

Industrial & Systems Engineering Seminar

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

3:15 PM – Refreshments before the seminar

3:30 PM – Graduate Seminar

Mechanical Engineering Room 4125 A & B



Fifty Years of OR in Forestry

Dr. Robert G. Haight

United States Forest Service Northern Research Station

The OR profession has a long history of addressing public and private forestry issues. Forests are a source of raw materials for the forest products industry, which in the U.S. produces \$175 billion annually and employs 900,000 people. The OR profession has made significant contributions to optimizing the timber supply chain, including harvest scheduling, transportation planning, and manufacturing, and I will take a brief look at the history of those contributions. Forests are also held in public trusts by government agencies. The largest agency is the U.S. Forest Service, which is entrusted with 193 million acres of forests and grasslands with a mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of those lands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The OR profession helps with the design and evaluation of public programs to sustain forests and grasslands, including wildland fire management, biodiversity conservation, and forest insect and disease management, and I will take a close look at models and applications that illustrate these contributions. Finally, Minneapolis is the host the 2013 INFORMS annual meeting and I will discuss opportunities to help with the planning.

BIO: I am a native Californian and became interested in forestry and resource management while attending University of California, Berkeley in the 1970s. My early experience as a logger and forest manager shaped my interest in public resource management, and I earned a Ph.D. in forest management from Oregon State University in 1985. Since joining US Forest Service Research in 1987, I have studied public policy issues involving wildlife conservation, metropolitan open space protection, wildfire management, and invasive species management. I work with decision makers in the public sector who design and run programs to protect endangered species, conserve open space, and protect forests from unwanted disturbances. I joined Operations Research Society of America and its special interest group Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment (ENRE) in 1993. ENRE is now a Section of INFORMS with two strong and active groups: forestry and energy. I have served as forestry cluster chair for annual INFORMS meetings 1995-2001 and 2005 to present.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DR. HAIGHT'S RESEARCH, please visit:

<http://nrs.fs.fed.us/people/Haight>