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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Skinner Testifies Before State Legislature

On May 12, Carl Skinner, Western Forest Research Management Team, Redding, provided testimony at an informal hearing on wildfire in California, "Strategies for wildland fire management," held by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee of the California State Legislature. Members of the committee intend to introduce legislation to address issues related to wildfire; the purpose of the legislation will be to promote the development of coordinated strategies for limiting the detrimental impacts of wildfire, while recognizing and promoting the natural role of fire in California's environment.

Carl aided committee vice chairman Tom Woods, at the request of retired Shasta-Trinity National Forests Supervisor Steve Fitch. Carl specifically addressed landscape-scale strategies and the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project's critical finding on the effects of logging (he and Phil Weatherspoon, also of Redding, co-authored a SNEP chapter on the subject). His testimony covered the following points: the need for a broad, landscape-scale approach to planning strategies for dealing with wildfire; that the SNEP critical finding was written in a historical context, not as a general indictment of logging (a point which, Carl notes, many anti-logging groups have taken out of context and misrepresented to the public); the importance of fire history research and how the gap of current information in this area affects our knowledge; the SNEP critical finding regarding fire surrogates, and the major gap in knowledge concerning the use of non-silvicultural fire treatments; and that although some knowledge may be lacking, we do have a good idea of the direction in which management should move. Carl provided committee members with copies of several PSW publications to use as reference material in developing legislation.

"I was impressed with the level of knowledge demonstrated by both Tom Woods and the committee chair, Debra Bowen. It will be interesting to see what legislation may now come from this," said Carl.

Zielinski Featured in *Forestry Research West*

Highlights from a General Technical Report, "Lynx, wolverines, fishers, and martens: survey methods for their detection" (PSW-GTR-157), written by Bill Zielinski, Timber/Wildlife Interactions Research Unit, Arcata, and Tom Kucera, University of California at Berkeley, were featured in the July 1997 issue of *Forestry Research West*. Bill and Connie Gill, Station Public Affairs Officer, collaborated on the article, "A

(continued on page 2)

Jim Space Announces His Retirement

Station Director James C. Space announced at a recent mini-staff meeting that he will retire from the FS on October 3, 1997.

"There is a time when things must come to an end, even good things," Jim said in a letter to PSW employees. "This is a transition that my wife and I have been planning for some time. We have a home in Arizona that we purchased several years ago in anticipation of this, and we'll be moving there immediately following my retirement."

Jim started working for the FS 39 years ago, in 1958, as a GS-3 fire lookout. Since then, he said, "I've done everything from making timber sales, to conducting forest inventories, to developing computer applications, to dealing with insect and disease problems, and more. It's hard for me to think of an organization where one could have such a varied and interesting career and yet stay within the organization. But while you can take the forester out of the woods, you can't take the woods out of the forester, so I'll be looking for some opportunities to do some of the fun things I enjoyed early in my career, when I could spend more of my time in the woods. I'm also interested in some short-term international assistance opportunities, if they come up." Jim has been PSW's Station Director since May 31, 1994, when he succeeded then-Director Barbara Weber.

Reminder: Tax Changes for FY 1997

If you haven't done so already, you may want to adjust your State and Federal income tax withholdings for FY 1997, as the National Finance Center has adjusted the correct tax withholding formula to account for 27 pay periods this calendar year, rather than the usual 26. NFC changed employees' withholdings starting with pay period 5, in March. To make changes to your withholdings, contact Personnel at (510) 559-6359 to complete forms De-4 (State) and W-2 (Federal).

Directory of Research Published

A revised and updated version of the *Directory of Research* for PSW has just been published. Compiled and written by Connie Gill, Station Public Affairs Specialist, the 30-page directory was distributed to Station employees last month. In addition to listing members of the scientific staff and their telephone numbers, the directory provides a similar listing for the Station Director and Staff, and Project and Group Leaders. The introductory section offers an overview of the Station's research program, including the six areas of research emphasis. Single copies of the directory can be obtained from Research Information Services, Albany, at (510) 559-6327.

(Zielinski cont'd.)

sensitive measure of forest ecosystem health,” which explains why assessing the presence of marten, fisher, lynx, and wolverine is an essential part of determining the health of forest ecosystems.

To receive a copy of either the *Forestry Research West* article or PSW-GTR-157, contact PSW Publications Distribution, Rocky Mountain Station, 3825 E. Mulberry St., Fort Collins, CO 80524-8597, (970) 498-8597, DG: S28A. The GTR is also available on the PSW Home Page, at www.psw.fs.fed.us.

Deadline to Keep America Beautiful

Nominations for the 1997 Keep America Beautiful awards program are now being accepted. To be eligible, an FS program must conduct litter prevention and beautification programs; improve waste handling or environmental stewardship; do so as part of a continuing effort, or dramatize the need for continued action; improve community waste handling practices and/or preserve the natural beauty of the environment; educate the community about solid waste and proper handling and disposal; and have done so within the past 12 months.

The deadline to submit information to Personnel is August 15. For more information, contact Personnel at (510) 559-6359.

In Print

* North, M.; Trappe, J.; Franklin, J. 1997. *Standing crop and animal consumption of fungal sporocarps in Pacific Northwest forests*. Ecology 78: 1543-1554.

Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

* Armando González-Cabán, Fire Management Research Unit, Riverside, presented a paper, “Nonmarket values in land and fire management planning: do they matter to the public?”, at the Second International Wildland Fire Conference '97, May 25-30, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Personnelly Speaking

Detail

* Roberta Moltzen, Forest Supervisor, Mt. Hood National Forest; to Acting Associate Deputy Chief—National Forest System, FS Washington Office.

Transfer

* Kevin McKelvey, Timber/Wildlife Interactions Research Unit, Arcata, to Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula, Mont., on July 18.

Resignation

* Barry Noon, Timber/Wildlife Interactions Research Unit, Arcata, on August 2.

Award

* David Olson, Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside, “for assisting the Unit with upgrading Unit publications such as Recreation Research Updates and the Internet web pages.”

Name Change

* Lisa Wolters, Research Information Services, Albany, to: Lisa Wolters-Broder.

Executive Calendar

August 4-8

Space M-F: Albany
Aune M-F: Redding
Bell (Acting) M-F: AL
DeMuth (Backup) M-F: Albany
Ewel M-F: Honolulu
Mason M-F: Albany

August 11-15

Space M-Th: St. Paul, Minn.; F: Albany
Aune M-F: Redding
Bell (Acting) M-F: Albany
DeMuth (Backup) M-F: Albany
Ewel M-F: Honolulu
Mason M-F: Albany

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