

Forestry Research and Education Collaboration in Chile **By Dr. Susan Moore, Forestry & Environmental Outreach Program**

The Department of Forestry & Environmental Resources in the College of Natural Resources is in the final year of a four-year forestry research and education collaboration with the Universities of Concepcion and Austral in Chile. Under the project, funded by the USDA International Science & Education Competitive Grants Program, the universities have exchanged faculty and students in joint research projects, and conducted two forestry study tours in Chile involving over 30 NCSU students, faculty and staff. On November 6, 2008 NCSU Assistant Professor Susan Moore and doctoral student Michelle Moorman arrived in Valdivia, Chile to begin new collaborative projects with the University Austral de Chile (UACH).

Moore, director of NC State's Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program, brings her extension and outreach expertise to the Faculty of Forest Sciences at UACH to assist with their development of a forestry extension and outreach program. Dr. Moore is working on this project at the behest of Drs. Antonio Lara, the Dean of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Dr. Pablo Donoso, the Vice-Dean, formal partners in the four year exchange grant. She is doing an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Faculty of Forest Sciences as related to their ability to do extension and outreach, as well as determining potential future partner organizations, potential funding sources, opportunities and challenges. This faculty has great expertise in management of Chile's native forests. A new national law was recently passed (in November 2008) for the protection and conservation of native forests, making this project extremely timely. Dr. Moore is working as well with the UACH Director of Extension on a structure for faculty motivation, reward and recognition of extension activities.

Working under the direction of Drs. Susan Moore and Pablo Donoso, NCSU doctoral student Michelle Moorman has begun a research project on community-based conservation in the Llancahue watershed of Valdivia. Michelle is doing a stakeholder analysis and employing community-based conservation techniques to develop a plan for maintaining and enhancing the ecosystem services of the watershed while engaging the local communities in the management and oversight. Ms. Moorman is in Chile from November 2008 through February 2009, holding focus groups, interviewing stakeholders and completing survey work with the community surrounding the watershed.

The loss of old-growth temperate rainforests in Valdivia, Chile (40°S), a hotspot for biodiversity, is of great concern at both the regional and international level. The development of a community-based conservation project and an extension and outreach program at UACH focusing on the protection and management of native forests will have a significant impact on the conservation of these forests.

The involvement of NCSU students and faculty in projects with the University of Concepcion and the University Austral greatly increases the capacity of our international partners and has ripple effects when these faculty and students return to the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources and disseminate information about their experiences.



Michelle Moorman (back view in blue jacket) discusses watershed conservation with the campesinos at the Llancahue watershed.



Native Araucaria forest in Chile.