

James N. Kochenderfer

James N. Kochenderfer began working with the USDA Forest Service in 1956 and has been Research Forester at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station's Timber and Watershed Laboratory in Parsons since 1967. The author of more than 70 research publications, he is nationally recognized as an expert in forestry Best Management Practices (BMP). He led the team that developed the minimum-



standard road concept. This type of road, which is affordable, efficient and environmentally sound, is used throughout the central Appalachians today. His many technology development projects, such as substantially improving the design of drainage structures, such as broad-based dips, guidelines for culvert sizes for small watersheds and design of open-top culverts made from recycled gas well pipe, have resulted in improved management of West Virginia's forests. Adoption of these technologies substantially decreases soil erosion and sediment input to forest streams.

Mr. Kochenderfer has consulted widely with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Monongahela National Forest, private forest industries and private landowners on the design, layout and construction of forest access

systems and the effects of forest management on erosion and sedimentation. In 1992, Mr. Kochenderfer was appointed by the Governor to serve on the committee charged with devising methods to carry out the mandates and provisions of the 1992 Logging Sediment Control Act. The committee formulated plans for logger licensing, training plans for logger certification and developed procedures for issuing compliance orders and enforcing penalties for noncompliance, with the emphasis on training and education, with civil penalties for violations of the law as a last resort.

Mr. Kochenderfer has provided many guest lectures for students at West Virginia University, conducts a training session in basic forest hydrology and forest access at WVU's Summer Forestry Camp and has worked extensively with WVU Extension Service in planning and conducting workshops on forest access roads. He is part of the team that created the "Managing Your Woodlot" video series, which won awards for excellence from the National Woodlot Owners' Association, American Society of Agronomy and National Association of Vocational Teachers. He also conducts field tours and serves as an expert instructor in many BMP workshops for West Virginia and Maryland.

Mr. Kochenderfer is a member of the Society of American Foresters; Executive Committee of the West Virginia Division of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters and chairperson of the Communications Committee; American Forestry Association; and, West Virginia Forestry Association. He is a tree farmer who manages his own woodlot and has been recognized by the Forest Service for excellence in research and technology transfer. In 1990, the West Virginia Forestry Association recognized Mr. Kochenderfer for his outstanding contribution to forestry in West Virginia.