USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Strategic Plan Outcomes

Forest Landscapes that are resilient to disturbance, especially fire.

Enhanced benefits to urban communities from the natural environment.

Clean and reliable water resources.

Sustained Ecological resources and services.

Succeed as a high-performing research station.

Who We Are

About Us

PSW is a world leader in natural resources research through our scientific excellence and responsiveness to the needs of current and future generations.

Contact Us

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All PSW publications can be accessed through Treesearch: http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest
Research Station

800 Buchanan Street
Albany, CA 94510

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

Pacific Southwest Research Station

Forest Service September 2016

Monitoring fire behavior during a prescribed burn. (Klamath National Forest)

What Is a Strategic Framework?

Our research station plays an integral role in providing information and tools that help deliver and sustain benefits from forests and grasslands. To frame our work at the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW), we have established five robust outcomes: (1) forest landscapes that are resilient to disturbance, especially fire; (2) enhanced benefits to urban communities from the natural environment; (3) clean and reliable water resources; (4) sustained ecological resources and services; and (5) succeed as a high-performing research station. These outcomes represent lofty goals that - can only be achieved through broad and robust collaboration with many partners.

Pacific Fisher

PSW scientists working with partners in the field.

(1) Forest landscapes that are resilient to disturbance, especially fire

Disturbance, including fire, is an essential part of healthy ecosystems; however, wildlands and communities must be resilient to these disturbances to ensure they continue to provide desired services. For fire, the desired outcome is to have landscapes that are resilient to unintended wildland fires and that systems are fire-adapted or restored by managed or prescribed fires. More generally, we are striving to provide science that supports a future where large-scale disturbance is managed proactively to minimize destructive impacts.

(2) Enhanced benefits to urban communities from the natural environment

The Pacific Southwest is known for having tremendous cultural diversity, large urban centers, complex natural resource issues and biologically diverse landscapes. Densely populated urban centers are often less connected to the sources and benefits provided by forests and wildlands. These conditions create complex and often disjointed relationships between communities and ecosystems, culture and biodiversity, and humans and natural resources, all of which evolve in response to societal and environmental change. Our efforts aim to enhance the quality of life and the sustainability of species, communities and processes across landscapes.

(3) Clean and reliable water resources

California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands depend on reliable supplies of clean water, perhaps more than any other natural resource. Numerous federal, state and local public policies promote reliable water supplies to support environmental, municipal and agricultural uses. The quality, quantity and delivery of water resources are a function of watershed condition. The health of the entire watershed depends on well-informed management activities.

(4) Sustained ecological services

The benefits people derive from ecosystems sustain life and our socioeconomic infrastructure. Provisioning services such as food or wood, regulating services such as water purification, cultural services such as recreation, and supporting services such as soil formation are all derived from the environment. Land management, supported by science, strives to sustain these services for current and future benefits.

Researching Impacts of climate change on streams in Hawai`i.

(5) Succeed as a high-performing research station

In order to achieve our research outcomes, it is imperative that we operate as a high-performing scientific organization. To be the best we can be, we strive to create a workplace environment that can attract and retain top employees while meeting the public's present and future needs. We make the world a better place through our science, and this is only achievable through employees who are performing at their best and business practices that allow us to devote our time and energy to achieving this mission.