


**United States Forest Service
and the
Global Forest Information Service**

Science You Can Use!

Asia - Pacific Forestry Week
Hanoi, Vietnam
21-26 April, 2008



Randy D. McCracken
Computer Specialist, USFS
rmccracken@fs.fed.us

History

Science You Can Use!

- The USFS has been supportive of the GFIS since its inception
- Quebec 2003
- Active RSS contributor since 2007

Why USFS works with GFIS

Science You Can Use!

- Commitment to Science Delivery
- GFIS (IUFRO) is a credible, respected organization
- GFIS provides a global forum for sharing forestry information
- Increased exposure of scientists and work of their organizations
- We encourage all professional organizations to join!




What is the USFS doing to support GFIS?

Science You Can Use!



- Active contribution to GFIS via RSS
- Working with GFIS to offer additional support with:
 - New features
 - Technical assistance
 - Customer/scientist input (user evaluation)
- Exploring formal recognition and agreements of support between USFS and GFIS




Benefits of working with GFIS

Science You Can Use!



- **Cost to benefit ratio**
 - **Very little effort required** to become a contributor (some technical investment which can also be used to share data with other organizations besides GFIS)
 - **High reward for your efforts**
 - Technical skills are portable

Benefits of working with GFIS

Science You Can Use!

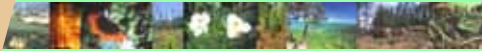
- **Summary of Benefits:**
 - Science and information is more widely shared
 - Your organization has higher visibility
 - Greater visibility leads to partnership opportunities
 - Partnerships leads to new ways of data sharing and problem solving ability, especially with complex issues (more resources for problems solving)
 - Partnerships and cooperation allow for better science and strengthen your organization's knowledge base and credibility
 - More effective organizations become indispensable and therefore better able to survive in bad budget times

How USFS works with GFIS

Science You Can Use!

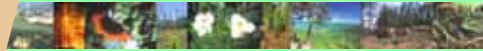
- Informal contacts and agreements
 - Eero and Ho Sang
- USFS Model: Establish successful informal cooperation before seeking official agreement which is based on the philosophy: You have greater influence if you can go to your boss with demonstrated success instead of abstract ideas and proposals.



How USFS works with GFIS

Science You Can Use!

- XML and RSS feeds (demonstration to follow)
- USFS example of RSS:
 - Information is based on database driven content
 - XML feeds are produced by simple queries
 - RSS feeds are updated automatically – built it once
- Automated Options from CIFOR



What's next?

Science You Can Use!

- USFS is committed to long term support of GFIS. Examples:
- Working with Eero and Ho Sang on developing/deploying new features
- Exploring formal agreements of support between USFS and GFIS
- Supporting any organization considering becoming active contributors to GFIS
 - Provide technical support
 - Offer advice and expertise
 - Assist with problem solving; we can learn from each other



Conclusion

Science You Can Use!

"It's not the strongest of the species that survives, or the most intelligent. It is the one most adaptable to change."

~ Charles Darwin

