

## **USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station and Alaska Region Cooperative Russian Far East Forestry Program**

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The Pacific Northwest Research Station and Alaska Region of the USDA Forest Service are participating with the US Agency for International Development in a cooperative program to promote sustainable forestry practices in the Russian Far East, and have formed three working groups to address broad goals. A Forest Planning and Data Management Work Group will help Russian managers and scientists to strengthen policies and incentives to encourage stewardship of forested areas, and develop "Best Management Practices" guidelines. A Forest Fire Protection and Management Work Group will help Russian managers strengthen fire fighting capabilities in mountainous regions, increase the level of training in fire tactics for fire fighters, develop a broad fire prevention and analysis program, and transfer current fire detection and suppression technology. A Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvement Work Group will help Russian managers to summarize knowledge on regeneration and management of local species, develop reforestation priorities and seed zone maps, demonstrate forest regeneration techniques, and design and manage facilities to process and store tree seeds and raise tree seedlings. This program offers a unique opportunity for collaboration and exchange between Russian managers and scientists, and their USDA Forest Service counterparts.

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