

# Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update June 2010

## WHAT'S NEW

**The Risk Map Oversight Team** and the Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Management Team met jointly on April 27, 2010 in Fort Collins, CO to discuss status of the 2012 Risk Map revision efforts and to plan future activities. The 2012 revision of the National Risk Map is well underway. The general timeline for completing the revised map is:

- June, 2010 – Review of host presence/absence layers.
- June-July, 2010 – The Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET) will load basal area, stand density index, diameter, and trees per acre layers as presence/absence host layers are verified by the Regions.
- January, 2011 at the FHM Annual Work Group Meeting – Each regional modeling team will have at least two to three draft pest models to review with participants.
- January, 2012 at the FHM Annual Work Group Meeting – Final map is complete.

Partners are encouraged to participate in the revision process and to contact the following individuals.

### **For host map evaluation:**

- Northeast FHM Region - Jim Steinman, FHM Coordinator at [jsteinman@fs.fed.us](mailto:jsteinman@fs.fed.us)
- Northcentral FHM Region - Manfred Mielke, FHM Coordinator at [mmielke@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmielke@fs.fed.us)
- Southern FHM Region - Dale Starkey, FHM Coordinator at [dstarkey@fs.fed.us](mailto:dstarkey@fs.fed.us)
- Intermountain FHM Region - Jeri Lyn Harris, FHM Coordinator at [jharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:jharris@fs.fed.us)
- West Coast FHM Region - Bruce Hostetler, FHM Coordinator at [bhostetler@fs.fed.us](mailto:bhostetler@fs.fed.us)

### **For pest model development:**

- Northeast FHM Region – Barbara Burns, entomologist (Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation) at [barbara.burns@state.vt.us](mailto:barbara.burns@state.vt.us) and Margaret Miller-Weeks, pathologist (US Forest Service, Northeastern Area) at [mweeks@fs.fed.us](mailto:mweeks@fs.fed.us).
- Northcentral FHM Region – Roger Mech, forest pest specialist (Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources) at [mechr@michigan.gov](mailto:mechr@michigan.gov) and Manfred Mielke, pathologist (US Forest Service, Northeastern Area) at [mmielke@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmielke@fs.fed.us).

- Southern FHM Region – Dale Starkey, pathologist (US Forest Service, Region 8) at [dstarkey@fs.fed.us](mailto:dstarkey@fs.fed.us) and Steve Clarke, entomologist (US Forest Service, Region 8) at [sclarke@fs.fed.us](mailto:sclarke@fs.fed.us).
- Intermountain FHM Region – Holly Kearns, pathologist (US Forest Service, Region 1) at [hkearns@fs.fed.us](mailto:hkearns@fs.fed.us) and Dan Ryerson, forest health specialist (US Forest Service, Region 3) at [dryerson@fs.fed.us](mailto:dryerson@fs.fed.us).
- West Coast FHM Region – Sheri Smith, entomologist (US Forest Service, Region 5) at [ssmith@fs.fed.us](mailto:ssmith@fs.fed.us) and Helen Maffei, pathologist (US Forest Service, Region 6) at [hmaffei@fs.fed.us](mailto:hmaffei@fs.fed.us).

**The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB)**, *Agrilus coxalis*, is currently the most significant insect threat to oaks in California- Region 5. Currently its known hosts range from southern California to Oregon. Oak mortality is impacting aesthetics and property values, increasing health hazards in high-use areas, diminishing wildlife habitat, and changing the fuel structure in areas prone to wildfire in southern California. Detection and monitoring of GSOB in infested and uninfested oaks, tracking the decline of oaks at varying GSOB stages, and monitoring density of the beetles on oaks is the focus of a current FHM Evaluation Monitoring project. Visit the new GSOB website for more information and updates: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/fhp/gsob.shtml>

**Butternut canker research**, conducted by Vermont forest pathologist Dr. Dale Bergdahl and Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis, a scientist at the Connecticut Agricultural Research Station, is the focus of another story by Vermont Public Radio. Hear the story by visiting: [http://www.vpr.net/news\\_detail/88157/](http://www.vpr.net/news_detail/88157/).

## NEWS ABOUT FHM PARTNERS

**Matthew Bokach**, currently Natural Resources Information System Technical Assistant on contract in the Region 5 Regional Office, has accepted the position of Forest Health Ecologist on the Forest Health Monitoring staff in Region 5, Davis, CA.

