

# The Purpose, Expectations, and Challenges of the Symposium<sup>1</sup>

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On behalf of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and especially its Chaparral Research and Development Program, I welcome you to this Symposium. Let me tell you about its organization and about the purposes, expectations, and challenges of this Symposium as we see them.

Planning for this Symposium began about 3 years ago at the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. The date for the conference was chosen to coincide with the culmination of our Chaparral Research and Development Program. This R&D program, created in 1977, has a 5-year charter terminating this year. Our scientists and their cooperators have been actively investigating problems and gathering and disseminating information on all aspects of the chaparral ecosystem. In a sense, this Symposium is a high point of the Program.

Cosponsoring the Symposium with the Forest Service is the Systems Ecology Research Group at San Diego State University. Its members too have been actively studying Mediterranean-type ecosystems. Therefore, this conference was planned not only to sum up what has been accomplished through our R&D program, but also to present what has been accomplished by other chaparral scientists and managers around the world.

Almost immediately, other individuals and organizations became involved in planning and financing the Symposium. Financial support has been provided by the U. S. National Science Foundation, the U. S. Department of Energy, the California Department of Forestry, San Diego State University, and the Forest Service. The Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB), at both the international level of the united Nations Economic, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris and the U.S. National Program, helped by financing participation by scientists

from other countries. Also, many organizations in other countries have provided funding for their representatives to attend this meeting. In a few moments, I would like to recognize this international participation.

Technical support in organizing the Symposium was provided by many groups and individuals. Among the supporters, San Diego State University, and the California Department of Forestry deserve particular thanks. A third group of contributors is helping to carry out the week's activities. Notable among them are the Southern California Society of American Foresters, the Los Angeles County Forester and Fire Warden Department, the Sierra Club, and Southern California Edison Company. The organizers are most grateful to all whose support has made this Symposium a reality.

Each year, the equivalent of many millions of dollars are routinely spent world-wide on management of land and resources in ecosystems dominated by a Mediterranean-type climate. Additional millions are spent world-wide on research to improve and simplify these management efforts. One of the best investments that can be made by people in charge of these research and management efforts is to provide a means for managers and scientists to exchange information and experiences.

This Symposium, it's Proceedings, and the activities that will follow are designed to facilitate such an exchange. Here, we have brought together individuals and groups who do not routinely interact. Participants will learn about developments in countries with a variety of managerial and research problems. The face-to-face contacts made here should ease your jobs and make your work more effective. We expect that the funds invested by the Symposium organizers and participants will bring substantial returns in the future as participants put into practice what they learn here.

Let's look at the objectives of the Symposium. The primary objective is to provide a mechanism for the exchange of information about Mediterranean-type ecosystems. Our goal is to bring together managers of lands and resources, teachers, scientists, students, and environmentally concerned laymen. Let's take a look at how well we've done. Preregistration indicated we would have about 270 attendees, and 200 are here this morning.

Please help me to estimate the numbers of you who are here as practitioners, meaning land and resource managers, scientists, teachers, students, or lay persons. How many would categorize yourselves as practitioners involved in land or resource management? About 60 percent. How many are scientists or primarily involved with research? About 30 percent. How many of you are primarily teachers? About 4

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<sup>1</sup> Presented at the Symposium on Dynamics and Management of Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems, June 22-26, 1981, San Diego, California.

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percent. How many of you would classify yourselves as students? About 3 percent. How many would put themselves in the category of environmentally active or concerned private citizen? About 3 percent.

This is the spectrum of people who have come here to exchange information. Of course, you will want to talk with people in your own category or profession, but the real challenge of the Symposium, and my personal challenge, is for you to interact with people who are not like you. We want to encourage scientists, environmentalists, students, and practitioners to get together. Make yourself talk to strangers. The benefits will be great.

Our plan is to make this Symposium unique. Too often at meetings like this, scientists and other specialists speak to each other and fail to communicate with practitioners and laymen. Too seldom do practitioners go to the rostrum and talk about their problems and their successes. Therefore, this Symposium has been designed with these features:

- . Plenary sessions where experts from countries around the world can address all of us to broaden our horizons
- . Concurrent technical and practical sessions where scientists can discuss the state-of-knowledge, and practitioners can discuss real world situations.

The exchange of information to take place here will also be international. The person sitting next to you may be dealing with your management or research problems, but in a country halfway around-the world. About 38, or 15 percent, of our registrants are from other countries. Let me introduce, by asking them to stand, our visitors from other countries. Registration information tells us that we have participants here from the Mediterranean countries of Spain, Portugal, France, Greece, and Israel. We have visitors from other continents including South Africa, Australia, and Chile, and from Mexico and Canada. Introduce yourselves to these visitors this week. Find out what you have in common with them. You may find that their interests are similar to yours.

Studying the Symposium schedule, you will quickly see that one of our objectives is to encourage a multidisciplinary exchange of information. There are sessions on hydrology, vegetation management, utilization of biomass, soils, and wildlife. I encourage you to use this unique opportunity to catch up on what is happening in fields other than your own in chaparral management.

Interaction will be the key to the success of this Symposium. This should not be a short course where you take, but do not contribute. Planning for an exchange of information among interest groups, among nations, and among disciplines was the greatest challenge faced by the organizers. Carrying out this exchange of information is our greatest challenge to you as participants. Your challenges are to reach a common understanding of what we know, and what we only think we know and to learn who has knowledge or experience and what still needs to be studied or developed.

But let me challenge you further. I want you to identify what needs to be done after this conference in order to improve utilization of available knowledge. From this conference should come suggestions for training courses to meet needs of practitioners in the field. Your suggestions might relate to subject matter for continuing education programs. Those of you who are educators might explore how curricula could be changed to benefit future students. Come forth with your suggestions for guidelines, handbooks, manuals, or audio-visual aids. Our purposes cannot be achieved by this conference alone. Please help us to make this a starting point for a series of on-going activities to spread what we know about the dynamics and management of Mediterranean-type ecosystems.

In closing, I encourage you again to take advantage of the informational resources around you this week: attend the formal sessions, as well as the informal poster sessions tonight and tomorrow night. If you have items you would like to display or literature to hand out, tables are available for that purpose in the hall. If you need a place to carry out discussions among small groups, check with the Conference Control Center. We have reserved several rooms for that purpose.

On behalf of the Forest Service, I thank you for coming. Now it is up to you to make the week worthwhile.