A View from the WO: Forest Service Cross Deputy Area Projects (CDAPs) and What It's Like Working for a National Office

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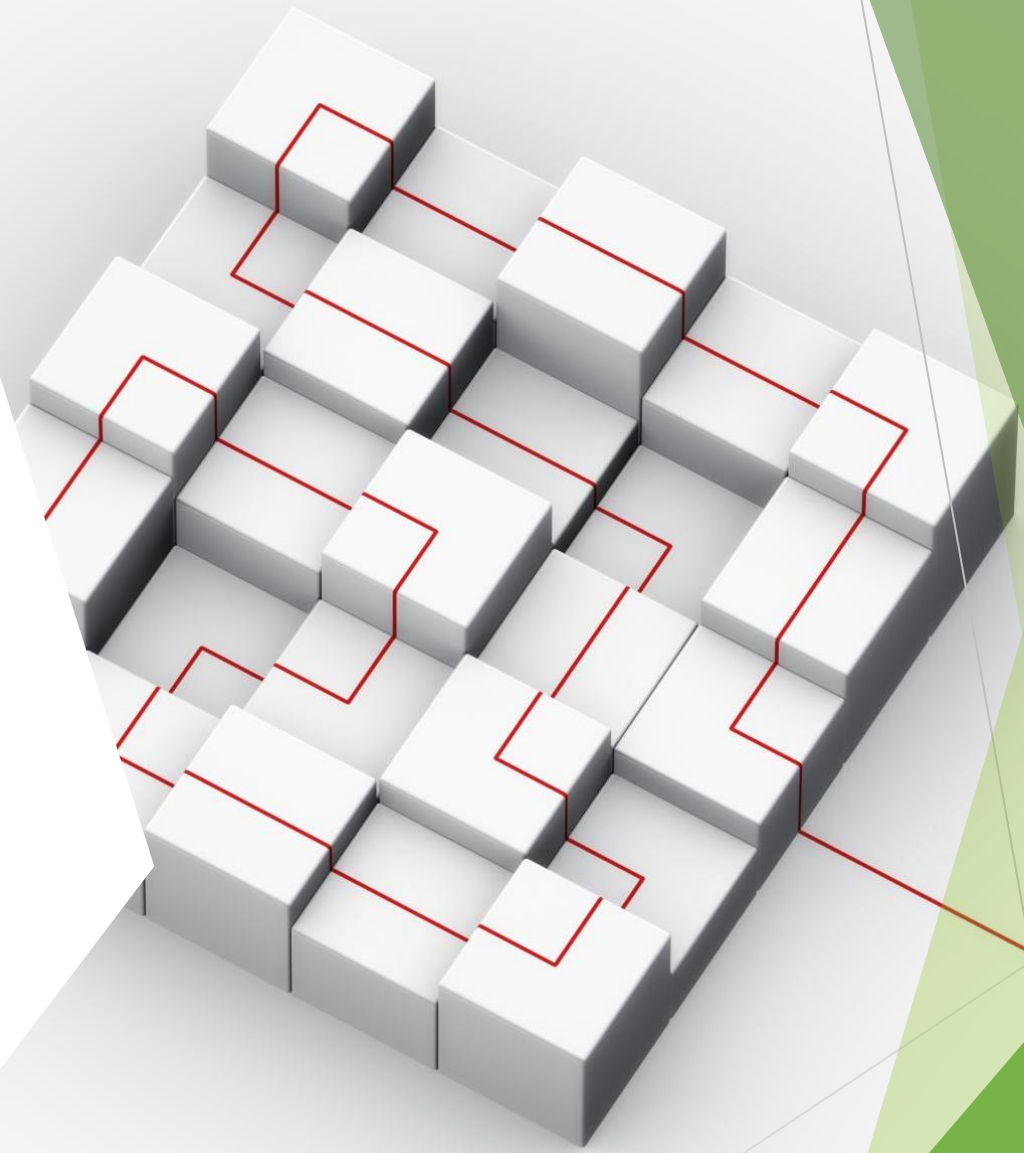

What is the Forest Service?

- We are a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres of land, roughly the size of Texas.

- We manage public lands in the form of national forests and grasslands, provide technical and financial assistance to state, private, and tribal forestry agencies and make up the largest forestry research organization in the world.

When and why was the Forest Service established?

- Congress established the Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the nation's benefit.

- Congress later directed the Forest Service to broaden its management scope for additional multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation.

What is the Forest Service mission?

