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Forest Health Monitoring Program  
September Monthly Update  
September 12, 2008  
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**Recent Happenings**

The USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection is currently requesting fiscal year 2009 proposals for three special project programs administered by Forest Health Protection:

1. Forest Health Monitoring Program (FHM), Evaluation Monitoring (EM) – A component of FHM designed to determine the extent, severity, and causes of undesirable changes in forest health. Project Proposals for new and continuing projects should be submitted by **September 30, 2008** to the FHM Regional Managers: Jim Steinman for Northeast FHM Region ([jsteinman@fs.fed.us](mailto:jsteinman@fs.fed.us)), Manfred Mielke for Northcentral FHM Region ([mmielke@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmielke@fs.fed.us)), Dale Starkey for Southern FHM Region ([dstarkey@fs.fed.us](mailto:dstarkey@fs.fed.us)), Jeri Lyn Harris for Interior West FHM Region ([jharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:jharris@fs.fed.us)), or Alison Nelson for West Coast FHM Region ([asnelson@fs.fed.us](mailto:asnelson@fs.fed.us)). Find complete details at [http://fhm.fs.fed.us/em/instructions/em\\_instructions09.pdf](http://fhm.fs.fed.us/em/instructions/em_instructions09.pdf). Contact: Borys Tkacz, National Program Manager for Forest Health Monitoring EM, (703) 605-5343, [btkacz@fs.fed.us](mailto:btkacz@fs.fed.us).
2. Special Technology Development Program (STDP) – A program to help move research results into practice by developing cutting edge technologies and field operation methods to improve the ability of field specialists to restore and protect America's forests. Proposals are due **October 15, 2008**. Find details at <http://svinetfc2.fs.fed.us/stdp/index.asp>. Contact: Marla Downing, Program Manager for STDP, (970) 295-5843, [mdowning@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdowning@fs.fed.us).
3. Forest Service-Pesticide Impact Statement Program (FSPIAP) – A program to provide funding for evaluations of benefits and impacts of pesticide use in forest environments. Proposals are due **November 14, 2008**. <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticide/fspiap/>. Contact: Hank Appleton, Program Manager for FSPIAP, (703) 605-5346, [happleton@fs.fed.us](mailto:happleton@fs.fed.us).

Federal and State entomologists, forest health specialists and the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team have been working hard over the last several years to create a South-wide, internet-based, database with mapping application for the southern pine beetle (SPB). This database, named the SPB PORTAL, will allow customized data entry/upload of records of SPB spots for each of the State forestry agencies to help manage, document and evaluate the occurrence and effects of this forest pest. It will be integrated with the existing federal SPB database (the Southern Pine Beetle Information System or SPBIS) that is used by national forests. Core data and associated maps and reports from the PORTAL will be accessible by authorized federal and State users south-wide. The PORTAL is in the final stages of development and testing and should be operational for the 2009 season. For more information contact James R. Meeker, USDA Forest Service, at 318-473-7284 or [jrmeeker@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrmeeker@fs.fed.us).

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

September 16-18, 2008. Utah State University, Logan, UT. Restoring the West Conference, Frontiers in Aspen Restoration. Interest in western aspen forests and their restoration and management remains high. This year participants will build on the foundation laid by this conference in September 2006 where aspen management and restoration efforts going on throughout the West were discussed. Participants will cover aspen biology and ecology, possible effects of climate change on aspen forests, trends in aspen management, monitoring, human dimensions of aspen ecosystems, and other topics. The conference will appeal to managers and researchers, including public and private land managers, landowners, and others. This year's conference will include two full days (September 16 and 17) of invited presentations with a poster session, and a final half day of roundtables/workshops to discuss how best to move aspen restoration efforts forward. Anyone can propose a poster presentation; a request for submissions along with instructions will come out mid-summer. For more information visit: <http://www.restoringthewest.org/>

September 22-27, 2008. Jackson, WY. '88 Fires: Yellowstone and Beyond. This momentous conference commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1988 fires in Yellowstone and the northern Rocky Mountain area. This event is presented by the International Association of Wildland Fire in association with the National Park Service

9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with the support of a consortium of partners. The conference will offer a host of opportunities to celebrate and learn lessons from past and present fire management practices and scientific research which serve as a foundation for the future of fire management. Discussions, presentations, and special sessions will focus on the following themes: fire behavior, weather and fuels, including crown fire modeling, long range fire behavior, weather forecasting, fuels, and fuels management; fire ecology, including wildlife, water, aquatic systems, landscape ecology and fire history; fire management and policy, including fire suppression, operations, safety, and planning; Global trends: carbon, invasive species, climate change; cultural and social perceptions of fire and the human interaction. For more information visit: <http://www.iawfonline.org/yellowstone/>.

October 21-23, 2008. Park City, UT. The 2008 FIA Symposium. The USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is pleased to announce the 2008 FIA Symposium. The symposium will emphasize innovative uses of FIA data that shed new light on contemporary issues, such as carbon, climate change, fire, bio-energy/biomass, forest health, and other contemporary issues. Plenary and breakout sessions from a variety of disciplines will be presented. The goals of the symposium are to: present ways that FIA has aided in policy and management decisions; provide a forum for linking issue-focused analyses with techniques development; exchange science and technology between FIA regions; showcase collaborative ventures and foster continued work with FIA partners; display state-of-the-art science and tools; and communicate utility of FIA data and analyses to the broader user community. Papers and breakout sessions on applications or technologies related to the symposium theme – *Climate Change, Fire, and Other Hot Topics* – are invited. The 2<sup>nd</sup> call for papers and other information about the symposium are available on the symposium web page: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium> . Abstracts for papers and breakout sessions were due May 30, 2008 and should have been submitted to Will McWilliams (USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station) at [wmcwilliams@fs.fed.us](mailto:wmcwilliams@fs.fed.us) . Visit the symposium web site for updated information.

