



Pacific Northwest Research Station  
USDA Forest Service



# Issues, Concerns, and Challenges of Knowledge and Technology Transfer

Cynthia D. West  
USDA Forest Service



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- Forest Service R&D is one branch of the US Forest Service
- Annual budget \$285 million – 8% of Agency budget
- Organized into six geographic Research Stations, a National Forest Products Lab, and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry
- Pacific Northwest Research Station works out of 10 research labs across the states of Alaska, Washington, and Oregon



# Mission



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...to generate and communicate scientific knowledge that helps people understand and make informed choices about people, natural resources, and the environment.



# Clients



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Scientists

Public and private forest managers

Policy makers

Nongovernmental organizations

Private industry and business organizations

Regulators

# Key Challenges

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1. How do we justify the **investment** we make in knowledge creation?
2. How do we maintain a **credible science** organization and put science knowledge and technology into use?





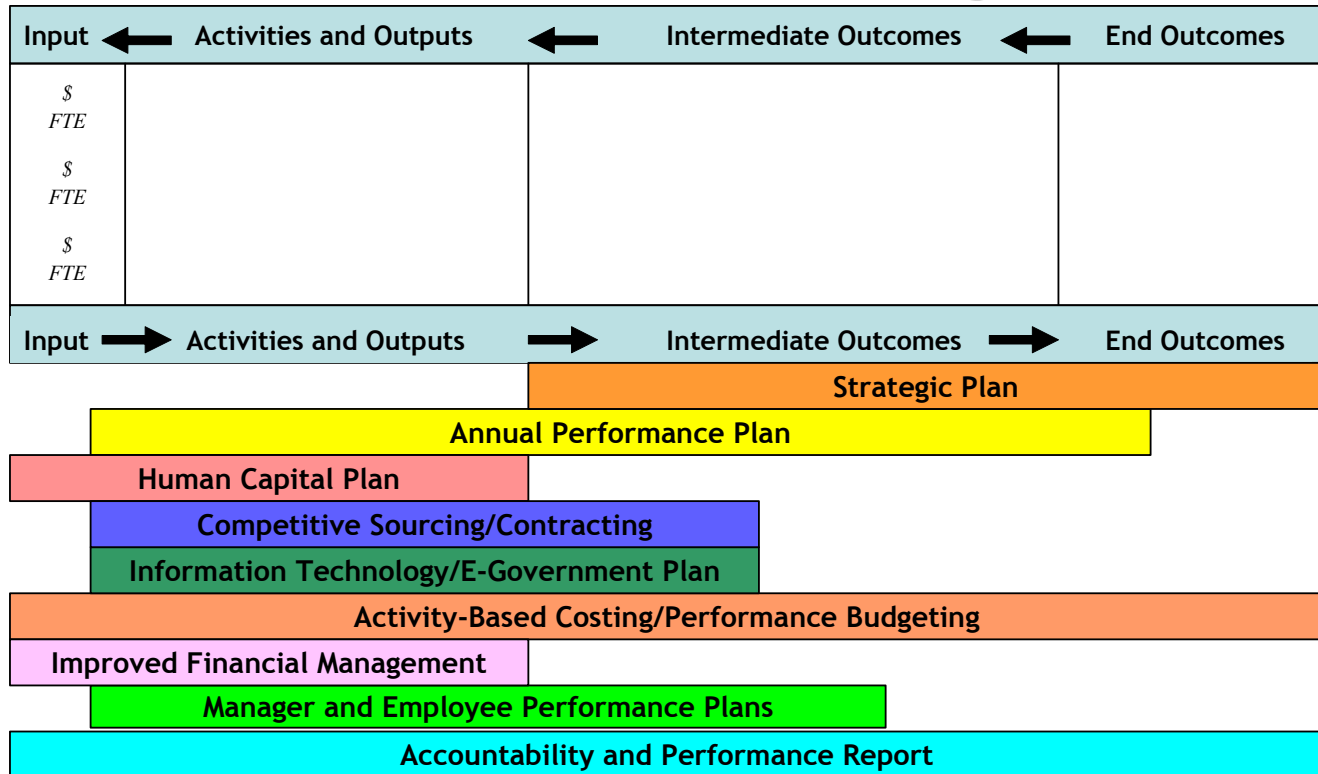
# *Science Investment Challenge*

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- 2002 the President's Management Agenda developed new investment criteria to evaluate and justify R&D programs & allocation of budgets.
- Requires R&D organizations to demonstrate the extent to which their programs meet three criteria – relevance, quality & performance.

# Science Investment Challenge

## Government Performance Logic Model



In general, a completed LM provides a tool that managers can use to plan, administer, and evaluate a program



# *Science Investment Challenge*

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## **Logic Model Approach:**

**Is responsive to “investment criteria,” especially “relevancy.”**

**Fully engages representative stakeholders in settings goals and performance measures.**

**Provides a vehicle for dialogue with key stakeholders, both internal and external.**

**Was used to develop Goals and Strategies for application in FS R&D Performance Accountability System in 2006 for R&D Program Areas.**

**FS R&D Programs: Fire, Invasive species, Recreation, Water & Air, Wildlife & fish, Resource management & use, Resource data & analysis**



# *Science Investment Challenge*

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*How can a science organization  
measure success?*



# *Credible Science Challenge*

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Public scientists and technology transfer specialists are challenged to communicate current knowledge and technology to forest resource management decision makers and policy makers without advocating a particular point of view or option.

***Our greatest asset is our credibility***

# *Fire*

Approaches to fuels management

Postfire rehabilitation

***“Our greatest asset is our credibility”***



# *Invasive Species*

Management activities may increase spread

Eradication options of new introductions are  
Often controversial

***“Our greatest asset is our credibility”***

# *Recreation*

Impacts to resources from increasing use

Conflicts between users

Impacts to resources from expanding recreation facilities

***“Our greatest asset is our credibility”***



# *Water & Air Quality*

Riparian protection

Air quality impacts from fire

*“Our greatest asset is our credibility”*



# *Wildlife and Fish*



Managing for  
Threatened &  
endangered species

Grazing management  
& conflicts

***“Our greatest asset is our credibility”***

# Key Challenges

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1. Natural resource science information, technology, and applications are complex
2. Science and technology transfer investments are must make a difference





Thank you