

THE ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST AND SOUTHERN OREGON

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Greetings to the 1982 Conference of the Western Forest Nursery Council. The Rogue River National Forest is especially proud to host this year's conference and also to be able to display the J. Herbert Stone Nursery. I hope all of you will be able to attend the tour on Wednesday and see the fine facilities and nursery that Frank Morby manages.

Now that you are here, I'm supposed to tell you about the Rogue River National Forest and Southern Oregon. The Rogue River Forest is approximately 696 M acres and actually is in both Oregon and California. We have the unique situation to manage public land which varies from the steep Siskiyou Mountains to the more level western slopes of the Cascades. Vegetation varies tremendously and we have more than our share of threatened and endangered plant species. Being in two states makes this even more of a management challenge.

The Forest has a heavy timber workload, as you would expect, but also has the largest range workload west of the Cascades. Our recreation use also is heavy due to our proximity to both the Medford area and to I-5 and Crater Lake National Park. The Forest operates an air tanker base at the Medford airport, which historically delivers more retardant than any other base in Region 6. We have 4 Districts, plus the Nursery, and have a personnel ceiling of 512 Full Time Equivalents of which 226 are Permanent Full Time.

So much for the Forest. Southern Oregon is unique in many ways. Rich in history, ever expanding and developing, yet quick to hold still with events such as the Shakespearean Theatre in Ashland, Britt Music Festival in Jacksonville, and in fact, Jacksonville itself. These continue to attract thousands of visitors to Southern Oregon, famous for its attractiveness for retired people, Californians and (unfortunately) marijuana growers and survivalists. Quite a mixture of uses and needs, but it adds challenge.

The Rogue River and Bear Creek Valley is, from a land management standpoint, unique in many ways. The Forest land management responsibilities are shared by Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, California Department of Forestry and both large and small timberland owners. There are also some small municipal land management activities such as Josephine County and the City of Jacksonville.

As an example of the impact on local communities due to this forest management responsibility, slightly over 50% of Jackson County, where we are meeting, and 72% of Josephine County, located to the north and west of Medford, is publicly owned.

Land Management (especially Timber Management) is an important part of both the lifestyle and economics of the Valley and Region. When you mix this with the environmental constraints which land managers face in Southwest Oregon and Northern California, it becomes a formidable task to complete the basic job in timber management, and that is regeneration. One of the largest steps taken to assist the land manager in this task was the construction and development of the J. Herbert Stone Nursery.

Conceived years ago, construction started in 1977. Although some expansion of facilities and seed beds is planned, the majority of the work is complete. It is unique in that all of the facilities were constructed in a five-year period. More information will be made available to you on the tour, and I am sure you will be impressed.

Now that the nursery and many more like it are in place, it is important that conferences such as this happen. The value of the information shared is difficult to measure, but the results are evident.

You all have a major role in Land Management activities. I find that the success our nursery has depends on the success of our Nursery Manager to communicate with the people to whom he provides trees. The Nursery Manager, Frank Morby, is a part of the Rogue River National Forest Management Team and, in some respects, a member of the Management Team for all the units he serves. While it is important that you talk to each other, be sure you talk to your users. I find that land managers on the ground are paying more attention to nursery operations today than ever before in my career.

Have a successful conference. I plan on attending portions of the agenda. I hope to meet many of you this week, so try to help me do just that.

ROBERT J. DEVLIN

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Started with Forest Service in 1958 after graduation from Penn State University with bachelor of Science degree in Forestry

Has worked on Klamath, Sequoia, and Stanislaus Forests in Region 5 in both timber and other resource positions

District Manager - Klamath National Forest for seven and a half years

Forest Timber Staff Officer - Stanislaus National Forest for seven years

Married, five children. Enjoys all sports, outdoor activities, and keeping track of District Rangers and Nursery Manager