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Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710

PSW Station Celebrates 75th Anniversary on July 1

On July 1, PSW marks its 75th anniversary. On that date, in 1926, the Station was officially established, with headquarters in four rooms in Hilgard Hall, on the campus of the University of California, at Berkeley. Station Director Edward I. Kotok headed the 6-person staff.

From that modest beginning, the Station has gone through four name changes, enlarged its area of its responsibility from just California to include Hawaii and the U.S.-affiliated western Pacific islands, seen a dramatic growth in the scope and complexity of its research programs, and entered the new millennium with advances in cutting-edge research and technology.

In 75 years, the Station has been lead by 15 Station Directors. Following founding Director Ed Kotok (1926-40), were Murrell W. Talbot (1940-45), Stephen N. Wyckoff (1945-54), George M. Jemison (1954-57), R. Keith Arnold (1957-63), John R. McGuire (1963-67), Robert D. McCulley (1967-71), Harry W. Camp (1971-73), Robert W. Harris (1973-76), Robert Z. Callaham (1976-83), Roger R. Bay (1983-88), Ronald E. Stewart (1988-90), Barbara C. Weber (1991-94), James C. Space (1994-97), and Harold R. Salwasser (1997-2000). Pending selection of a permanent Director, Assistant Station Director Garland N. Mason has been Acting Station Director since July 2, 2000.

Congratulations to the PSW Research Station on your 75th anniversary. Kudos to the many hard working PSW employees over the years who have contributed to the Station's success. Your accomplishments, both past and present, instill me with personal satisfaction and pride, because you helped bring status and credibility to the whole Forest Service research organization. I look forward to the next 25 years of accomplishments as you grow and progress toward your 100th anniversary.

Barbara C. Weber, Associate Deputy Chief—Research and Development, Forest Service (PSW Station Director 1991-94).

“The first 75 years at PSW are replete with innovative research results that have helped our customers address a broad range of resource-related problems and issues,” says Garland. “It is impossible to foresee what the next 75 years will bring, but as always, the Station will strive to be at the forefront of science and technology delivery to advance sound science-based land management through the Forest Service’s and Station’s missions.”

Although legislation to authorize a “forest experiment station” in California had been introduced in Congress as early as 1922,

not until fiscal year 1926-27 were Federal funds allocated—in the amount of \$32,412. The McSweeney McNary Act of 1928 codified the statutory basis for the California Station and 10 other Stations by appropriating more than \$1 million to carry out the Act.

Originally established as the California Forest Experiment Station in 1926, the Station became the California Forest and Range Experiment Station in 1931 to reflect range research in its charter, the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in 1959, to reflect inclusion of Hawaii and other Pacific islands in its territory, and to its current name in 1990.

With budgets less than \$33,000 a year during its founding period, the Station at its peak totaled nearly \$20 million in funding, and staff of more than 350 full and part-time employees. This growth was reflected in the changes in Station headquarters:

Congratulations and best wishes on your 75th anniversary. The Pacific Southwest Station has earned an outstanding reputation during its 75 years of service in research and technology development. Some of the best scientists, technicians, administrations, and support staff in the country have made their way through the PSW Station. Your service to the people of California, Hawaii, and the western Pacific islands have made a difference in the quality of life, and conservation, use, and protection of natural resources.

The PSW Station was founded before most of us were born, but its influence in the scientific community and natural resources is still shining through every day. You are frequently called upon to provide scientific solutions to complex land management, water resource, and social problems. You are to be recognized on this, your 75th anniversary, for exceptional professional service.

Robert Lewis, Jr., Deputy Chief—Research and Development, Forest Service.

from Giannini Hall on the University of California, Berkeley campus in 1930, to Mulford Hall in 1948, to the Stead Building in Berkeley in 1959, to the current location in the West Annex Building in the USDA complex in Albany, in 1992.

As research opportunities grew, so did the number of the Station’s field sites: Arcata, Davis, Fresno, Placerville, Redding, Riverside, Soda Springs, in California; and Honolulu and Hilo in Hawaii. In addition, PSW established a number of experimental forests and ranges that served as outdoor research laboratories.

Shortly after its founding, the Station began mapping the vegetation types and soils of California—work that became the basis of land management planning. In the ensuing years, Station

scientists provided the foundation for timber-related research, including studies of tree and site quality classification and building on the mosaic pattern of plant growth in forests. They pioneered work on the biochemistry of the turpentines of pines and helped clarify the genetic relationships among the genus *Pinus*. They developed methods for species hybridization, and techniques for rating tree hazards. They surveyed the forest resources of Hawaii and other western Pacific islands. They studied factors influencing soil erosion and water runoff and yield, and developed procedures for conducting watershed assessments. In their work on evaluating insecticides, they investigated alternatives to DDT. They developed new fire management techniques, including air attack, fire retardants, fuel-breaks, fire behavior, fire safety, escaped wildfires, and an incident command system. They explored the relationships between timber and wildlife. They developed guides to the viability and habitat requirements of the California spotted owl. Their recreation research enabled resource managers to apply the principles of landscape architecture to land-use planning. They developed models to evaluate the benefits and costs of urban forests. And they completed a comprehensive evaluation of the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada.

To document their work, Station scientists have produced more than 7,000 publications, whose spectrum ranges from the mapping of forest ecoregions to the mapping of the genes of forest vegetation.

The specialties represented by the research staff were once largely in forestry, entomology, genetics, and pathology. That pattern has since expanded to such fields as wildlife biology, hydrology, sociology, fire ecology, fish biology and others to allow a more balanced perspective in resource management. And Station scientists are being called upon more than ever before for their participation in addressing broad issues in ecosystems planning, resource conservation, and environmental protection.

As the Station starts its next 75 years, its scientists will continue to face the explosion of scientific information. But they will be aided by rapid advances in computer technology and the Internet, highly sophisticated instrumentation, the proliferation of new disciplines, and greater emphasis on interdisciplinary team research.

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Matching Funds for Summer Students

Matching funds for the employment of 10 students this summer at PSW have been announced. Of the 19 proposals received, 10 were selected, according to Equal Employment Opportunity Manager Gladys Evans. The following proposals were selected: from Hawaii, 3; from Davis and Riverside, 2 each; and from Fresno, Redding, and Vallejo, 1 each. Matching funds were awarded for up to \$2,000 for each student. The proposals identified a variety of jobs that students will perform this summer.

Leadership Appointments at PSW Announced

A number of appointments in the Station's leadership ranks have been announced. Bob Ziemer, Project Leader—Hill Slope Processes/Fishery Research, at Arcata, becomes Acting Assistant Station Director—Northern California, succeeding Mark Poth, who has transferred from the FS to the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, in Washington, D.C. Bob's appointment is effective through Oct. 1. Peter Stine, who is Science Team Leader—Sierra Nevada Ecosystems Framework, will become Program Manager—Sierra Nevada Research. New Project Leaders are: Mike Arbaugh, Air Pollution/Global Climate Change Research Unit, Riverside; Claire Kinlaw, Forest Genetics Research Unit, Davis; and Danny Lee, Timber/Wildlife Research Unit, Arcata. And new Team Leader is Carl Skinner, Disturbance Ecology Research Unit, Redding. *FYI* will have further details about these appointments in its next issue.

Personnelly Speaking

Cash Award

- Letha Vaughan, Facilities/Administrative Services Group, Albany: "for extra effort in operating the Station mailroom, in Albany."
- Martha Shibata, Communications Unit, Albany: "for design services to the Urban Forestry Research Unit, Davis."

Promotion

- Bill Laudenslayer, Jr., Sierra Nevada Ecosystems Research Unit, Fresno.