
Forest Health Monitoring Program
March Monthly Update
March 9, 2009

Recent Happenings

The 2009 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting was held February 24-26 in Savannah, GA. Activities included a panel discussion about response to new invaders of forests and urban environments, an optional field trip that featured laurel wilt disease and other invasive species, and four half-day focus groups. The focus groups were aerial survey standards, preparation of State assessments, risk mapping, and early detection of invasives. Resolutions from the focus groups were considered by the meeting attendees and approved resolutions will be forwarded to the FHM Management Team for consideration at the next Management Team meeting. Approximately 56 posters were displayed, including about 33 from evaluation monitoring projects and 2 from special analysis projects. To recognize and encourage excellence in poster preparation, several awards are given. The 2009 first place recipients were:

Fewest Words category - *A process to validate and refine the national insect and disease risk map (NIDRM) models* by Helen Maffei, R6-FHP and Michael Simpson, R6-FHP/Ecol; Sponsor: Alison Nelson. Cooperators: F. Krist, FHTET, Julie Johnson, R6-FHP, A. Eglitis, R6-FHP, C. Schmitt, R6-FHP, B. Hostetler, M. Moeur, R6-NFS, J. Ohmann, PNW, Keith Sprengel, R6-FHP

Best Graphics category - *Yellow-cedar decline: Evaluating key landscape features of a climate-induced forest decline* by Dustin Wittwer, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R10; Paul Hennon, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R10/PNW; Dave D'Amore, USDA Forest Service, PNW; Melinda Lamb, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R10

Most Exciting Science category - *Using biosurveillance to detect the emerald ash borer in New York and New England* by Michael Bohne and Dennis Souto, U.S. Forest Service; Colleen Teerling, Maine Forest Service; Bruce Payton and Ryan Vasquez, RI Department of Environmental Management; Claire Rutledge, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Charlie Burnham, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation; Kyle Lombard, NH Division of Forests and Lands; Trish Hanson, VT Division of Forestry; Jason Denham, NY Department of Environmental Conservation; Philip Careless, University of Guelph

Best Overall category - *Aspen in Montana and northern Idaho: third year of monitoring aspen condition in the Northern and Intermountain Regions* by Holly S.J. Kearns, Brytten Steed, John C. Guyon II, James T. Hoffman, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection

Electronic copies of the posters will be posted soon on FHM website.

Borys Tkacz, FHM National Program Manager, also presented the following awards:

Certificate of Merit to Michael Bohne, NA – FHP, for outstanding leadership of the 2008 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting Planning Committee;

Certificate of Merit to Douglas Powell, NFS – EMC, for outstanding efforts as long-term member of the Forest Health Monitoring Evaluation Monitoring Review Panel;

Certificate of Merit to Marc Roberts, NA – FHP, for outstanding efforts as Coordinator of the Poster Sessions for the 2007 and 2008 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meetings;

Certificate of Appreciation to Ron Billings, TX Forest Service, for outstanding efforts on local arrangements for the 2007 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting in San Antonio, Texas;

Certificate of Appreciation to Roger Burnside, AK Department of Natural Resources, for his service as the State Representative for the West Coast Region on the Forest Health Monitoring Management Team.

In 2008, the U.S. Forest Service began implementing a “Redesigned” State and Private Forestry (S&PF) program. The S&PF Redesign effort was conceived in response to the combined impacts of increasing pressures on our nation’s forests and decreasing S&PF resources and funds. Significant threats to forests, such as insect and disease infestations, catastrophic fire, and the loss of critical forested landscapes to development, coupled with the pressure placed on local economies by the increasingly global nature of the forest products industry, point to the need for more progressive strategies for conserving our nation’s forest resource. More information about S&PF Redesign is available on the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml>. State assessments and resource

strategies are integral to the S&PF Redesign and required as an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA), as enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill. Guidance on development of state assessments is available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/state_assess_strategies.pdf . National assessment datasets are available at: http://svinetfc4.fs.fed.us/clearinghouse/state_private/nationaldata.html

The Forest Health Protection Program of the Northeastern Area is pleased to announce the posting their new Aerial Survey Viewer at <http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/ta/av/index.shtm>. This online tool displays maps of forest damage as reported annually through a cooperative effort between state and federal forestry agencies. Information contains polygonal delineations with attributes of cause, extent, severity and type of forest damages as observed from aircraft. Other associated attributes included host tree species and number of trees affected. All aerial survey data are collected using national Forest Health Monitoring aerial survey standards and subjected to quality assurance/quality control protocols involving ground-truth procedures.

