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Title: Climate Change Resiliency in the U.S. Forest Service

Abstract: The mission of the Forest Service (FS) is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of current and future generations. As generational priorities shift, the agency must also consider mechanisms to effect institutional and behavioral change. Climate change presents a variety of stressors to our natural resources, which magnifies the degree of internal, organizational adaptation required to keep pace. We will explore and compare the diversity of activities that the FS is undertaking to address the impacts from climate change and present each with a chronology to highlight the organizational change process. Topics will include: 1) an agency-wide survey conducted in partnership with Purdue University focused on conceptualizing, practicing, and communicating about sustainability, 2) the emergence and structure of the agency's Office of Sustainability and Climate, 3) the science-management partnership process for vulnerability assessments and adaptation leading to increased adaptive capacity and behavioral change in the FS, and 4) the new Sustainability Action Plan and Scorecard with 11 Elements developed to assess the agency's ability to be resilient to impacts from climate change. Panelists will be at various stages of their career (early/mid/late) to add perspective and different viewpoints. At the conclusion of the session, participants will have an improved understanding of how the FS is proactively approaching climate adaptation and mitigation holistically.