

Announcement

CREATION OF THE CANOPY RESEARCH NETWORK

October 10, 1993

The forest canopy is important in maintaining the diversity, resilience, and functioning of forest ecosystems. As new access techniques such as giant construction cranes increase the interest and information about forest canopies, new tools and analytical approaches will be needed to manage, analyze, and compare data from different studies. Canopy scientists will need to deal with: 1) new types of data, 2) a great deal more data, and 3) the need to share data among researchers with separate research questions.

In July, 1993, the Canopy Research Network (CRN) was established with a two-year planning grant from the Database Activities Program and the Ecosystems Program of the National Science Foundation. The CRN is an effort to connect forest canopy researchers, quantitative scientists, and computer specialists in order to establish methods to collect, store, analyze, interpret, and display three-dimensional data relating to tree crowns and forest canopies. We are now soliciting input from scientists in other fields who may have developed techniques and software to help obtain answers to questions that concern the complex three-dimensional structure of tree crowns and forest canopies.

Over the next two years, we plan to: 1) compile an array of research questions and issues requiring information on canopy structure, 2) examine useful information models and software tools already in use in allied fields, and 3) develop conceptual models and recommendations for the types and format of information and analyses necessary to answer research questions posed by canopy researchers. We are currently conducting a survey to gather information on canopy structure research and on potentially useful tools.

If you have information about analytic tools that could be applied to this area of research, please contact the CRN. You can subscribe to the CRN e-mail bulletin board by sending a note to: canopy@elwha.evergreen.edu

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