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Forest Service

Research
and Development

Monthly News and Highlights from
the World Leader in Forestry Research

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The banner features a green and orange color scheme. On the right, there is a stylized graphic of a globe with leaves. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a white border around the main content area.

USDA Forest Service R&D Newsletter - June 2019
News from the Washington Office and Research Stations

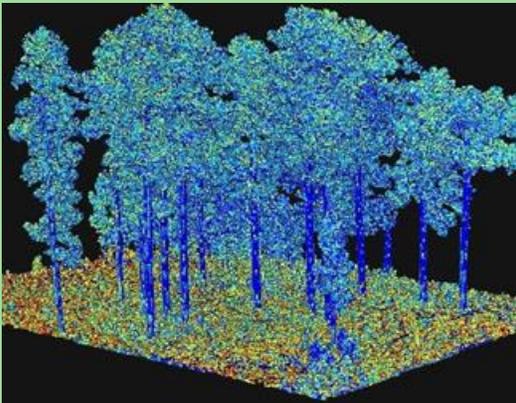
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FEATURED NEWS

New Science Framework Provides Basis for Conservation and Restoration of Sagebrush

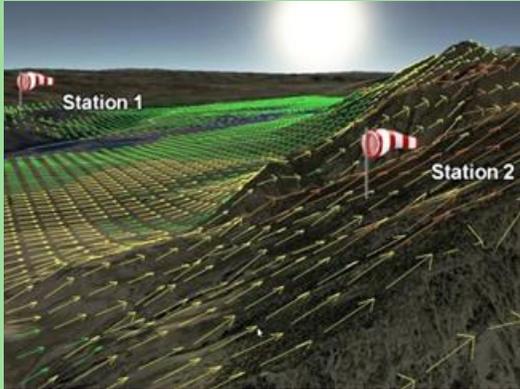
A new model takes the idea of resilience and applies it to the natural environment, specifically, to sagebrush. Developed by state, federal, and university collaborators, the [Science Framework](#) provides a transparent, ecologically defensible approach for making land management decisions that reduce threats to sagebrush landscapes and the species that depend upon them, such as the Greater sage-grouse.



MITIGATE WILDFIRE RISK

New 3D Fuel Modeling Helps Predict Fire Behavior

Land managers have a new [tool](#) in their firefighting arsenal that models forest fuels in three dimensions. These 3D fuel models have the potential to make firefighting and the management of controlled burns safer and less costly while helping to protect valuable natural resources.



MITIGATE WILDFIRE RISK

WindNinja: A Weather Station in Your Pocket

Over the years, wind shifts have caused untold damage to communities and claimed the lives of firefighters and civilians alike. Now, anyone with a computer or smartphone can now use [WindNinja](#), a model that simulates high-resolution wind in mountainous terrain. It simulates winds quickly on computers used by firefighters and fire managers.



SUSTAIN OUR FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

Traditional Ecological Knowledge Helps Researchers Understand the Effects of Plant Harvesting

Forest Service researchers are working with Wabanaki sweetgrass gatherers to explore how traditional [harvesting](#) techniques can enhance, rather than diminish, plant populations.



URBAN FORESTS

Urban Tree Data Helps Cities Manage Tree Resources in the U.S.

Currently, the urban Forest Inventory and Analysis ([FIA](#)) Program is assessing trees in 35 American cities. Program managers hope to eventually include about 100 of the most populated cities, with each state represented by at least one city. The data will provide urban foresters and city planners with strategic level data to assist them in managing urban tree resources in the U.S.



FARMS AND FORESTS

New Agroforestry Strategy Offers Information and Financial Resources for Land Owners

USDA recently announced a new five-year agroforestry strategic [framework](#) to ensure that private landowners throughout the nation have access to the latest tools, information, and technical and financial resources that support agroforestry.



SHARED STEWARDSHIP

Artificial Beaver Dams Hold Promise as a Restoration Tool in California

Beaver dams played a critical role in shaping the hydrology of the Scott River and its tributaries in northern California. But heavy trapping of beavers for fur in the 1800s caused their rapid decline along with their trademark dams. An [initiative](#) that includes private landowners is reintroducing the benefits of beaver dams.



