



# Forest Utilization Research and Outreach (FUR)

2010-2014

STRATEGIC PLAN

# **Forest Utilization Research and Outreach**

## **Mission Statement**

The effect of the Forest Utilization Research and Outreach (FUR) program is to increase the productivity of Idaho's forest lands by conceiving, analyzing, and developing methodologies that improve intensive forest harvesting practices, improve and increase wood use and wood residue utilization technologies, improve forest regeneration, forest and rangeland restoration, and nursery management practices, demonstrate state-of-the-art scientifically, socially and environmentally sound forest and range nursery, regeneration, and management practices, provide through the Policy Analysis Group unbiased factual and timely information on natural resources issues facing Idaho's decision makers.

FUR is located in the College of Natural Resources at The University of Idaho, which is an internationally recognized land-grant research institution combining research, outreach, graduate, and professional education.

We emphasize quality and access, by strategically investing in distinctive and relevant programs and facilities. Through collaboration and consultation we undertake initiatives designed to promote science, technology, and their applications to support sustainable lifestyles and civic infrastructures of Idaho's communities in an increasingly interdependent and competitive global setting.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The scholarly, creative, and educational activities related to and supported by the Forest Utilization Research (FUR) will lead to improved capabilities in Idaho's workforce and beyond to address critical natural resource issues by producing new knowledge and leaders in the areas of forest regeneration, fire science and management, and forest ecosystem services and products, especially bio-energy.

This work will be shaped by a passion to fuse scientific knowledge with best natural resource management practices to promote learning partnerships and collaboration across organizational boundaries such as governments, private sector enterprises, landowners and non-governmental organizations to catalyze entrepreneurial innovation in the natural resource sector and to steward the natural environment.

# Forest Utilization Research and Outreach (FUR)

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

### Goal 1: Scholarship and Creativity

*Achieve excellence in scholarship and creative activity through an institutional culture that values and promotes strong academic areas and interdisciplinary collaboration among them.*

**Objective A:** Promote an environment that increases faculty engagement in interdisciplinary scholarship.

**Strategies:**

1. Use hiring to strengthen interdisciplinary scholarship that advances the college's strategic themes and land-grant mission directly linked to FUR.
2. Establish, renew, remodel, and reallocate facilities to encourage collaborative interdisciplinary inquiry and provide access to information resources and innovative technologies.

**Performance Measures:**

Number of CNR faculty involved in interdisciplinary, FUR related scholarship.  
Laboratories and field facilities that support FUR interdisciplinary inquiry.

**Benchmarks:**

Number of faculty and number of facilities meet targets set for interdisciplinary Forest Utilization Research in CNR

**Objective B:** Emphasize scholarly and creative activities that support the college's strategic themes, the research-extensive and land-grant missions, and strategically important graduate and professional programs.

**Strategies:**

1. Enhance scholarly modes of discovery, application and integration that address issues of importance to the citizens of Idaho that improve forest and rangeland regeneration, nursery management practices, forest and rangeland productivity, fire science and management, ecosystems services and products.
2. Build strategic research and technological transfer activities statewide and regionally through unbiased analyses of the Policy Analysis Group.

**Performance Measure:**

Products and services provided by CNR for statewide FUR stakeholders

**Benchmark:**

Number of service events and total participants in CNR events provided for FUR stakeholders.

### Goal 2: Outreach and Engagement

*Engage with the public, private and non-profit sectors through mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance teaching, learning, discovery, and creativity.*

**Objective A:** Build upon, strengthen, and connect the College of Natural Resources with other parts of the University to engage in mutually beneficial partnerships with stakeholders to address areas targeted in FUR.

**Strategies:**

1. Enhance the capacity of the College of Natural Resources to engage with communities by involving faculty and students in programs relevant to local and regional issues.
2. Engage with communities and organizations through flexible partnerships that share resources and respond to local needs and expectations.
3. Foster key industry/business relationships that benefit entrepreneurship and social and economic development through innovation and technology transfer that will increase the productivity of Idaho's forests, rangelands, and waterways.

**Performance Measure:**

Cases served: examples include: communities served; workshops/tours conducted; FUR stakeholder attendees; invited presentations; research, teaching and service projects; research studies completed/published; private landowners assisted and seedling research projects.

**Benchmark:**

Meeting target numbers for examples above.

**Goal 3: Teaching and Learning**

*Engage students in a transformational experience of discovery, understanding, and global citizenship.*

**Objective A:** Develop effective integrative learning activities to engage and expand student minds.

**Strategies:**

1. Provide undergraduate, graduate and professional students with education and research opportunities in nursery management, wood utilization technologies, forest and rangeland regeneration and restoration, fire science and management, and ecosystem services.
2. Integrate educational experiences into research programs at CNR outdoor laboratories, including the college Experimental Forest, the Forest Nursery complex, and McCall campus.
3. Engage alumni and stakeholders as partners in research, learning, and outreach.

**Performance Measures:**

FUR learning and research opportunities integrated into CNR undergraduate, graduate and professional capacity building programs on and off University of Idaho campuses and sites.

FUR learning, research and opportunities involving alumni and stakeholders on and off University of Idaho campuses and sites.

**Benchmark:**

Meeting target numbers for activities proposed above.