WO: Chief signs agreement with Customs and Department of Interior
The Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed a memorandum of agreement for environmental coordination formalizing the commitment among the agencies to coordinate review of actions subject to the National Environmental Policy Act. The agreement applies to CBP actions such as construction, operation, and maintenance of borderland security facilities and infrastructure. The agreement also applies where Department of the Interior or Forest Service is the lead agency for a project that has the potential to impact CBP’s border security mission.

Forest Service and partners teach youth about climate change
The Forest Service Conservation Education Program’s distance learning adventure, “ClimateChangeLIVE,” is consistently one of the top two results of Internet searches of climate change lesson plans. The popularity of www.ClimateChangeLIVE.org is due to the collection of K-12 science-based climate education resources offered by the Forest Service and 25 partners. Offerings include a monthly teacher webinar series, school action project grants and webcasts for secondary classrooms.

R1: Interpretive center volunteer retires after 9,000 hours of service
Persis Webster has worked at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Mont., since the doors opened in 1998. She recently announced her retirement after 9,063 hours of volunteer service as an exhibit hall and trail docent, an education and special events volunteer and for performing other behind-the-scenes duties.

Regional forester talks collaboration with Montana’s governor
On Jan. 22, Regional Forester Faye Krueger met with Montana Governor Steve Bullock in Helena. Discussions centered on potential opportunities for collaboration on projects between the state and the national forests in Montana under the recently-signed master stewardship agreement between the regional forester and the director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

R2: Results of the annual aerial forest health survey release planned
Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Service will soon release results of the annual aerial forest health survey in Colorado, which indicate that the spread of the mountain pine beetle epidemic has slowed dramatically, while the spruce beetle outbreak continues to expand. Each summer the agencies work together to aerially monitor insect and disease-caused tree mortality or damage across Colorado forestland. This science leads to targeted management activities on
national forests and state and private lands to improve forest health, and foster a more resilient future forest across the state.

**R4: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest supports annual Global Fat Bike Summit**
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest employees joined partners in hosting the 3rd annual Global Fat Bike Summit in Ogden, Utah. The goal of the summit was to highlight trail opportunities and identify potential economic growth for local businesses with this expanding recreation activity.

**R5: Forest Service to host career fair in Redding, Calif.**
On Feb. 1, the Forest Service will host a career fair in Redding, Calif. Current temporary, seasonal and permanent job opportunities with the Forest Service and the National Park Service include positions in fire, botany, archeology, business administration, wildlife, recreation, timber and engineering. Representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Conservation Corps will also be present to discuss their job opportunities.

**R6: Region 6 hosts USDA Deputy Under Secretary**
Region 6 recently hosted USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer on a week-long tour of Washington State. Becky Lockett Heath, deputy regional forester, and Rob Mangold, Pacific Northwest Research Station director, accompanied Blazer on stops throughout the state including an Anchor Forest event in Nespelem hosted by the Colville Tribes and the Yakama Nation timberlands in central Washington. Blazer also participated in a number of events in the greater Seattle area, including a meeting with the Tulalip Tribes and employees of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

**R9: Winter rec on the Huron-Manistee gets a “Hike!” thanks to dog sled race**
On Jan. 18, the Huron-Manistee National Forest’s Baldwin Ranger District hosted the Stearns Siding Sled Dog Race, a sprint through federal and state lands near Pere Marquette Wild & Scenic River. The event drew a crowd of 100 people and 400 dogs from across the U.S. and Canada.

**Forest Service and partners rescue four on Mount Washington**
On Jan. 19, Forest Service snow rangers along with New Hampshire Fish & Game Agency and members from Mountain Rescue Service rescued four individuals attempting to summit Mount Washington. The individuals became disoriented and were separated from their group when high winds created low visibility.

**R10: Innovation summit held in Juneau**
The Juneau Economic Development Council, with support from the Forest Service, Rural Development and other partners, is sponsoring the 3rd annual Innovation Summit in Juneau, Jan. 29-30. The summit brings together leaders in business, government and education to work collaboratively on strengthening economies in Southeast Alaska. USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Patrice Kunesh will attend.
FPL: Research helps save America’s historic covered bridges
A recent article in Public Roads, a publication of the U.S. Department of Transportation, explains a 12-year Federal Highway Administration program to save historic covered bridges. The Forest Products Laboratory is a partner in this ongoing program and researchers work to develop technologies and methodologies to restore and preserve these national treasures.

