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Forest Health Monitoring Program  
June Monthly Update  
June 18, 2007  
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**Recent Happenings**

Personnel:

Robert Cruz has been selected to fill the FHM Coordinator position for Regions 1 and 4. Rob has extensive experience in forest management with the National Forest System, most recently as Ranger on the Logan Ranger District of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah. Rob will be coordinating all aspects of the FHM program in Regions 1 and 4 and will be located in Ogden, UT. He can be reached via phone at (801) 625-5162 and via email at [rcruz@fs.fed.us](mailto:rcruz@fs.fed.us). We welcome Rob to FHM!

**Upcoming Events (items beginning with \* indicate a new listing or new information added)**

\*July 23-26, 2007. Jekyll Island, GA. The 50<sup>th</sup> Southern Forest Insect Work Conference (SFIWC). A block of rooms at the Buccaneer Beach Resort will be held until June 23, 2007. Poster titles with abstracts must be submitted by July 1, 2007. For an agenda and reservation information, visit the SFIWC website <http://sfiwc.org> or contact John Foltz at [foltz@ufl.edu](mailto:foltz@ufl.edu).

November 5-7, 2007. Montpellier, in southern France. The ForestSat'07 conference. This conference is intended to bring together remote sensing and geographic information specialists with foresters and other forest stakeholders to foster exchanges towards an operational and fruitful use of remote sensing techniques and products for forest applications. Previous conferences were ForestSat'03 held in Edinburgh, Scotland, and ForestSat'05 held in Boras, Sweden. Papers are expected on topics related to the development of remote sensing methods (mapping, assessment of biophysical parameters, change detection), and applications of remote sensing to forest resources assessment and indicators of sustainable management; forest functioning and carbon cycle; monitoring of the impacts of global change; landscape ecology; biodiversity. For more information including important dates, visit the ForestSat'07 conference home page at <http://forestsat07.teledetection.fr>.

**Job Announcements**

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pacific Northwest Region, may soon be filling a permanent Forester position (Forest Health Analyst), GS-460-12, position located in the Regional Office, Portland, Oregon. The incumbent will be a forest health analyst with the National Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program (<http://fhm.fs.fed.us>). Partnerships involve other USDA Forest Service Programs, the National Forest System, State Foresters, other State and federal agencies, and academic groups. Analysis and reporting efforts address forest health issues and concerns that affect the sustainability of forest ecosystems. Priority is given to forest health topics identified by program partners. Such topics include outbreaks of forest insects and diseases, air pollution, fire, extreme weather events, and human activities. The FHM Program uses scientific and quantitative data representing a suite of indicators of forest health conditions and various causal agents associated with these conditions. Data are collected from ground plots, ground surveys, aerial surveys, satellite imagery, and monitoring stations. Most data are collected annually and available through the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) (<http://fia.fs.fed.us>) and Forest Health Protection (FHP) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/>) programs of the USDA Forest Service. Following statistical analysis, the incumbent is responsible for transforming large amounts of data on forest ecosystems into meaningful facts, findings and conclusions. The incumbent will work with a broad variety of agency entomologists, pathologists, scientists, technicians, and forest specialists, as well as other agency and state representatives. When the position is advertised, the announcement will be available at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>. Interested applicants, or those desiring further information, should contact Alison Nelson, [anselson@fs.fed.us](mailto:anselson@fs.fed.us), or FAX (503) 808-2469, attention Alison Nelson, FHP, Natural Resources, **by June 8, 2007 or as soon as possible**. The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status,

disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factor.

