

Abstract #: 311

Author Name: Michele Parker

Author Company: US Forest Service Sustainable Operations Collective

Second Author's Name: Magenta Widner; US Forest Service Sustainable Operations Collective

Abstract Title: Leadership In Sustainable Operations: Supporting National Policy Goals and Contributing to Change in Social Norms and Culture

Abstract Text:

Goal 5 under the Forest Service Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change is "Sustainable Operations - Reduce the environmental footprint of Forest Service (FS) operations and be a leading example of a green organization." Operational achievement of this goal is monitored through Element 10 of the FS Climate Change Scorecard, which tracks 66 action items in six environmental footprint areas: energy, water, fleet and transportation, waste prevention and recycling, green purchasing, and sustainability leadership. For more than a dozen years, Green Teams have championed sustainable operations at the FS field units. After achieving easily-implemented actions, however, teams began to struggle and even dissolve. In response, the FS Sustainable Operations Collective designed a web-based, self-reporting system called Leadership in Sustainable Operations (LISO), to inspire, connect and reinvigorate Green Teams. LISO identifies 98 specific actions including the 66 that are tracked for the Climate Change Scorecard. The 98 individual actions listed in LISO provide ways to fulfill legal requirements, introduce cost-savings, and offer Green Teams new ideas to pursue. Green Teams can also use LISO to develop a formal action plan or share success stories and "how to's." Since its introduction in 2012, LISO has seen a large increase in use; from 1 unit out of 113 in 2012, to 77 in 2014. A case study of the first unit to utilize LISO (the Tongass National Forest) examines how LISO contributes to a management climate that reduces barriers to sustainable operations and integrates sustainable habits into FS culture.