

Forest Ecology Working Group



The Forest Ecology Working Group (FEWG) was established to increase understanding of forest ecology and forest habitat management within and outside the Service.

The vision of the FEWG is for the Service to be knowledgeable scientific leaders and practitioners entrusted by partners and the public to conserve forest-dependent species and natural resources.

FEWG Facts

- Established in 2016.
- Representation from all Service regions.
- Maintains a listserv and community-of-practice for sharing information.
- Established the first forest management course at NCTC.
- Provides input and consultation to National and Regional leadership as well as practitioners.

Service Numbers

- Responsible for over 20 million acres of forested land.
- Employs over 8,000 individuals; only 20 are dedicated forester positions.

Three-Tiered Approach to Achieve Our Vision

Expertise

Build and maintain forest expertise within the Service.

Communication and Partnership

Facilitate communication between programs and integrate with partners.

Science

Assist with research, monitoring, and tools that inform management.

Goals and Needs

Training

Provide a training program with the National Conservation Training Center.



Partnerships

Promote internal and external partnerships to build and support capacity for forest ecology, applied science, and habitat management within Service programs.



Monitoring

Design and implement monitoring at relevant spatial scales to track change and practice adaptive management.

Management

Promote ecologically appropriate forest habitat management to benefit trust resources and support FWS objectives.

Community

Maintain a community-of-practice to share forest information and expertise.

Needs

- Recognition for the role of forests and ecological forestry within the Service.
- Support for growing working group activities and inclusive membership.

Engagement

Engage in projects and initiatives that involve forests or forest-dependent wildlife to provide expertise and assistance.



fws.gov/page/forests-wildlife