WILDLIFE HABITAT

Forest Structure May be Key to Long-term Coexistence of Spotted and Barred Owls

A Forest Service [study](#) published in the journal *Scientific Reports* provides the first evidence that the northern spotted owl and its nonnative and more aggressive cousin, the barred owl, rely on different forest elements within their overlapping territories. This information may help

managers actively promote forest structure that benefits spotted owls over barred owls.



HISTORY

Video: A Brief History of Cultural Transformation in the Forest Service

Lincoln Bramwell, historian for the Forest Service, gives a short [overview](#) on the history of the Forest Service, specifically in relation to cultural transformation.



DID YOU KNOW?

Cheatgrass Covers Thousands of Square Miles in the Great Basin

After rangeland in the Great Basin burns, it must be quickly restored to prevent highly flammable and invasive cheatgrass from carpeting the ground and fueling more fires. Forest Service researchers [identified strains](#) of native plants that can block cheatgrass invasions. Native plant species now account for the majority of seeds planted in the Great Basin. .

More News



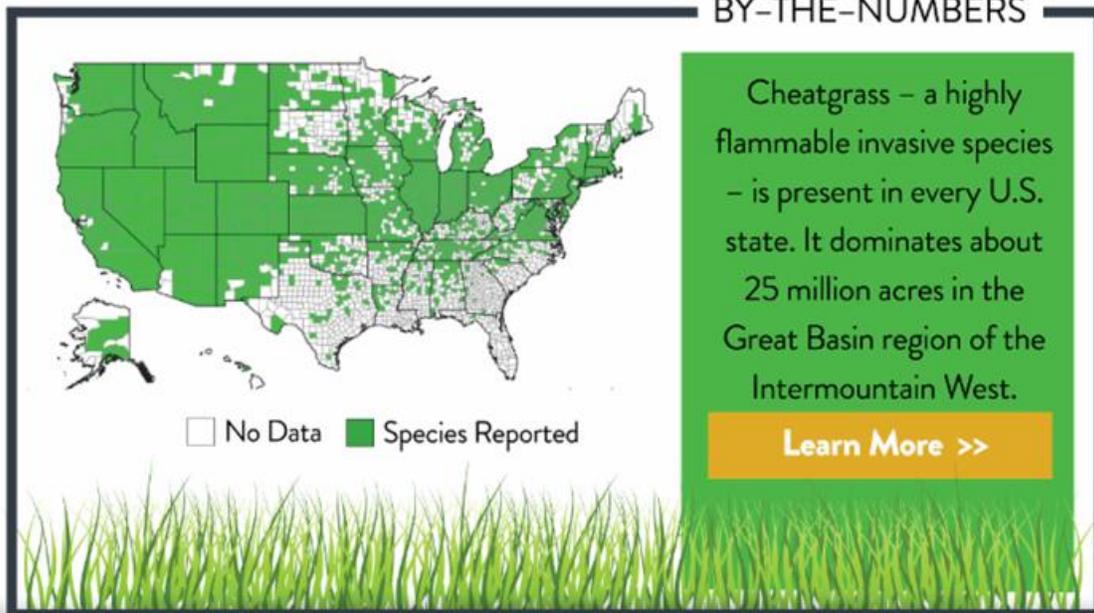
Forest Service Scientist Honored with 2019 Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award

Forest Service ecologist Kurt Ritters was named the 2019 Distinguished Landscape Ecologist by the U.S. Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology. The [award](#) recognizes individuals whose thinking and writing have helped to shape the field of landscape ecology. It is the highest honor bestowed by the association.



Forest Service Awards \$8.9 million in Wood Innovation Grants

The Forest Service recently awarded more than \$8.9 million through the Wood Innovations [Grant](#) Program. Thirty-nine business, university, nonprofit, and tribal partners are matching the grants with an additional \$8.8 million. These grants support the development of consumer products that use excess forest material. Projects will take place in 20 states.



[Learn More About the Great Basin Native Plant Project](#)

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