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

April 3-4, 2009. Missoula, MT. The Northern Rockies Aspen Conference 2009 will be held at the University of Montana-Missoula. Topics will be centered around aspen silvics and ecology for this region. Details about the conference can be found on the conference website: <http://www.aspensite.org/Northern%20Rockies/Northern%20Rockies%20Aspen%20Conference%20Save%20the%20Date.pdf>

June 15-18, 2009. Santa Cruz, CA. The Fourth Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium. This Symposium is intended to bring together scientific and management communities from throughout the world working on *Phytophthora ramorum* and Sudden Oak Death. The goal is to provide a scientific update on the state of our knowledge about Sudden Oak Death and *P. ramorum* in forest, woodland, urban forestry, nursery, and horticultural settings, and to analyze the implications of the findings. The Symposium will be comprised of completed research studies as well as updates on projects currently underway, and panel discussions. This broad overview will foster closer cooperation between individuals working in various disciplines and geographic areas, and provide an update for managers, regulators, and policy makers about the focus of current research efforts. The Symposium is sponsored by the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station and the California Oak Mortality Task Force, and will be held at the Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley (http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/SJCSVHF-Hilton-Santa-Cruz-Scotts-Valley-California/index.do) in Santa Cruz, CA. The call for papers, case studies, speakers, and posters has been issued. The organizers are seeking abstracts (up to 1-page) of proposed papers or posters by **February 13, 2009**. These should be submitted via e-mail using the format (including font size and style) specified in the Call for Papers and should **clearly state if you would like to present a paper or a poster**. Abstracts and requests for an example abstract should be sent to: Katie Palmieri, California Oak Mortality Task Force, e-mail: palmieri@nature.berkeley.edu, ph.: 510-847-5482 or 530-344-7530. A peer-reviewed, Symposium proceedings will be produced. Authors are expected to provide manuscripts. **For authors with research results submitted to other journal outlets, the organizers will accept extended abstracts instead of manuscripts.** Complete instructions for paper preparation will be sent out with abstract acceptance notifications. Submissions should focus on one of the following areas addressing Sudden Oak Death/*P. ramorum*: biology and pathology; organisms associated with *P. ramorum*; ecology; economic and social impacts; modeling and risk assessment; restoration; management and control strategies; monitoring; silviculture; arboriculture and urban forestry; nursery management; policy; or other related topics. Authors of accepted papers and posters will be notified by March 13, 2009. Registration materials will be available soon. For more information, visit the conference website (<http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/sodsymposium4/>) or contact:

Submission of Abstracts, Conference Logistics, and Facilities

- Katie Palmieri, California Oak Mortality Task Force
510-847-5482, palmieri@nature.berkeley.edu

Registration

- Janice Alexander, California Oak Mortality Task Force
415 /499-3041, JAlexander@co.marin.ca.us

Program Content

- Susan Frankel, USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station
510-559-6472, sfrankel@fs.fed.us

June 22-26, 2009. Logan, UT. The 7th North American Forest Ecology Workshop (NAFEW). The meeting will take place at Utah State University. The Workshop will bring forest ecologists from around the world to share ideas and knowledge on forest ecosystems in North America. The ecological backdrop of the 7th NAFEW will be the semi-arid and montane forests of North America's Interior West. The program will feature four days of oral presentations – with a mid-workshop ½ day break for field trips – consisting of invited speakers and volunteer presentations and posters. The first call for papers has been distributed. Workshop topics include: forest detritus under changing climate and disturbance scenarios; mixed-severity fire regimes; ecological applications of stand density indices; advances in North American aspen ecology; linking fuel heterogeneity to fire behavior and effects; ecological classification systems in forests; ecological impacts of mastication fuel treatments; disturbance interactions during ecological change; ecosystem recovery following disturbance; and root disease and bark beetle interactions. For more information about the meeting including submitting a paper, visit the meeting web page at www.nafew2009.org.

