

The trees "died happy" some three centuries ago on the southern Washington coast. This is the verdict of a chain-saw wielding scientist from U/CO's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research in Boulder, where scientists read tree ring growths as though they were grocery bar codes. David Yamaguchi of the Institute presented his theory of an enormous earthquake some 300 years ago to the December 1989 meeting of the American Geophysical Union's fall meeting.

Earthquake forecasting is based heavily on both the time elapsed since the last event and its magnitude," he said. "Calendar dates obtained from tree rings could set the clock ticking and help geologists forecast future seismic activity."

In the past five years, researchers have found buried marshes along the Pacific Northwest coasts, showing that the ground abruptly crashed downward on several occasions, drowning the marshes in seawater. Radiocarbon dating of organic material in the buried marshes put the last even about 300 years ago. Healthy, vigorous western red cedars have been found to have met abrupt, untimely death at that time – apparently earthquake victims.

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Native Plants For Parks is the title of a brochure describing a cooperative program between the NPS and the Agriculture Department's Soil Conservation Service. The program provides cost-effective methods for use by resource managers in working with native plant revegetation, historical plants, and threatened or endangered species. The brochure details the SCS technical assistance available and tells how to request assistance and from whom. Contacts are: NPS Technical Advisor, Denver Service Center, FTS 327-2310; SCS National Plant Materials Specialist, Washington, DC FTS 447-5667; SCS Technical Advisor, Denver, CO, (303) 236-2913.

At present five NPS/SCS cooperative agreements are producing seed or transplants for specific park road program funded projects; 12 such projects have been scheduled for FY 1990.

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The Biological Diversity of Food Plants: Some Interpretive Thoughts is the title of a 52-page xerox article by Western Region's chief of interpretation, Dick Cunningham. The paper contains information on the origins and historical usages of food plants, stresses the need to preserve genetic food resources, and suggests interpretive/educational techniques for using the information. Cunningham works out of the NPS Western Regional office in San Francisco.