- The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

What is the Forest Service motto?

- The Forest Service motto, “Caring for the Land and Serving People,” captures the spirit of our mission, which we accomplish through five main activities:
- Protection and management of natural resources on lands we manage.
- Research on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization.
- Community assistance and cooperation with State and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-Federal forest and associated range and watershed lands to improve conditions in rural areas.
- Achievement and support of an effective workforce that reflects the diversity of the American people.
- International assistance to formulate policy and coordinate U.S. support for the protection and sound management of the world's forest resources.

Philomena's Journey to the Forest Service National Partnership Office

Graduated from John Shaw High School after living in Mobile, Alabama for 18 years

Graduated from Dillard University and received B.S. degree in Mathematics/Physics

Graduated from Auburn University and received M.S. degree in Industrial Engineering (Engineering Economy/Project Management)

Worked for Navy as an Engineer/Tactical and Littoral Warfare Analyst as federal employee – 16 years

Worked for Forest Service Engineering as an Assistant Budget and Program Director – 7 years

Worked for Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigation Staff as an Assistant Director of Administration (Budget, IT, Meeting packages, ER,LR, EEO, CR, Training, etc.) – 2 years

Worked for Forest Service Research and Development Budget Staff – 8 + years

Detail for Forest Service National Partnership Office (8 months)

Conversation:

What's it like working for a national office?

- What is unique about working for a national office?
- What have you learned about:
  - Working with decision-makers and executives
  - National office practices and culture
  - Finding work-life balance

Conversation:

What's it like working for a national office?

- Who do you work with on a regular basis?
- How do you work with them?
- What does your peer network look like? Who do you go to for information, resources, and advice to do your job?

What is a Cross Deputy Area Project

Projects funded by two or more Deputy Areas that meet the objectives, mission and priorities of the Forest Service, Deputy Areas/Stations/Regions

- Forest Service Primary Deputy Areas are :
  - Research and Development
  - National Forest System
  - State and Private Tribal Forestry and
  - Business Operations
  - Nine Regions (1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9, 10)
  - Seven Stations (FPL, IITF, NRS, PNW, PSW, RMRS, SRS)

Research and Development

- Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) works at the forefront of science to improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands. Research has been part of the Forest Service mission since its inception in 1905. Forest Service research enhances the rigor and impact of the entire Agency.

- Our work directly informs management actions taken by the Forest Service, States, Tribes, and other land managers to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands. R&D conducts this work at five geographically based research stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, 81 Experimental Forest and Ranges, Urban Field Stations, and in our Washington D.C. headquarters.

National Forest System

- The National Forest System includes 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands, covering 193 million acres of land in 44 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These lands represent some of the Nation's greatest assets and have major economic, environmental, and social significance for millions of Americans. As directed by Congress, renewable forest resources such as water, timber, forage, wildlife, and recreation are managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Multiple use means managing resources under the best combination of uses to benefit the American people while ensuring the productivity of the land and protecting the quality of the environment. Sustained yield means that resources are managed to provide services and products at a level that can be sustained without harming the land's ability to continue producing those services and products.

State and Private Forestry

- The State, Private, and Tribal Forestry organization of the USDA Forest Service reaches across the boundaries of national forests to states, tribes, communities and non-industrial private landowners. The organization is the federal leader in providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the nation's forests and grasslands, protect communities from wildland fire and restore fire-adapted ecosystems. This federal investment leverages the capacity of state agencies and partners to manage state and private lands and produce ecological, social and economic benefits for the American people.

Business Operations

- Provides business policies processes and services in support of the Forest Service mission and programs.

- Through the use of technology, budget, contracting, and other administrative functions Business Operations provides essential services that the Agency's employees, partners, and stakeholders rely on to care for our natural resources.

Criteria used for selecting CDAPs

- Must be beneficial to Forest Service, Regions, Stations or Deputy Areas missions, objectives and priorities of the Deputy Areas
- Around 2014, Forest Service Deputy Chiefs met and decided how much their deputy areas would contribute to Cross Deputy Area projects
- Each Fiscal year funding levels “sometimes” vary depending on each deputy area funding levels and priorities


What work are you doing with inter-disciplinary teams or across different units?
Share in the chat box
Volunteer to expand

Giving Deputy Area (DA)	R&D	NFS	SPTF	Bus Ops	Total
# of 2023 Cross Deputy Area Projects (CDAPs) Funding lines DA contributed to	31	25	22	2	80

Data based on FS 2023 Net Availables

Net Availables

The Forest Service Net Available displays allocations by region/station/WO deputy area, and projects.

