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**Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710**

## **PSW Co-Sponsors Fire Economics Symposium**

A symposium on "Fire Economics, Planning, and Policy" co-sponsored by PSW on April 5-9, in San Diego, brought together nearly 100 attendees from a variety of agencies and several other countries. Other co-sponsors included the Western Forest Fire Research Center of Colorado State University, International Association of Wildland Fire, and Society of American Foresters.

The symposium was organized by Armando Gonzalez-Caban, Fire Management Research Unit, Riverside, and Philip Omi of Colorado State University.

Station Director Hal Salwaster offered the keynote address on "Fire Economics, Policy, and Planning: Bottom Lines," and Enoch Bell, Assistant Station Director—Research/Southern California, served as a panel moderator.

"Adaptive management is the only viable option for dynamic ecosystems," said Hal. He call for the integration of science, policy, planning, implementation, and communication as a general model, and for instilling risk as the central concept in these processes.

"Economic, social, and political sciences are critical players in developing overall strategies, and management tools," according to Hal, "and bio-physical sciences are necessary but not sufficient."

The following Station scientists presented papers:

\* Carl Dammann, Fire Management Research Unit, Riverside: "Using Animation to Verify and Validate Service Delivery Simulation Models in Fire Planning. Carl also presented two posters: "Assessing and Forecasting Fire Season Severity and the Implications for Fire Planning," and Fire Economics and Planning Projects of Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, and Application Group."

\* Armando Gonzelez-Caban: "Estimating the change in Economic Value of Fire Effects on Forest Recreation: A Case Study in Colorado and Nevada," and "OWL:ECON: A Spreadsheet Program for Calculating the Economic Value to State Residents from Protecting Spotted Owl Habitat from Fire." A third paper, co-authored by Armando was presented by the senior author, Don MacGregor and titled "USDA Forest Service Wildland Fire Situation Analysis: Results of Survey on Improving Implementation Practice."

\* Mark Poth, Atmospheric Deposition Research Unit, Riverside: "What Are the Costs and Benefits of Using Prescribed Fire to Alter the Biogeochemistry of Lake Tahoe Watershed to Improve Lake Water Quality?"

\* Marc Wiitala, Fire Management Research Unit, Boise, Idaho: "Assessing the Risk of Cumulative Burned Acreage Using

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## **Furnish New Deputy Chief—National Forests**

James R. Furnish is the new Deputy Chief—National Forest System, in the FS Washington Office, Chief Mike Dombek announced on May 12. He will be responsible for the management of 192 million acres of publicly-owned National Forests and National Grasslands. Jim succeeds Robert C. Joslin, who retired on December 31, and in the interim, Associate Deputy Chief Gloria Manning had been Acting Deputy Chief.

Jim leaves the position of Forest Supervisor of the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon. A native of Iowa, Jim began his FS career 31 years ago, after earning a B.S. degree in forest management at Iowa State University in 1968. He served as a District Ranger at the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming (1977-84), a Staff Officer with the San Juan-Rio Grande National Forest in Colorado (1984-1989), and Appeal Coordinator in the FS Washington Office (1989-91).

## **International Travel**

\* Tom Conkle, Institute of Forest Genetics, Albany, attended the Pacific Sub-Regional Workshop on Forest and Tree Genetic Resources, held April 9-19, in Apia, Samoa, at the invitation of Pacific Islands Forest and Tree Support Program, Secretariat of the Pacific Community in Suva, Fiji. Tom reported on the Station's genetic research, and assisted in developing an action plan for the use, management, and conservation of forest and genetic resources in the western Pacific islands.

\* Armando Gonzalez-Caban, Fire Management Research Unit, Riverside, served as a professor in the master's program on planning and managing open and natural spaces at the invitation of the Universidad Internacional de Andalucia, Campus Iberomericano de la Rabida, in Palos de la Frontera, Spain. He presented four lectures on "Economic Efficiency in Natural Resources Planning," and took part in roundtable discussion of fire management and economics analysis, at the Universidad de Cordoba's School of Forestry.

## **In Memoriam**

August L. (Gus) Hormay, who pioneered the concept of rest-rotation for managing rangelands, died on May 7, in San Francisco, 3 days short of reaching the age of 92. His Federal career spanned more than 50 years. Gus was born in San Francisco, and earned a forestry degree at the University of California at Berkeley in 1930. He joined the California (now Pacific Southwest) Station staff at Berkeley, the following year. In 1966, he transferred to the USDI Bureau of Land Management as a range management advisor. As a range conservationist with

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*(Symposium -Continued)*

the Poisson Probability Model,” and “A Dynamic Programming Approach to Determining Optimal Forest Wildfire Initial Attack Response.”

\* Pete Wohlgemuth, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit “Post-Fire Hillslope Erosion in Southern California Chaparral: A Case Study of Prescribed Fire as a Sediment Management Tool.”

David Weise, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit, presented a poster on “Risk-Based Comparison of Potential Fuel Treatment Trade-Off Models.”

Some major conclusions drawn from the symposium presentations include the need to develop a new generation of strategic fire management planning models, and to integrate as much as possible all Federal agencies with fire protection responsibilities under a common strategic fire planning analysis system. And firefighting agencies need to handle their fire costs better to have a more realistic approach to determining how much is actually being spent to fight fires.

### **Meetings/Conferences/Seminars**

\* Winter Meeting, California Forest Soils Conference, April 13, Sacramento: Jan Beyers, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit, Riverside, talked about “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Postfire Emergency Rehabilitation Treatments.”

\* Western Social Science Association meeting, April 21-24, Fort Worth, Tex.: Jennifer Hoyer presented a paper by her, Jean Mangun , and Deborah Chavez, Recreation/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside, on “Salient Beliefs and Behavior of Shawnee National Forest Trailing System Mountain Bikers.”

\* Meeting of the Recreation Steering Committee, FS San Diego Technology Development Center, April 29, San Dimas, Calif.: Deborah Chavez presented a paper on “Recreation Research in the Wildland-Urban Interface: Links Between Science and Management.

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the Station, Gus developed the concept of rest-rotation grazing for promoting and maintaining the growth of vegetation under livestock use. “Every natural system needs periodic rest and periodic harvest to remain healthy,” he often said in his many visits to public and private rangeland managers..

### **Bunkhouse at Tanbark Flats, Filmed**

Last month, a film crew from Paradigm Productions showed up at Tanbark Flats, at the Station’s San Dimas Experimental Forests, which is located on the Angeles National Forest, north of Glendora, in southern California. The crew filmed at old bunkhouse that was used by conscientious objectors during World War II. These were men who were drafted for military service, but objected to serving because of their conscience. More than 160 men were stationed there during and just after the war.. The bunkhouse, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933, is one of the few remaining buildings still standing that was used by conscientious objectors. Existing CCC facilities were often used to house them , and the Tanbark facility was one of the few such camps in the Western United States.

The scenes shot at Tanbark Flats will be part of a documentary being produced for PBS, which will televise it next June. More information can be obtained from Dave Larson, manager of the San Dimas Experimental Forest, at the Station’s Forest Fire Laboratory, at Riverside.

### **FS Region 5 Plans Open House in Vallejo in July**

To introduce the public to its new headquarters on Mare Island, in Vallejo, the FS Pacific Southwest Regional Office (Region 5) is planning an open house on July 7. Says Assistant Regional Forester Millie Otwell, who is heading up the planning committee, “R-5 will be hosting our official welcome to the Island. There will be many events and good things happening.”

### **Job Vacancies**

Computer Assistant, GS-335-6/7

### **Closes**

6-17-99

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