FIRE INFORMATION RESOURCES IN THE USDA FOREST SERVICE

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ABSTRACT

Various branches of the Forest Service generate fire information, but no single location provides all publications related to this area. This report describes the kinds of fire research conducted by the Forest Service and access to research publications through the FS INFO database. Distribution centers for research stations, the Washington Office, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the Northeastern Area are also listed.

INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service is a large and complex organization. Consequently, it is difficult to identify all Forest Service publications on a given subject. Publications are produced in many separate offices across the nation. Each National Forest also produces publications. The FS INFO database provides one way for identifying items published by the Forest Service. This database contains bibliographic information on most Forest Service publications. Access to the database is now available on the internet.

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OVERVIEW OF THE FOREST SERVICE

As the largest agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Forest Service employs more than 30,000 permanent employees. The Forest Service is divided into four main branches: State & Private Forestry, International Forestry, the National Forest System, and Research. Each branch handles a different aspect of fire information. In addition, each branch operates within differently defined geographical regions.

State & Private Forestry--Focuses on technical applications of fire information; works with State and private organizations. Two geographical regions: Northeastern Area and remainder of Forest Service regions.

International Forestry--Coordinates international fire programs and responds to international requests for assistance. Treats entire United States as one geographic region.

National Forest System--Manages fires on National Forests. Eight geographic regions.

Research--Generates basic and applied fire information. Eight Forest and Range Experiment Stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry, each in a different geographic location.

The eight National Forest Regions and eight Research Stations have different boundaries. Their service areas overlap but are not the same. We know that current reorganizations and downsizing efforts in the Forest Service are bringing about more changes.

Most fire information is generated by the Research branch. Research is conducted in 185 research work units at 77 locations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Trust Islands.

FIRE RESEARCH

Forest fire and atmospheric sciences research is conducted by 15 Forest Service research projects or work units located in 10 sites throughout the United States. Forest fire research, which includes the ecology, physics, chemistry, and management of fire, is conducted at six sites: Seattle, Washington; Riverside, California; Missoula, Montana; Madison, Wisconsin; East Lansing, Michigan; and Macon, Georgia. Forest fire research is also incorporated in ecosystems research at several other locations. A small staff unit at the Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, DC, provides overall coordination. These research projects are listed in the <u>Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research Directory</u>, which is available from the Washington office.[2]

The Forest Products Laboratory conducts research on the fire safety of wood products. The mission of the Fire Safety of Wood Products research work unit is to generate technology for improving the fire safety of constructions that utilize wood. Research areas include fire performance and fire retardant treatments of wood products, fire growth and fire endurance modeling, and fire hazard assessment of structures in the urban-wildland interface. Studies to assess fire hazards of structures in the urban-wildland interface are being conducted in cooperation with units at the Riverside and Macon Forest Fire Laboratories.

Fire research at the other Forest Service research sites is focused on the following areas:

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[2]USDA Forest Service, FFASR, 14th and Independence Ave. S.W., P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Macon	Fire physics, landscape ecology, fire management
East Lansing	Effects of weather on severity of fire, social and economic impacts of fire in wildland-urban interface
Missoula	Fire ecology, prescribed fire, combustion processes, emissions
Seattle	Fire and ecosystem management, smoke risk assessment, fire and air resource management
Riverside	Postfire effects, fire ecology, remote sensing of fire and fire emissions, fire meteorology, fire management in wildland-urban interface

No single location provides all Forest Service publications on fire research. Each Research Station publishes their own research reports. Addresses for the publication offices at various Forest Service Research Stations are listed at the end of this report. The Forest Products Laboratory recently sent inFIRE a 1993 bibliography of fire-related Forest Service research.

Other fire information is available outside the Research branch. The Engineering Staff of the National Forest System work on the development of fire-related technology. Work is conducted at the Missoula and San Diemas Technology and Development Centers.

The Smokey Bear Fire Prevention Program is coordinated by Fire and Aviation Management Staff of the State & Private Forestry branch. As you may already know, 1994 is the 50th anniversary of the Smokey Bear program, one of the best known and longest running public service advertising campaigns. Smokey Bear has served as a model for fire prevention programs started in many other countries.

ACCESS TO FOREST SERVICE INFORMATION

Information about Forest Service Research publications can be accessed through many different avenues: the AGRICOLA database, produced by the U.S. National Agricultural Library; the CRIS database, produced by the USDA; and the FS INFO database, produced by the Forest Service.

FS INFO is a network of Forest Service libraries and information centers that work cooperatively to produce a bibliographic database. This database is produced by eight Forest Service Information Centers and a central office in Washington, DC. Selected articles from 502 serials, including Forest Service series, are entered into the database as well as Forest Service monographs from January 1988 to date, and periodical articles and selected monographs from the Information Centers. The goal is to include in the database all items that are authored, sponsored, or published by the Forest Service.

The FS INFO database also includes some retrospective items. All Forest Products Laboratory publications from 1910 to the present are included. The Fire Effects Information System database FIREBASE is currently being entered into the FS INFO database; the project is about half completed. FIREBASE is an interagency project located at the Boise Interagency Fire Center and sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. New items for the FIREBASE database will continue to be entered into the FS INFO database. The old WESTFORNET database, which was started at the Pacific Southwest Research Station in Berkeley, is included in the FS INFO database and was the precursor to the FS INFO database. Other retrospective projects are in progress at some Forest Service Information Centers. The FS INFO database currently includes more than 120,000 items.

