

# Introduction to the new National Program Leader for Social Science Research

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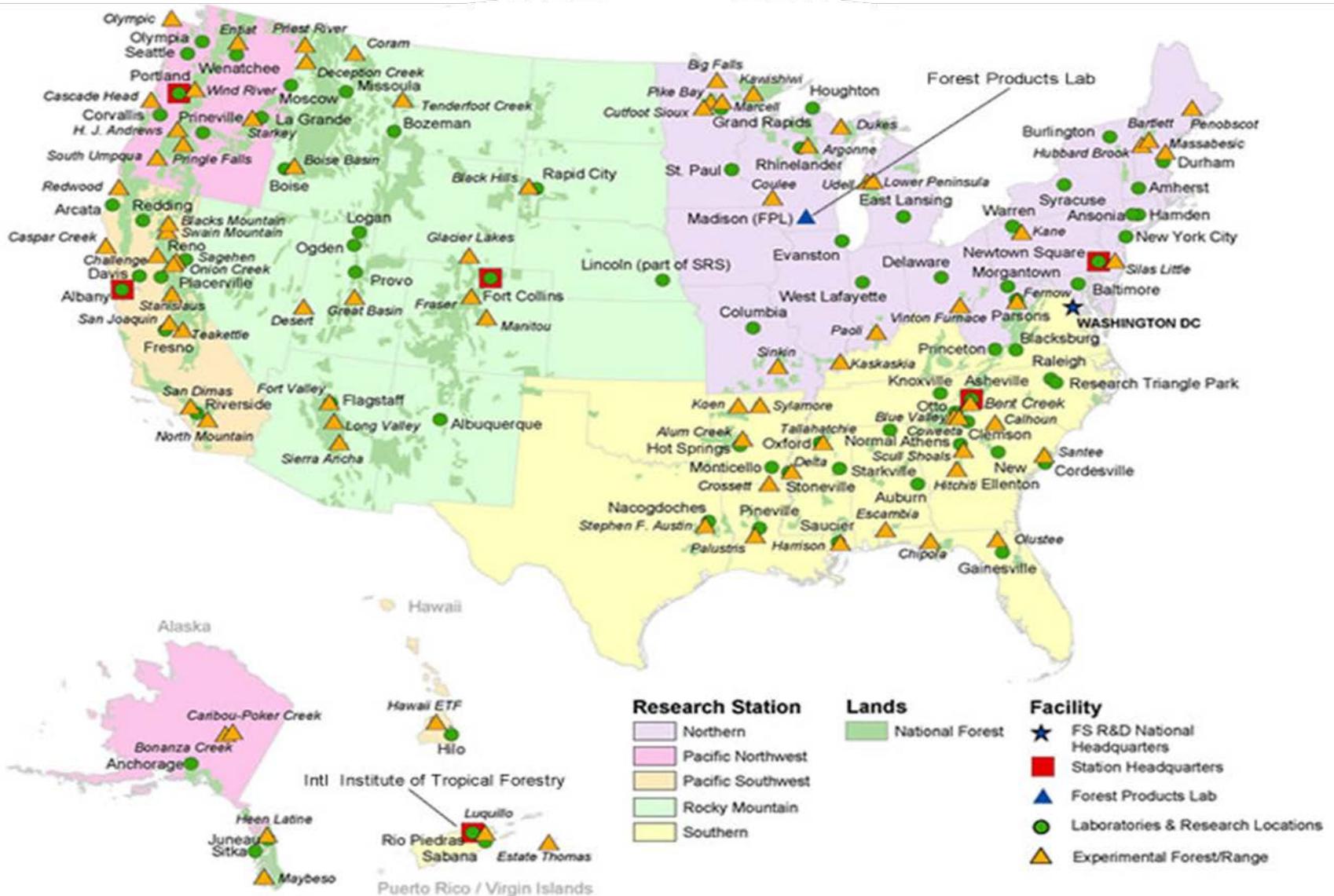
USDA Forest Service

Research & Development, Washington Office

# Introduction

- PhD – Purdue University – private landowner collaboration
- Knauss Sea Grant Marine Policy Fellow at the Oceanographer of the U.S. Navy
- Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State
- National Program Leader for Social Science Research in the Washington Office R&D

# Research & Development Locations



# Range of Social Science Disciplines

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Decision science
- Environmental psychology
- Futures research
- Human geography
- Landscape architecture
- Political science
- Psychology
- Recreation
- Sociology
- And others...