Publications of Interest

The 2008 Pennsylvania Forest Pest Conditions Report is now posted on the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry web page: http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/leaflets/2008_PA_Report2.pdf.

The 2008 Washington State 2008 report is now available:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/rp_fh_2008_forest_health_highlights.pdf

Schulz, B.K.; Bechtold, W.A.; Zarnoch, S.J. 2009. Sampling and estimation procedures for the vegetation diversity and structure indicator. GTR-781. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr781.pdf.

Job Announcements

The Pacific Northwest Region USFS may soon advertise and fill a permanent FHM/Vegetation Inventory Analyst - Forester GS-460-11/12 position in the USFS Regional Office, Portland, Oregon. The Region is looking for someone with initiative, project management, database and GIS skills, to work with State partners, land management agencies and other forest health specialists. Primary work is to analyze and interpret data from a variety of sources and support database development of vegetation information. Forestry skills are important, and knowledge or experience in the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA)/Current Vegetation Survey (CVS) Database is desirable. Occasional travel for meetings and presentations is required. The outreach is open until March 16, 2009. Applicants can find more information about this program and reports on the national FHM website: www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/ and our West Coast FHM website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/wc-fhm/index.shtml> or call Alison Nelson (USDA Forest Service) at 503-808-2976 for more information. Please return the attached Outreach Notice Form (attachment 1 of this Update) by March 16th if you are interested, and look on the Office of Personnel Management web site: www.usajobs.gov for the vacancy announcement. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

The USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region will soon be advertising to fill a permanent, full-time Entomologist on the Forest Health staff located in Flagstaff, AZ. The target grade is GS-414-12 and may be advertised as a GS-414-9/11/12. This position will be supervised by the Arizona Zone Leader. The major duties for this position include: plans and coordinates all aspects of a major insect detection, evaluation, prevention and suppression program with a complex of bark beetles and forest defoliators found in the Southwest; provides site-specific, technical assistance and information concerning forest health issues to the National Forests of Arizona and other Federal, State and Tribal lands; prepares plans, organizes assigned staff members, collects field data, supervises field crews, processes and analyzes data, consults with other professionals, evaluates results, and makes

recommendations to meet technical objectives; conceives and conducts special evaluations in collaboration with research relative to insect biology, ecological relationships, parasitic effects, survey methodology or new control techniques; organizes, plans and conducts forest health related training programs, presentations or seminars for various Federal, State and Tribal agencies; serves as a team leader or team member of various integrated and cross-disciplinary teams; coordinates and conducts aerial detection surveys of forest damage as an observer in a small fixed-wing aircraft. Overnight travel is required and can be extensive during the summer months. Normal color vision and stereovision are required and the ability to fly as passenger in small aircraft without incapacitating airsickness. The Arizona Zone Office consists of 1 zone leader, 1 plant pathologist, 2 entomologists, and 1 biological technician. They maintain an active and full forest health program including all aspects of surveillance, detection, technical assistance, technology development, training, and prevention & suppression. The office is co-located with the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station on the campus of Northern Arizona University. This arrangement allows for interaction with natural resource research scientists with both state and federal agencies. If you are interested in this position please respond to the outreach reply (attachment 2 of this Update). If you would like additional information, or have any questions concerning this position, please contact John Anhold, AZ Zone Leader, (928) 556-2073, or e-mail janhold@fs.fed.us. The vacancy will be listed on the Office of Personnel Management web site: www.usajobs.gov when available. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Behavioral Chemistry and Ecology of Insects and Disease Team (BCEID) anticipates advertising for a permanent, full-time Research Plant Pathologist GS-434-12/13 position, centered at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Corvallis, Oregon. The specific research objectives assigned to this position will be (1) determine what factors of forest pathogens contribute to the severity of their pathogenicity in host trees; (2) develop tools and techniques that can be used to reduce the level of pathogenicity expressed by forest pathogens; (3) determine what factors in host trees contribute to their resistance of forest pathogens; and, (4) develop tools or techniques for increasing the resistance of host trees to forest pathogens. The overall goal is to provide resource managers with new tools they can use to maintain resilient, sustainable, and productive forest ecosystems. The studies will be directed at native and invasive pathogens currently impacting, or with the potential to significantly impact (such as sudden oak death) forest ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska. It is expected that the contributions from this personal assignment will modify existing theories with a series of significant additions to the scientific and forest management literature. This scientist is expected to develop an aggressive research program, including a combination of independent and cooperative studies with other scientists in the Team, Program, Station, other government agencies, or universities. FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES ON THE WORKFORCE REDUCTION PLACEMENT SYSTEM LIST WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION AND CTAP/ICTAP CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION. Interested applicants, or those desiring further information should contact Rick Kelsey, (541-750-7368, rkelsey@fs.fed.us) or complete the attached form (attachment 3 of this Update) and return it by March 31, 2009. The vacancy will be listed on the Office of Personnel Management web site: www.usajobs.gov when available. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

