

# USDA Forest Service - LTER Cooperation

- Six LTER sites
- MOU current thru FY2000
- Long history
- Mutual benefits
- Future plans

# History

- 1897: Forest Service mandated to provide:
  - *“favorable conditions of water flows”*
  - *“continuous supply of timber”*
- Experimental forests established
- Long-term studies of forestry & hydrology
- Evolved into integrated ecosystem studies

# H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest



# 50 years of H.J. Andrews Experimental research and its context

**Biodiversity/Arthropods**

**Decomposition/C dynamics**

**Soils**

**Vegetation Succession**

**Hydrology/small watersheds**

**Forest-stream interactions**

**Disturbance Landscape**

Blue River Experimental Forest established 1948  
named H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest 1953

IBP LTER 1 LTER 2 LTER 3 LTER 4

forestry research

1948

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

1998

management efficiency

environmental protection

clearcutting

cumulative effects of management

old growth

species conservation global change

# Experimental Forest LTER's

- Five experimental forests competitively selected as LTER's:
- Coweeta, NC
- H. J. Andrews, OR
- Hubbard Brook, NH
- Bonanza Creek, AK
- Luquillo, PR

# New Addition: Baltimore Urban LTER

- New departure for the FS
- FS support of \$800K per year
- Social science a major emphasis
- Diverse partnerships

# Benefits of Forest Service-LTER Cooperation

- Magnets for support
- Incubators of scientists
- Basic knowledge & informing the public
- Model of networking
- Validated ecological models
- Science base for management & policies
- High Quality

# Future Plans

- Renew MOU
- FS Partnerships in RFP's
- Inter-site comparisons
- Networks of index sites
- Landscape experiments
- Regional-scale assessments
- Monitoring-research framework



# Framework for Integrating the Nation's Environmental Monitoring and Research

