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Leaders Named for Forest Inventory and Forest Monitoring Programs

Newtown Square, Pennsylvania Mar. 14, 2006 -- USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station Director Michael T. Rains today announced changes to the Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) staff. Rains named Dennis May as program manager of the newly formed Northern Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit and Charles "Chip" Scott as the new program manager of the Northern Monitoring Program. May and Scott are currently the program managers of the North Central and Northeastern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) units, respectively.

May received a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine and master's degree from the University of Idaho in forest resources, and started his Forest Service career in 1983 on a forest inventory field crew in the State of Louisiana. He has worked at many levels within the forest inventory program, including: analyst, forest health monitoring coordinator, data request specialist, and data processing and data collection staff.

"Dennis's experience as program manager and his 23 years working in multiple facets of the FIA program gives him a familiarity with the full range of operational functions for this position," said Rains. "This experience will be an invaluable asset to the position and the Forest Service."

Scott fills the newly created position of program manager for the new Northern Monitoring Program. The Northern Monitoring Program was created to develop leading-edge forest ecosystem monitoring methods and tools to help FIA and other organizations monitor forests. Scott received a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University, a master's from University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in forest biometrics.

"Chip has demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm for conducting research and developing monitoring methods as they apply to forest inventory throughout his career with the Forest Service," said Rains. "His academic credentials in forest biometrics and his broad forest inventory background will help to further integrate the new monitoring program with that of the existing forest inventory program and the mission of the Forest Service as a whole."

Both May and Scott reported to their new duties on February 28.

The Northern Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis program serves 24 States across the northern U.S., from the Great Plains through the New England States, an area encompassing approximately 175 million acres of forest land.

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