

Jerry F. Franklin, President

1993 - 1994

Jerry Franklin was elected as our new President the same year that the Ecological Society of America voted to establish an office in Washington, D.C. The potential implications of these two decisions by the membership are worthy of comment. Our new President and the President of our country share concerns about the Pacific Northwest forests. As one of the "Gang of Four," Jerry helped establish options for Congress and the President that clarified ecosystem principles so that they could be understood by the public and their representatives. As a result, the managers of our Nation's forests are beginning to test ecological concepts on a broad scale. Under Jerry's leadership members of the ESA can expect to be called upon for more exchanges with members of Congress and the Executive Branch.

Jerry obtained his B.S. in 1959 and M.S. degree in 1961 from the Forestry School at Oregon State University. After obtaining a Ph.D. at Washington State University in 1966 under the guidance of Rexford Daubenmire, a past President of our Society, Jerry returned to the Corvallis campus as a research forester with the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station.

Jerry left a legacy with the U.S. Forest Service that altered the normal way of doing research. He sought collaboration with many scientists at universities and other institutions, became a courtesy professor in two university colleges, and authored more than 300 publications between 1959 and 1986. Among the best known in the Pacific Northwest is the reference on "Natural vegetation of Oregon and Washing-

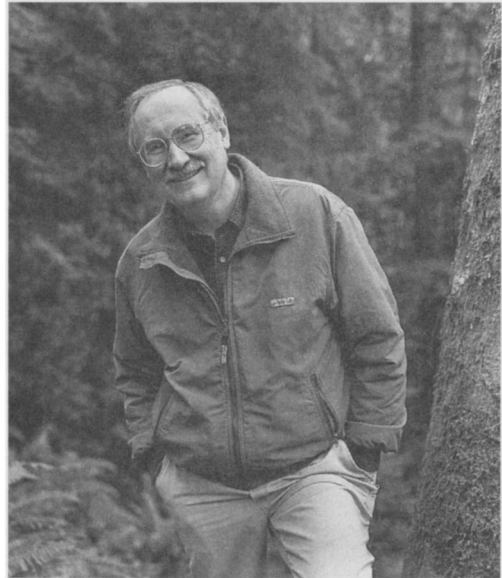


Photo by Mary Randlett.

ton" first published in 1973 with C.T. Dyrness. He did far more, however, than describe the vegetation and its succession. Jerry helped establish the network of Research Natural Areas now in place throughout the Pacific Northwest.

As a leader of the Coniferous Forest Biome Project established under Congressional mandate as part of the International Biological Program in 1970, Jerry assembled a cadre of students and post-doctoral scientists that helped rewrite textbooks and bring an ecosystem perspective into the Pacific Northwest forestry schools.

In 1973-1975 Jerry became Director of the Ecosystem Studies Program at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. during a critical transition when ecosystem science was in its infancy. The Long-Term Ecological Research Program resulted, which includes the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest in Oregon where much of the I. B. P. research on coniferous forests and streams was concentrated. At present, Jerry is the Coordinating Committee Chair and Director of the LTER network. The Network office is located at the University of Washington in Seattle where Jerry moved in 1986 to become Professor of Ecosystem Analyses in the College of Forest Resources.

Jerry had the opportunity to spend a year at Harvard Forest, another LTER site representing northern conifers and deciduous hardwoods. While there he joined with Richard Forman of Harvard University to assess the ecological consequences of forest cutting patterns upon the landscape (*Landscape Ecology* 1:5-18, 1987). The landscape perspective, combined with new tools of remote sensing from satellites and computer-enhanced geographic information systems, has created a revolution that has allowed new approaches to managing resources and assessing ecological and economic impacts across the Pacific Northwest and in other regions as well. The interpretation of remotely sensed data in the Pacific Northwest rests on the foundation

of much of the earlier ecological classification and I.B.P. studies to which Jerry contributed so much. Jerry, along with other LTER ecologists, has also played a major role in building a partnership with NASA that will result in the NSF study sites serving as benchmarks for global change analysis from satellites.

Jerry's scientific talents were recognized early. He received the Distinguished Scientific Award from the Northwest Scientific Association in 1971 and an Arthur S. Flemming Award in 1972 for the outstanding young person in the Federal government. More recently, his introduction of "New Forestry" gained him the Conservationist of the Year award from the Pacific Rivers Council in 1992.

We have elected a President who is not afraid of complexities nor of diversity in views. He will enroll the talents of the membership and seek new ways of advancing the science of ecology and its application. Jerry would prefer the quiet path across the North Cascades, but I am glad that he can help the Society this particular year as it attempts to contribute more to the study and solution of pressing national and global ecological problems.

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