

The Cooperative Forest Ecosystem Research Program

Changes in priorities for forest management on federal and state lands in the Pacific Northwest have raised many questions about the best ways to manage young-forest stands, riparian areas, and forest landscapes. The Cooperative Forest Ecosystem Research (CFER) Program draws together scientists and managers from the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon State University to find science-based answers to these questions. Managers, researchers, and decision-makers, working within the CFER program, are helping develop and disseminate the knowledge needed to carry out ecosystem-based management successfully in the Pacific Northwest.

Mission

CFER was developed to conduct research that facilitates sound management of forest ecosystems, with emphasis on meeting priority information needs of the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Department of Forestry in western Oregon.

Goals

- Provide forest managers with new information to evaluate current and proposed strategies and practices
- Facilitate development of sustainable forest practices through team-oriented, integrated research

Objectives

- Further the understanding of ecological relationships in forest ecosystems, with special emphasis on biodiversity and its management in young-forest stands and riparian areas
- Deliver information to cooperators, forest managers, and the general public in a timely and responsive manner

Photos

front

bottom left: studying clustered lady's slipper in southwestern Oregon

below: conducting measurements of streamside vegetation

back top: radio tracking bats

middle: trout habitat surveys

bottom: large woody debris studies

Research

CFER research is guided by an ecosystem perspective of forest management. It is designed to produce a body of knowledge that will address complex questions spanning multiple disciplines, spatial scales, and geographic areas in western Oregon. Currently, four projects are underway:

Biotic Responses to Changes in Stand Structure

Determine relationships between stand structure and plant and animal species that are of concern to forest managers

Production and Function of Large Wood in the Riparian Zone

Determine processes and conditions that influence input, movement, and removal of large wood

Species Effects of Landscape Pattern and Composition

Determine relationships among aquatic and terrestrial organisms, instream habitat, and riparian upslope conditions across broad geographic areas

Influences of Vegetative Community Composition on Riparian Animal Communities

Characterize roles of hardwood- and conifer-dominated riparian vegetation communities in terrestrial and aquatic riparian food chains



CFER is a consortium of federal and state partners. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is a primary source of financial support for CFER.

Information Exchange

Effective presentation and sharing of information with cooperators and the general public is a priority of the CFER program.

The goals of the Information Exchange program are to:

- Identify and prioritize research topics by assessing information needs of managers and researchers
- Develop multiple avenues and mechanisms to convey information
- Ensure effective and timely transfer of research information
- Facilitate continued two-way communication between managers and researchers

New findings are made available through CFER's web site and newsletter, distribution of reports, scientific publications, and fact sheets, and the participation of CFER scientists in workshops and conferences.

CFER

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