



University of Idaho
Forest Utilization Research and
Outreach (FUR)

2012-2016

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 and range 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 and rangeland 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 to address critical natural resource issues by producing new knowledge and leaders in the areas of forest regeneration, fire science and management, forest ecosystem services and products, and rangeland science and management.

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, student, and constituency engagement in disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Strategies:

1. Upgrade and development of university human resource competencies (faculty, staff and students) to strengthen disciplinary and 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 funded collaborative disciplinary and interdisciplinary inquiry in alignment with FUR.

Performance Measures:

- Number of CNR faculty, staff, students and constituency groups involved in FUR related scholarship or capacity building activities.
- Non-FUR funding leveraged by FUR funded indoor and outdoor laboratories, field facilities, and teaching, research and outreach programs.

Benchmarks:

Numbers of CNR faculty, staff, students and constituency groups set as of 2010 level with an ongoing objective for them to stay the same or increase based on the investment level in this aspect of FUR programming

Start with a 3:1 return on investment ratio meaning every one dollar of FUR state funding leverages at least three non-FUR funded dollars from other sources

Objective B: Emphasize scholarly and creative outputs that reflect our research-extensive and land-grant missions, the university and college's strategic themes, and stakeholder needs, especially when they directly support our academic programming in natural resources.

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, and ecosystems services and products.
2. Create new products, technologies, protocols and processes useful to private sector natural resource businesses, governmental and non-governmental enterprises/operating units.
3. Conduct research and do unbiased policy analyses to aid decision-makers and citizens understanding of natural resource and land use policy issues.

Performance Measure:

- An accounting of products (i.e., seedlings produced, research reports, refereed journal articles) and services (i.e., protocols for new species shared with stakeholders, policy education programs and materials provided, accessible data bases) created and delivered including an identification of those which are recognized and given credibility by external reviewers via being licensed, patented, published in refereed journals, etc.

- Number of external stakeholders (non-university entities) that request information and/or consultancies on FUR funded protocols for technologies or knowledge related to programs such as regeneration of native plants and seedlings, fire science, wood residue utilization, forest and rangeland restoration, etc.

Benchmark:

Numbers and types of products and services delivered and stakeholders serviced as of 2006-09 average levels level with an ongoing objective for them to stay the same or increase based on investment levels in this aspect of FUR programming during the defined period.

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, governmental and non-governmental 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:

Document cases:

- Communities served and resulting documentable impact;
- Governmental agencies served and resulting documentable impact
- Non-governmental agencies and resulting documentable impact
- Private businesses and resulting documentable impact
- Private landowners and resulting documentable impact

Benchmark:

Meeting target numbers for audiences identified above as well as developing and experimenting with a scale for measuring documentable impact.

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 including bioproducts, forest and rangeland regeneration and restoration, fire science and management, and ecosystem services.

2. Integrate educational experiences into ongoing FUR and non-FUR 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:

- Number and diversity (as measured by variety of academic programs impacted) of courses which use full or partially FUR funded projects, facilities or equipment to educate, undergraduate, graduate and professional students.
- Number of hits on PAG and other FUR related web-sites, and where feasible number of documents or other products downloaded by stakeholders.

Benchmark:

Meeting or being above target numbers for the audiences and programming proposed above as per investment in a given funding cycle.

EXTERNAL FACTORS AFFECTING ABILITIES TO REACH GOALS

The key external factors likely to affect our ability to reach or exceed targets are as follows: (1) the availability of funding from sources we align with the state provided FUR funding; (2) changes in human resources due to retirements or employees relocating due to better employment opportunities; (3) continued uncertainty relative to global, national and regional economic conditions; (4) uncertainty associated with Idaho's commitment to retaining quality higher education programming associated with the land grant education mission; and (5) changing demand for the state and region's ecosystem services and products.