

f for Your information



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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

Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Internal Competitive Grants Announced

Five scientists have been awarded internal competitive grants. Their proposals were judged by the Committee of Scientists as the best among the 14 submitted. The scientists and proposals selected and amount of funding awarded were:

- Matt Busse, Soil Productivity Research Team, Redding: "Soil Microbial Diversity," \$19,510.
- Susan Cordell: Non-Indigenous Species Research Team, Hilo: "Impact of Invasive Exotic Grasses on Water-Use Patterns in Native Hawaiian Dry Forests," \$15,420.
- Ken Hubbert, Prescribed Fire/Fire Effects Research Unit, Riverside: "Ectomycorrhizal Hyphae in Fractures and Microfractures of Weathered Granitic Bedrock," \$19,130.
- Kathleen Matthews, Sierra Nevada Montane Ecosystems Research Unit, Albany: "Movement Patterns, Habitat Use and Diet of Mountain Garter Snake, *Thamnophis elegans elegans*, in the High Sierra Nevada," \$19,080.
- Cynthia Zabel, Wildlife/Timber Research Unit, Arcata: "Habitat Use of the Red Tree Vole (*Arborimus pomus*) in Northwestern California," \$17,946.

FS R&D Communicators Meet in San Francisco

In the first such meeting in more than a decade, FS communicators met on Feb. 12-14, in San Francisco for a National FS R&D Communicators Workshop. Attending were editors, writers, visual information specialists, public affairs specialists, librarians, and distribution specialists.

Attending from the PSW communications unit were Sara Garetz, who helped organize the meeting, Vince Dong, Laurie Dunn, Martha Shibata, and Patricia Pepin.

Acting Director Garland Mason offered the welcoming address. He was followed by two other Station Directors—Bov Eav, Northeastern Station; and Tom Mills, Pacific Northwest Station—who discussed "Making FS Research Relevant to Today's Society." They in turn were followed by the keynoter—former FS Chief Jack Ward Thomas, who spoke on "Communicating Sciences in a New Millennium." Staff Assistant Hao Tran, who represented Deputy Chief—Research and Development Robert Lewis, Jr., provided greetings from the FS Washington Office.

Three PSW researchers participated as panelists: Haiganoush Preisler, Environmental Statistics Research Unit, Albany, who spoke on "Roles and Requirements of Biometrics Reviews"; Bill Oliver, Forest Growth/Development Research Unit, Redding, who spoke on "Forest Service Editorial Reviews"; and Greg McPherson, Urban Forestry Research Unit, Davis, who spoke on "Marketing with the Forest Service."

Gulke Named Riverside Project Leader

Nancy E. Gulke has been named Project Leader—Air Pollution/Global Change Research, effective Feb. 1, at the Station's Forest Fire Laboratory, Riverside. She succeeds Mark Poth, who has been Acting Assistant Station Director—Research/Northern California, for the last 5 months.

A native of Lakewood, Ohio, near Cleveland, Nancy earned a B.S. degree in botany at Duke University (1978) and a Ph.D. degree in botany at the University of Washington (1983). From then until she received her permanent appointment as a plant physiologist in the Air Pollution Research Unit, at Riverside, she held several post-doctoral positions, including teaching stints. Nancy served as an assistant professor of plant physiology at Montana State University and as an associate professor of forestry at Oregon State University.

She has been at the Riverside laboratory since 1989 except for a period from 1991 to 1997, when she was on detail to the Pacific Northwest Station's Global Change Research Program as science coordinator, at Corvallis, Ore.

Poth Replaces Neale as Genetics Project Leader

Mark Poth has been designated Acting Project Leader—Institute of Forest Genetics, at Davis. He replaces David Neale, who has stepped down as Project Leader to spend more time on his personal research, according to Acting Station Director Garland Mason. David has held the job since Oct. 1, 1998. Mark will continue as Acting Assistant Station Director—Research/Northern California, a position he has held since last September. The IFG research unit is headquartered in Davis, Calif., with facilities in Albany and Placerville.

In Memoriam

Michael A. Fosberg, Project Leader—Fire Meteorology Research from 1978-1987, died on Feb. 2 at age 63, in Onancock, Va. After leaving PSW, he joined the Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research Staff in the FS Washington Office. Upon retiring in 1996, Mike moved to Germany, where he worked at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research for 3 years before returning to Virginia. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees at Oregon State University, and a doctorate at Colorado State University. He joined the PSW staff in 1962, later transferred to the Rocky Mountain Station at Fort Collins, and then returned to PSW in 1978, stationed at Riverside. Mike's work on fuel moisture modeling is part of the FS's National Fire Danger Rating System. A fire weather index he developed is still in use today. Mike is survived by his wife Barbara; a daughter, Kristina; a son, Keith; and six grandchildren.

Employee Council: A Snapshot

As its name implies, the Station's Employee Council represents all employees. It was created in 1992 as an advisory and working task group of the Partnership Council, which has representatives of management, employees, and the local union and was established earlier by Executive Order.

The Employee Council has a coordinator, and representatives from each of the PSW site locations that elect to have a member. The Council conducts its business chiefly by holding teleconference calls about every 6 weeks.

The goals of the Council are to help identify issues and develop and implement solutions, resolve issues at the lowest possible level, promote a positive workplace with a diverse workforce, and promote cooperation and commitment among all employees. Employees who have any questions about the Council should contact their local representative.

Council members are: Karen Mallinen (Albany), Kay Kahl (Arcata), Paula Peper (Davis), Teri Conway (Fresno), Don Goo (Hawaii), Gary Fiddler (Redding), and Evelyn MacCaffery (Riverside). Teri serves as the Council coordinator.

Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

- Bob Powers, Team Leader—Soil Productivity Research, Redding, attended the Joint Annual Meeting of the Societe d'entomologie du Quebec, Entomological Society of Canada, and the Entomological Society of America, Dec. 3-6, in Quebec, Canada. He presented papers on "From Systematics to Semiochemicals: Discoveries Along the Seed and Cone Trail" and "Biological Assessment of the Link Between Mitochondrial DNA Sequences, Dioryctria Morphology, and Larval Host," and two posters: "Response of Nontarget Insects to Cone Beetle Pheromones," and "Arthropod-Mediated Decomposition of Ponderosa Pine, Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest, California."

- Bernadette Jaquint, grants and agreements specialist, Budget/Financial Management Group, Albany, attended the FS National Grants and Agreements Workshop, Jan. 23-25, in Milwaukee.

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