The FS INFO database is available to all Forest Service employees on the Forest Service Data General computer system. The FS INFO database can also be accessed on the internet through the University of California MELVYL system:

--To access the MELVYL system, telnet to melvyl.ucop.edu.

--Select CAT (for catalog).

--At the prompt, type USE FSINFO. This will automatically connect you to the FS INFO database.

When you search the FS INFO database, menus will display various types of items to search for, ask for search terms, and display connectors for search terms. When you have located the items you want, you will be given the opportunity to display them in short or full format. Short format displays the basic citation plus thesaurus subject terms (Fig. 1). Full format displays the full FS INFO record with MARC tags (Fig. 2).

There is no easy way to send a file back to your home system when accessing FS INFO over the internet. If you have software that will log your search, you can collect your information that way or you can print any information you wish to keep screen by screen.

Use the command LOGOFF to return to the MELVYL system. If the FS INFO database does not accept the LOGOFF command, return to the previous menu and try the LOGOFF command again. When you have reached a high enough level in the FS INFO menu structure, it will accept the LOGOFF command.

The LOGOFF command will return you to the MELVYL system. You also need to use the LOGOFF command to leave the MELVYL system. Happy searching!

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   White, R. H.
1     Fire endurance research at the Forest Products Laboratory /
      Robert H. White.
         P. 5-7.

         Wood design focus. Vol. 1, no. 2 (summer 1990)

         Wood products.
         Fire resistance.
         Research projects.
         Buildings.
         Apparatus.
      Record Number: 82556
```

Figure 1. Short format display of basic citation plus thesaurus subject terms in FS INFO database.

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RLEADER:              nab
SFX2:                 .engd
SFX3:                 .IOoru
SFX4:                 ..u.
SFX5:                 0i.
FIXFIELD6:            1990
SFX7:                 O.a..
SFX8:                 Cu..u
035_ACCN:             91 1058
040_CATSOURCE:        AGO AGO
059_CALLNUM:          FPL A3537
                      INT VF 91 1058
                      WAU VF
072_NALCODE:          K51O-24
100_AUTHORPERS:       White, R. H.
245_TITLE:            Fire endurance research at the Forest products Laboratory /
                      Robert H. White.
300_COLLATION:        p. 5-7.
610_SUBCORP:          Forest Products Laboratory (U.S.)
650_SUBTOPICAL:       Wood products.
                      Fire resistance.
                      Research projects.
                      Buildings.
                      Apparatus.
653_DESCRIPTOR:       Building codes.
773_HOSTITEM:         Wood design focus. Vol. 1, no. 2 (summer 1990)
910_SOURCE:           Mss.
941_Forest  ServiceLOCATION:  FPL
942_Forest  ServiceCODE:      233. Fire endurance
943_MACODE:           FPL INT9102 PNW9102
945_NEWRECORD:        910215
989_SURFILE:          Forest Service91/1
VOLID:                82557
LIBCODE:              FOREST  SERVICE  INFORMATION  NETWORK
OWNER:                FOREST  SERVICE  INFORMATION  NETWORK
CREATION:             FEB 12,1991:11:22
TIMELAST:             MAR 23,1992:13:29
OPID:                 LIB CENTRAL
RECID:                82556
RECTYPE:              ARTICLE
```

Figure 2. Full format display of FS INFO record with MARC tags.

DISTRIBUTION CENTERS FOR RESEARCH STATIONS

Intermountain

Robin Renteria
Publication Distribution
Intermountain Research Center
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401
 (801) 625-5437

North Central

Susan Parisi
NC Distribution Center
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53705-2398
 (608) 231-9237

Northeastern

Northeastern Forest
  Experiment Station
359 Main Road
Delaware, OH 43015
 (614) 363-0023

Pacific Northwest

Paul Barlow (R6/PNW)
Pacific Northwest Research Station
333 S.W. First Avenue
P.O. BOX 3890
Portland, OR 97208
 (503) 326-7128

Pacific Southwest

Vincent Y. Dong
Publication Distribution
Pacific Southwest Research Station
P. O. Box 245
800 Buchanan St., West Bldg.
Albany, CA 94701
 (510) 559-6324

Rocky Mountain

Dick Schneider
Publications
Rocky Mountain Forest & Range
  Experiment Station
240 West Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80524-8597
 (303) 498-1710

Southeastern

H. A. Thomas
Southeastern Forest Experiment Station
P. O. Box 2680
Asheville, NC 28802
 (704) 257-4392

Southern

Southern Forest Experiment Station
T-10210, U.S. Postal Service Building
701 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70113
 (594) 589-3935

**DISTRIBUTION CENTERS FOR WASHINGTON OFFICE,
FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY, AND NORTHEASTERN AREA**

<u>Washington Office</u>

Eula Emanuel
USDA Forest Service
14th & Independence, S.W.
P. O. BOX 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090
 (202) 205-0957

<u>Northeastern Area</u>

Joan Jennings
Northeastern Area
State & Private Forestry
P.O. BOX 6775
5 Radnor Corporate Center
100 Matsonford Road, Suite 200
Radnor, PA 19087-4585
 (610) 975-4111

<u>Forest Products Laboratory</u>

James Godfrey
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