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*Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710*

## **Gillam Named Associate R-5 Forester**

Bertha Gillam has been appointed to a new position on the executive team of FS Region 5, Vallejo, Calif. As Associate Regional Forester, she will serve as alter ego to Regional Forester Brad Powell. Bertha is currently Director of Range Management, FS Washington Office. Under the Regional Forester, she will share the job of overseeing the work of the Deputy and Assistant Regional Foresters and their staffs.

A FS career employee since 1977, Bertha has been a botanist, District Ranger, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Forest Supervisor, FS Washington Office Assistant Director and Acting Staff Director, and Acting Associate Deputy Chief—National Forest System. She will report to her new job in late April.

## **Karraker Appointed to Civil Rights Committee**

Nancy Karraker, a temporary employee at the Station's Redwood Sciences Laboratory, Arcata, has been appointed to the Station Civil Rights Committee, to represent temporary employees, for a term ending Dec. 31, 2002. Nancy is a wildlife biologist who joined the Station staff in 1998.

## **Burke Wins in FS Clay Cup Competition**

Gloria Burke won three Medallion awards in the annual FS Clay Cup Races on Mar. 11, at Sierra Summit. The event was sponsored by the Sierra National Forest, northern California. Gloria won first place in the women's novice snow board, for her age group, and in the women's advanced alpine, for her age group. She also received a special award for the "Most Persistent Finish." To earn that award, Gloria did whatever it took to cross the finish line on her snowboard, whether it was crawling or hopping. A forestry technician, Gloria is assigned to the Station's Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit, at the Forest Fire Laboratory, Riverside. Overall, the Laboratory team placed sixth among the eight teams competing.

## **In Memoriam**

Helen Bell, a long-time hydrologic technician at the Station's San Dimas Experimental Forest, at Glendora, died on March 4, one day short of her 90th birthday. Her entire PSW career was spent at Glendora, starting in the 1950s until she retired in 1971, then returning to work in the 1980s as a retired annuitant until she "retired" again in 1994. As the Experimental Forest's data manager, she became highly knowledgeable about the data archives. She is survived by a son, Gene, who lives in Wisconsin.

## **Multimillion Fire Hazard Study Approved**

A study on fire hazard reduction and forest health with a \$13.4-million budget has been approved by the governing board of the Joint Fire Science Board of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior. Of that total, \$1.3 million will be allocated to PSW.

In a letter notifying Phil Weatherspoon of the board's decision, Program Manager Bob Clark called it the "first truly national project to evaluate a variety of fuels management treatments and their effects. This information is desperately needed to proceed with fuels management in a scientific manner."

Phil, who has been project coordinator during the 2-year period of the proposal development process, is Team Leader—Disturbance Factors Research, at the Station's Silviculture Laboratory, at Redding.

The study proposal is titled "A National Study of the Consequences of Fire and Fire Surrogate Treatments." A network of 11 research sites has been set up in forests with frequent, low-to-moderate severity natural fire regimes. These forest types tend to be high priority for fire hazard reduction and ecological restoration. Among the 11 sites, 8 are in western coniferous forests, 2 in southern pines, and 1 in central hardwood forests.

According to Phil, the study will assess a wide range of consequences of four alternative treatments: (a) tree cuttings and mechanical fuel treatments alone, (b) prescribed fire alone, (c) a combination of cuttings and prescribed fire, and (d) untreated controls.

Says Phil: "Multi-site and interdisciplinary analyses will be facilitated by a common research design, which includes measurements of core response variables in vegetation, fuel and fire behavior, soils and forest floor, wildlife, entomology, pathology, and economics."

A social science component probably will be linked to the study through no-cost cooperative arrangements or non-program funding, or both, reports Phil.

The \$13.4-million budget covers a 5-year period through Fiscal Year 2004, although the anticipated life of the study extends well beyond 5 years. For the past 2 years, Phil has led the effort to make the national study proposal a reality. What began as a proposal to start a similar but more limited study in California, bringing together cooperators at the Station and FS Region 5, took on a national complexion when the Joint Fire Science Program of USDA/USDI was launched. A preliminary proposal was accepted by the Program governing board, which led to funding for several workshops to develop the final study proposal.

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## **Conferences/Meetings/Seminars**

\* Connie Millar, Forest Genetics Research Unit, Albany, spoke on “Embracing Long-Term Time and Change in Restoration: Misdiagnosis in the Sierra Nevada,” Jan. 25, at the School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Yale University, New Haven, at the invitation of the Distinguished Lecturer/Visiting Scholar program sponsored by an endowed program called “Restoration Agenda.”

\* Phil McDonald, Vegetation Growth/Development Research Team, Redding, spoke on “Effect of Competition on Genetically Improved Ponderosa Pine Seedlings,” at the 2000 Conference of the Inland Empire Reforestation Council, Feb. 29, in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

## **Personnelly Speaking**

### ***Retirements***

\* Lola M. Thomas, editorial assistant, Riverside, 20 years Federal service, Dec. 31, 1999.

\* Sandra V. Andreas, computer specialist, Fresno, 26 years Federal service, Mar. 1, 2000.

### ***Resignation***

\* Dave Larson, forestry technician, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit, Riverside, Apr. 8. Dave was manager of the Station’s San Dimas Experimental Forest, near Glendora, Calif., and has accepted a job as field station manager, Tyson Research Center, Washington University, at Eureka, southwest of St. Louis, Mo.

Besides Phil, other PSW scientists and managers participating in the study’s steering committee have included Phil Aune, Matt Busse, Gary Fiddler, Kathy Harcksen, Martin Ritchie, and Carl Skinner, at Redding; Jim Baldwin, at Albany; Sally Haase, at Riverside; Bill Laudenslayer, at Fresno; and Pat Shea, at Davis.

Jim McIver, Pacific Northwest Research Station, LaGrande, Oreg., has assumed the new position of network manager of the national fire/fire surrogate study of 11 sites where the tests will be held.

More information about the study is available online at <http://ffs.fs.fed.us>.

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Pacific Southwest Research Station  
Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 245  
Berkeley, CA 94701-0245