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

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News from the Washington Office and Research Stations

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FEATURE NEWS

Orchardists of the Great Basin's Woodlands

Pinyon jays cache thousands of pinyon pine seeds for use in the winter and spring nesting season. Seeds that aren't recovered can germinate and grow into new trees. Surprisingly, however, jay populations are declining while woodlands are expanding. Scientists found that despite woodland expansion, [only seven percent](#) of the woodlands are suitable foraging habitat for the jays.



FOREST HEALTH

Loblolly vs Eucalyptus: Who Uses More Water?

Scientists found that while grown eucalyptus trees use more water than loblolly pines, eucalyptus use water [40 percent more efficiently](#). Due to their heightened efficiency and fast growth rates, eucalyptus use less water to grow the same amount of woody biomass as loblolly pine.



WILDFIRE

Evolving Fire Management Strategies

As fire exclusion, harvesting practices, and livestock grazing alter forest compositions in many western forests, Forest Service land managers adapt their [fire mitigation strategies](#) to include more fuel thinning treatments and prescribed burns.

FOREST HEALTH



Lasting Effects of Acid Rain

New research found that the effects of acid rain linger in northeastern forests. This [study](#) found that soil conditions are improving for sugar maple, but maple is not faring well due to competition with other species.



WILDFIRE

Fuel Reduction Treatments

[A recent study](#) evaluated the extent of fuel treatments and wildfire occurrence within lands managed by the Forest Service. Forty-five percent of lands received fuel treatments or experienced natural wildfire. But areas with the highest wildfire hazard risk received the least amount of treatments, suggesting an alternative distribution of treatments may be beneficial.



SILVICULTURE

Silviculture Anniversary

In September, the Northern Research Station and its partners celebrated [50 years of silviculture research](#) in Allegheny hardwood and mixed oak forests. SILVAH, a framework designed by scientists and partners to communicate research results, helps managers and scientists share information and emerging problems surrounding silviculture.



FOREST PRODUCTS

Replacing Artificial Adhesive with Soy

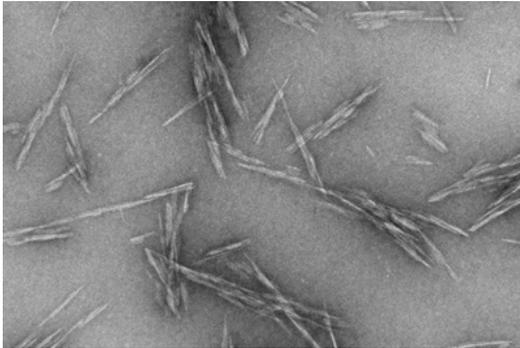
Soybeans were used to glue the first plywood but were replaced by fossil fuel-based adhesives after World War II. Scientists at the Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory have [helped soy adhesives return](#) to plywood and are helping to find more applications for this bio-based glue.



HISTORY

Reforestation a Stumpscape

By 1930, the golden age of lumber harvesting was over. But from as early as the mid-1930s, Forest Service [researchers worked with industry lumbermen](#) to develop forest regeneration practices to restore and maintain forest resources.



Did You Know?

Nanocellulose is a wood fiber broken down to the nanoscale. (A nanometer is roughly one-millionth the thickness of a dime.) Nanocellulose based materials are exceedingly strong and light. The Forest Service Forest Products Lab is developing various types of environmentally friendly [nanocellulose products](#) aimed at replacing toxic, non-biodegradable materials used in high-tech products, such as smart phones and tablets.

Recent Blogs



[Engaging with Tribes is a Win-Win](#)



[Meet Carl Lucero](#), Director of Landscape Restoration and Ecosystem Services

BY-THE-NUMBERS

THE FOREST SERVICE IS DEVELOPING NEW

HIGH-TECH APPROACHES

for sleuthing the source of wood products and combating illegal logging.

Illegal logging around the world annually costs governments and the private sector **\$10 to \$15 billion** in losses.

For more information: [Genetics and geography: DNA markers identify origin of white oak wood](#)

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