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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Changing of the Guard

With the next issue of *For Your Information*, Mary Hale becomes editor of the Station's newsletter. Since its founding in 1962, *FYI*—as it is commonly called—has had seven editors: Clyde Walker, Louise Parker, Marcia Wood, John McDonald, Linda Hecker, Lisa Wolters, and Vince Dong.

On a long-term detail to PSW, Mary is an information assistant/ public affairs with the Stanislaus National Forest, Sonora, Calif. Well-traveled in her 20 years with the FS, Mary has served in details in Regions 1, 5 and 8, and now PSW. She was selected to attend the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta to provide FS information to visitors from around the world. And she accompanied Greg, her husband, when he served at U.S. Air Force bases in California, North Dakota, and Taiwan.

Mary and Greg, who is an equipment specialist for the U.S. National Park Service, live in the Presidio, in San Francisco Bay. Their two daughters—Jodi, 20; and Kristi, 19—are away in college. Mary's favorite number is 7 because her parents and three sisters were all born on the seventh day of the month, her address is 777, and her phone number begins with 771.

"I am excited and enthused about introducing new concepts to help the Station in informing and educating our publics, and broadening customers' knowledge about PSW's research and development, and its scientific staff," says Mary.

As part of her public affairs duties, Mary spoke last week at a women's group in Stockton about the FS's Penny Pines reforestation program in California.

FFIS Kicks Off with Fiscal Year 2000

On Friday, October 1—Fiscal Year 2000 of the new millennium arrived, and not far behind was the launching of a new financial system for the FS: FFIS—Foundation Financial Information System. A commercial off-the-shelf accounting and budgeting software package that meets all Federal accounting and systems standards, FFIS replaces the old Central Accounting System.

One immediate effect of FFIS was felt by all employees: Instead of using Management Codes on their time and attendance reports, purchases, travel vouchers, and other documents, they switched to new Job Codes.

To complement the use of FFIS, the FS has adopted the "Primary Purpose Principle," under which charges are made to the budget line item that is the main reason, or primary purpose, for doing the work. This is a major change from the previous FS policy of "Benefiting Function" in which all activities that benefited from the work were charged.

FS to Implement President's Roadless Initiative

President Clinton, on October 13, announced that he is directing the Forest Service to develop a proposal to protect more than 40 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on its 155 National Forests and 20 Grasslands. Under the President's program, logging and mining would be prohibited on the 40 million acres, including 4 million acres in California. And road building would be severely restricted on these acres.

Less than 5 percent of the timber cut in the United States comes from the National Forests, said the President, and of that amount just 5 percent comes from roadless areas.

The FS is being directed to conduct an environmental impact statement that will include a public review and comment process. After the EIS is issued, the agency will prepare rulemaking for use of the affected lands. Completion of the final EIS and rule is scheduled for late fall of the year 2000.

"The process ordered by the President under the National Environmental Policy Act is to analyze the effects of his proposal," said FS Chief Mike Dombeck. "We don't have a single 'No Trespassing' sign on 192 million acres of public land. Our intent is to keep it that way. No roads or trails will be closed as a result of the President's proposal. All we are proposing is to begin an open and public dialogue with the American people. This proposal does not affect ongoing projects, and the interim suspension of road construction in roadless areas remains in effect."

The acreage of roadless areas in National Forests in California range from 22,350 of the Cleveland, in southern California, to 861,263 of the Inyo, in the northern part of the State. Roadless acreage that would be protected under the President's program totals 3,867,802 in California.

Inventoried roadless areas are undeveloped, typically exceed 5,000 acres, and were identified during the FS's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation process in the late 1970's.

New Regional Forester Named in PNW Region

Harv Forsgren, a fisheries management specialist, has been named Regional Forester of the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6), headquartered in Portland, Ore. A 21-year career FS employee, Harv will oversee the Region's 22 National Forests and Grasslands totaling nearly 25 million acres in Oregon and Washington.

