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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Chief Announces Restructuring of WO

A major restructuring of the FS Washington Office Staff to strengthen accountability and reform financial systems has been announced by Chief Mike Dombeck. Three new top-level positions and new reporting lines have been established.

The three new positions are Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Chief/Chief Financial Officer, and Deputy Chief for Business Operations. Each of the FS's six Deputy Chiefs will report directly to either the Chief Operating Officer or the Associate Chief for Natural Resources.

The Associate Chief, formerly the sole second-ranking position in the FS, will now supervise exclusively the agency's natural resources mission. Reporting directly to that office will be three Deputy Chiefs—for National Forest System, Research and Development, and State & Private Forestry—the Director of International Programs, and a Special Assistant for Strategic Issues. The new structure also provides that the Director of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry report to the International Programs Director.

On the same level as the Associate Chief and also reporting directly to the Chief is the new Chief Operating Officer, who will oversee the three other Deputy Chiefs—for Business Operations, Policy and Legislation (formerly Programs and Legislation), and the new Chief Financial Officer—as well as the Director of Communications and the Director of Reinvention.

The new Deputy Chief/Chief Financial Officer will oversee the Fiscal and Accounting Staff and Financial Analysis Staff (two units formerly in a single Financial Management Staff), and the Program Development and Budget Staff (which formerly reported to the Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation).

The Deputy Chief for Business Operations was formerly designated as Deputy Chief for Operations, and before that, Administration. Under the restructuring, the Director of Civil Rights will now report directly to the Chief, as will the Director of Law Enforcement and Investigations, and a Counselor.

Appointed new Chief Operating Officer is Francis P. Pandolfi, who joined the FS in January 1997 as Special Assistant to the Chief. Formerly president and chief executive officer of Times Mirror Magazines, Inc., a subsidiary of the Times Mirror Company (publishers of *The Los Angeles Times*), Francis earned a B.S. degree at Princeton University, and an M.B.A. degree at Harvard University.

Clyde Thompson was selected to be the new Deputy Chief for Business Operations. For the past year, he has served as Acting

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Albany Station Hosts 'Children to Work Day'

On April 23, PSW Albany and the Agricultural Research Service co-hosted "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." Boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 15 were invited to spend the morning touring the ARS and PSW facilities. The day began with a presentation in the ARS conference room, followed by a demonstration of a program aimed at improving the quality of rice cakes (the children were dubious that anything could improve the taste of a rice cake). Next on the agenda was a demonstration of an electron microscope, during which they examined insects up close and personal, and a demonstration of ARS' potato improvement program. They learned that the potato variety that is now used most in the U.S. was discovered 70 years ago, as a mutant of another variety.

At PSW, students then watched a slide show about forest lands, presented by Assistant Director Enoch Bell. Gail Getty, the Insect Chemical Ecology Research Unit's proclaimed "termite queen," gave a presentation on the unit's critters, and then students ended their day with a tour of the ARS greenhouses.

PSW to Celebrate Asian Pacific Month

PSW is celebrating May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This year's theme is "One Vision, One Mission, One Voice." "I encourage all employees to commemorate the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans," said Station Director Hal Salwasser. "Take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate all the ways in which Asian and Pacific Americans have enhanced our nation and strengthened our communities."

On May 14, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., the Northern California Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Network in Agriculture (APANA) will sponsor a program of exhibits and entertainment in the ARS Building's 3rd floor conference room, in Albany, with Norma Lau, auditor, City of Oakland, as guest speaker, and with PSW participating. The program is open to all employees. APANA is a USDA-wide employee organization.

Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

* Bob Westfall, Forest Genetics Research Unit, Albany, presented a seminar, "Hybridization and gene flow between *Pinus caibaea* and *P. oocarpa*," at the Gene Flow III Workshop sponsored by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, April 19-24 at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

* Roberta Fargo, Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems

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(WO Restructuring, contd.)

Deputy Chief for Administration (later Operations). Clyde has worked for the agency for the past 23 years.

Chief Dombek also announced that the FS will seek to increase temporarily its personnel authorizations for budgeting and administrative support positions over the next 3 years as it works to “correct critical problems in management and fiscal systems.”

“These changes in our management structure will make a real difference,” said Mike. “They will simplify our reporting systems and provide clear lines of authority to strengthen accountability. My goal in this restructuring is to give these business functions the attention they deserve and ensure that we get our financial house in order quickly.” He said that the other top-level positions on his staff will be filled as quickly as possible.

Job Vacancies

Phys. Sciences Technician, GS-1311-6/7, Riverside	5-27-98
Biological Aid/Technicians, GS-0404-4/5/6/7, various	9-28-98
Wildlife Biologists, GS-0486-5/7/9, various	9-28-98

Closes

Forthcoming Seminars

* Hal Salwasser, Station Director, “Sustainability in a changing world,” on June 1, at Albany.

* Sylvia Mori, mathematical statistician, Statistics Group, Albany, “Large-scale survey/monitoring sampling,” on May 21, at Albany.

(Meetings, contd.)

Research Unit, Fresno, who is also a graduate student at California State University, Fresno, won second place at the 19th Annual Central California Research Symposium, April 24 at CSU Fresno. The title of her poster was, “Assessing dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*) in oak woodlands of the Sierra Nevada.”

* Hal Salwasser, Station Director, gave the keynote address, “Celebrating forestry’s successes—but it’s no time to rest on our past deeds,” at the Washington State Society of American Foresters meeting, April 27 in Wenatchee, Wash.

* Connie Millar, Forest Genetics Research Unit, Albany, gave a talk, “A revised hypothesis for evolution and biogeography of Monterey pine inferred from fluctuating Quaternary climates,” at the Pacific Climate (PACCLIM) Workshop, April 27-30 on Santa Catalina Island, Calif.

* John Benoit, Francis Fujioka, Mark Poth, and Pat Winter, all with the PSW Forest Fire Laboratory, Riverside, served as judges at an annual science fair that took place April 28-30 at the Orange County Fairgrounds in San Bernardino, Calif. Francis presented awards in elementary, junior, and senior divisions, as well as framed certificates for “Best Projects in Natural Resources Management.” Participating students came from Riverside, Inyo, Mono, and San Bernardino counties.

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