November 17-20, 2008. Hot Springs, AR. The 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference. The conference will consist of concurrent technical sessions, a poster session, and an optional field trip. Abstracts for offered papers and posters currently are being accepted. For more information about the conference and specifics about submitting abstracts, please visit the conference website at <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/bssrc2008/index.htm>.

### **Publications of Interest**

Bennett, D.D.; Tkacz, B.M. 2008. Forest health monitoring in the United States: a program overview. *Australian Forestry*. 71 (3): 223-228.

Coulston, J.W.; Koch, F.H.; Smith, W.D.; Sapio, F.J. 2008. Invasive forest pest surveillance: survey development and reliability. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 38: 2422-2433.

Hayes, C.J; DeGomez, T.E; Clancy, K.M.; Williams, K.K.; McMillin, J.D.; Anhold, J.A. 2008. Evaluation of funnel traps for characterizing the bark beetle (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) communities in ponderosa pine forests of north-central Arizona. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. 101 (4): 1253-1265.

Johnson, E.W.; Ross, J. 2008. Quantifying error in aerial survey data. *Australian Forestry*. 71 (3): 216-222.

Johnson, E.W.; Wittwer, D. 2008. Aerial detection surveys in the United States. *Australian Forestry*. 71 (3): 212-215.

Tkacz, B.; Moody, B.; Villa Castillo, J; Fenn, M. 2008. Forest health conditions in North America. *Environmental Pollution*. 155: 409-425.

### **Job Announcements**

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection (FHP) is currently advertising a Biological Scientist (Aerial Survey Program Manager) GS-401-11/12 position. This is a

permanent full-time position. The duty station for this position is located in Davis, California. This position is with the State and Private Forestry unit, Forest Health Monitoring Programs staff area. The primary duties of this position are to manage the Regional aerial pest detection survey program. This includes conducting aerial surveys from fixed wing aircraft and helicopters annually, and conducting field visits on the ground. This position is responsible for managing a centralized aerial survey program, preparing an annual program of work, providing direction to aerial survey personnel, ensuring safety standards are being met by all personnel conducting surveys and managing an annual budget. This position is also responsible for collecting data to National standards and compiling data into clear and concise reports with experience using geographic information systems and global position systems. The position is open to U.S. citizens (announcement number ADS08-R5-RO5SP-00417DP) and to current federal employees (announcement number ADS08-R5-RO5SP-00417G). Only one position will be filled. If you desire further information about this position, please contact Lisa Fischer at [lisafischer@fs.fed.us](mailto:lisafischer@fs.fed.us) or by phone at 530-759-1748. The full announcements are available at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>. The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer.

The USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station will soon be advertising to fill a GS-0460-11 Research Forester permanent position administered and funded by the Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis (NRS-FIA). The NRS-FIA has locations at Newtown Square, PA and St. Paul, MN. The position is responsible for conducting ecological forest assessments that require complex analyses of many and varied forest associations and cover types found across the diverse landscape of the northern region. The position requires designing, conducting, and publishing assessments that address pertinent resource issues identified by NRS-FIA user's groups, customers, and clientele. The research assignment involves modeling of forest-health parameters, relating findings to relevant forest trends, and scaling up of data from coarse to fine geographic scales. Projects are completed from initiation to publication in a variety of ways with an emphasis on peer-reviewed outlets. Projects are tailored to scientific issues and topics critical to the NRS-FIA and client-based work problems; however, the individual work assignment allows flexibility to tailor the assignment to specific research interests of the position. The position will be designated as the principal analyst responsible for completing State-level reports and associated analyses. This responsibility covers the entire study process, including study initiation with State forestry agencies and other customers; planning and designing final reporting frameworks and products; compiling tabular, graphic, and mapped information; completing quality assurance checks, obtaining full scientific and peer reviews; and presenting, publishing, and disseminating study results. The vacancy announcement will be posted on: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>. For additional information about this position, contact William McWilliams, Supervisory Research Forester, at [wmcwilliams@fs.fed.us](mailto:wmcwilliams@fs.fed.us). The USDA Forest Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has a position available for a Resource Scientist (Forest Pathologist) in Columbia, Missouri. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** Monitors forest disease-related disturbances on a statewide basis through ground and aerial surveys and assessment of field staff reports and samples. Designs survey procedures, trains and supervises field crews, analyzes survey data, and writes reports. Identifies training needs and produces forest health training for Department field staff. Presents forest health seminars and workshops for federal, State and green industry staff. Develops and facilitates distribution of forest health educational materials, diagnostic tools, and management guidelines. Conducts research on forest pathology concerns relating to forest health monitoring and resource management. Designs research studies, analyzes and interprets data, and writes scientific articles, professional reports and popular articles. Develops and reviews Department policies concerning forest health. Performs other duties as required. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Forestry or closely related field, and two (2) years of progressively responsible professional experience in forest pathology work; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience with ArcGIS software and GPS is desirable. **CLOSING DATE:** October 31, 2008. For a complete job description and to apply on-line, visit web-site at [www.mdc.mo.gov/about/jobs](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/about/jobs). If you are unable to apply online, you may apply by contacting the Missouri Department of Conservation in Jefferson City, Missouri at 573-751-4115.