

f for your information



Caring for the Land and Serving People

<http://www.psw.fs.fed.us>

Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Mori in Chile: A First-Hand Report

This October, Sylvia Mori was invited to attend a meeting of the Chilean Society of Statistics, and to teach a course on using statistics to monitor forest resources. Sylvia is a mathematical statistician with the Environment Statistics Unit, Albany. Here is her first-hand report of her visit to Chile:

From Oct. 9-11, I attended the 25th Annual Conference of the Chilean Society of Statistics (SOCHE), and taught a mini-course on “Métodos Estadísticos para el Monitoreo e Investigación Forestal.” The conference took place at the Universidad Austral de Chile, in Valdivia, a rainy city of breathtaking beauty.

The province of Valdivia, capital Valdivia, is about 840 km south of the capital city of Santiago with a population of 100,000. Valdivia lies between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains.

Forest products form the main industry of Valdivia. Of Chile’s total land area of 74.9 million ha, only about 11 pct is forested. Nonetheless, forestry plays a key role in the economy of this rapidly developing South American country.

Chile has a modern forest industry that provides for domestic needs and worldwide exports. It furnishes about 5 pct of the world consumption of wood products, of which 25 pct goes to the United States and 14 pct to Japan. The industry is almost entirely dependent on plantations of fast-growing, genetically improved introduced species, of which *Pinus radiata*, a native of California, is the most planted species—81 pct.

My classes, given entirely in Spanish, were about general and specific statistical methods for forest monitoring and research. I emphasized the power of the statistical packages currently available for fitting more realistic models to the statistical distribution of the responses to better explain the sources of variability.

I also participated in a roundtable discussion on the role of environmental statistics in the new millennium. I talked about how the statistician can help the ecologist from the sampling design stage to the development of statistical models to ensure the reliability of the inferences.

While in Chile, I was also invited to visit the Instituto Forestal (INFOR) in Valdivia and Santiago. INFOR has regional offices, similar to FS research units. Organizationally, INFOR is a branch of the Corporacion Nacional Forestal (CORFO), a service of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile. CORFO has mandated INFOR to develop a national monitoring plan according to an international agreement among several countries, including the United States. The Executive Director of the INFOR was especially interested in how forest monitoring is being done in the U.S.

Examples of the classes I gave in Spanish can be found on the PSW intranet page:<http://statistics.psw.fs.fed.us/methods>.

Acting Appointments to Continue

Garland Mason, who has been Acting Station Director since July 2, will continue in that appointment, pending the imminent selection and approval of a permanent Station Director. And Mark Poth, who has been filling in behind Garland since Sept. 18 will continue as Acting Assistant Station Director—Research/Northern California, at Albany.

Thompson Acting Deputy Chief for S&PF

Robin Thompson became Acting Deputy Chief—State and Private Forestry, in the FS Washington Office, effective Oct. 26. She replaced Janice McDougale, who will be handling special assignments for the FS Chief Operating Officer. Robin’s husband, Clyde, is the FS Deputy Chief—Business Operations. She was formerly Associate Deputy Chief—S&PF, and before that was the Assistant Director of Program Development and Budget, in the WO.

Cables Succeeds Laverty as RM Forester

Rick Cables has been named to succeed Lyle Laverty, who has been Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region (R-2) since 1997. Lyle has been assigned to direct the implementation of the recently announced FS National Fire Plan. Rick has been Regional Forester of the 22-million acre Alaska Region (R-10) for the last year.

Lyle led the FS Multi-Agency Response Team that developed the fire plan titled “Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire-Adapted Ecosystems—a Cohesive Strategy,” to address catastrophic wildfire threats in the interior west. Steps to restore the health of National Forests by managing wildfires is being funded by an additional Congressional appropriation of \$1.1 billion to the FS budget.

Chief Announces Fire Jobs, Policies

Availability of firefighting jobs, the preferred alternative in roadless area conservation, and new forest planning rules were announced this month by FS Chief Mike Dombeck.

- To support the recently announced National Fire Plan, the agency will be hiring about 3,500 new employees, mostly as forestry aids and technicians, who will be assigned to firefighting positions. The job announcements, which opened on Nov. 15, will remain open until all jobs are filled. Employees intending to apply should contact their local FS office. For further information, call 1-877-813-3476, or e-mail to: fsjobs@fs.fed.us.

- Under the announced preferred alternative of the Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement, new road construction and timber harvest are prohibited, except for clearly defined stewardship purposes in inventoried roadless

(Continued on page 2)

Scientists Should Send Reprints to Library

All Station authors are urged to send reprints of their journal articles and copies of non-FS publications to the PSW Library and Information Center, says Patricia Pepin, Station librarian. As part of its standard distribution, Research Information Services Group routes to the Library copies of all reprints it receives, but occasionally may miss getting copies from authors.

The library catalogs all reprints and other publications it receives on WEBCAT, the database formerly known as FS INFO. Users who search WEBCAT, which is available to all FS employees, can then find the cataloged items. The database can be found on the Library's homepage: <http://library/psw/fs/fed/is>. The publication citation also appears in the Library's Monthly Alert. The Library's address is PSWLIC, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592.

To further widen the distribution of FS publications and other information products, Deputy Chief Robert Lewis, Jr, WO, has announced a policy of having all Stations distribute their reprints and information products to a national list of depositories and abstracting services. These recipients are in addition to those addressees already on the PSW mailing list.

Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

- David Neale, Project Leader—Forest Genetics Research, Davis, presented a seminar on “Structural and Comparative Genomics of the Pine Genome,” September 3, at the University of Parma, Italy. He also visited research sites in Turkey as well as Italy.

- Debbie Chavez, Recreation Research/Urban Cultures Research Unit, Riverside, presented two papers at the 5th Outdoor Recreation and Trends Symposium, Sept. 17-20, East Lansing, Mich.: “Changes in Demographics: Changes in Recreation Patterns,” and “Extreme Uses of Trails on Public Lands: Management Issues and Strategies,” and she chaired the session on “Cultural And Ethnic Diversity.” She also served on the Program Development Committee of the 15th National Trails Symposium, Sept. 21-24, Redding, Calif., and chaired the poster session.

(Jobs, Policies—continued)

areas. And the requirement to evaluate the need to extend additional protections to other smaller roadless areas becomes part of the planning rules.

- New planning rules for National Forests and Grasslands have been adopted, and they are effective immediately. The rules integrate science and the principles of sustainability into planning, and require a focus on managing ecosystems rather than single species.

New to PSW

“Local lad joins the lab” is one way of characterizing an addition to the Station's Redwood Sciences Laboratory staff, at Arcata. That addition is new purchasing agent Brian Konnersman. Brian was born in Sotia, raised in Fortuna, and earned a B.A. degree in English literature in 1970 at what was then called Humboldt State College (now University), at Arcata.

For 25 years, Brian worked as a maintenance worker at the FS Humboldt Nursery. He worked briefly as a business management assistant at the Lower Trinity Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest in northern California, before transferring to the Arcata laboratory.

This summer, as compensation and claims officer of the multiagency Fire Incident Management Team 1, Brian worked on major fires that ravaged the west. While on 3-week detail to the Burgdork Fire in Idaho, Brian had the rare opportunity to meet the President, the U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, and the Governor of Idaho.

Brian and his wife Michele are parents of a daughter Jolene, who is in her final year at the University of California at Los Angeles Law School. His particular interests are in travel, fire incident management teams, sports on TV, reading, and his Harley motorcycle.

Personnel Speaking

Appointments

- Danny Lee, Timber/Wildlife Interactions Research Unit, Arcata: to Committee of Scientists.

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