

Part 1 – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

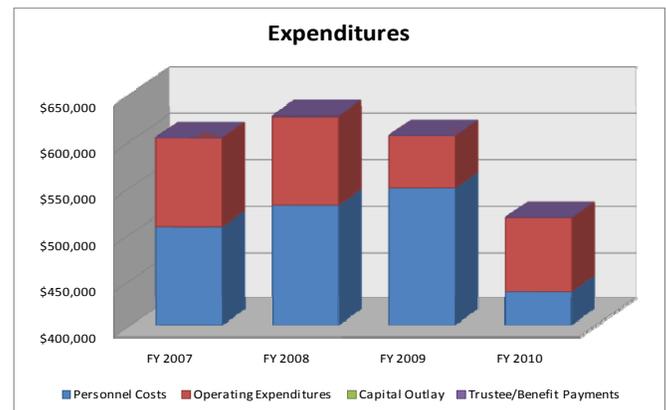
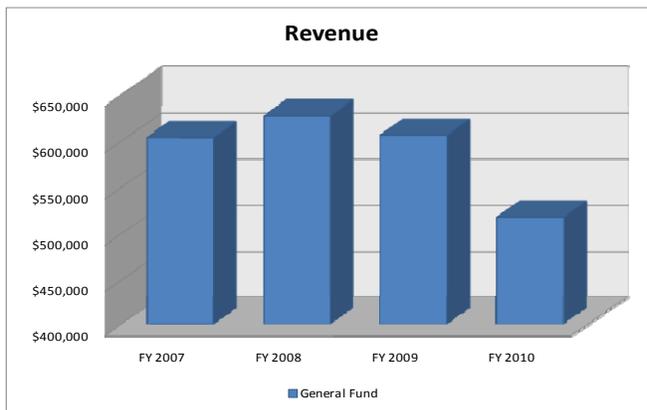
Research into forestry, forest nursery, and related areas is the mission of this program. Part of the College of Natural Resources, Forest Utilization Research also includes the Policy Analysis Group which has a legislative mandate to provide objective data and analysis pertinent to natural resource and land-use issues as suggested by an advisory committee of Idaho’s natural resource leaders.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Forest Utilization Research House Bill No. 795

Revenue and Expenditures:

Revenue	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
General Fund	\$ 603,400	\$ 626,600	\$ 605,900	\$ 517,500
Total	\$ 603,400	\$ 626,600	\$ 605,900	\$ 517,500
Expenditure	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Personnel Costs	\$ 508,200	\$ 531,400	\$541,100	\$ 437,700
Operating Expenditures	95,200	95,200	64,800	79,800
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	0	0	0	0
Total	\$ 603,400	\$ 626,600	\$ 605,900	\$ 517,500



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Number of Private Landowners Assisted: Pitkin Forest Nursery	2200	1500	1600	1300
Number of Seedling Industry Research Projects: Pitkin Forest Nursery	5	2	2	2
Number of:				
- Research Projects:				
Experimental Forest	3	6	13	8
Pitkin Forest Nursery	5	10	11	10
- Teaching Projects:				
Experimental Forest	70	50	28	30
Policy Analysis Group	17	12	25	26
Pitkin Forest Nursery	20	5	5	5
- Service Projects:				
Policy Analysis Group	17	12	19	14
Pitkin Forest Nursery	70	10	12	15

Performance Highlights:**Experimental Forest:**

In FY2010 seven (8) CNR faculty members conducted fifteen (14) distinct classes on experimental forest lands summarized as follows:

1. FOR 274 Forest Measurement & Inventory; A. Smith; 35 students (2 trips)
2. FOR 330 Forest Ecosystem Processes; K. Kavanagh; 31 students (2 trips and 3 labs)
3. FOR424 Forest Dynamics & Mgt.; K. Kavanagh; 12 students (2 trips and 14 labs)
4. FOR426 Wildland Fire Mgt. & Ecology; P. Morgan; 31 students (1-2 trips)
5. FOR 427 Prescribed Burning Lab; P. Morgan; 17 students; (4-5 trips)
6. FOR463 Hydrologic Measurement Techniques-Snowpack Properties Lab; T. Link; 5-16 students (1 trip)
7. FOR468 Forest & Plant Pathology; G. Newcombe; 18 students (1 trip)
8. FOR469 Introduction to Forest Insects; S. Cook; 19 students (1 trip)
9. FOR474 Forest Inventory; A. Smith; 25 students (2 trips and data used in additional on-campus labs)
10. FOR529 Forest Ecosystem Analysis; K. Kavanagh; 9 students (2 trips)
11. FOR569 Advanced Forest Entomology; S. Cook; 6 students (2 trips)
12. NR101 Exploring Nat. Resources; P. Morgan, S. Cook; 91 students (4 trips)
13. REM357 Rangeland & Riparian Habitat Assessment; Beth Newingham; students (1 trip)
14. FORP434 Forest Engineering and Harvesting; 15 students (4 trips)

The experimental forest promotes hands-on education as a significant and valuable supplement to a college education. Since 1972 the UIEF has hired College of Natural Resources Students in significant numbers as the work force of choice to provide the hands-on education spoken of in policy and to accomplish management objectives. In fact, student employees may be considered natural resources interns as they are taught job skills well beyond what is required to accomplish the work-at-hand, are required to think critically and solve problems on a daily basis. Some work assignments may be considered to include technology transfer as students learn to use state-of-the-art equipment and techniques. In FY2010 due to budget reductions no students were employed.

