



# EXPLORER



US FOREST SERVICE, ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION

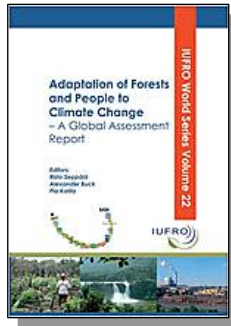
APRIL 20, 2009

## Recap of the RMRS LT Meeting

The RMRS Leadership Team (LT) met last week in Albuquerque. An attachment to this week's mailing of the *Explorer* newsletter provides details on:

- RMRS received a Congressional allocation of \$597K to help ameliorate losses in fixed costs;
- The LT discussed options for distribution of additional funding for the Station that may become available through the end of the fiscal year;
- National Fire Plan funds will be distributed as soon as they are received;
- Decisions on critical positions were made; and
- The LT spent a significant part of the meeting addressing Administrative Implementation.

## Joyce is Lead Author on New Climate Change Report



Quantitative Ecologist **Linda Joyce**, Fort Collins, is one of the lead authors on the just released *Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change – A Global Assessment Report*. As a member of the Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change, she worked with scientists and managers from around the world to address adaptation issues in forests and the people who depend on forests. The report will be formally presented at the next session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), taking place April 20 – May 1, 2009 at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The report can be viewed at: <http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/>.

## Ryan Presents “Forests and Carbon Credits”

Research Ecologist **Mike Ryan**, Fort Collins, presented “Forests and Carbon Credits” to the Colorado State Forest Service sponsored Region 2 Partnership Workshop on April 21 at the R-2 Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado. The US forest sector (forest growth and wood products) currently offsets 12-20% of the US fossil fuel emissions, largely because of forest recovery from a wood-based economy before 1915. “To offset or reduce another 10% of US fossil fuel emissions would require ALL US cars to average hybrid gas mileage or convert 100 million acres of cropland to forest (1/3 of the US total),” said Mike. “The most scientifically certain roles for forests to reduce the increase of carbon dioxide in the air are: 1) keep forests as forests - avoiding deforestation and land use change, but also replant after disturbance where natural regeneration is not expected; 2) re-establish forests where forests used to be; and 3) use forest biomass for fuel,” he said.

## Station Co-hosts White Pine Meeting

**Anna Schoettle**, research plant ecophysiologicalist in Fort Collins, along with Kelly Burns (Forest Health Management – R-2) and Bill Jacobi (Colorado State University), coordinated and hosted the Central Rockies White Pine Health Annual Meeting, held on April 8 in Fort Collins. The meeting was well attended (in person and via video links) by participants representing National Forest Systems, Forest Health Management, RMRS, USFS – WO, National Park Service, BLM, State Forest Service agencies, County Parks organizations, NGOs and numerous universities. Anna presented two talks: “Sustaining High Elevation White Pine Forests in the Presence of White Pine Blister Rust – Estimates of Rust Resistance in Limber and Bristlecone Pine,” and “Mountain Pine Beetle is Adding a

New Urgency to Managing White Pine Blister Rust in Limber Pine and RM Bristlecone Pine Ecosystems.” Anna also led an afternoon discussion to coordinate seed collection and gene conservation efforts for limber and RM bristlecone pine.

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## Scientists Present at Great Basin Gathering

On March 31, the Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project held its annual meeting in Boise, Idaho. RMRS scientists **Amy Ganguli**, **Scott Jensen**, **Kas Dumroese**, Team Leader **Nancy Shaw**, and other Project cooperators presented research updates on native plant genetics, seed production practices and wildland seeding/planting strategies. The meeting was followed by a workshop on Developing a Successful Native Plant Program, held in Ontario, Oregon, on April 1-2. Scott, Nancy, and RMRS retiree Steve Monsen co-presented a paper for an audience of about 140 practitioners and researchers, primarily from the western states. The workshop was held to facilitate organization and integration of regional native plant programs.

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## Workshop Explores Creation of Indigenous Center

Botanist and graduate student **Jeremy Pinto**, Moscow, recently participated in a workshop for the Indigenous Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Research and Graduate Education, hosted by the University of Idaho and the National Science Foundation. The workshop focus was to "explore, create, and develop a vision" for a Center at the University of Idaho, and investigate the support and participation of students, faculty, community members, elders, and tribal members. Workshop sessions included panel discussions on how the Center would interact and benefit tribes, tribal colleges, the University as a whole, and current and future graduate students. Through participation on the graduate panel, Jeremy had the opportunity to share his experiences as an American Indian graduate student, and discuss the potential benefits a Center could offer to Native graduate students entering into professional fields such as natural resources.

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## International Proceedings Showcase RMRS Weed Studies

*Proceedings of the XII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds*, published by CABI International in late 2008, contains ten abstracts and short papers associated with presentations made on collaborative weed biocontrol research by RMRS Research Entomologists **Sharlene Sing**, Bozeman, and George Markin (retired 2008).

