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**Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA 94710**

## Shea to Coordinate Sudden Oak Death Program

PSW has launched a major research program on Sudden Oak Death, with Pat Shea as research coordinator. He will be responsible for developing the program through partnerships with academia, State agencies, public entities, and private individuals, for recruiting and negotiating research agreements, and for tracking PSW-funded research projects. Pat, who retired as a Station entomologist in 1999, has accepted a 2-year appointment.

“Sudden oak death is a major threat to forests in California and potentially to oak forests in eastern North America,” says Pat. “New information is needed about the disease as quickly as possible to develop regulatory policies and quarantines.”

Early in 2000, Federal, State, and local agencies set up a California Oak Mortality Task Force. Carol DeMuth, Assistant Station Director—Operations, Planning, and Application, served as PSW’s representative on the Task Force. Its goals were to gain recognition of sudden oak death and coordinate research, education, and management of the oak disease problem.

In FY 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized the expenditure by PSW of \$1.6 million to conduct research on sudden oak death. The primary areas of interest include the biology, ecology, and epidemiology of the disease, its potential ecological effects, treatment and management options, and utilization and disposal of dead material.

Sudden oak death caused by the fungal genus *Phytophthora* is a newly recognized disease syndrome, which is possibly a recent introduction. It appears to be responsible for extensive mortality in various coastal hardwoods, according to Pat. Currently the disease has been positively identified in seven counties from Mendocino to San Luis Obispo, in California. It has been recovered from several woody plants, such as live oak, tanoak, California black oak, and from several herbaceous plants, including huckleberry. The disease has also been found in one European country. Infected trees show crown dieback or wilting, stem bark lesions, basal cankers, and reddish to dark brown exudations typical of other species of *Phytophthora*.

Sudden oak death has resulted in considerable social, economic, and environmental concerns, reports Pat. Oaks are the species of choice in home building by many. Removal of dead trees can cost \$2,000 or more, and loss of oaks reduce property values by 30 percent or more. And fire risk in the urban/wildland interface is greatly enhanced with increased tree mortality.

The epidemic is also changing the forest structure in the coastal oak/tanoak-redwood habitats in ways that will likely alter ecosystem structure and functions, primary productivity, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, water regimes, and hillslope stability.

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## Chief Announces FS Leadership Changes

FS Chief Dale Bosworth has announced the following changes in leadership positions in the agency:

- Bov Eav, from Director, Northeastern Research Station, Newtown Square, Pa., since 1997; to Associate Deputy Chief—Research and Development, FS Washington Office.
- Elizabeth Estill, from Regional Forester, Southern Region, Atlanta, since 1997; to Deputy Chief—Programs and Legislation, FS Washington Office, and becoming the first woman to hold that position.
- Bob Jacobs, from Regional Forester, Eastern Region, Milwaukee, since 1995; to Regional Forester, Southern Region, Atlanta, Ga.
- Randy Phillips, from Deputy Chief—Programs and Legislation, FS Washington Office, since 2000; to Executive Director, Forest Counties Payments Advisory Committee, Washington, D.C.
- Brad Powell, from Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region, Vallejo, Calif., since 1999; to Regional Forester, Northern Region, Missoula, Mont.
- Michael Rains, from Deputy Chief—State and Private Forestry, FS Washington Office, since 2000; to Director, Northeastern Research Station, Newton Square, Pa.
- Chris Risbrudt, from Acting Associate Deputy Chief—Programs and Legislation, FS Washington Office, since May; to Director, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis.
- Tom Thompson, from Deputy Regional Forester—Resources, Rocky Mountain Region, Lakewood, Col., since 1990; to Deputy Chief—National Forest System, FS Washington Office.

With these latest appointments, Dale will have selected a new Associate Chief, two new Deputy Chiefs for National Forest System and Programs and Legislation, two new Regional

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## In Memoriam

Yoshiko Ishizawa, who in her 22-year career with PSW became its highest graded woman employee, died on Aug. 28, at age 77 in Glendale, Calif. She joined the Station staff in 1957, and retired in 1979, becoming during that period Group Leader—Computer Services, in Berkeley. Yoshi—as she was widely known—was born in Seattle. Early in World War II, she and her family were relocated from their home to the Minadoka, Idaho, internment camp. She is survived by her husband Minoru, a daughter Sandra, a son-in-law Jon Honda, who worked briefly at PSW as a computer specialist; and two granddaughters, Bethany and Kiki.

(Shea Sudden Oak—continued)

Besides Pat, the Station has hired a forest pathologist, Jennifer Davidson, who is a post-doctoral appointee at Davis and will do research on the susceptibility and predisposition of other oak species to disease.

The Station's cooperative agreements and contracts for the project include the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, the University's Forest Products Laboratory, California State University at San Luis Obispo, and Phytosphere Research.

### Meetings/Conferences/Seminars

- Danny Lee, Project Leader—Timber/Wildlife Interactions Research, Arcata, attended the Conference on Improving Environmental Benefits Analysis, July 18-20, in Boulder, Colo.
- Greg McPherson, Project Leader—Urban Forestry Research, Davis, attended the Annual International Society of Arboriculture 2001 Conference, Aug. 12-15, in Milwaukee.
- Two members of the Urban Forestry Research Unit, Davis, spoke at the Conference on Creating and Managing Community Forests, Aug. 28-29, in Davis; Jim Geiger, communications director, spoke on "The History of the Urban Forest," and Greg McPherson spoke on "Benefits of Urban Forests."

### New to PSW

This summer, Sally M. Kephart made the short move from the FS's Northern California Service Center to the Station's Western Forest Management Program. Both are located at Redding. As Support Services Specialist at PSW, Sally oversees the services provided the Program's four research teams. At the Service Center, she had been a supervisory accounting technician.

Born in Stockton, Calif., Sally received her early schooling in Sonoma County and in Redding. She joined the FS in 1983, and has been a procurement clerk, receptionist, purchasing agent, and database manager, at the Ranger District level. And before joining the FS, she worked for the Wholesale Grocery Company and the State Department of Highways and Roads.

Sally's husband Michael is a maintenance worker for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, at Shasta Dam. They have a daughter, Michelle, who is a pharmacist; a son Mike, who is a sewer installer; and three grandchildren.

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(FS Leadership Changes—continued)

Foresters for the Northern and Southern Regions, and three new Station/Laboratory Directors for the Northeastern and Pacific Southwest Stations and Forest Products Laboratory.

Positions waiting to be filled are two Deputy Chiefs for Finance and State and Private Forestry, a Station Director for the Rocky Mountain Station, and three Regional Foresters for the Alaska, Pacific Southwest, and Eastern Regions.

### Sierra Nevada Framework Wins Gerber Award

The Sierra Nevada Framework for Conservation and Collaboration has been awarded the 2001 Sheldon D. Gerber Award presented by Western Planning Resources, a nonprofit organization of planning professionals with 13 chapters in the West. The Gerber Award was presented to the Forest Service's Intermountain and Pacific Southwest Regions on Aug. 1, and was the first such award to be made to a large-scale Federal project.

Presented annually by Western Planning Resources, the Gerber Award recognizes planning projects that exemplify excellence in environmental planning.

The Sierra Nevada Framework's Science Integration Team headed by Danny Lee and now by Peter Stine was largely made up of scientists from PSW. In announcing the Award, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Brad Powell said that credit should go "to scientists at the Pacific Southwest Research Station who engaged the public and fellow scientists at meetings, science workshops, and other forums."

In May 2000, the Framework unit released the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review. The Statement is designed to update forest plans for National Forests in the Sierra Nevada and Modoc Plateau in northern California.

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