**Dr. Andrew Graves** has accepted the Region 3 Forest Health, New Mexico Zone, forest entomologist position. He will join the staff in October, leaving the University of California at Davis.

## UPCOMING EVENTS (Items beginning with \* indicate a new listing or new information added)

**July 20-23, 2010.** Wilmington, NC. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Southern Forest Insect Work Conference. Entomologists from the South and other areas of the country (along with others such as pathologists) gather to present papers, discuss programs and

network. It is one of the best-attended meetings by State and federal entomologists. Complete information on the meeting can be viewed at: <http://sfiwc.org> . Note the instructions about room availability and room reservations. If questions, contact William P. Shepherd (USDA Forest Service) at [williamshepherd@fs.fed.us](mailto:williamshepherd@fs.fed.us) or by phone at 318-473-7256.

**\*July 21-22, 2010.** Auburn, CA. The California Forest Pest Council will hold a two-day field trip on forest insects, diseases, and weeds in the Auburn, CA area. Everyone is welcome. Preregistration is requested to help with the planning. The cost is \$120 per person (\$75 for students). For more information, visit the California Forest Pest Council website (<http://caforestpestcouncil.org/>) or contact Tom Smith (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) at 916-599-6882.

**August 9-13, 2010.** Sundsvall, Sweden. Northern Primeval Forests: Ecology, Conservation and Management. This scientific conference is sponsored by the Nordic Forest Research Cooperative and The Swedish Research Council Formas. Sizeable areas of the Northern hemispheres' forests remain unmanaged by man. These primeval forests not only harbour unique conservation and recreational values, but also provide important reference areas, critical to our understanding of forest structure, composition and processes. The scientific scope of the conference will gather researchers, administrators and conservation managers from a wide spectrum of regions and disciplines. Results will aid in designing scientifically well-founded strategies to deal with current threats to forest biodiversity. Topics: Old growth forests; What is efficient protection of natural forests?; Restoring naturalness; Protecting natural forests in an era of climate change; Disturbance dynamics; Carbon sequestration in natural forests; Biodiversity value of old-growth forest remnants; Primeval forests as sources for genetic diversity; Old growth elements in managed forests; and People and old growth. Details including deadlines for abstract submission and registration are found at the following website: <http://www.prifor2010.org/index.html> .

**\*October 5-7, 2010.** Knoxville, TN. FIA Symposium 2010: Monitoring Across Borders. The USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and the Southern Mensurationists are pleased to announce: "Monitoring Across Borders," and the opportunity to participate in the FIA Symposium 2010. The symposium will shed new light on contemporary issues, science policy, mensuration, remote sensing/GIS/geo-spatial products, and other topics. The theme of the symposium is intended to include monitoring across biomes, spatial scales, regions, etc. The second call for papers has been issued and the **deadline for abstracts has been extended to July 23, 2010**. A poster session (limit of two posters per author) has also been added. Abstracts and questions should be sent to Will McWilliams (USDA Forest Service) at [wmcwilliams@fs.fed.us](mailto:wmcwilliams@fs.fed.us). For complete information, visit the symposium website at [www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium](http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium).

**October 20-21, 2010.** North Lake Tahoe, CA. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium. The call for abstracts has been issued for the symposium, which has the theme “Networking the Networks”. NADP is an internationally recognized cooperative program that provides long-term, high-quality precipitation chemistry and other measurements to evaluate temporal and spatial trends in atmospheric deposition. NADP monitoring networks measure acids, nutrients, base cations and mercury in precipitation. Data from NADP networks and CASTNet (the Clean Air Status and Trends Network) dry deposition network support research on multi-pollutant source/receptor relationships, the potential for deposition effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and biogeochemical cycling of pollutants. NADP’s mission also includes outreach to science educators and the general public. The meeting is intended for scientists, policy-makers, resource managers and students interested in climate change, air quality, atmospheric deposition and its effects on natural and cultural resources. NADP subcommittee meetings, open to all, convene October 18. The Scientific Symposium will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21. This will include a poster session and reception on Wednesday evening October 20. An optional research/educational field trip is planned for Friday, October 22, to the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are invited on all aspects of environmental monitoring networks including descriptions of the networks themselves, application and use of network data for management and policy decisions, research linking network data to ecological responses, ideas for new techniques or improvements to networks, and approaches for linking monitoring data across networks. An emphasis on air quality and atmospheric deposition is recommended, but not required. Please e-mail abstracts (400 word-one page limit), including authors, affiliation, phone number, mail and e-mail addresses to Kathy Douglas at [kedougla@illinois.edu](mailto:kedougla@illinois.edu). Please note whether an oral or poster presentation is preferred. Abstracts are due Friday July 16, 2010. For questions about the symposium or student support, please contact Pam Padgett, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research, Riverside CA 951-680-1584 or [ppadgett@fs.fed.us](mailto:ppadgett@fs.fed.us). Direct other inquiries to Kathy Douglas at the Program Office, 217-333-7871.

