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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

Powers Teaches in Chile: A First-Hand Report

Earlier this year, Bob Powers taught a short course in Chile on the principles of sustainable plantation forestry. Bob is Team Leader—Soil Productivity Research, Redding, and concurrently holds an appointment as a courtesy professor (similar to an adjunct professor) at Oregon State University at Corvallis. Here is his first-hand report:

Last January 23-26, Jim Boyle, professor of forestry at Oregon State University, and I teamed up to teach a short course in Concepcion, Chile, on “Principios Ecologicos para el Manejo Sustentable de Plantaciones Forestales” (Ecological Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forest Plantations). Our trip was funded by the Graduate Division of the Universidad de Concepcion, the Corporacion Nacional Forestal (CONAF), and Bioforest S.A. It was organized by Professors Miguel Espinosa B., and Guillermo Troncoso Pizarro, Facultad de Ciencias Forestales, both of whom obtained their advanced degrees at Oregon State University

Chile is slightly smaller than California, Oregon, and Washington combined. Its northern and southern regions are characterized by deserts and ice, but its south central region is forested. Nearly 16 million ha are forested (similar to that in California) and 2.1 million ha are in “exotic” or introduced plantations of pine, Douglas-fir, and eucalyptus.

California and portions of Chile have much in common geomorphically and climatically, including the low Coast Range, a hot, dry Interior Valley, and a towering range of mountains to the east—the Andes. The region near Concepcion is governed by a Mediterranean climate and—like California—is subject to frequent earthquakes. Coincidentally, Concepcion and San Francisco are both at 37 degrees. Many possibilities for cooperative or collaborative research were raised by our all too brief of a visit.

The 4-day course we taught covered principles of scale—physical, chemical, and biology of forest soil ecology; how these principles control forest development and how they are influenced by management; and the cumulative effects of planned and unplanned effects on sustainable plantation productivity. We lectured in English, and our remarks were converted to Spanish by two hard-working translators. Two of the lectures were followed by field discussions in a native forest, forest cleared for agriculture, and a research plantation established on degraded and abandoned agricultural land.

For a final examination, we assigned the students to a conceptual problem of developing a management plan for restoring a forest on land abandoned by agriculture. We divided the students into groups, with oral presentations made by group spokespersons. In all, about two dozen students from the University graduate division, CONAF, and private companies participated.

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Bosworth Becomes New FS Chief

A forester who has early career ties to California assumed duties as the 15th Chief of the Forest Service, on April 22. Dale N. Bosworth succeeded outgoing Chief Mike Dombeck, who retired on March 31. Dale had been the Regional Forester of the four-State Northern Region, headquartered in Missoula, Mont. He brings to the WO job 35 years of FS experience at all levels of the National Forest System.

In selecting Dale for the top post, Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman said that his “background and experience will make him a great addition to our team.”

Born in Altadena, Calif., Dale grew up on Ranger Station compounds. He earned a forestry degree at the University of Idaho (1966). He began his FS career in the Northern Region as a forester on the St. Joe National Forest, now part of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, in Idaho. Since then, he has served on six other National Forests, three Regional Offices, and the FS Washington Office. He served as a district ranger on the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho; as deputy forest supervisor of the Flathead National Forest in Montana; as assistant land management planning director of the Northern Region; as forest supervisor of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah; as a deputy staff director in the FS Washington Office; as deputy regional forester for resources of the Pacific Southwest Region in California; and as regional forester of the Intermountain Region, in Ogden, Utah. His 2-year stint with the FS WO was spent as Deputy Director of Timber Management

In his message to FS employees, Dale expressed his belief that “our care for the land should continue to be multiple-use with a focus on stewardship and sustainability of the land, water, and communities.” And on the internal front, he wants “us to continue to emphasize our commitment to civil rights and the development of a diverse workforce... and that diversity doesn’t only refer to ethnicity, gender, or culture but also thought.”

Dale is a second-generation forester and FS employee (his father was a Forest Supervisor in northern California). He and his wife, Carma, are parents of a daughter, Christie, and a son Neil.

Distinguished Publications Announced

A major Station publication and a paper published in *Evolution* have won the Milestone Publication Award and the Distinguished Publication Award for 2000.

