



United States Department of Agriculture

USDA

Forest Service - Savannah River

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Forest Service

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USDA Forest Service – Savannah River



We are stewards of the land.

- Through collaboration, we develop and implement innovative, science-based forest management. We convene with key stakeholders across all lands to provide clean air, water, and healthy, sustainable forests.
- While supporting the Department of Energy-Savannah River Site Mission, we instill public confidence while being recognized as a national asset in environmental stewardship through innovative technology. We serve the public by providing ecological and economic benefits. We provide excellent customer service while focusing on integration of all activities.
- Our employees are our most valuable resource. We are committed to developing an inclusive and diverse workforce in a safe environment. We provide unique and rewarding opportunities for all our employees.

We are USDA Forest Service - Savannah River.

USDA Forest Service – Savannah River



Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Update



U.S. Forest Service - Savannah River

We manage the natural resources found on Savannah River Site to support the overall mission of the Department of Energy.

- Program Management areas include
 - Fire Management
 - Natural Resources and Planning
 - Engineering and Environmental Services
 - Research

Fire Management Annual Update



- Reduced 23,000 acres of hazardous fuels across the site through the application of prescribed fire.
- Other benefits of prescribed fire include:
 - Habitat improvement (Red-cockaded Woodpecker)
 - Site prep (i.e. future seedlings)
 - Research

Fire Management Annual Update



- Hosted an AmeriCorps NCCC training model for 10 weeks.
 - First time a module worked with our agency in SC.
 - Trainees were utilized across resource programs to gain experience in various natural resource fields and support program management work.
- Partnered with University of Georgia to bring college students onsite to gain a better understanding of the role prescribed fire plays in ecosystem management.

Natural Resources and Planning Annual Update

- Sold approximately 50,000 ccf of forest products generating over \$2 million dollars in revenue for the U.S. Treasury.
- Timber operations on Savannah River Site create over 300 jobs across 21 counties in SC and 4 counties in GA.
- A recent study concluded that our Timber program on SRS creates an economic impact of \$37.6 million dollars across 6 main economic sectors. Forestry Products and Services, Logging, Transportation, Eating, Drinking, and Wholesale Trade.



Natural Resources and Planning Annual Update

- Received a U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region, Regional Forester Award for its continued public outreach efforts to wounded warriors, mobility impaired individuals and children with life altering/threatening conditions.
 - Turkey Hunts and Fishing Challenges
 - Program has been going on for 18 years.
 - Allows the public to see firsthand natural resource management efforts on SRS.
 - **Nominated for a national USFS award.**



Natural Resources and Planning Annual Update

- Responded to over 137 calls for nuisance animal removal.
 - Service provided 365 days a year to ensure a safer workplace on SRS.
- USFS staff and contractors removed over 1200 feral hogs this past year.
- Supports threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) species found on the site.
 - RCW population on SRS has grown from 4 in 1985 to over 700 in 2023.



Natural Resources and Planning Annual Update

- Forest Planning involves working with multiple natural resources areas to develop management plans to achieve desired forest outcomes.
 - Applying RX fire to reduce invasive plant and tree species and improve forest health.
 - Timber harvesting and seedling planting to convert slash pine areas to Longleaf pine areas.
 - Managing wetlands and watersheds for maximum ecosystem benefit.
 - Management vegetation on site to support the mission on SRS.
 - Works within established mandated natural resource guidelines.



Engineering and Environmental Services Annual Update

- The Mixed Waste Management Facility Phytoremediation Project, one of SRS's Area Closure Projects which is operated and maintained by USFS-SR, treated over **10 million gallons of tritiated water**. This project employs a natural remedy (phytoremediation), using vegetative processes to reduce risk to the environment.



Engineering and Environmental Services Annual Update

- Additionally, USFS-SR managed 2,720 acres of vegetation caps and 4,000 monitoring well sites through mowing; pesticide and herbicide application; prescribed fire; and seeding.
- This allows SRS personnel to continue the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) mandated water and groundwater monitoring.



Engineering and Environmental Services Annual Update



- Construct, survey, maintain, and repair as needed over 1300 miles of secondary roads on SR
 - Road surface grading over 900 miles
 - Roadside mowing 420 miles
 - Roadside heavy brushing 42 miles
 - Survey damage and tree removal following storms
- Surveyed and repaired as needed over 50 miles of SRS boundary fence and “No Trespassing” signage along Savannah River boundary.
 - Involved coordinating project work with numerous private landowners to facilitate access across private property to inspect and repair as needed.

Research Program Annual Update

- Natural resource research includes, but is not limited to, endangered species, biodiversity, wetland restoration and mitigation, forest sustainability and operations, productivity, bioenergy, and restoration technology.
- Applied research on impacts from industrial operations on the environment (i.e., soil, streams, flora, and fauna) are also conducted to support compliance with federal laws and regulations pertaining to impacts of SRS operations on human-health and ecological conditions.



Research Program Annual Update

Ongoing Research studies include:

- Examining how forest composition (potential wildfire fuel) and forest canopy influence smoke generation and its potential impact on surrounding communities.
- Trap and control methods for feral hogs as well as their environmental impacts throughout an area and on other wildlife.
- Examining how fire regime and past land use affect forest restoration and timber management.



U.S. Forest Service Savannah River



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