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Subject: Considering Climate Change in Land Management and Project Planning

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and
WO Directors

In a February 15, 2008, letter to the National Leadership Team, Chief Kimbell acknowledged the role and importance of climate change for forest management and the Forest Service. The Chief also established 16 high priority actions to address climate change for accomplishment in 2008. The Agency's *Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change* includes these 16 actions. The Washington Office, Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) Staff has responsibility for the following two actions.

#6. Provide guidance for field units on how to treat climate change in project planning and NEPA documents.

#7. Provide guidance for field units on how to treat climate change in forest plan revision.

Together these two guidance documents, *Climate Change Considerations in Project Level NEPA Analysis* and *Climate Change Considerations in Land Management Plan Revisions*, provide the Agency with the support needed to appropriately incorporate climate change into land management planning and project-level NEPA documentation. The guidance documents frame climate change with two fundamental challenges: how our management may influence climate change mainly through incremental changes to global pools of greenhouse gases and how climate change may affect our forests and grasslands.

These guidance documents will be dynamic and adaptive as we discover more about climate change science, its application to adaptation and mitigation strategies, and appropriate analysis at the unit and project scales. Collaborating closely with your Research counterpart in your planning processes will be critical to success.

These documents, supporting references, web links, literature, and examples are found the World Wide Web on the Agency Climate Change webpage at <http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange/>. The Climate Change Resource Center has practical tools and information for natural resource managers and decisionmakers <http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange/>.

Please direct planning questions to Bill Connelly (202) 205-0962 and NEPA questions to Peter Gaulke (202) 205-1521 on the Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff.

/s/ Joel D. Holtrop
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Enclosure



cc: pdl wo nfs emc nepa wo & regions
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