He joined the FS as a permanent employee in 1978, as a botanist classifying vegetation. He has worked as a fisheries biologist in Idaho, Oregon, and Utah, at the National Forest and Regional Office levels. Since June 1998, he has been Director of Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants, in the FS Washington Office. Harv earned a B.S. degree in fisheries management at Utah State University, and an M.S. degree in natural resource management at Humboldt State University, in Arcata, Calif.

New to PSW

A new research ecologist and Team Leader has arrived at Hilo, Hawaii, in the person of Julie S. Denslow. On the “Big Island,” she will direct scientists and technicians in studying and managing invasive non-indigenous species in native forests.

Native of Coral Gables, Florida, Julie earned an A.B. degree in zoology at Oberlin College (1964); an M.S. degree in biology at the University of Miami, at Coral Gables (1969); and a doctorate in botany/plant ecology at the University of Wisconsin—Madison (1978).

She began her career as an instructor at the University of Wisconsin—Madison (1977-84), served as project director of the New York Botanical Garden (1984-86), and taught biology at Tulane University (1986-95) and at Louisiana State University (1995-99), becoming an associate professor at both institutions.

“I have worked for many years in the tropical forests of Central America—especially Costa Rica and Panama, on forest regeneration,” says Julie. “I also have ongoing research in Louisiana on an alien tree, Chinese tallow, which is invading coastal prairies and bottomland hardwood forests in Hawaii. I look forward to combining interests in the ecology of invasive species and the aspects of tropical forests that make them vulnerable to such exotics.”

What time she has from her work, Julie enjoys natural history, and listening to jazz.

Personnelly Speaking

Promotions

* James Allen, research forester/ecologist, Forested Watersheds Research Team, Honolulu.

* Rochelle Selvin, personnel management specialist, Personnel Management Group, Albany.

Extra-Effort Award

For contributions as members of the Station’s Communications Review Team, Albany:

* Robert Ziemer, Hillslope Processes/Fishery Research Unit, Arcata.

* Sara Garetz, Library Group, Albany.

* Joanne Hildreth, Station Director’s Office, Albany

* Karen Mallinen, Facilities/Administrative Services Group, Albany.

* Patricia Pepin, Library Group, Vallejo.

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PSW, CDF Sign 100-Year Water Agreement

The Station and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection have agreed to continue cooperative research for the next 100 years in the Caspar Creek watershed project, near Fort Bragg, in northern California. On August 17, Hal Salwasser, Station Director, and Andrea Tuttle, CDF Director, met in Sacramento for the formal signing of the agreement.

Since 1961, researchers from both agencies have been conducting watershed research at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, near Fort Bragg. Their findings have identified the extent and nature of streamflow, erosion, and sedimentation effects of logging in the Caspar Creek area.

The hydrologic record created by this ongoing research is unique. Only three similar research locations exist in the United States with long-term records from small, forested watersheds. Among the three, only the Caspar Creek site has a rain-dominated winter, dry summer climate, and research activity where the effect of harvesting second-growth conifer forests has been monitored.

Meeting/Conferences/Seminars

84th Annual Meeting, Ecological Society of America/North American Chapter Meeting, International Society for Ecological Modeling, August 8-12, Washington, D.C.: Following members of Forest Fire Laboratory, Riverside, staff presented papers: Mike Arbaugh—“Long-Term Air Pollution Research Sites in the Sierra Nevada” (poster), Jan Beyers—“Assessing Effectiveness of Forest Service-Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Treatments” (poster), Mark Fenn—“Beyond the NSF LTER Network: Lesser Known Long-Term Ecological Research—An ESA Workshop” (co-authors: Mark Poth, Ann Bartuska), Nancy Grulke—“Deciduous Conifers: High Nitrogen Deposition and Ozone Exposure Effects on Growth and Biomass Allocation of Ponderosa Pine,” Dave Larson—“The San Dimas Experimental Forest: 65 Years of Science” (poster), Marcia Narog—“Arizona Saguaro-Shrub Vegetation Following Wildfire” (co-authors: Ruth Wilson, Bonni Corcoran), Mark Poth—“Long-Term Research Sites and Networks in National Forests” (co-authors: Mark Fenn, Ann Bartuska). Jenni Snibbe also attended.