FHM Homepage: : www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/
or access via the USDA Forest Service homepage at www.fs.fed.us

**OUTREACH NOTICE FORM
REPLY BY March 16, 2009**

Position Title/Series/Grade/Location: Forest Health Analyst, Forester, GS-460-11/12, Portland, Oregon

Contact: Alison Nelson, FHP, Natural Resources, USFS, Portland, OR (503) 808-2976
Return form by email: asnelson@fs.fed.us, or FAX (503) 808-2469 Att: Alison Nelson

I am interested in this position and will check USAJOBS for the announcement.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Current title/series/grade/location:

Type of appointment you are currently under: _____
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted-ANILCA, Excepted VRA, etc.)

Are you currently a Federal employee? YES ____ NO ____

If YES, current Agency and location:

If NO, are you eligible to be rehired under any of the following special authorities?

- ____ Person with Disabilities
- ____ Veterans Readjustment
- ____ Disabled Veterans with 30% Compensable Disability
- ____ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
- ____ Former Peace Corps Volunteer
- ____ Student Career Experience Program
- ____ Other: _____

Briefly describe your experience and why you will be a quality candidate for this position:

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Southwestern Region, Flagstaff AZ

Your response to this outreach will assist us in determining how this will be advertised and grade of consideration for this position, therefore, your response is very critical. Send your response by March 13, 2009.

Return Form To: John Anhold janhold@fs.fed.us **Fax: (928) 256-2130**
USDA Forest Service **Office: (928) 556-2073**
2500 S. Pine Knoll Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Job Title and Grade: Entomologist GS- 9/11/12

Location of Position being advertised: Flagstaff, Arizona

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: Work: _____ Home: _____

Government Employee: Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, name of Agency: _____

Current Duty Location: _____

Current Position (title/series/grade): _____

If no, Current Position: _____

Current Location: _____

Name of Current Employer: _____

Eligible for Other Hiring Authority (check one), such as:

____ Persons with Disabilities

____ Veterans Readjustment

____ Disabled Veterans W/30% Compensable Disability

____ Veterans Employment Opportunitites Act of 1998

____ Former Peace Corps Volunteer

____ Student Career Experience Program

____ Other _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

OUTREACH NOTICE FORM

Research Plant Pathologist
GS-434-12/13

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RESEARCH STATION

If you are interested in this position and want to receive a copy of the Vacancy Announcement, please complete this form and send via e-mail to rkelsey@fs.fed.us. If you are not a current Forest Service employee or do not have access to e-mail please complete the form and mail to: Rick Kelsey, Corvallis Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331. You may also FAX the form to FAX # 541-750-7329 attention Rick Kelsey. Please respond no later than March 31, 2009. The position will be advertised on the OPM USAJobs website www.usajobs.opm.gov after the outreach is completed.

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: USFS _____ BLM _____ OTHER _____

Thank you for your interest in this position.