

News Release

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Research Station
Center for Urban Forest Research



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Forest Service Scientist Receives Award

James Simpson, PhD, was awarded the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Award for Arboricultural Research in Honolulu, HI, on July 31st for his outstanding contributions to research in arboriculture and urban forestry. Simpson, a forest meteorologist with the U.S. Forest Service PSW Center for Urban Forest Research, was recognized for “providing significant gains in knowledge for policy makers, urban foresters, arborists, and others concerned with maximizing benefits from urban forest landscapes.”

Simpson’s work focuses on modeling the ecosystem services that urban trees provide, in particular, how they combat the urban heat island effect, reduce energy consumption, clean our air, and help fight climate change. His models provide the foundation for benefit-cost analyses of trees in cities across the United States, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, and Honolulu. He has also worked with partners in Sacramento to develop a way to use trees to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Air requirements for California and with partners in Los Angeles to use remote sensing to locate planting spaces for the city’s One Million Trees LA initiative.

Simpson lives in Davis, CA, with his wife Paula.