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis are advertising for the position of Vegetation Specialist. The positions are in support of the U.S Forest Service Northern Research Station (NRS), Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program (<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/fia/>). The Vegetation Specialists will be primarily responsible for the collection of FIA Vegetation Diversity and Structure Indicator data (<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/program-features/indicators/veg>), including species identification and cover estimates for all trees, shrubs, herbs, graminoids, ferns, and fern allies occurring on the plots. The Vegetation Specialist will work as a member of a multi-person FIA field crew and will assist with other field measurements as time allows. Field crew members work under the direction of a crew leader and collect a broad range of inventory data, including: tree/sapling/seeding data (species, diameter, height, crown assessment, damage assessment, etc.); down woody material data (course woody material, fine woody material, fuel loading, etc.); and vegetation diversity and structure data. **Qualifications Required:** In addition to basic qualifications, applications may be screened for specific knowledge, skills, and abilities, which may include: knowledge of the principles, concepts, and practices of botany; ability to perform basic data processing, tracking, and editing functions using word processing and spreadsheet programs; and ability to identify regional vascular plant species – including trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, ferns, and fern allies – using regional and local comprehensive identification keys. **Work Assignments:** Contractor will be working alongside US Forest Service or Maine Forest Service employees conducting Forest Inventory and Analysis field plots. These plot locations are scattered throughout a state or groups of states and are not limited to National Forest Lands. In fact, the vast majority of the plots are located on private property. The work requires regular and recurring physical exertion in the form of travel on foot over rough, uneven, and steep terrain. The field crews travel frequently and work independently. The work requires several hours of driving, several days each week. During travel periods (approximately June through September), crews will change locations frequently, often on a weekly or daily basis. Lodging (provided) is generally in motel/hotels. **Work locations:**

- Old Town, Maine - Working with the Maine Forest Service employees throughout the state of Maine - 2 positions
- Westfield, Massachusetts – Working with US Forest Service employees throughout the New England states of MA, CT, RI, VT, NH – 1 position
- Cortland, New York and Warrensburg, New York - Working with US Forest employees throughout the state of New York – 1 position at each location.
- Clearfield, Pennsylvania - Working with US Forest employees throughout the states of PA, MD, DE and NJ – 2 positions
- Dunbar, WV (Charleston, WV) and Lewisburg, WV - Working with US Forest employees throughout the state of West Virginia – 1 position at each location.

Vegetation season: June 11 through September 21, 2007. If you are interested in these positions and want a full announcement, please contact : Bob Ilgenfritz, U.S. Forest Service, 11 Campus Blvd., Ste. 200, Newtown Square, PA 19073, Phone: 412-523-2495, Fax: 610-557-4250, E-mail: [rilgenfritz@fs.fed.us](mailto:rilgenfritz@fs.fed.us) .

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Quantitative Sciences Staff, Research and Development is advertising a position concurrently in the following announcements. Only one position will be filled among the four announcements:

Physical Scientist (current Federal employees) --

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/ftva.asp?seeker=1&JobID=58574287>

Physical Scientist (non-Federal employees) --

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/ftva.asp?seeker=1&JobID=58604335>

Biological Scientist (current Federal employees) --

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/ftva.asp?seeker=1&JobID=58574508>

Biological Scientist (non-Federal employees) --

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/ftva.asp?seeker=1&JobID=58574407>

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation has a summer employment opportunity for a Forest Health Technician. The length of employment is June 11 – August 31, 2007 (some flexibility in start

and end dates.) The salary is \$13.10 per hour (Forestry Technician A.) The location is Essex Jct., VT (Forestry Supervisor: Sean Lawson). Description of Duties: Complete a 3-day regional forest health training and certification session. Conduct inventories of vegetation, tree condition and other measurements on statewide forest health monitoring plots. Layout and assist in collection of soil and foliage samples at long-term soil monitoring sites. Assist in insect and disease surveys as needed. May include other forestry field assignments and some data entry. Working knowledge of herbaceous flora required. Courses in forestry field techniques, and insects and diseases helpful. Should have good communications skills and familiarity with computers. Must be comfortable with working outdoors, working as part of a team or alone. Must have a valid driver's license and a vehicle. The job involves considerable travel, much of it on secondary roads. Will be paid for mileage. Minimum Qualifications for Application: Education: Associate's degree in forestry, botany or horticulture; Experience: None OR Education: High school or trade school graduation; Experience: Two years at an aide level of responsibility in forestry, greenhouse or nursery operation, horticulture, agronomy, or an equally pertinent field. If interested, contact:  
Scott Pfister, Chief of Forest Resource Protection  
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation  
103 South Main Street Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0601  
802-241-3676 [scott.pfister@state.vt.us](mailto:scott.pfister@state.vt.us)

**FHM Homepage:** : [www.fhm.fs.fed.us](http://www.fhm.fs.fed.us)  
or access via the USDA Forest Service homepage at [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)