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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Chief Sets Agency's Course for 21st Century

FS Chief Mike Dombeck presented details of the Forest Service Natural Resources Agenda to employees and retirees in Washington, D.C. recently. The Chief's plan for the agency will focus on four key areas: watershed health and restoration, sustainable forest ecosystem management, forest roads, and recreation.

Regarding watersheds, the Chief noted, "Our first priority is to maintain and restore the health of our ecosystems and watersheds. Watersheds absorb rain, provide drinking water, provide wildlife and fish habitat and connect headwaters to downstream areas as well as wetlands to upland areas; dissipate flooding, and increase soil fertility. We propose to make maintenance and restoration of watershed health an overriding priority in future forest plans; increase stream and riparian area restoration by 40 percent by 1999; a proposed 30 percent increase in habitat restoration and the conservation of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; a 50 percent increase in the number of abandoned mine reclamation sites; and improving efforts to prevent nonnative species from entering or spreading in the U.S."

The plan's second priority is sustainable forest ecosystem management. It calls for working with State foresters and other agencies to develop policies that encourage long-term investments in forests and discourage their conversion to other uses, and to increase the number of private forest landowners that complete long-term forest stewardship plans. As part of this, Mike added, "Because 80 percent of Americans live in towns and cities, we must literally bring forestry to the people by building on programs that increase the health of urban forests."

The new agenda also emphasizes management of the forest road system. "Forest roads are an essential part of the transportation system in many rural parts of the country," says Mike. "They help to meet recreation demands on National Forests and grasslands... The President's current budget recognizes the importance of forest roads, and proposes to increase road maintenance funding by 26 percent, and to increase major improvements to forest road bridges and culverts by over 66 percent in FY 1999. "And because of our increased knowledge about the social and ecological values of roadless areas, we are also calling an 18-month 'timeout' on new road construction in roadless areas," the Chief added.

The final element of the agenda recognizes that recreation is the fastest growing use of National Forests and grasslands. It will focus on four key areas: providing quality settings and experiences; focusing on customer service and satisfaction; emphasizing community outreach; and strengthening

(continued)

Haverty Elected Research Committee Chair

Mike Haverty was elected last month as the new chair of the FS Research Advisory Committee, at its meeting in New Orleans. He had been vice chair since last April. Mike is Project Leader—Insect Chemical Ecology, at Albany. The Committee was chartered by the FS Deputy Chief—Research and Development to advise on issues that affect FS research scientists. Such issues could include personnel, training, productivity, science, and opportunities in research. And the Committee serves as a focal point for liaison between all FS research scientists.

The Committee consists of one representative from each FS research station and the Forest Products Laboratory, a Washington Office staff assistant, and three personnel specialists (rotated among the Stations). The group also includes a number of ex officio members. Committee members serve 3 years.

An outgrowth of the FS Research Grade Evaluation Guide Task Force, the Committee had as its first assignment the evaluation of the new "Guide for Preparing Research Scientists Position Descriptions." Each FS scientist, by virtue of his or her position, is evaluated periodically by a panel of scientists. The Research Advisory Committee is developing a proposed policy on who can serve on national panels, and on timelines and checklists for use in the panel process

The next Committee meeting, according to Mike, is scheduled for May, in Reno, and to be held concurrently with the FS Green Team meeting of the agency's top research executives.

Towns Advanced to R-3 Regional Forester

Eleanor S. ("Ellie") Towns has been named Regional Forester of the FS Southwestern Region (R-3), with headquarters in Albuquerque, N.M. She will assume her new duties at a date to be announced. Ellie has been Director of Lands, FS Washington Office, for the past year and a half. She is the first African-American woman and second woman to be appointed a Regional Forester. In her new position, Ellie replaces Charles Cartwright, who recently took early retirement.

Ellie transferred from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to the FS in 1978 in the Rocky Mountain Region, headquartered in Denver, where she served successively as Director of Civil Rights, member of the Lands Staff, Assistant Director of Lands, and Director of Physical Resources before moving to the FS Washington Office.

A 1965 University of Illinois graduate, Ellie earned a master's degree at the University of New Mexico in 1968, and a juris doctor (law) degree at the University of Denver in 1980.

"I look forward to the challenges of sustainably managing the resources of the Southwestern Region consistently with the law and in ways that serve the public interest," says Ellie.

(Agency's course, contd.)

relationships with partners, communities, and others. "We will improve the quality and quantity of information about recreation opportunities on National Forests. We will use the Internet and the National Recreation Reservation Service and others to highlight the many recreation opportunities available, such as the 2002 Winter Olympics. We will collaborate on this with State and private landowners who wish to benefit from public use of their lands. We will further increase funding for recreation management by \$20 million in 1999, increase funding to enhance opportunities for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, and conservation education, as well as accelerate the conversion of unneeded roads to trails," said the Chief.

A web site about the agenda will be established at www.fs.fed.us/news/agenda.

PSW Celebrates Women's History Month

This year's National Women's History Month activities, which are being recognized this month at PSW, are linked to the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement. This year's theme is "Living the Legacy of Women's Rights." A series of special activities are planned throughout PSW, which will include videos, lobby displays, and guest speakers. Employees are encouraged to take part in these activities, says Station Director Hal Salwasser.

Correct Zip Code for WO Express Mail

The express mail zip code for the Washington Office, which is listed in the new Forest Service Organizational Directory, is incorrect. The correct zip code, *for express mail only*, for the WO Auditors Building is 20024.

Personnelly Speaking

Cash Award

* Jason Webber, Urban Forestry Research Unit, Davis, "for developing and implementing the concept of a 'short form' to account for CO2 reductions for urban forestry."

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Reed is New Conservation Service Chief

On March 1, Pearlie S. Reed officially became the new Chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. And like the Chief of the Forest Service, he reports directly to the Department's Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Jim Lyon. As the new NRCS Chief, he succeeded Paul Johnson, who resigned to return to private life.

A 28-year resources conservation professional, Pearlie was until last month the Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration. In that capacity, to which he was appointed in February 1997, he oversaw the implementation of 90 of the USDA Civil Rights Action Team's 92 recommendations for resolving civil rights issues in and outside the Department. These issues affect all USDA agencies, including the Forest Service.

Pearlie is the first African-American to become the agency's Chief. He had served as Associate Chief of the NRCS for 3 years, and earlier had been State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service (predecessor of the NRCS) in California for 5 years. Succeeding Pearlie as Associate Chief is Danny Sells, who was Director of Legislative Affairs.

Job Vacancies

Res. Landscape Ecologist, GS-0408-12/13/14, Arcata	3-20-98
Phys. Sci. Technician, GS-1311-5/6, Redding	4-2-98
Biological Aid/Technicians, GS-0404-4/5/6/7	9-28-98

Closes

Executive Calendar

Salwasser	M: San Luis Obispo; Tu: Albany; W-Th: RO; F: Albany
Aune	M-F: Redding
Bell	M: Albany; Tu-F: Colorado Springs
DeMuth (Acting)	M-F: AL
Ewel	M-F: Honolulu
Mason (Backup)	M-Th: Albany; F: Hayfork

March 16-20

Salwasser	M-F: Honolulu
Aune	M-F: Redding
Bell	M-Th: Albany; F: Tahoe
DeMuth (Acting)	M-Th: Albany; F: RO
Ewel	M-F: Honolulu
Mason (Backup)	M-F: Albany

March 23-27