

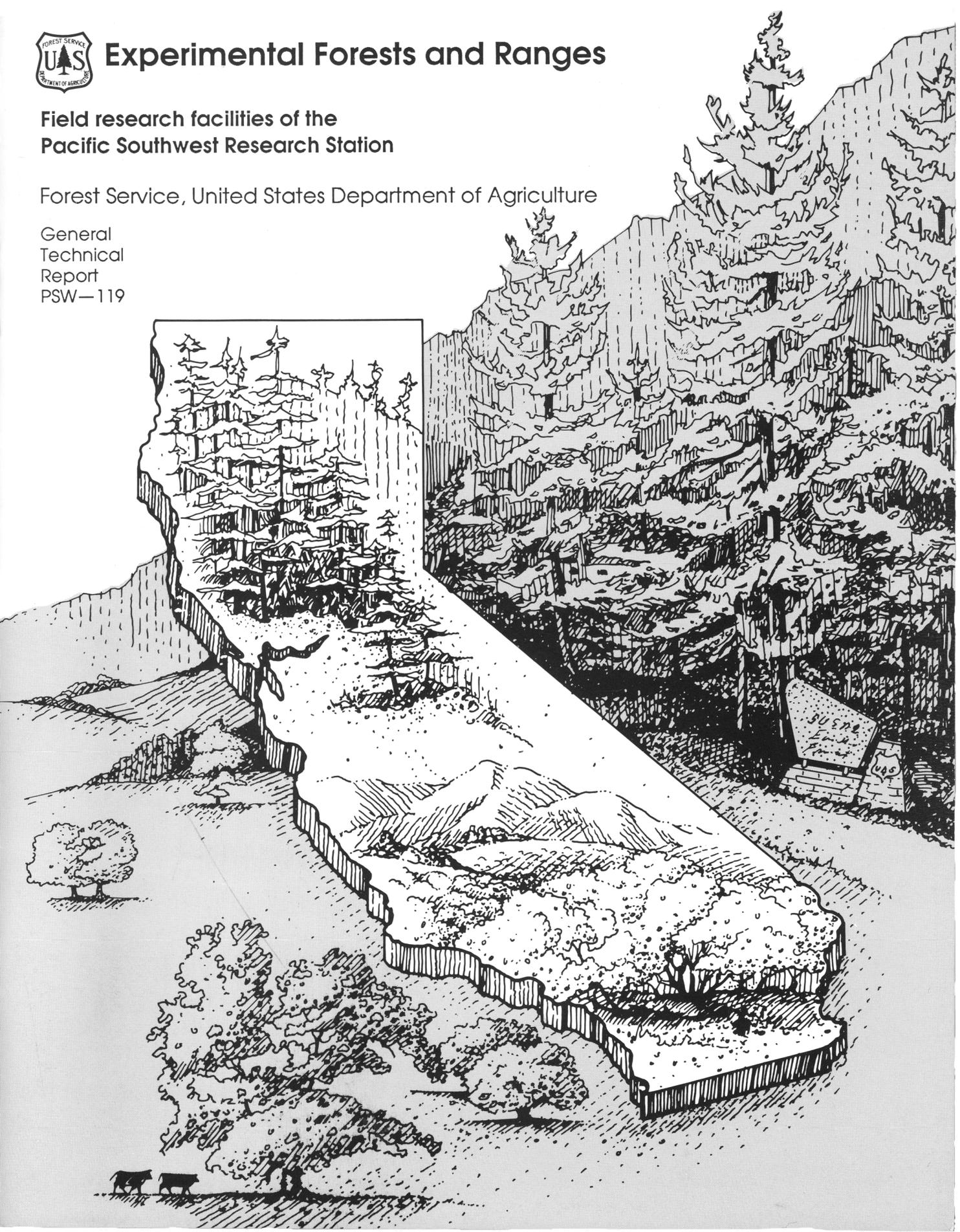


Experimental Forests and Ranges

Field research facilities of the
Pacific Southwest Research Station

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The 10 experimental forests and ranges in California administered by the Pacific Southwest Research Station, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, are described. The purposes of these facilities, and how to request their use for approved scientific study are given, and the natural resource base, data bases, studies, and general features of each are also described.

Retrieval Terms: forestry, forestry research, wildland research, experimental forests and ranges, California, Pacific Southwest Research Station

