Natural Resources
Distance Learning Consortium

Kieran J. Lindsey, Director
William Woodland, USDA Forest Service
Robert Bush, Virginia Tech
A Brief History

- Established in 2003

- USDA-FS goals
  - reduce costs
  - university education for professional development
  - reduce career interruption
  - regionally diverse curricula
DL consortium strengths

Meeting USDA-FS goals
* reduce travel costs
* students continue to work
* outsource instruction to academia
* university credit for courses
* networking opportunities
* access to diverse curricula
DL consortium strengths

- Meeting university member goals
  - reduce program development costs
  - reduce program development time
  - course development support
  - collaboration opportunities
  - access to experienced, motivated students
Non-Virtual & Virtual Classrooms

It’s like comparing apples and... pears
DL = Flexibility
It’s not your grandma’s distance learning
2 Main Paradigms

...and infinite variations

Synchronous Delivery

Asynchronous Delivery