

Part 1 – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

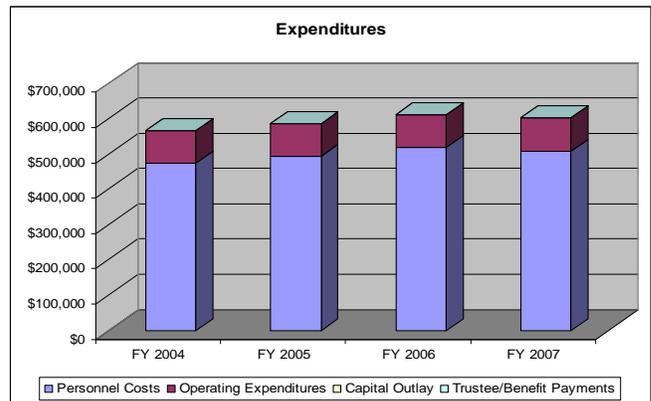
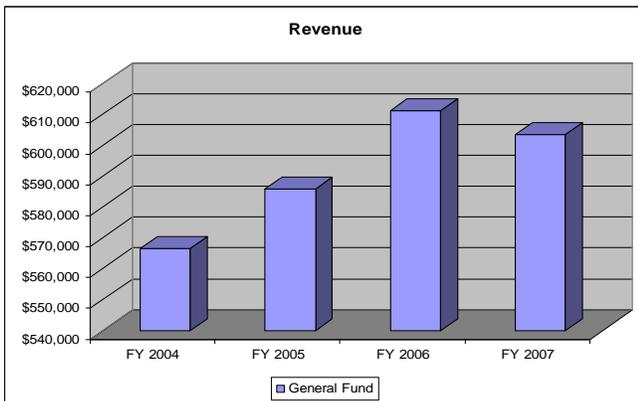
Research into forestry, forest nursery, and related areas is the mission of this program. Part of the College of Natural Resources, Forest Utilization Research also includes the Policy analysis Group which is charged with performing objective research into the critical natural resource issues facing this state and region.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Forest Utilization Research House Bill No. 795

Revenue and Expenditures:

Revenue	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Fund	\$ 566,500	\$ 585,800	\$ 611,000	\$ 603,400
Total	\$ 566,500	\$ 585,800	\$ 611,000	\$ 603,400
Expenditure	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personnel Costs	\$ 473,100	\$ 492,400	\$517,600	\$ 508,200
Operating Expenditures	93,400	93,400	93,400	95,200
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	0	0	0	0
Total	\$ 566,500	\$ 585,800	\$ 611,000	\$ 603,400



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Experimental Forest	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Conduct workshop/tours	12	12	11	13
Policy Analysis Group	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Invited Presentations each year	12	12	14	17
Forest Nursery	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Research/Teaching/Service: Conduct workshop/tours	70	65	70	70
Provide assistance to land owners regarding species selection, etc.	2100	2100	2200	2200
Seedling Industry Research: Conduct workshop/tours	18	06	20	20

Part II – Performance Measures

Experimental Forest	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	Benchmark
New research projects per year	2	2	4	3	3
Publications per year	2	2	2	2	2
Policy Analysis Group	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	Benchmark
Briefs/reports and/or publications	10	10	13	13	10
Forest Nursery	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	Benchmark
Research/Teaching/Service: New projects per year	3	4	4	5	4
Seedling Industry Research: New projects per year	2	3	3	3	3
Publications per year	10	10	6	5	10

Performance Highlights

Experimental Forest:

The University of Idaho Experimental Forest (UIEF) continues to function as a research, teaching, and demonstration facility for the College of Natural Resources, the University of Idaho and the State of Idaho. The forest hosts and facilitates basic and applied research in natural resources. Annual operations in timber harvesting and domestic animal grazing are designed to promote research, teaching and demonstration opportunities to the faculty. For the past thirty-five years, the temporary (non-benefits) workforce has been students from the College of Natural Resources. The practical knowledge and hands-on experience provided by the forest staff (two) enhances and supplements their college education and increases dramatically their prospects for employment.

The UIEF is a premier site for forest practices educational tours and workshops. UIEF staff, state extension foresters, faculty, high school teachers and private groups are hosted in this regard and the State FFA forestry development events are conducted by the UIEF staff. Faculty and graduate students most often find their desired research criteria on the forest when conducted to general and specific locations by UIEF staff.

Thesis completed (pubs. pending) – A master level study investigating native rodents and their seed preferences – could they be effective reducing the adverse impacts of non-native plants: On GF and DF habitat types, this study will assess the response of non-native seeds and seedlings to the conditions in the natural communities of the western United States. The study will measure light levels, quantify the seed type and quantity of seed removal by rodents, study the effects of fungal pathogen attack on seeds and seedlings, study the effects of competition between and within native and non-native species, and capture rodents for laboratory seed predation studies.

Thesis completed (pubs. pending) - A master level research investigation to determine the atypical outward appearing cankers on infected white pine from the white pine blister rust on the F2 generation –are they a clear indicator of a significantly reduced stem girdling rate resulting in tree death? The affirmative finding provides a low cost method of predicting survival in F2 generation white pine. Prior to this study and other similar studies, stem cankers in the F2 generation, as in the F1 generation, were thought to girdle and kill the infected trees before they reached any appreciable size.

Tree nutrition and mountain pine beetle: This study was delayed one year and is now underway. The study examines the influence of nitrogen fertilization on mountain pine beetle attacking lodgepole pine. Studying the movement of nitrogen from tree to beetle is a key element. Various parameters of the beetle’s biology must be

measured to determine the process by which beetles obtain their nutritional requirements from the tree and to examine the connection between tree nutrition and the development of bark beetle outbreaks.

Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative (IETIC), based at the College of Natural Resources (CNR), utilizes the UIEF as a safe location to maintain a five acre white pine grafted clone bank (selected stock of desirable genetics). Currently a UIEF twenty acre site for a ponderosa pine and western larch grafted clone bank is under review by cooperators. The UIEF benefits, not only as a IETIC cooperator, but as a UI facility fulfilling its roll to support the timber industry within the State of Idaho by supporting and protecting this significant work of IETIC to identify, secure, improve through breeding, preserve for the future, and transfer to cooperators and others the improved seed of these conifers valuable to a competitive and thriving timber industry.

Policy Analysis Group:

Publication highlights included a Policy Analysis Group peer-reviewed report on the economic contribution of the forest products industry in Idaho, a PAG Issue Brief on ecosystem service market potentials, and an article on carbon markets. Presentation highlights included invited testimony to the Resources and Environment Committee of the Idaho Senate on the role of the forest products industry in Idaho, and a briefing paper presented to the Wildland Fire Leadership Council on reducing wildfire risks with hazardous fuel reduction projects and supplying woody biomass to create utilization opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

Forest Nursery:

There is an increasing interest in native plant production for restoration and conservation needs. In response to this trend, the research nursery is conducting research on seed treatments and cultural practices to improve seedling quality and nursery production efficiency for container-grown seedlings. Collaborative research with other agencies to improve out-planting success and nursery stock quality is also underway.

For More Information Contact

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