These projects involve ongoing international biocontrol programs against the exotic invasive weeds rush skeletonweed, yellow and Dalmatian toadflax, tansy ragwort, and Scotch broom. RMRS weed biocontrol research collaborators in Greece, Bulgaria, Russia, Switzerland, and Italy conduct faunal surveys to initially identify potential new agents for classical biological control of exotic weeds in the U.S. “Their assistance in the study of candidate agent biology and ecology in the native range is essential to the agent screening and approval process,” says Sharlene. “Intentionally reuniting approved imported agents with their coevolved host plants is an effective way to rectify the ecological imbalance that allows exotic weed species to become invasive in the absence of their host-specific, population-regulating insect herbivores,” she said.

For further information on current RMRS classical weed biological control research, please contact any of the following members of the RMRS Weed Biocontrol Team: **Jack Butler**, **Dean Pearson**, **Yvette Ortega**, **Justin Runyon** or **Sharlene Sing**. The proceedings can be viewed and/or ordered at:

[http://www.cabi.org/bk\\_BookDisplay.asp?SubjectArea=&Subject=&PID=2147](http://www.cabi.org/bk_BookDisplay.asp?SubjectArea=&Subject=&PID=2147) .

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*Rush skeletonweed*

## A “Green” Library Meeting

National Forest Service Library (NFSL) staff from California to Puerto Rico tried something new for its 2009 meeting, held last week in Fort Collins. The meeting was conducted entirely via video conference and webinar to reduce travel costs, minimize disruption to library service, and allow participation by all staff members. NFSL Manager

Carol Ayer, along with staff members Laura Bojanowski, Janet Britton, Carin Clay, Sally Dunphy, Angie Harris (Fort Collins); Dan Ipsen, and Irene Voit (Ogden); and staff from other library locations: San Juan, Puerto Rico; Delaware, Ohio; St. Paul, Minnesota; Madison, Wisconsin; and Albany, California, participated in the conference. Library staff used a wiki for all meeting planning, session management, and collaboration on meeting minutes. The NFSL staff meets regularly to evaluate and improve service to the Agency, and found this video conference meeting very efficient and highly productive.

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## Ogden Reducing Space and Saving \$

As part of its Program facility review, the Inventory and Monitoring Program has identified excess office space at the Ogden Forestry Sciences Lab (FSL) due to recent transfers of field operations staffs to remote duty stations and several retirements. The Program is in the process of consolidating staffs which will reduce needed space by approximately 3,500 square feet, saving approximately \$40,000-\$60,000 in building rent per year. The reorganization will create space for the five RMRS Operations and Publishing Services employees to eventually move from the Hansen Federal Building in Ogden to the nearby FSL.

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## Update on LOS Awards

Now that this year's budget has been finalized, the Station is moving forward with ordering length of service awards for 2006, 2007, and 2008 recipients. After those orders have been placed, we will begin the process for FY 2009 recipients. If you have questions, please contact **Susan Frandsen** at 801-625-5410 or via e-mail at [sfrandsen@fs.fed.us](mailto:sfrandsen@fs.fed.us).

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## New Report Outlines “True” Cost of Wildfires

A new report by the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition is now posted on-line at <http://www.wflcweb.org/infomaterials/reports.php>. *The True Cost of Wildfire in the Western U.S.* examines data from six large wildland fires across the West and explores “beyond the costs of suppression” to provide a more accurate view of the cost to communities and the environment from large wildland fires.

The report shows the true costs of wildfires are far greater (anywhere from 2 to 30 times) than the costs usually reported to the public. A series of recommendations help focus the way these costs might be better considered.

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## Eating Healthy and Saving Money



Whether we are in a recession is beside the point; costs are up and may continue to rise. But rising food prices do not have to equate to a poor diet consisting only of cheap carbohydrates. Here are a few tips that can actually save money and keep you eating healthy amidst any economy.

- Plan ahead. Instead of tossing the weekly grocery sales flyer, keep it until you are ready to head to the store. Take 15 minutes to review the sale items and plan meals for the week around these items. (Then recycle the ad).
- Drink more water. Start with replacing just one soda a week with a glass of water. Besides saving the \$1.25 for each soda, you can save 100 calories per serving and prevent a plastic bottle from landing in a landfill. A 20oz bottle of Coke has 2.5 servings or 250 calories. If you drink diet sodas, keep in mind that studies show that artificial sweeteners may lead to increased caloric intake.
- Love those legumes. Beans, peas, and lentils are a high in soluble fiber, protein, and other nutrients and low in fats and calories. They can easily replace meat in some dishes. There are enough varieties to keep nearly everyone satisfied.