Returning for the twentieth (21st) year to the experimental forest was the State FFA Career Development Events Forestry Competition. Experimental forest staff set up and ran the competition events as defined by the State FFA organization. Our outreach programs attract Idaho citizens of all ages and all walks of life from school teachers to practicing foresters.

Policy Analysis Group:

Publication highlights included two Policy Analysis Group series reports: PAG #30, “Bighorn sheep and domestic sheep situation in Idaho,” and PAG #29, “Public land exchanges: benefits, challenges, and potential for Idaho.” These were presented to the House Resources and Conservation Committee, along with the Forestry Task Force report on wood bioenergy opportunities and challenges in the state. The PAG Director chairs this committee for the Idaho Strategic Alliance and wrote the report. It also was delivered to the legislature’s Interim Committee on Energy and Environment. Other publications included PAG Issue Brief #12 on the federal Biomass Crop Assistance Program for cash payments to forest operators hauling woody biomass to qualifying facilities, and proceedings of a conference in Boise on “Climate Change, Bioenergy and Sustaining the Forests of Idaho and Montana.” Presentations focused on one or more aspects of the interrelated nature of forest management, wood bioenergy economics, and carbon sequestration, emphasizing that active forest management provides a “triple win” by improving forest conditions to enhance wildfire resiliency and wildlife habitat, providing renewable energy feedstocks, and revitalizing rural communities by putting people to work in Idaho’s forests and wood products manufacturing facilities. The Director actively engaged in numerous state, regional and national task forces and committees dealing with policy issues of great importance to Idaho, including the Carbon Issues Task Force for the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance, and co-chairing the Biomass Utilization and Energy Production Subcommittee for the Western Governors’ Association’s Forest Health Advisory Committee.

Pitkin Forest Nursery:

The University of Idaho Pitkin Forest Nursery, administered through the College of Natural Resources with guidance from stakeholders, emphasizes the tripartite components of a land grant university: teaching, research, and service. The nursery program has served the conservation needs of Idahoans since 1909. The mission of this program, achieved through our staff, students, collaborators, and facilities, focuses on native plant regeneration. We teach students and professionals, conduct relevant research, and serve the native plant industry and Idahoans by sharing information and producing high-quality nursery stock.

Continuing to expand on recent projects that address the forest management needs of Idaho, extensive collaboration with the Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative and the Intermountain Forest Tree Nutrition Cooperative has been undertaken. As well, projects are underway to improve nursery and field restoration and management practices collaborating within and outside the College of Natural Resources to attain maximum impact. Current research areas include forest and range regeneration and restoration, improving understanding of seed germination, the effect of nursery culture on seedling quality assessment, evaluation of potential detrimental effects of herbicide application, and water conservation in nursery settings. 2009-10 saw four graduate students working towards degrees through the facilities at the Pitkin Forest Nursery. A PhD student’s research, including a component entitled “Marked, biased, filter: use of digital X-radiography and mark-recapture to partition seed lots based on sampled individual seed quality attributes” may dramatically increase our efficiency of seed use in forest management. Two master’s level students are also focused on seed and seedling processes, in particular in regarding strategies for improving native plant seed germination and survival for enhanced restoration success.

Forest Utilization Research support has resulted in external support to further enhance our infrastructure, and in 2009-10 this included leveraging funds to receive support from the USDA Forest Service to document nursery practices for training purposes (\$100,000) and private industry support to improve nursery practices (Jiffy Corporation, \$55,000). As well, the improvement in our facilities has resulted in the hosting of several workshops and training sessions aimed at improving forest management practices in Idaho. These included first ever joint meeting of the Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association, Intertribal Nursery Council, and Intermountain Container Seedling Growers’ Association. Held in Moscow, the meeting provided a synergistic platform for more than 100 people to exchange important information about native plant production and restoration, as well as a three-day short course on Advanced Reforestation and Regeneration for natural resource professionals, which was extremely well received by resource managers of the northern Rocky Mountains.

Approximately 360,000 seedlings were produced and supplied to over 1300 stakeholders in 2009-10. We continue to produce high quality seedlings and are working with landowners to help ensure continued productivity and financial returns from their land in challenging economic times. Expanded training in proper seedling care has helped landowners see a means of reducing loss of seedlings due to mortality, with an end result being more effectively managed reforestation and restoration projects. Stakeholders range from non-industrial private forestland owners to large companies and conservation districts. In addition, the program has maintained a state-of-the-art presence in technology transfer through hosting www.nativeplantnetwork.org, a website dedicated to the sharing of information regarding native plant propagation. This website is a highly valuable tool used by nursery growers and restoration professionals throughout Idaho and across North America.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Benchmark
Number of New Research Projects Per Year:					
Experimental Forest	3	4	6	5	4
Pitkin Forest Nursery	5	4	5	5	5
Number of Research Studies Completed/Published Per Year	2	3	3	7	5
Number of publications:					
Experimental Forest	2	3	2	2	3
Policy Analysis Group	13	14	19	14	10
Pitkin Forest Nursery	5	10	12	7	10
Number of workshops conducted:					
Experimental Forest	13	11	6	4	12
Policy Analysis Group	17	18	25	26	18
Pitkin Forest Nursery	20	15	21	20	20

Due to this past year's budget reductions we were unable to meet some of our performance standards.

For More Information Contact

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