Upon recommendation of the Committee of Scientists, the Station Director has decided that the Distinguished Publication winner is the article titled “Evolution and Divergence Among Populations of a Rare Mexican Endemic, Chihuahua Spruce, Following Holocene Climatic Warming,” by Tom Ledig, Virginia Jacob-Cervantes, Paul Hodgskiss, and Teobaldo

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These presentations led to a great deal of discussion. Despite the language barrier, the class clearly grasped the ideas we were trying to present. Several students—many of whom spoke some English—commented on how unusual and exciting it was to interact with their professors. “Usually we sit quietly and take notes from the lectures,” several remarked. “This interaction seems a better way to learn.”

Arcata Scientists Speak at Meeting

Scientists of the Timber/Wildlife Research Unit at the Station’s Redwood Sciences Laboratory, at Arcata, were out in force at the Annual Meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, held Feb. 22-25, in Sacramento. They presented 16 papers:

- “A Relative Index of Bat Activity in Thinned and Unthinned Second-Growth and Old-Growth Redwood Forests in Northwest California,” by Mary Jo Mazarek and Cindy Zabel.
- “Within-Site Variation Detections Due to Placement of Bat Detectors in a Forest,” by Ted Weller and Cindy Zabel.
- “Ecology of Arboreal Rodents in Western Coniferous Forests,” by Winston Smith, Cindy Zabel, Robert G. Anthony, and Daniel K. Rosenberg.
- “A Forest Service Research Biologist’s Perspective on Endangered Species Permits,” by Lisa Ollivier.
- “Amphibian Assemblages and Introduced Fishes in the Trinity Alps Wilderness of the Klamath Mountains in Northwestern California,” by Hart Welsh, Jr., and Daniel M. Boiano.
- “A Comparison of Abundance, Assemblage, and Activity of Nocturnal Amphibians in Old-Growth and Second-Growth Redwood Forest Creeks in Humboldt County, California,” by Dan Ashton, Hart Welsh, Jr., and Sharyn Marks.
- “Effects of Silvicultural Edges on Terrestrial Amphibian Abundance and Microclimate in Northwestern California,” by Nancy Karraker and Hart Welsh, Jr.
- “Habitat Alterations and Amphibian Populations: The Role of Forestry in the Decline of Amphibians in Northern California,” by Hart Welsh, Jr., and Lisa Ollivier.
- “Forest Management and Conservation in the Sierra Nevada: Implications for Amphibians,” by Amy Lind.

(Distinguished Publications—continued)

Eguilez-Piedra, and published in *Evolution* (vol. 51, pages 1815-1827; 1997). Tom is a senior scientist and Paul a biological laboratory technician with the Station’s Institute of Forest Genetics at Albany and Placerville.

The Milestone Publication Award went to “The California Spotted Owl: A Technical Assessment of its Current Status,” published as the Station’s General Technical Report PSW-GTR-133, in 1992. Technical coordinators of the 285-page volume were Jerry Verner, Kevin McKelvey, Barry Noon, R. J. Gutierrez, Gordon Gould, Jr., and Tom Beck. At the time of publication, Jerry was Project Leader—Wildlife Monitoring and Range Research, at Fresno; Kevin was a wildlife biologist, at Arcata; and Barry was Project Leader—Timber/Wildlife Interactions Research, at Arcata.

Plaques or certificates are awarded to the winning authors or technical coordinators. And their names are inscribed on a permanent plaque, which lists all winners and hangs in the Station headquarters lobby, in Albany.

Arcata Scientists (continued)

- “A Hierarchical Analysis of the Habitat Attributes of the Tailed Frog (*Ascaphus truei*) in a Low Sediment Stream System,” by Lisa Ollivier.
- “String Theory: Reducing Mammal Mortality in Pitfall Traps,” by Nancy Karraker.
- “A Monitoring Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl for the Scotia Pacific Company L.L.C. Habitat Conservation Plan,” by Howard Stauffer, Sal Chinnici, and Jeff Dunk.
- “Multiple Benefits from Regional Mesocarnivore Surveys: Distributions, Habitat Models, and Monitoring,” by Bill Zeilinski, Richard Truex, Lori Campbell, Carlos Carroll, and Ric Schlexer.
- “Modeling Fisher and Marten Landscape Suitability in the Southern Sierra Nevada,” by Richard Truex, Bill Zeilinski, and Reginald Barrett.
- “Ecology of Coastal American Martens in Northwestern California: Preliminary Results of the Blue Creek Study,” by Keith Slauson, Bill Zeilinski, and John Hayes.

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