Source: FS NRS



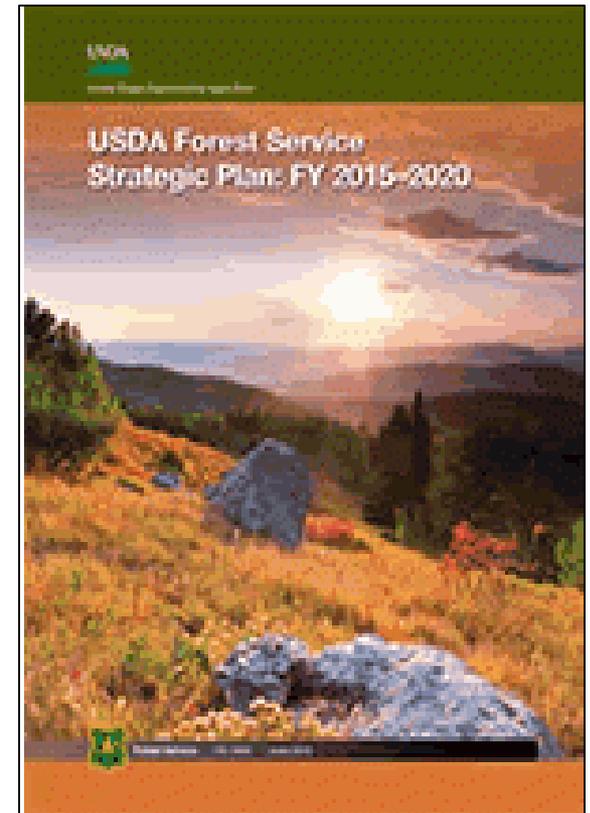
Source: FS NRS

# Why Forest Service Needs Social Science

- What are the social drivers of change? (demographic, landscape, organizational, institutional, etc)
- What are the implications of demographic change and population dynamics for natural resource management?
- How do people perceive and experience natural environments and places?
- What do people do on the land? Understanding uses and stewardship of natural resources and natural places.
- What value do people place on recreation opportunities? Where do they recreate? What are the projected trends?
- How do people value natural environments and how do environmental values affect decisions on public and private lands?
- How do people influence and respond to natural resource disturbances?
- How do people interact with planning/decision processes and how does this interaction affect land management?
- How can stewardship of natural resources help support human health and well-being?

# Forest Service Strategic Plan

- Sustain our nation's forests and grasslands
- Deliver benefits to the public
  - Provide abundant clean water
  - Strengthen communities
  - Connect people to the outdoors
- Apply knowledge globally
- Excel as high-performing agency



FS motto: *Caring for the land and serving people*

# Other Key Issues

- Climate change
- Restoration
- Fire
- Health and nature
- Environmental justice
- Collaboration/Community-based forestry
- Private forest landowners/land ownership
- Implementation of 2012 Planning Rule
- Others?



Source: FS

# Approach to Building Position

- Outreach to Stations
- Outreach to National Forest System
- Outreach to State & Private Forestry
- Interagency groups
- Partnerships with external groups
- Recommendations for communication of research externally and with public?



Source: FS

Researchers engaging with stakeholders in climate adaptation planning

# Possible Initial Areas of Focus

- Human health benefits from ecosystem services
- Urban natural resources stewardship & resilience
- Citizen science/ crowdsourcing
- Paperwork Reduction Act
- Working with my counterpart in the National Forest System



Source: FS CCS COP

# Your Input

- 2015 FRAC Report
  - Virtual Center of Social Science Excellence
  - Increase social science research capacity in partnership with universities, tribes, and private sector
  - Diversify areas of expertise
  - Landowner engagement
  - Value of working forests and sound forest management
- Additional recommendations?

# Additional Input

- Please reach out anytime:
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- Thank you for your time and input!