NA: Partner offers conservation site planning workshop
Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry partner, the Morton Arboretum, is offering an evening workshop in conservation site planning on Feb. 11. Participants will gain the tools needed to develop a plan for restoration, and explore the assessments and specifications needed to create a plan to guide them in restoring habitats for a remnant area, a new restoration or on their own properties.

NRS: Instruction video for i-Tree Canopy available on YouTube
A series of six instructional videos on i-Tree Canopy, an online tool for assessing the value of urban forests, was posted to the USDA’s YouTube channel this week. The series was developed and recorded by Dave Bloniarz, a biological scientist at the Northern Research Station’s Amherst, Mass., office, in cooperation with Dave Nowak, project leader at the station’s Syracuse, N.Y., office. The videos detail the purpose of i-Tree Canopy and how to use it to develop statistically valid land cover types for a specific geography.

NRS scientists part of Yale symposium
Four Northern Research Station scientists contributed to the Yale Urban Ecosystem Symposium on Jan. 24, an event that explored urban ecosystem scholarship through discussion among scientists and city managers. Dave Nowak, Erika Svendsen, Morgan Grove and Lindsay Campbell participated in panels discussing many aspects of urban forestry benefits, health and monitoring. The symposium was sponsored by the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

PNWRS: Station conducts burns to validate fire behavior models
The Pacific Northwest Research Station’s Fire and Environmental Research Applications Team and colleagues conducted a series of prescribed research fires in grass fuels on the Texas National Guard’s Camp Swift near Bastrop, Texas. The main focus was to gather field data to validate fire behavior models. The 2011 Bastrop County Complex Fire was the most destructive in Texas history, burning 1,673 homes and resulting in $325 million of insured property damage.

PSWRS: Scientist receives grant from Department of Defense
Pacific Southwest Research Station’s Christina Liang, a research ecologist, recently received a four-year grant from the Department of Defense’s Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program to conduct research on the impact of non-native predators on pollinators and native plant reproduction in a Hawaiian Dryland ecosystem.

RMRS: Hydrologist lauded by House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
received information about the paper’s technical approaches and stressed the importance of Luce’s work in the context of urgent questions on drought.

**SRS: Station scientist receives international recognition**
On Jan. 10, Hse Chung-yun, a Forest Service researcher at the Southern Research Station received the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award. The non-monetary award is one of the highest honors that the People’s Republic of China offers to recognize scientists who have made significant contributions to China’s scientific advancement.

**Press Announcements**

**Press Interviews**

**Personnel News**

_Alexandra Cleveland_ has accepted the position of Assistant Director, WO-NFS/Rangeland Management in Washington, D.C. She is currently a Biological Scientist for the Biological & Physical Resources Unit in Region 8 in Atlanta, Ga.

_Hilda Ferguson_ has accepted the position of Resource Manager, WO-Research & Development, in Washington, D.C. She is currently a Supervisory Program Management Specialist with the Chief Information Office in Washington, D.C.

_Anthony Scardina_ has accepted the position of Forest Supervisor in Region 9 on the Wayne National Forest in Nelsonville, Ohio. He is currently the Forest Supervisor in Region 9 on the Ottawa National Forest in Ironwood, Mich.

_Sharon Wallace_ has accepted the position of Forest Supervisor in Region 6 on the Mt. Hood National Forest in Sandy, Ore. She is currently a Public Services Staff Officer in Region 3 on the Tonto National Forest in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Executive News**

On Feb 4-6, **Deputy Chief for Research & Development Jim Reaves** will lead a Deputy Chief's Review of the Southern Research Station in Asheville, N.C.

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_Footprint Area of the Month:_ Fleet & Transportation 

**Action Item of the Week:** Tighten your gas cap

Because gasoline evaporates relatively easily, today’s automobiles have been engineered to considerably reduce evaporative emissions. However, a loose gas cap can be an easy and fast escape route for gasoline. As much as 30 gallons of gasoline could be lost annually to evaporation when the fuel cap is not fully tightened. For more information on fleet and transportation and Forest Service Sustainable Operations, visit the [SusOps Demonstration website](#).

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