

U.S. Forest Service R&D Newsletter - June 2017

[Home](#) [Publications](#) [Tools](#) [Locations](#) [Blog](#) [About Us](#)



News from the Washington Office and Research Stations

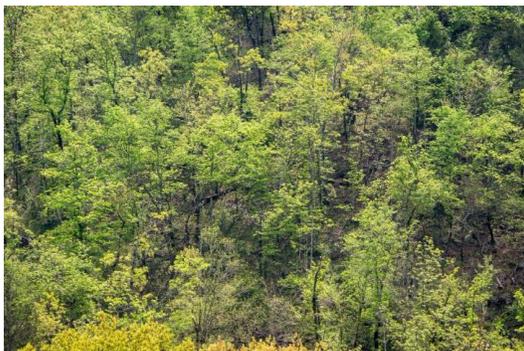
Subscribe



FEATURE NEWS

Racing to Save Hawaii's 'Ōhi'a Trees

[The 'ōhi'a tree plays an important role both culturally and environmentally in Hawai'i](#), but it is currently threatened by a new fungal pathogen that causes Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death disease. Thousands of acres of 'ōhi'a have already died on Hawai'i Island because of this disease. Researchers are working with local partners and the public to halt the spread of the disease and to seek a cure.



CLIMATE CHANGE

On the Move - Trees Head West

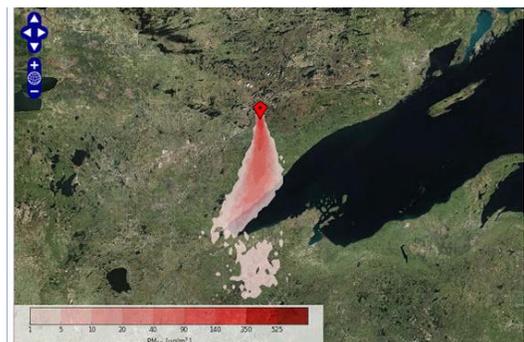
A study drew on the Forest Inventory and Analysis program's data [to document the northern and western movement of many eastern tree species](#). Scientists think climate change pushes the trees north and west because of altered temperatures and rainfall patterns.



INVASIVE SPECIES

Native Plants Know How to Handle Stress

[A large-scale experiment examined the effects of climate change on plant communities](#) and their susceptibility to exotic plant invasions. Researchers found that fast invaders dominated under normal precipitation, while slow natives won when precipitation declined. They also found that climate shifts towards more stressful conditions can favor native plants over exotics.



WILDFIRE

Better Smoke Predictions Can Improve Health

The BlueSky Smoke Modeling Framework is a system that predicts how and where smoke travels after a fire. This system connects numerous meteorological, fuel and emission models that allow managers to make better predictions of smoke behavior to prevent illness and improve safety. [Forest Service research is continually used to update BlueSky](#).



RESEARCH APPLICATIONS

Forensic Botanists Are Crime-Busters

[Forensic botanists can find subtle clues](#) in wood, leaves or pollen to help investigate murders, illegal logging, and even wood contamination in sauerkraut, along with other crimes.

WILDFIRE

A Century of Wildland Fire Research



[A recent fire science workshop](#) explored the history of wildland fire research, priorities for future research, and how to translate research into field practices.



HISTORY

Oral Histories of Boundary-Pushing Research

Since the Forest Products Lab's (FPL) founding, it has pushed the bounds of applicable wood-related research. [An oral history project](#) of current and retired FPL employees offers valuable insight into the lab's past and its continuing contributions.



SERVICE TO AMERICA

Research Employees Honored By Government "Oscar" Awards

[Two R&D researchers were recognized](#) this year as finalists in the "Promising Innovations" category of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, which is considered the "Oscar" of government service. Sarah Jovan and Geoffrey Donovan were honored for their first-ever study using tree moss to detect air pollution in a major city.



SCIENCE EDUCATION

SPLAT Protects Trees from Mountain Pine Beetle

Scientists applied the repellent SPLAT Verb to lodgepole pine trees. Results indicate that trees on which SPLAT Verb was applied, as well as trees within an 11-meter radius, were protected from mountain pine beetle attack. [Find out more in the most recent Natural Inquirer.](#)

FOREST SERVICE

Interested in Advising National Research Planning?

[USDA is seeking nominations for the Forestry Research Advisory Council \(FRAC\).](#) The FRAC



provides advice on regional and national research planning and coordination of forestry research within the Forest Service and state agencies, forestry schools, forest industries, and non-governmental organizations. The FRAC meets annually or biannually.



Did You Know?

The sagebrush sea in the interior West provides [shelter and forage for a host of species](#) from sage-grouse, songbirds, pygmy rabbits and lizards to big animals such as mule deer, elk, and pronghorn. Sagebrush grasslands also provide grazing for the West's economically important ranching industry.

Recent Blogs



[Faces of the Forest Service: Meet Ashley Steel](#)



[Technology Helps Turn Salvaged Trees into Moneymakers](#)

For more information: [National Visitor Use Monitoring Survey](#)

STAY CONNECTED



4/16/2018

June Newsletter: Racing to Save Hawaiiin Trees | Trees Head West | Native Plants Handle Stress | More