Handout H16-2: A Tree’s Story

Specie: ______________________  Cookie Number ________________

1. How many years of history does your tree cookie cover? _____________ years
2. On a separate page:
   • Sketch the outline of your tree cookie.
   • Label the sketch with the dates of the earliest and most recent growth rings.
   • Draw an arrow to each fire scar and label it with the date of the fire.
   • Calculate the number of years between each pair of fire scars. Write it in the space between each pair of arrows.
3. How many low-severity fires scarred your tree? ______________
4. How many fire intervals are recorded on your tree? ________
5. What is the average interval between fires? _________ years (If you only have 1 scar, go to the next step.)
6. Wide growth rings show years of fast tree growth, when moisture, sunlight, and nutrients were plentiful. Narrow rings show years of slow growth caused by drought, disease, injury, shading, or crowding by other trees. In what years did your cookie show fast growth? ______
   In what years did it grow very slowly? ______
7. Were the years right after fire usually good or poor for growth? __________________
   What might be some reasons?
8. Did your tree record fewer fires after 1900 than before? _____ If so, what might be some reasons? (If your tree died before 1900, go to the next question.)
9. Could a tree be damaged by lack of low-severity fire? Explain why or why not.