

NP by removing 50 years of infrastructure and restricting cars; and Lake Merced restoration at Yosemite NP.

*Native plant propagation.* This is occurring at 12 parks in California. For example, Aberdeen Plant Materials Center entered into an agreement with Lava Beds NM to produce seed and plants of native plant species for revegetation purposes and to develop propagation methods. Joshua Tree National Monument has an arid lands restoration center.

*Celebrating wildflowers.* This is a collaborative commemoration between several federal land management agencies to promote the importance of conservation and management of native plants and plant habitats.

Volunteer activities in parks have contributed substantially in plant conservation and education. For example, at Golden Gate NRA alone, over 10,000 volunteer hours have been devoted to plant restoration projects at more than 40 sites. Golden Gate NRA has also initiated a Site Stewardship program to foster long-term efforts for groups of volunteers at specific sites.

The Western Region is involved in several interagency committees and task groups in California such as the Executive Council on Biodiversity, bioregional councils, and the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project.

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## OVERVIEW OF THE USDA-FOREST SERVICE

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### THE MISSION AND ROLE OF THE FOREST SERVICE

By law, the Forest Service is required to manage national forest resources for water supply, recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, timber, range, and other renewable uses. Many goods and services provided are sold or are subject to user fees.

The phrase "CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE", captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in federal



law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use concept to meet diverse needs of people. It includes: Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity and beauty of forests and associated lands; developing and providing scientific and technical knowledge aimed at improving our capability to protect, manage, and use forests and rangelands; and protecting and managing the National Forests and Grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept.

### GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Forest Service, established in 1905, is a decentralized agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture where decisionmaking is delegated to the lowest level appropriate in the organization. The Forest Service is administered by a Chief and Associate Chief in Washington, DC. The top leadership is made up of career civil servants versus political appointees.

Programs are developed into six areas administered by a Deputy Chief. These areas are the National Forest System, International Forestry, Research, State and Private Forestry, Programs and Legislation, and Administration. Under each Deputy Chief are Staff Directors who administer specific functional program areas such as Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants, Minerals and Geology, Range Management, Timber Management, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Management and so forth.

The Forest Service is comprised of 9 Regions, each administered by a Regional Forester, 8 Research Stations administered by a Director, and an Institute of Tropical Forestry (in Puerto Rico).

The Forest Service administers 156 national forests and 20 grasslands in 44 states. These lands comprise 191 million acres with an amazing variety of habitats, from subarctic tundra to tropical rain forest amounting to nearly 8 percent of the land in the United States. Over 10,000 plant species are suspected to occur on the national forests and grasslands.

The Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service manages 18 national forests and one grassland in California (with small acreages extending into southern Oregon and western Nevada), comprised of 20 million acres which is 20 percent of the state land base. It is predicted that the national forests and grassland provide habitat for over two-thirds of the California flora. Complete floras and/or checklists for national forests are not available. Many new species are still being discovered on the national forests in California. The Pacific Southwest Region also covers Hawaii, Guam, and Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands where technical assistance is pro-



vided by a Pacific Islands Forester as part of the Region's State and Private Forestry program area.

Special designated lands are important units of managing the national forests. National forests in California administer 54 Wilderness areas (under the Wilderness Act of 1964, as amended) covering 4.4 million acres, nearly 20 percent of the national forest land base in California. Under the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, over 958 miles of rivers have been designated as wild, scenic, or recreational on the National Forests in California.

Special Interest Areas (which include botanical areas) is a land allocation used to conserve areas with high species diversity, unique assemblages, habitat types etc. Nearly 100 Special Interest Areas have been established to protect, and where applicable, foster public enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, or other special attributes. Examples of botanical areas are the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Butterfly Valley *Darlingtonia* Area.

The remaining land allocation which conserve species and habitats is Research Natural Areas (RNA). These lands preserve a wide spectrum of representative pristine areas that typify important forest, shrubland, grassland, aquatic, alpine, geological and other areas for scientific study. Over 36 RNA's are established in the Pacific Southwest Region.

