

Forest and Rangeland Research (FRRE)

(\$ in thousands)

Budget Object Class	Obligations/Expenditures		
	Q3 Actuals	Q4 Plan	EOY Estimate
CON - Contracts	1,312	6,000	7,312
GNA - Grants & Agreements	1,635	14,000	15,635
MNS - Materials & Supplies	860	4,338	5,198
FLE - Fleet	1,955	2,000	3,955
Total	5,762	26,338	32,100

FRRE program funds advance Administration priorities through support to 1) fire, hazardous fuels, and smoke research; 2) forest management and use research; 3) wood innovation and utilization; and 4) research to address State, local, and private landowner natural resource management needs. Forest Service Research and Development (FS R&D) has been essential for countering ineffective regulatory requirements that restricted or would have restricted beneficial land uses including recreation, hunting and fishing, oil and gas development, and timber production.

This type of evidence-based management has reopened millions of acres to active forest management. For example, scientific findings from FS R&D recently informed a more than 60% reduction in the acres designated as critical habitat for threatened Canada lynx, including a 75% reduction of the previously designated acres on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest (MT) and a 3-million-acre reduction in the southern Rockies, much of it on the Shoshone National Forest. Similarly, cutting edge environmental DNA technology is being used on national forests to assess the distribution of threatened fish (e.g., bull trout), clearing the way for timber production, hazardous fuels reductions, and road improvements in watersheds where threatened species were assumed present, but, as shown by eDNA testing, are not. Research also promotes responsible stewardship of natural resources while driving economic growth and enabling the beneficial uses of natural resources.

FRRE also supports fixed costs including fleet and operational services such as janitorial, lawn care, security, and related costs specific to research facilities.

Allocation of funding in the fourth quarter will support the following ongoing activities:

1. *Fire, hazardous fuels, and smoke research*
 - Provide and integrate real-time imagery, fire spread modeling, and resource allocation decision support to enable more efficient and safer wildfire management responses.
 - Delivering local- to national-scale tools that help identify where fuels treatments will most reduce wildfire risk to values, improving fuels management.
 - Provide long-term wildfire risk and smoke data that feed into cutting-edge decision-support technology to protect public safety and reduce fatalities.

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- Evaluate the effectiveness of suppression and land management strategies, tools, equipment, and resources across landscapes and vegetation types.
- Create applications and decision-support tools to help prevent catastrophic wildfires that threaten lives and communities, damage homes, and impact rural economies.

2. *Forest management and use research*

- Silviculture, reforestation, and economics research that helps resource managers deliver a sustainable flow of timber, goods, and services to markets and communities.
- Support yield-optimized silvicultural prescriptions that accommodate watershed safeguards, habitat mandates, and recreation opportunities to support increased domestic timber harvest.
- Continue fire-insect-drought interaction studies to forecast how harvest prescriptions can proceed while conserving important species through integrated modeling that will advance USDA’s NEPA streamlining.
- Forest health research to support sustained timber supply and high-quality recreation experiences.

3. *Wood innovation and utilization research*

- Advance innovative uses for timber and woody biomass through studies on wood building construction, wood product durability, biomass-based chemicals and fuels, and next-generation wood-based composites.
- Economic analyses and market development to promote U.S. dominance of timber markets. This includes development of systematic forest industry production and pricing models and forecasting of future demand for wood products, critical to catalyzing innovation and mitigating risk in new industry efforts.

4. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FRFI)

(\$ in thousands)

Budget Object Class	Obligations/Expenditures		
	Q3 Actuals	Q4 Plan	EOY Estimate
CON - Contracts	2,223	4,000	6,223
GNA - Grants & Agreements	2,253	19,988	22,241
MNS - Materials & Supplies	409	500	900
FLE - Fleet	1,127	1,000	2,127
Total	6,012	25,488	31,500

- Funds grants and agreements and contracts with State partners and private contractors who provide over 50% of the workforce conducting FIA field data collection.

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- Supports forest inventory data and trend analysis to provide federal and non-federal land managers with information to enhance productivity and stand variability.
- Enables predictive and planning capabilities that inform more than a trillion dollars of private and public investments, such as selecting sites for timber mills and targeting removal of hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire risk.
- FRFI also supports fixed costs such as fleet.

Joint Fire Science Program (FRJF)

(\$ in thousands)

Budget Object Class	Obligations/Expenditures		
	Q3 Actuals	Q4 Plan	EOY Estimate
CON - Contracts			0
GNA - Grants & Agreements		3,000	3,000
MNS - Materials & Supplies			0
FLE - Fleet			0
Total	0	3,000	3,000

- All \$3 million provides support to an interagency agreement with DOI’s Bureau of Land Management for the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP). The JFSP competitively awards funding for the groundbreaking scientific research and science delivery to improve the management of wildland fire, fuels, and fire-impacted ecosystems.

Forest Research and Rangeland Salaries and Expense (FRSE)

(\$ in thousands)

Budget Object Class	Obligations/Expenditures		
	Q3 Actuals	Q4 Plan	EOY Estimate
S&E - Salary & Expenses	146,000	39,288	185,288
Total	146,000	39,288	185,288

- Supports the salary and other expenses associated with personnel within WO Research and Development, including the Institute of International Tropical Forestry, and across five research stations and the Forest Products Lab.

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- Forest Service R&D produces over 80% of the data, modeling, and mapping used by the wildland fire management community.
- Balances will be used to support personnel costs consistent with implementation of Administration priorities, including workforce reshaping costs.
- The Agency estimates it will carry forwarded into FY 2026 \$48.1 million in Salary and Expenses. Balances will be used to support personnel costs consistent with implementation of Administration priorities, including workforce reshaping.
- In accordance with the OMB approved agency S&E spend plan, Research employees currently in DRP will charge IJA/IRA funds for their administrative leave time.