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New Director Will Lead Forest Service Research in California

ALBANY, Calif., July 9, 2008—The U.S. Forest Service has selected Dr. Deanna J. Stouder to become director of the Pacific Southwest Research Station, where she will lead the efforts of 52 agency scientists working in California, Hawaii and U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands.

Stouder has worked in the agency's headquarters since 2003, first as assistant director for the watershed, fish, wildlife, air and rare plants staff within the national forest deputy area, then as national director for environmental sciences research within the research and development deputy area.

She joined the Forest Service in 1998 as manager of the aquatic and land interactions research and development program at the Pacific Northwest Research Station based in Olympia, Wash. Before that she was a unit leader within the U.S. Geological Survey's cooperative fish and wildlife research program in Ohio.

Stouder was also an assistant professor in the Department of Zoology at Ohio State University from 1994 to 2000 and a University of Washington research professor from 1990 to 1994.

In 1990, she received her doctorate in ecology from the University of Georgia, Athens. She has a master's degree in biology and a bachelor's in aquatic biology from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Stouder is an active member of the Ecological Society of America, American Fisheries Society, and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

"I look forward to working with the highly-motivated and talented PSW scientists and staff," she said. "This is an exciting and challenging time for Forest Service research."

Stouder reports to her new post in September, when she will begin managing 164 Pacific Southwest Research Station employees working in 12 research programs at eight labs. Its scientists work in ecosystems that include the nation's driest deserts and wettest tropical forests.

They also work where per-capita consumption of natural resources is highest in the world, and nearly 50 percent of the nation's threatened and endangered species live.

The Pacific Southwest Research Station is recognized for research strengths in many areas including tropical ecology, climate change, urban forestry, invasive species, forest genetics, air quality effects on forests, recreation pressures, watershed responses to land management, and fire and remote sensing.

Its California labs are located in Albany, Arcata, Davis, Fresno, Placerville, Redding and Riverside. Its Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry is in Hilo, Hawaii.