



December 2007 Update

FOREST SERVICE CHIEF NAMES NEW CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISOR

In an October memo to employees Chief Gail Kimbell expressed the need to incorporate climate change thinking across Forest Service program areas. Chief Kimbell named Fred Norbury as her advisor on climate change to identify Forest Service responses to a new reality.

“Climate change has the potential to affect all of our activities, from the Ranger Districts to our administrative service centers, our labs, and our technical assistance to the private sector,” says Norbury. “We need to consider it in every decision that we make. The forests and grasslands that we manage can make an important contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change. Further, markets are starting to emerge for the climate benefits rendered by private forests and grasslands in the U.S. Market recognition of this valuable ecosystem service can help us with our strategic goals for conservation of all the ecosystem services offered by forests and grasslands in this country.” Norbury previously served as Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System.

FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES GATHER TO CELEBRATE GOING GREEN



Forest Service employees and partners met in Denver, Colorado, last month to officially launch the agency's Sustainable Operations initiative, an effort to identify and ultimately reduce the environmental impact of Forest Service day-to-day operations. The meeting provided a chance for place-based ‘green teams’ to share ideas and local success stories about adopting new measures to reduce consumption. You can learn more about the Sustainable Operations effort at www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/fs_efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE: SCIENCE AND SOLUTIONS, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 16-18: The 8th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment will engage participants in a three-day discourse on the ecological and societal impacts of climate change and the development of solutions. A plenary session on climate mitigation and adaptation will feature Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell. An agenda is available at www.ncseonline.org.

BIODIVERSITY FINANCE —AND— VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKETS, BOTH IN NYC: Green Power Conferences hosts two upcoming events in New York City: *Voluntary Carbon Markets* (February 5-6) will focus on U.S. market activity with a series of interactive panels on standard-setting, investment risks, project development, and the role of forest-based offsets. *Biodiversity Finance: Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Financial Sector* (March 27-28) will bring experts together to discuss how new financial mechanisms might address biodiversity loss. For more information visit www.greenpowerconferences.com.

 **Visit our website to learn about other upcoming events...**

RESOURCES

RETHINKING FOREST CARBON OFFSET RULES: In *The Role for Sustainably Managed Forests in Climate Change Mitigation* (*Journal of Forestry*, September 2007) Ruddell et al. review the Kyoto Protocol principles of additionality, permanence, and leakage, describing how current definitions and rules may limit forest offset participation in the carbon market and in climate change policy. The authors call for the development and recognition of forest offset project standards that advance sustainable forestry as a climate change mitigation measure.

www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/carbon

New! A Forest Service publication explores the concept of ‘ecosystem services’ and how it can be applied to natural resource management. Visit our website to read and order copies of *Caring for our Natural Assets: An ecosystem services perspective* by Sally Collins and Elizabeth Larry.

www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/fs_publications

IPCC PUBLISHES THE SYNTHESIS REPORT: In November the International Panel on Climate Change released the final volume of *Climate Change 2007*. The Synthesis Report integrates scientific findings from the first three volumes into a policy perspective designed for use at the United Nations climate change conference in Bali this month and other future climate change discussions.

www.ipcc.ch