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1. Frankel, S.J.; Kliejunas, J.T.; Palmieri, K.M., tech. coords. 2010.** Proceedings of the Sudden Oak Death Fourth Science Symposium. Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-229. Albany, CA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station. 378 p.

The Proceedings may be accessed online at [http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw\\_gtr229/](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr229/). There is NO charge for this publication. To order single or multiple copies:

Email: [rschneider@fs.fed.us](mailto:rschneider@fs.fed.us) (include full mailing address)

By FAX: (970) 498-1122, By Phone: (970) 498-1392

By Mail: Send your name and address in block format (as if you are addressing an envelope) to: Publishing Services, Rocky Mountain Research Station, 240 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098 USA

2. **Sharik, T.L.**; Adair, W.; Battaglia, M.; Baker, F.A.; Comfort, E.J.; D'Amato, A.; DeLong, C.; DeRose, J.; Ducey, M.; Harmon, M.; Levy, L.; Logan, J.; O'Brien, J.J.; Palik, B.; Roberts, S.C.; Rogers, P.C.; Shinneman, D.J.; Spies, T.; Taylor, S.L. 2010. Emerging Themes in the Ecology and Management of North American Forests. International J. of Forestry Research; Vol. 2010, ID 964260, 11 pages (doi:10.1155/2010/964260).

## **JOB** **OPPORTUNITIES**

**The USDA Forest Service** plans soon to advertise the position of National Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator (GS-0301-13/14, Program Manager), which will be a permanent position with the Resource Information Group, WO-EMC Staff in Washington, D.C. This position reports to the Assistant Director for Resource Information on the Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) staff in the National Forest System (NFS) Deputy Area. The National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) coordinator is responsible for providing focus and guidance to an expanding monitoring commitment by the agency, encompassing difficult and diverse functions or issues that affect critical aspects of major programs. The coordinator will provide assistance in setting monitoring priorities, foster the identification of appropriate approaches and methodologies, and promote the involvement of the agency's research community in the accomplishment of technical and scientific components of M&E. The incumbent provides national leadership and coordination on matters related to M&E and assures that there is appropriate consideration of monitoring information in the development of agency policies, programs, and activities. The coordinator works with Regions, Forests and Stations to promote and encourage the effective use of standard monitoring methodologies, indicators, measurement protocols, etc., by appropriate line and staff officers. The vacancy announcement for this position is expected to open within the next month and will be available via [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). Questions or interest should be directed to Richard Ullrich, Assistant Director, EMC at 202-205-1120 or [rullrich@fs.fed.us](mailto:rullrich@fs.fed.us). The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

**The USDA Forest Service**, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Office of the Morgantown Field Representative plans soon to advertise one Plant Pathologist (GS-0434-9/11) position. This is a permanent position stationed at the Morgantown Field Office in Morgantown, West Virginia and will be open to candidates internal and external to the Forest Service. This employee will serve as part of a team providing technical advice, assistance and guidance on various

forest health and forest pathology issues to State and federal cooperators throughout the Mid-Atlantic States. The position combines technology transfer, various field surveys and interactions with diverse stakeholders with an emphasis on laboratory pathogen diagnostics. This is an exciting and challenging opportunity in the coordination and development of a wide variety of new and existing forest and shade tree pathology projects in eastern forests. Establishing and maintaining a pathology diagnostic laboratory is an important aspect of the position. The vacancy announcement will be available via [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). To express interest in this position or for additional information please contact via email Daniel Twardus, Forest Health Group Leader at [dtwardus@fs.fed.us](mailto:dtwardus@fs.fed.us) or 304-285-1545. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

**FOR MORE**  
**FHM**  
**INFORMATION**

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