Regions that received Cross Deputy Area Project funding by Region (2023)

What NFS Regions out of a total of 9 received Cross Deputy area Project (CDAP) funding	Name of Project(s)	Total Funding
Region 2	Council of Western State Foresters	$771,000
Region 8	National Seed Lab	$261,500
Total Sum		$1,032,500

Total Funding of Cross Deputy Area Projects by Deputy Area (2021-2023)

Data based on Forest Service (FS) 2021-2023 Net Availables					
Deputy Area (DA)	R&D	NFS	SPTF	Bus Ops	Total
2023 Deputy Area CDAP Contribution (a little over $1.5M inc from FY22 in S&E for R&D)	4,538,573	2,749,362	3,331,500	190,000	10,809,435
2022 Deputy Area CDAP Contribution	2,716,700	2,374,136	1,203,500	0	6,294,336
2021 Deputy Area CDAP Contribution	3,542,223	4,289,969	7,262,498	318,000	15,412,690

Examples of Cross Deputy Area Projects by Deputy Area (2021-2023)

#	PROJECT/PROGRAM NAME	BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROJECTS	SPONSORING DEPUTY AREA	RECEIVING UNIT NAME	RECEIVING UNIT NUMBER
1	Middle East Activities	The Forest Service, through its International Programs (IP) and with support from its senior leadership, coordinates a robust program of technical exchange in the Middle East. This program historically centered on a collaboration with Jewish National Fund, through which Forest Service established critical relationships with important stakeholders in Israel. In 2010, these relationships facilitated the joint USFS-Government of Israel response to the fire emergency in northern Israel. In addition to mitigating impacts from the disaster, the Forest Service's contribution to the response achieved widespread acclaim from the White House as well as underscored the depth of the Agency's long-term partnership with Israel.	IP	IP	1327
2	International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF)	IITF International Cooperation (IC) provides for international research, technology transfer and technical assistance using IITF scientists to conduct research, function as mentors to Hispanic students and professionals in Latin America and conduct technology transfer and technical assistance to USAID and other donor organizations and conservation NGOS.	R&D	IITF	12
3	Digitop	Digitop is a partnership with 10 USDA agencies and the National Agriculture Library (NAL). • The Forest Service jointly purchases over 8,000 magazines, trade publications, journals, and databases with 10 other USDA agencies. • The joint purchases provides access to a significant amount of information at a deeply negotiated price. • NAL reports the Forest Service downloaded over 300,000 articles last year. • Forest Service employees account for 30% of Digitop's use, but we're only paying for 10% of the yearly maintenance.	R&D	RMRS	22
4	Innovation and Organizational Learning (formerly Human Dimensions)	The new Human Performance RD&A was chartered in summer 2014 by all four Deputy Chiefs to: 1) explore the state-of-knowledge and practice in the broad field of human performance (including psychology, , resilience, organizational learning, and risk). , 2) build situated knowledge of Forest Service work environments and employees, and 3) design and test interventions and delivery mechanisms to improve employee and	R&D	RMRS	22

Examples of Cross Deputy Area Projects by Deputy Area (2021-2023)

