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Abstract

Technology transfer is the dissemination of research. While mandated by the Forest Service, little information exists outlining current use and preferences of Forest Service personnel for different technology transfer mediums. This research will assess current and preferred communication mediums of forest health research information through the use of a survey.



Figure 1. Technology transfer via hands-on field demonstration.
Photo: Chris Schnepf

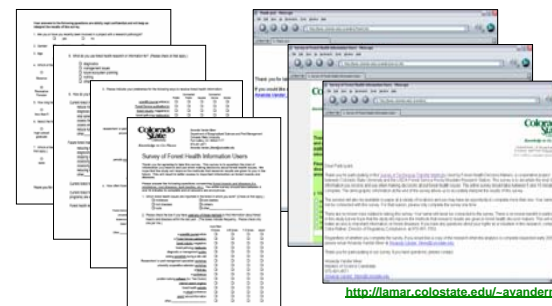
Objectives

- ★ understand which methods Forest Service employees currently use to learn about forest health
- ★ learn how Forest Service employees view forest health research
- ★ assess the barriers that lie between research results and implementation of those results
- ★ determine which methods are preferred for technology transfer



Figure 3. Technology transfer via maps.

Paper and Computer Surveys



<http://amar.colostate.edu/~avander/>

Uses

This survey will be used to evaluate the technology transfer in two case studies in which research is moved from researcher to user. In addition, this survey will provide valuable tools for future forest health research results to be made available to Forest Service personnel in Region 2.

Introduction

Technology transfer is the dissemination of information and research findings (BLM, 2005). Technology transfer in the Forest Service was mandated by the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. 3711-3714). Effective technology transfer should be built into all research to ensure that new information is adopted into everyday use (BLM, 2005).

Common terms for technology transfer:

- ★ adoptions theory
- ★ diffusion of innovations
- ★ social marketing

Barriers to effective technology transfer of forest science (Wright, 2005, LaChapelle et al., 2003):

- ★ lack of time
- ★ availability of science
- ★ conflicting results
- ★ lack of trust
- ★ cultural differences between researchers and users

Forest health research is important to ensure maintenance of healthy forests. Efficient transfer of new research information will help overcome the technology transfer barriers and spread new knowledge of forest health. Therefore, a critical look at technology transfer and the movement of research is important.

Methods

To achieve our objectives, we are surveying over 250 district-level Forest Service personnel in Region 2 including silviculturists, botanists, foresters, recreation leaders, trail leaders, biologists, timber managers, fire management officers, and fuels planners.

The survey takes between 5 and 10 minutes to complete and includes questions about 17 technology transfer techniques including various paper, computer, and hands-on methods. To avoid biased data, the survey is available on two mediums, the internet and paper. The survey contains demographical and forest health technology transfer questions to determine:

1. which forest health issues are important
2. current use of technology transfer methods
3. preference to receive forest health information
4. frequency of using experts in forest health
5. how forest health information is used
6. the importance, ease of use, and appropriateness of forest health research



Figure 2. Technology transfer via websites, email, or computer simulations.



Figure 4. Technology transfer via forest health professional site-visit.
Photo: Chris Schnepf

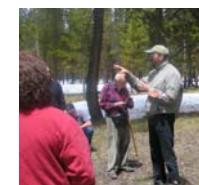


Figure 5. Technology transfer via seminar or workshop.
Photo: Kelly Burnis

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