



FOREST SERVICE

Organizational Realignment

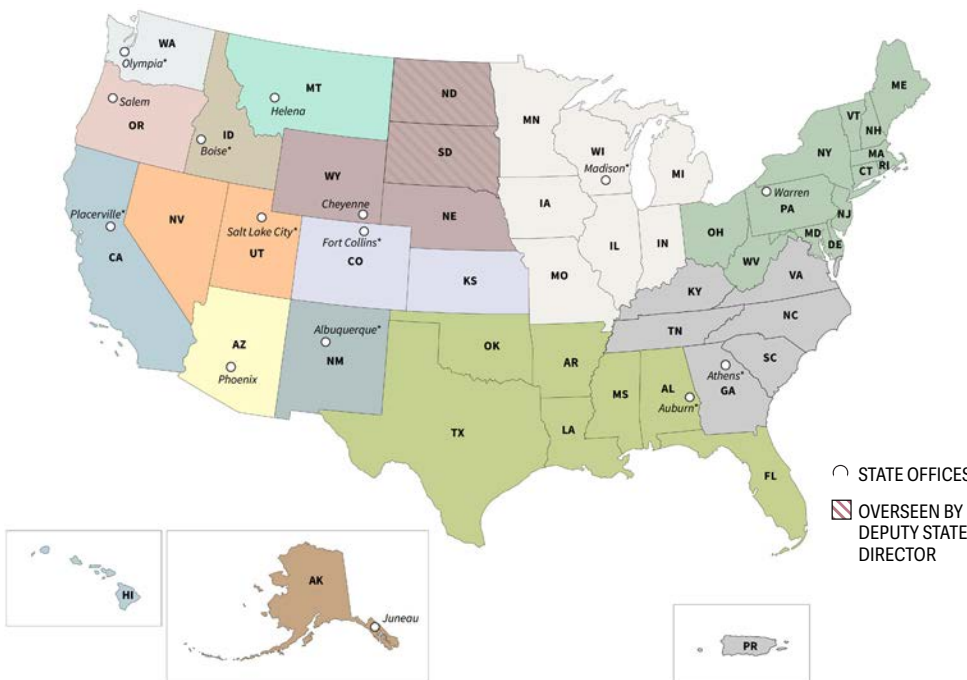
The Forest Service is implementing a sweeping restructuring to move leadership and decision making closer to the forests and communities it serves. The changes implement direction from Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins to modernize U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies, reduce bureaucracy, and place more employees outside Washington, DC. For an agency whose lands, partners, and operational challenges are overwhelmingly concentrated in the West, this shift represents a structural reset and a common-sense approach to improve mission delivery.

The Forest Service will officially move its headquarters west to Salt Lake City, UT, where the Chief of the Forest Service will reside. About two-thirds of National Capital Region positions will relocate from Washington, DC, with some moving to Salt Lake City and others to various

Operations Service Centers. One-third of positions, including the Associate Chief, will remain at the Yates Building to support departmental coordination, communications, congressional engagement, and interagency policy work.

The Forest Service is transitioning from a legacy regional structure to a State-based organizational model designed to simplify the chain of command, strengthen local partnerships, and give field leaders greater ability to respond to conditions on the ground. Under this model, 15 State directors will oversee Forest Service operations within one or more States and will serve as national leaders for forest supervisors, operational priorities, and relationships with States, Tribes, and partners. Each State Office will include a small leadership team responsible for legislative affairs, communications, and intergovernmental coordination.

State Offices & Area of Responsibility



State Offices & Area of Responsibility

Auburn, AL* Ozarks & Gulf Coast	Salem, OR Oregon
Juneau, AK Alaska	Warren, PA Mid-Atlantic & New England
Phoenix, AZ Arizona	Olympia, WA* Washington
Placerville, CA* California & Hawaii	Madison, WI* Great Lakes & Midwest
Fort Collins, CO* Colorado & Kansas	Cheyenne, WY Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, & Nebraska <i>(with deputy State directors support for North Dakota & South Dakota)</i>
Athens, GA* Southern Appalachian	Salt Lake City, UT* Utah & Nevada
Boise, ID* Idaho	
Helena, MT Montana	
Albuquerque, NM* New Mexico	

R&D Facility Locations

Flagstaff, AZ	Durham, NC
Placerville, CA	Delaware, OH
Riverside, CA	Corvallis, OR
Fort Collins, CO	La Grande, OR
Athens, GA	San Juan, PR
St. Paul, MN	Knoxville, TN
Missoula, MT	Olympia, WA
Lincoln, NE	Morgantown, WV
Durham, NH	Madison, WI
Asheville, NC	Rhineland, WI

Operations Service Centers

Albuquerque, NM*	Madison, WI*
Athens, GA*	Missoula, MT*
Fort Collins, CO*	Placerville, CA*

National Training Center

Vallejo, CA

Business Support Service Center

Albuquerque, NM*

(*) Indicates a location that will serve more than one facility function.

As the agency transitions to the State-based model, many functions currently housed in regional offices will shift to a national network of Operations Service Centers. These centers will provide shared administrative, technical, and enabling support to State Offices and forests across the country, allowing leaders on the ground to focus more directly on improving the health, productivity, and resilience of the Nation's forests and grasslands. Centers will support highly technical and nonroutine activities such as forest plan revisions, bridge engineering, and land adjustments. Locations were selected based on existing USDA workforce presence, operational needs, efficiency considerations, and proximity to agricultural and natural resource stakeholders.

The Forest Service will consolidate its multiple research stations into a single, unified national Research and Development organization, headquartered in Fort Collins, CO, and led by one research director. This structure will unify research leadership, strengthen coordination of scientific priorities, accelerate the application of science to management decisions, and reduce administrative duplication. As the new model is implemented, the agency will consolidate and, where appropriate, co-locate research facilities to create a more integrated and efficient national research footprint.

The Forest Service's Fire and Aviation Management program will retain its existing Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) structure, which is essential for national incident coordination. The program will continue reporting to the Deputy Chief for Fire and Aviation Management at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID, ensuring ongoing, close coordination with the Department of the Interior and other interagency partners.

As part of the reorganization, all Regional Offices will close. A small number of locations will be retained to support ongoing mission needs: Juneau, AK (serving as the Alaska State Office); Vallejo, CA (repurposed as the National Training Center); and Albuquerque, NM (serving as both a business support center and the New Mexico State Office). Additional facility consolidations and closures aligned with the new organizational model are expected over the next 2 years, prioritizing efficiency while maintaining operational capacity.

Throughout the transition, frontline mission work will continue uninterrupted. This includes active forest management, wildfire response, forest and watershed restoration, recreation services, and sustained collaboration with States, Tribes, and communities.

Operations, Business Support, and Training Centers

