

A LOW-LEVEL MERCURY LABORATORY POSITIONS THE SOUTHERN RESEARCH STATION TO ADDRESS IMPORTANT MERCURY QUESTIONS

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Science Area: Threats to Forest Health; RWU - 4156

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A low-level mercury laboratory at the Center for Forest Disturbance Science (Athens, GA) positions the SRS to address important questions related to the environmental cycling of mercury. Current research in this lab focuses on determining mercury emissions from prescribed forest fires, an important topic in light of public concerns about air quality issues associated with forest fires. Other questions that could be addressed in future projects include: (1) How much mercury is released from the combustion of biofuels? -- (2) Can the rate of mercury accumulation in the forest floor be used to conduct chronological records of past atmospheric mercury deposition? -- (3) To what degree does mercury enter the terrestrial food chain in Southern forests?

The equipment and procedures used in the laboratory will be highlighted in a series of photographs.