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*Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710*

## **FS Seeks Public Opinion About its Future**

To help it formulate its strategic plan for the year 2000, the FS Washington Office has launched a series of public meetings, starting last week in Los Angeles. It is seeking public insights about how future agency programs should be managed.

“We are committed to seeking public input before we develop our national strategy,” FS Chief Mike Dombek said, in announcing the seven public meetings. Besides the Los Angeles meeting on October 20, the other six sessions are in Seattle (Oct. 27), Washington, D.C. (Nov. 4), Atlanta (Nov. 10), Chicago (Nov. 18), Albuquerque (Dec. 1), and Denver (Dec. 3).

Mike said that “knowing and understanding the expectations of the American people for FS programs in the 21st century is critical to determining the most appropriate long-term goals and objectives for FS programs.” He pointed out that the Government Performance and Results Act requires Federal agencies to “solicit, and consider the views and suggestions of those entities potentially affected by or interested in” the development of strategic plans. Once the FS draft strategic plan has been developed, it will be available for public review and comment, he added.

Besides the public meetings, the FS is asking for written comments, and will be conducting a public survey early next year. The agency will accept written comments by mail, fax, and e-mail. Written comments should be sent to USDA Forest Service SPRA, Attn: Kathryn P. Maloney, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090; e-mail to: [resource\\_programs/wo@fs.fed.us](mailto:resource_programs/wo@fs.fed.us); and fax to: Kathryn P. Malone at (202) 205-1546. For additional information, call (202) 205-1235. Or visit the FS web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pl/rpa>.

## **Chief to Hold Satellite Network Broadcast**

FS Chief Mike Dombek will host a video satellite network broadcast for employees on Oct. 29—following the FS National Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. He will discuss steps being taken to improve both personal and corporate accountability in the agency, including initiatives to integrate good business management practices. The broadcast, from 2 to 3 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, will emanate from the BLM National Training Center.

## **Neale Named Genetics Project Leader**

David Neale has been named Project Leader—Institute of Forest Genetics, at Davis, Calif, effective October 1. He succeeds Tom Conkle, who will remain in the unit as a research geneticist. The name “Institute of Forest Genetics,” which traditionally referred to the research unit’s field facility at Placerville, Calif., has been applied to both the research unit and the facility for the past several years. “Relocating the unit’s administrative base from the Albany Forest Sciences Laboratory to its new site at the University of California at Davis campus, while maintaining research functions at Placerville and Albany, will further the continuation of the unit as a true research institute,” said Station Director Hal Salwasser.

A native of Middlebury, Conn., Dave earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry and forest genetics at the University of New Hampshire. He received his doctorate at Oregon State University, where he studied the genetics of Douglas-fir regeneration. Before receiving his appointment as a research plant molecular geneticist at PSW in Berkeley, in 1988, he was a postdoctoral student at UC Davis, and postdoctoral molecular geneticist with the research unit at Berkeley.

“The University of California at Davis encourages expansion of a forest sciences center for biotechnology work and genome research in forestry, including FS research and development,” according to Hal. “The campus provides a stimulating academic environment for our scientists to do their research. The strength of agricultural sciences at Davis and the long-term commitments to academic excellence will enable PSW scientists to work with others at the forefront of their disciplines. We already have on campus our Western Center for Urban Forestry Research and Education, with Greg McPherson as project leader. Relocation of the Institute of Forest Genetics, with Dave Neale as project leader, significantly augments our presence at Davis.”

The Institute’s mission is to identify, describe, and understand genetic functions of forest plants, increase yields of forest trees, and protect genetic resources through use of this knowledge. Its Center for Conservation of Genetic Diversity develops methods to inventory, monitor, and apply understanding of plant and animal genetics to conserve and restore critical genetic diversity.

*(Continued)*

## Personnelly Speaking

(Neal--continued)

### Cash Awards

To following members of the Station Civil Rights Committee, "for continuing dedication to the Station's civil rights program:"

- \* Michelle Cochran, Insect Chemical Ecology Research Unit, Albany
- \* Sara Garetz, Library Services Group, Albany (not a committee member, but for services)
- \* Rosemary Leen, Non-Indigenous Species Research Team, Volcano, Hawaii
- \* Tom Munton, Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems Research Unit, Fresno
- \* Mark Poth, Atmospheric Deposition Research Unit, Riverside
- \* Shimon Schwarzschild, Information Services Group, Albany

To the following employees, stationed at the Forest Fire Laboratory, Riverside, Calif., "for recognition of their efforts to compile the real property information required by the Forest Service Infrastructure (INFRA) survey:"

- \* Tony Gomez, Atmospheric Deposition Research Unit
- \* Warren Hanna, Research Support Services
- \* Gary Hernandez, Research Support Services
- \* David Larson, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit
- \* Irene Powell, Research Support Services
- \* Solomon Route, Atmospheric Deposition Research Unit

### Appointments

\* Paul Brouha: from Executive Director, American Fisheries Society, Washington, D.C.; to Associate Deputy Chief—National Forest System, FS Washington Office.

\* Denny Bschor: from Forest Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; to Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness, FS Washington Office.

### Resignation

\* Lisa Wolters-Broder, Research Information Services, Albany—Oct. 2.

Co-located with the University's Department of Environmental Horticulture, the Western Center is conducting research that describes the processes and structures of urban forests, and quantifies the associated benefits and costs.

### Sexual Harassment Phone Hotline Ended

Because it has gotten few calls on its sexual harassment hotline and the high cost of maintaining it, the FS Washington Office has discontinued the phone line, effective Oct. 2. The hotline has been used by numerous callers to reach outside companies or to find employees who do not work for the agency. In place of the hotline phone number, a limited access electronic mailbox for reporting sexual harassment has been established. The mailbox—designated as "sexual harassment/wo"—will be closely monitored, according to Steve Nelson, Director of Human Resources Management, FS WO, and "we will ensure the same confidentiality regarding the individual and the issues as we did with the sexual harassment hotline phone."

### Meetings/Conferences, Seminars

\* Hal Salwasser, Station Director, attended the following meetings: Forest Products Research Society's Wood-Drying Conference Planning Committee, Oct. 9, in Seattle; Joint Advisory Committee, College of Agriculture, Oct. 11-12, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; and Small Wood '98 Conference and Exhibition, Oct. 14, in Lewiston, Idaho, where he presented the keynote address.

### Job Vacancies

	<b>Closes</b>
Fire Management/Fire Ecology Specialist GS-401-13, Sacramento (not to exceed 1 year)	11-18-98
Computer Specialist, GS-334-11, Sacramento (not to exceed 1 year)	11-18-98

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