6	Western Threat Assessment Center	The Eastern Forest and Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Centers (EFETAC and WWETAC, collectively "The Centers") are internationally recognized for their work on comparative risk assessment, wildland fire modeling, threat interaction mapping, fuels treatment decision support systems, broad-scale vegetation monitoring, and climate change research. • The Centers partner with government agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations to improve our collective capacity to predict, detect, and assess threats to forests and wildlands. • The Centers help ensure resource managers and stakeholders have the latest information and technology to respond to emerging issues such as invasive species, climate change, carbon sequestration, fuels management, and wildland fire risk.	R&D	PNW	26
7	Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (IPIF)	With the support of International Programs, IPIF scientists and professionals participate in international forestry issues throughout the Pacific islands. Team members work closely with island forestry leaders, the Pacific Islands Committee of the Council of Western State Foresters, FS R5 (State & Private Forestry and Fire & Aviation Management), FS FIA, non-government organizations, and government agencies. The emphasis of IPIF's international programs work is to provide technical assistance and information to island forestry leaders throughout the Pacific in program areas including : 1) Restoration; 2) Forest Health; 3) Education; 4) Inventory, Planning, and Monitoring; 5) Global climate change and its impacts on island watersheds; and 6) Invasive species. One position (the assistant Pacific Islands Forester) is largely covered by these funds. (Ric Lopes and Briefing Papers)	R&D	PSW	27
8	Eastern Threat Assessment Center	The Eastern Forest and Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Centers (EFETAC and WWETAC, collectively "The Centers") are internationally recognized for their work on comparative risk assessment, wildland fire modeling, threat interaction mapping, fuels treatment decision support systems, broad-scale vegetation monitoring, and climate change research. • The Centers partner with government agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations to improve our collective capacity to predict, detect, and assess threats to forests and wildlands. • The Centers help ensure resource managers and stakeholders have the latest information and technology to respond to emerging issues such as invasive species, climate change, carbon sequestration, fuels management, and wildland fire risk.	R&D	SRS	33
9	Biotechnology Risk Assessment (BRAG) (Sent to USDA)	The purpose of the BRAG program is to provide Federal regulatory agencies with information that will assist them in making science-based decisions about the effects of introducing into the environment genetically engineered plants, microorganisms (including fungi, bacteria, and viruses), arthropods, fish, birds, mammals and other animals excluding humans. Investigations of effects on both managed and natural environments are relevant. The BRAG program accomplishes its purpose by providing Federal regulatory agencies with scientific information relevant to regulatory considerations derived from the risk assessment research that the program funds. NIFA, through successful grant applications, will use funds to conduct approved research objectives identified in the application.	R&D	WO R&D	1326
10	National Agroforestry Center (NAC)	These funds support the operation and maintenance of the National Agroforestry Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. They are sent to SRS because SRS provdes business operations and facilities support for the Center. These funds have been sent by WO R&D to SRS since the Center became a WO unit.	R&D	WO R&D	1326

Examples of Cross Deputy Area Projects by Deputy Area (2021-2023)

11	RPA Assessment	RPA Assessment – These funds are allocated to FS R&D scientists annually to meet the Forest Service Resources Planning Act Assessment responsibility to regularly report on the present and future status, trends, and conditions of the Nation's forest and grasslands plan and as such, benefits all Deputy Areas.	R&D	WO R&D	1326
12	Climate Change Hubs	Part is going to the Hubs and part is going to a Request for Proposal. Develop and deploy forest and grassland management systems for a changing climate. Research is needed to understand how to manage forest and grassland systems to produce the needed goods, services and values in the future. Stations will develop knowledge and decision support tools to equip land owners, communities, managers and policy makers to enhance the health, productivity and resilience of our Nation's forests and grasslands.	R&D	WO R&D	1512
13	Landscape Change Monitoring System Development -IRDB Project	Landscape Change Monitoring System (LCMS) Science Team. Long time series of Landsat satellite imagery are a rich source of information about how land cover has changed over the years. Landsat has recorded spatial patterns of disturbance and recovery in forests that are critical for understanding trends in resources such as carbon, water, habitat, and fiber. In conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, and numerous universities, the Forest Service is leading the Landscape Change Monitoring System (LCMS) Science Team. This group is comprised of remote sensing scientists to identify and improve the state of the art in processing Landsat time series for land cover change mapping.	R&D	Geospatial – Salt Lake City	1304
14	National Land Cover Database (NLCD) Tree Canopy Cover SS - IRDB Project	The National Land Cover Database (NLCD) Percent Tree Canopy Collection is a product of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and is produced through a cooperative project conducted by the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium. The MRLC Consortium is a partnership of Federal agencies, consisting of the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, NASA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A primary goal of the MRLC Consortium is to generate current, consistent, and seamless national datasets of land cover, percent developed imperviousness, and percent tree canopy.	R&D	RMRS	22
15	National Seed Lab	All 3 deputy areas fund the lab because it's a national lab. The seed lab tests tree and botany seed to make sure seed is viable. The seed lab also develops protocols on how to collect and test native plant seed (small plants, not trees). (Vanessa Hampton , Region 8 Budget Analyst)	S&PF	Southern Region	8

Examples of Cross Deputy Area Projects by Deputy Area (2021-2023)

