



FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION STAFF

What We Do



FOREST SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

February 2003

Forest Health Protection (FHP) has the primary responsibility for minimizing the spread of established invasive forest insects and pathogens, and lessening the damages caused by native insects and pathogens and native and non-native invasive plants. FHP provides unique technical expertise in this area. FHP will continue to develop prevention, suppression, and restoration strategies to implement activities that are needed to maintain healthy ecosystems and reduce risk of pest outbreaks.

Bringing together all stakeholders to work on all forestlands is a primary focus of FHP. We are committed to finding innovative ways to rapidly respond to forest health threats to avoid unacceptable loss of forest resources. To move towards our vision of improving forest health, we will focus on four vital programs: **(1)** invasive insects and pathogens, **(2)** suppression and prevention, **(3)** forest health services, and **(4)** invasive plants.



KEY MESSAGES

Forest health concerns exist in America's Forests. Concerns are in forest ecosystems that are highly susceptible to drought, pest epidemics, invasion by exotic pests, extensive wildfires, and where wildfire threatens communities.

-  FHP will focus more on the long-term forest health concerns through prevention and restoration activities.
-  FHP will aggressively suppress native insects and pathogens when they act invasively, especially when they conflict with other forest uses, values and benefits.
-  FHP will aggressively work with APHIS to rapidly detect and eradicate exotic insects and pathogens.
-  FHP will continue to provide expert advice to cooperators regarding management of insects and pathogens.
-  FHP will provide treatment of native and non-native invasive plants on private lands.