#### SCOPE OF FOREST SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

Two federal laws are primary in plant conservation in the Forest Service. The first is the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (and subsequent regulations) which provide for viable populations and biological diversity. The second is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). In addition, policy is contained in the Forest ESA Service Manual (FSM) 2670 chapter which provides for the management of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species (TES).

Every Species Counts! is the program dedicated to conserving TES species on the national forests. TES species are the rarest of our renewable natural resources. Management and conservation of these species is one of the Forest Service's primary land stewardship responsibilities.

The Sensitive Plant Program is the botanical component of Every Species Counts! This program manages over 300 sensitive native California plants, many of them known to occur in fewer than 15 locations. Nearly 100 of these plants are restricted to the national forests in California, and dozens more have the majority of their distribution on the national forests. Conservation strategies are being developed to provide for species viability through time.



Over 90 percent of these sensitive species are identified as list 1B in the 5th edition of the California Native Plant Society's *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants in California* (Skinner and Pavlik 1994). In addition, most of the sensitive plants in the Region are identified as candidate 1 or 2 taxa by the USFWS.

The Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service in California has 12 plants listed under the ESA, and 14 species are proposed. Twenty-three state endangered and two state threatened species are listed under the State of California ESA of 1984, and 28 species are listed as rare under the authority of the California Native Plant Protection Act.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

The Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Research Station is increasing its interest and commitment in conservation of TES species. The station has created the Institute of Forest Genetics and the Center for Genetic Conservation.

The National Forest Genetic Electrophoresis Lab has undertaken several sensitive plant projects to determine distinctions between species, and supply evidence for taxonomic recognition of species.

*Celebrating wildflowers.* This is a collaborative commemoration between several federal land management agencies to promote the importance of conservation and management of native plants and plant habitats and emphasizes the aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal, and economic values of wildflowers.

During Fiscal Year 1993, volunteers added significantly to the development of the sensitive plant program. Over 2261 hours of service were donated to the program.

Botanical staffing for the Pacific Southwest Region includes 25 full-time botanists. This workforce is augmented with over 60 botanists during the field season. Due to the nature of administering national forests and grasslands, the Forest Service work force is highly diverse in skills, educational careers and work responsibilities ranging from natural sciences to social sciences. The work force is comprised of over 5000 employees in California.

The knowledge base regarding the presence and status of 300 TES plants ranges from well known to provisional. The strategy employed is to utilize all existing information to determine priority field work and surveys to accomplish each year. For example, during FY 92 the Region documented 414 new occurrences representing 77 sensitive plant taxa. The trend was similar in FY 93 with 340 new occurrences representing 79 plant taxa. In addition, several newly described rare plants have been located on the national forests which focuses our efforts to document their distribution and determine if special management is required to conserve these species.



Once the distribution is fairly well determined, the forest botanist (working with other resource professionals) develops interim prescriptions to reduce impacts to plant occurrences. As ecological information becomes available through conservation assessments, species and/or habitat management guides are prepared. These guides function as conservation strategies and are the basis for maintaining viable populations through time.

The goal of the Forest Service is to become a multicultural and diverse organization representing the American people we serve and responding to their diverse needs through the conservation of natural resources for today and for future generations.

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## OVERVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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## MISSION AND ROLE OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The mission of the Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. As California's primary trustee agency for fish, wildlife, and plants, the Department actively seeks protection of these resources and their habitats. Because the Department does not have land use authority, it must work cooperatively with federal, state, and local governments, businesses, conservation organizations, and citizens to carry out its mission.

## GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Department is part of the California Resources Agency. Headquarters is located in Sacramento and consists of the Directorate, divisions, and branches. Divisions and branches carry out specific program functions. Five regional offices carry out program responsibilities in specific geographic areas of the state.



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