



# Sustainable Operations

*Creating Habits Today, Conserving Resources for Tomorrow*



U.S. Forest Service

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## FACT SHEET: GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES FOR BUSINESS OPERATIONS

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### History

- In 2007, the Forest Service (FS) became the first federal land management agency to join the EPA Climate Leaders program. This has assisted the FS in developing wide-ranging emissions measurement and mitigation strategies.
- From 2007-2010, the FS conducted five independent greenhouse gas (GHG) pilots at the Tongass National Forest, Francis Marion Sumter National Forest, the Washington Office Yates Building, the Pacific Southwest Region and Pacific Southwest Research Station, and the six National Forests in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).
- The GYA audit was the first inter-agency GHG inventory effort and included the participation of the FS, the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL). It serves as a model for all future GHG audits.

### Background

- In 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order (EO) 13514, “Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance,” which required all agencies to submit a comprehensive GHG inventory and establish a percentage reduction target.
  - The FS, along with USDA, plan to reduce Scopes 1 & 2 (21%) and Scope 3 (7%) GHG emissions in absolute terms by 2020, relative to a FY 2008 baseline.

### Purpose

- Facilitate the Agency’s understanding of its emission profile and help prioritize mitigation efforts
- Improve the performance of the FS in all six environmental footprint areas: energy, water, green purchasing, fleet and transportation, waste prevention and recycling, and sustainability leadership
- Engage employees and leadership to strategically address climate change
- Identify opportunities for short- and long-term cost-savings

### Year One

- Hosted inter-agency GHG inventory planning meeting with representatives from NREL, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the USDA to develop a comprehensive, agency-wide design to capture emissions.
- Calculated Scopes 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions data in preparation for submission of report by December 31, 2010
  - Scope 1: Sources that are owned or controlled by the institution (e.g., fleets)
  - Scope 2: Indirect emissions generated in the production of electricity (e.g., purchased steam)
  - Scope 3: Indirect emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the institution (e.g., commuting and employee business travel)

### Future

- Continue to comply with EO 13514 and submit annual GHG inventory reports
- Analyze results for downward reporting and communication with the field
- Make recommendations on how to reduce emissions in various sectors
- Encourage leadership to integrate sustainability objectives and build organizational capacity for future sustainability efforts

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- Relay successful practices to other departments and organizations