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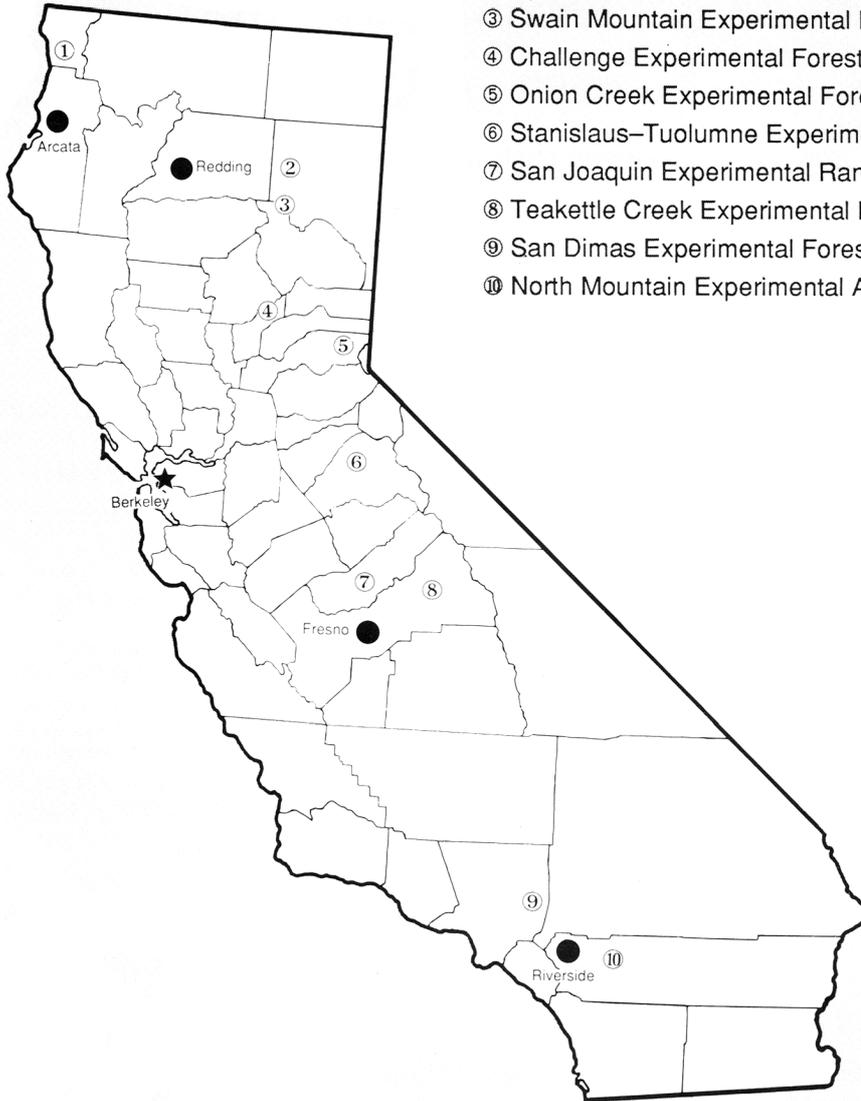
Experimental Forests and Ranges of the Pacific Southwest Research Station

Neil H. Berg, *Technical Coordinator*

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INTRODUCTION

The Pacific Southwest Research Station administers 10 experimental forests and ranges in California (*see map opposite*). Experimental forests and ranges are established by the Chief of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to provide outdoor laboratories and to serve as sites for pilot testing and demonstrating integrated management techniques (USDA Forest Serv. 1985). They are suitable for short-term studies and are especially useful for long-term studies where close control of land management activities and experimental conditions are needed.

Current levels of research activity vary from high (Swain Mountain and San Dimas) to low (Blacks Mountain, Stanislaus-Tuolumne, and North Mountain). In most cases, the activity is limited to maintenance and monitoring of existing studies and installation of a few new ones. Timber is routinely harvested only at Swain Mountain and Blacks Mountain, and periodically at Yurok Redwood Experimental Forest. San Joaquin is grazed by cattle. North Mountain Experimental Area is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Station Director has responsibility for planning and executing research on experimental forests and ranges and for determining if any proposed uses are compatible with the research objectives (USDA Forest Service 1987). Coordination of activities is generally assigned to a specified project leader of a research work unit associated with key research activities on the experimental forest or range. The Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region, in most cases, has primary responsibility to protect the area and to develop and maintain improvements that serve the needs of the general public. Normally, this responsibility is delegated to the Supervisor of the local National Forest.

These experimental forests and ranges are available to scientists from the Forest Service and cooperating institutions for conducting manipulative and non-manipulative research studies. The location and cover type of each experimental forest and range are summarized in *table 1*, and major features are described in the following sections of this report. Included for each forest are subsections on Climate, Soils, Main Communities, Data Bases, Examples of Research, and Facilities. Information on using the forests and on current research is available from the contact listed near the end of each section, or from the Station Director in Berkeley. A study plan that outlines study objectives, procedures, resource commitments, and duration—along with maps of study locations—will ordinarily need approval by the designated project leader and review by the local National Forest Supervisor before new work can begin.

Table 1—*Experimental forests and ranges of the Pacific Southwest Research Station, in California*

Name	Location	Dominant cover type
Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest	Lassen County	Interior ponderosa pine
Challenge Experimental Forest	Yuba County	Pacific ponderosa pine, Sierra Nevada mixed conifer, Pacific ponderosa pine-Douglas-fir
North Mountain Experimental Area	Riverside County	Chamise-chaparral
Onion Creek Experimental Forest	Placer County	Red fir, white fir, Jeffrey pine
San Dimas Experimental Forest	Los Angeles County	Chaparral, coastal sagebrush, California mixed hardwood
San Joaquin Experimental Range	Madera County	Annual grassland, blue oak-digger pine
Stanislaus-Tuolumne Experimental Forest	Tuolumne County	Sierra Nevada mixed conifer, red fir
Swain Mountain Experimental Forest	Lassen County	Red fir, white fir, lodgepole pine
Teakettle Creek Experimental Forest	Fresno County	Red fir, ponderosa pine-sugar pine-fir, meadows
Yurok Redwood Experimental Forest	Del Norte County	Redwood