



# NEWS RELEASE

USDA FOREST SERVICE • FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Forest Products Laboratory Director retires Westfield native retires after 37 years with the Forest Service

Madison, Wis.— After 37 years with the USDA Forest Service, Thomas E. Hamilton, Director of the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), retires June 30.

Hamilton, who has a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin, joined the Forest Service in 1964. His assignments included positions in Portland, Ore. and Philadelphia before heading to Washington, D.C. in 1976, where Hamilton served until 1994. From 1988-1994, he was Associate Deputy Chief for Forest Service Research.

In June 1994, Hamilton was appointed FPL Director. During his time there, he saw the laboratory reestablish itself as the world leader in wood-framed housing research and partner with the U.S. Postal Service on the formulation of pressure sensitive adhesive for postage stamps. Currently FPL is researching economic uses for the dense undergrowth of small-diameter timber that fuels catastrophic forest fires.

“FPL will continue to be a worldwide leader in wood conservation research thanks to quality research programs and people,” said Hamilton. “I feel the lab is well positioned to make significant contributions in the future.”

Hamilton is a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Forest Products Society, and the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. He and his wife Sally reside in Fitchburg.

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