16	Wood Works	The Forest Service maintains a long-term partnership with Woodworks to support science delivery, education, project assistance and technology transfer to practicing design and construction professionals through the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) and State & Private Forestry – Cooperative Forestry/Wood Innovations (S&PF). Funding for FY2018 includes $1.0 million from FPL and $1.2 million from S&PF. WoodWorks is well positioned to play a unique role in the industry by working directly with building design and construction professionals, removing barriers to wood use in commercial and multifamily construction projects and creating wood design experts. This is accomplished by providing project assistance, education, and other resources related to the design of non-residential and multi-family wood buildings.	S&PF	FPL	11
17	Council of Western State Foresters	This line item is used for joint projects with the Western State foresters. In FY17, it is being used for a video project on Wildfire Risk Management (actually through a BE transfer to PSWRS) (Chris Farley). Out of the allocation going to Region 2, $707,000 is to go to the Council of Western State Foresters for their west-wide coordination efforts, including their work with the Western Forestry leadership Coalition. $40,000 of FRRE funds are drawn from allocations to the Western Regions . p. 12-3 of FY 2013 Final Program Direction.	S&PF	RMRS	22
18	Fire Modeling Institute	Funds are research contributions to the Fire Modeling Institute (FMI)--see attached draft revised Charter, which supports the National Fire Plan by providing analytical and technical support for hazardous fuels mitigation, community wildfire protection, and forest hesalth management. Projects include the Fire Effects Information System (FEIS), geospatial analysis, fire behavior analysis, and technical support for softwaare and applications used by the wildland fire community.	S&PF	RMRS	22
19	Conservation Education	Conservation Education helps fund: 1) Identifying and analyzing peer-reviewed research that demonstrates the impact of environmental education on a range of outcome areas; 2) Working with communication professionals to disseminate research findings to professionals in the field and to translate the findings into fact sheets and other communication tools that promote the value and impact of environmental education to a variety of audiences (dissemination will occur through digital tools, seminars, field training, articles, and social media); 3) Supporting leadership development, mentoring, and research in conservation education through NAAEE professional development opportunities; 4) Engaging the environmental community, including federal agencies, nonprofit partners, and others, to better articulate the importance and value of environmental and conservation education.	S&PF	WO S&PF	1325
20	Natural Inquirer	Natural Inquirer is a science education journal and family of products that are based directly on published Forest Service science and the careers of Forest Service scientists. The Natural Inquirer Program reaches students and teachers in grades K-12. The program teaches students, teachers, and parents about the Forest Service and Forest Service Research and Development, while encouraging critical scientific thinking and direct education about natural resource sciences, the scientific process, and natural science careers.	S&PF	WO S&PF	1325

Examples of Cross Deputy Area Projects by Deputy Area (2021-2023)

21	Special Technology Development Program	A program to apply research results by developing cutting edge technologies and field operation methods that improve the ability of field specialists to restore and protect America's forests. The Special Technology Development Program is administered at the national level and funds are provided by Forest Health Protection, Forest Service Research, the Eastern Environmental Threat Assessment Center, and the Western Environmental Threat Assessment Center. Projects submitted to this Program must contribute to fulfilling the Forest Health Protection (FHP) mission: To protect and improve the health of America's rural, wildland, and urban forests - i.e. must address forest insects, forest pathogens and diseases, and invasive plants. The objective of the FHP Special Technology Development Program is to quickly move mature research findings into practical applications by developing or improving technologies that increase our ability to manage and restore forest systems through prevention, detection, and response to forest insects, pathogen, and invasive species. National STDP Priorities are set by the FHP Directors, which if met, will give a higher ranking to proposals. STDP national program priorities are: 1. Technologies that address diagnostics and screening tools that lead to the early detection of high priority emerging invasive species. 2. Technologies that help quantitatively assess the impacts or risks of multiple interacting threats, including native/invasive insects and diseases, invasive plants, fire, as well as environmental disturbances and change. 3. Technologies that address destructive pests of understudied ecosystems (for example, but not limited to redbay, black ash, pinyon pine/juniper, higher elevation pines). The objective of the FHP Special Technology Development Program is to quickly move mature research findings into practical applications by developing or improving technologies that increase our ability to manage and restore forest systems through prevention, detection, and response to forest insects, pathogen, and invasive species. National STDP Priorities are set by the FHP Directors, which if met, will give a higher ranking to proposals. STDP national program priorities are: 1. Technologies that address diagnostics and screening tools that lead to the early detection of high priority emerging invasive species. 2. Technologies that help quantitatively assess the impacts or risks of multiple interacting threats, including native/invasive insects and diseases, invasive plants, fire, as well as environmental disturbances and change. 3. Technologies that address destructive pests of understudied ecosystems (for example, but not limited to redbay, black ash, pinyon pine/juniper, higher elevation pines).	S&PF	WO S&PF	S&PF Later allocations

Thanks,
Closing Remarks and Questions