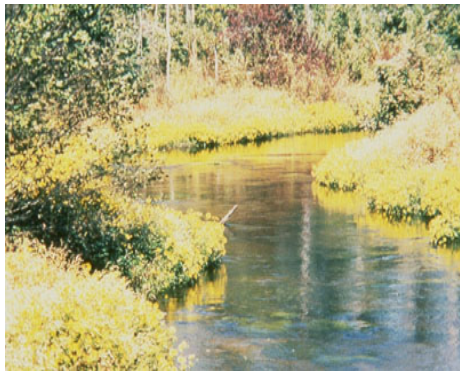
We maintained and improved Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat by installing 12 cavity inserts, removing 196 acres of midstory vegetation, conducting 1,241 acres of prescribed fire. The habitat now supports 45 groups of the endangered bird, up from one breeding pair in 1985.

We conducted surveys of threatened and endangered plants on 3,032 acres, and managed for the endangered smooth purple coneflower by removing competing midstory and sprout vegetation.

***ES4.2.2 Continue to restore native SRS habitats to improve ecosystem health and biodiversity.***

USFS-SR ensured biological diversity by completing founder plant populations for savanna restoration with the planting of an additional 18,000 wiregrass seedlings.

USFS-SR sold 72,834 hundred cubic feet of timber. We reforested a total of 706 acres with native longleaf and loblolly pine, and improved timber stands and snag habitat (dead standing trees for wildlife) on 559 acres.



***ES4.2.3 Revise the SRS Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) in cooperation with stakeholders.***

USFS-SR conducted a natural resources planning program in accordance with DOE-SR guidance regarding land use plans and general management of DOE missions. An interdisciplinary team provided operational on-the-ground prescriptions for 22,875 acres consistent with the current Plan.

USFS-SR continues the cooperative stakeholder planning process for revising the NRMP.

***CMI Continue to excel in safety and health performance.***

USFS-SR conducted a safety and environmental compliance and coordination program within the framework of Forest Service directives, the DOE-SR Integrated Safety Management System and ISO 14000. This included 2 facility inspections, and 44 project inspections, 3 contract prework conferences, and 15 employee/cooperator/contractor orientations.

We provided six training courses for fire personnel, First Aid training for 43, and Hazwoper training for 16 personnel. USFS-SR also removed 287 feral hogs and 19 beavers from the site, 1,500 downed trees from roads, and conducted deer spotlight surveys that were used in determining appropriate harvest strategies for deer population control.

### ***CM3.1.3 Maintain infrastructure systems in a safe and environmentally sound state of operational readiness.***

USFS-SR maintained a comprehensive wildland fire program with a year-round initial attack capability of dedicated firefighting forces and equipment to protect natural resources and site improvements from wildland fire and smoke either from SRS or from fires that threaten SRS. We suppressed 10 wildland fires on SRS, limiting to 12 acres burned.

USFS-SR reduced hazardous fuel on 13,068 acres, through mechanical and prescribed fire methods.

USFS-SR managed the SRS secondary road and bridge system (except for bridge structural inspections), including inventory, planning, constructing, reconstructing, and maintaining all secondary roads. USFS-SR constructed 0.8 miles of road for access to monitoring wells. USFS-SR also reconstructed 18.8 miles and constructed 1.5 miles of road for timber harvesting. Using Forest Service standards, USFS-SR maintained 41 miles of multipurpose trails.



USFS-SR managed the SRS exterior boundary by maintaining and protecting monuments and associated infrastructures and by providing surveys and support to DOE-SR on trespass and easement issues. USFS-SR completed 10 site boundary repairs projects.

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#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR)**

*For more information, contact USFS-SR Information and External Relations:  
Tiajuana Cochnauer, Assistant Manager, 803.725.0006, [tcochnauer@fs.fed.us](mailto:tcochnauer@fs.fed.us)  
Palmer Bowen, Public Affairs Specialist, 803.725.0237, [pbowen@fs.fed.us](mailto:pbowen@fs.fed.us)  
Mary Beth Berry, Information Assistant, 803.725.6387, [meberry@fs.fed.us](mailto:meberry@fs.fed.us)  
P.O. Box 700, New Ellenton, S.C. 29809, or Bldg. 760-15G*

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