

This Week in Washington

America's forest landowners need information to help them manage their forestlands. That's why the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 required the establishment of the Forest Research Advisory Council (FRAC) to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on efficiently accomplishing the forest research purposes of the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962. The Council also provides advice related to the Forest Service research program, authorized by the Forest and Rangeland Resources Research Act of 1978.

Charlie Raper, a proponent of forestry who is no longer with us, used to say that intelligent legislation is based upon good research. Researchers tell us that there is a great deal of information available to aid FLA members; though they also speculate that there may be a break-down in what they refer to as "technology transfer." This issue of "technology transfer," was in the forefront last week as part of a Forest Research Advisory Council meeting.

FRAC meets regularly to determine the best course of research for forestry in the United States. Using a framework based on presentations and Council discussions (e.g., pests and pathogens research, per the Healthy Forest Restoration Act's Title IV), several research ideas important to non-industrial private forest landowners were found to be compelling, including:

- Non-industrial private landowners: How are research needs assessed, science findings delivered and progress measured?
- External Forest Service/Extension Collaboratio— rejuvenate the public-private partnership
- Ensuring outcomes and accountability—delivering science to the field, measuring results (are research findings being used)
- Global thinking—productivity / competitiveness, conservation objectives

Frank Stewart, the FLA lobbyist, accepted his appointment to FRAC from the Secretary of Agriculture in 2002 to represent non-industrial private forest landowners. This year, new appointments to FRAC include School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Dean Dick Brinker (Auburn) and Forest Science Dept. Head Tat Smith (Texas A&M), both FLA members. Stewart is Immediate-Past Vice Chairman of the 20-member group; Dean Brinker was elected to that position for next year.

Sudden Oak Disease in Virginia

The California-born pathogen, sudden oak death, was found in two separate nurseries in Virginia. Frank Fulgham, Program Manager for the Office of Plant and Pesticide Services, disclosed that a camilla in Hampton and a rhododendron in Chesapeake were infected with the disease. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture surveyed nurseries and discovered 148 cases in 21 states, according to the USDA web site.

Mark Healey, a timber management assistant in the Deerfield Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, said he felt it was only a matter of time after a nursery case was found that the disease would spread to forests. The Forest Service is surveying wooded areas around nurseries. Virginia and North Carolina are marked "high risk" in a map on the U.S.F.S. web site. You can find the full story of the Virginia disease cases, by Bonnie Naumann at:

www.newsleader.com/news/stories/20040831/local-news/1147473.html

Market Signals: Jordan Lumber Offers Hope

Mr. Robert Jordan IV, the fourth generation in Jordan Lumber Company, offered a glimpse of hope when he outlined his company's strategic plan for the recently acquired sawmill in Barnesville, GA. Presenting to a crowd of landowners and forestry professionals at the Georgia Forestry Association landowner meeting in Forsyth, GA, Mr. Jordan stated that Jordan Lumber plans on creating a second work shift at the mill in order to double production. An increase in mill production would mean an increase in demand for sawtimber from surrounding landowners.

Since 1939, Jordan Lumber has independently manufactured southern yellow pine products in North Carolina. This is their first venture into Georgia. The Barnesville sawmill was constructed and started up in 1982 and has operated continuously since that time. Proctor and Gamble Company owned the mill until 1992, when Weyerhaeuser acquired the Barnesville location and additional properties.