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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Montana will be the major benefactor of the new \$400,000 United States Forestry Sciences Laboratory soon to be built on the University of Montana campus," President Robert Johns declared today.

"The value of sharing faculties and cooperating in forestry research with the Forest Service is inestimable." He added the University made the site for the lab--just southeast of the School of Forestry building--available to the Federal government on a long term lease.

This \$400,000 investment represents the first stage in the development of the laboratory. The second stage at a future date will be another \$400,000 investment, according to George W. Craddock of Ogden, Utah, assistant director in charge of station management for this Forest Service district.

The General Services Administration has received three bids to date, but it is up to the Montana Congressional delegation in Washington to release the results. Pending award of the contract the University has not hesitated, for the site which used to have pre-fab housing units on it has been cleared and is ready for lab construction to begin.

Craddock said the first stage of the lab is designed to accommodate the six current projects now going on in facilities at the Missoula Federal Building and one proposed one.

Those projects include (1) silviculture of western larch and Engelmann spruce, (2) wildlife habitat research in a transition forest, (3) improvement of western wood types--their processing and forest utilization, (4) forest entomology of bark beetles, (5) entomology of defoliating, i.e. leaf-eating, insects and (6) marketing. The proposed project has to do with recreation in wilderness and other remote areas.

(more)

The current projects involve 13 scientists and a four-person clerical unit, plus 10 to 12 summer aids and technicians, Craddock reported.

When the lab moves onto the University campus its scientists will become faculty affiliates with the 20 faculty members of the School of Forestry, according to Dr. Arnold W. Bolle, dean of the forestry school.

As faculty affiliates the federal scientists will have faculty privileges in the library and University laboratories. Dean Bolle emphasized the potential of mutual cooperation and coordination of research work now in progress.

Arthur L. Roe of Missoula, district Forest Service director's representative for the lab project and leader of research project number one, said, in addition to cooperative research, the federal scientists would be available to the School of Forestry for lectures and assistance in forest work. He looked forward to the sharing of some of the expensive equipment needed for forest research.

Moving federal research teams and facilities near or onto campuses is no upstart idea. It has been tried and found successful for sometime. Craddock pointed out in this district of the Forest Service, all of the research units except Boise, Idaho, are on or will soon be on a campus.

He thinks there is more potential for success in research if the research scientists are in an academic atmosphere. The University readily agrees.