

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update September 2010

WHAT'S NEW

The Forest Health Protection 2011 request for proposals for special projects is now available. Three special project programs are included in the request: Forest Health Monitoring Program evaluation monitoring (EM) projects, Special Technology Development Program (STDP) projects, and Forest Service-Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (FSPIAP) projects. Project proposals are due to the National headquarters by **November 1, 2010**. Proposals for these programs should be submitted to your respective Regional program managers by **September 30, 2010** to allow time for Regional review. Complete instructions and links to further information about EM are available on the FHM website www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/. Look for the **2011 Request for Evaluation Monitoring Proposals** in the **Evaluation Monitoring** section of the homepage. Proposal instructions for STDP are available on the website <http://svinetfc2.fs.fed.us/stdp/Index.aspx>. Proposal instructions for FSPIAP are available on the website <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticide/fspiap/index.shtml>.

Alaska Forest Health Protection (FHP) staff met with Jim Ellenwood (Forest Health Technology and Enterprise Team) to design validation of beta National Insect & Disease Risk Map (NIDRM) vegetation layers and to work with grantees and other partners to identify additional data sources and approaches to improve the accuracy of the layers. Field collection of validation data was concluded in mid-August. A NIDRM modeling session has been scheduled for October 19, 20 and 21 in Anchorage. The organizers hope to make significant progress on developing new (and updating old) risk map models during the work session. R5 FHP has offered the assistance of Meghan Woods to instruct in the use of the RMAP modeling tool. West coast insect modeling lead, Sheri Smith (USDA Forest Service), and west coast pathogen modeling lead, Helen Maffei (USDA Forest Service), will also attend, as will cooperators from the Alaska Division of Forestry. For more information, contact Trish Wurtz (USDA Forest Service) at twurtz@fs.fed.us.

A West Coast Insect and Disease Risk Map modeling workshop will be held on September 8 and 9 in Portland, OR for those working on pest/host models for the West Coast FHM Region in California, Oregon, and Washington. The two modeling leads, Sheri Smith and Helen Maffei, will attend along with about 12 others. Representatives from both FHP and the States of Oregon and Washington will be participating. Meghan Woods, R5 FHP, will be instructing and helping everyone with the use of the RMAP modeling tool. The organizers

hope to make advances in constructing the two or three draft models for each entomology and pathology that are to be done by early 2011. For more information contact Bruce Hostetler (USDA Forest Service) at bhostetler@fs.fed.us.

NEWS ABOUT FHM PARTNERS

The Missoula field office of Forest Health Protection (FHP) in the Northern Region is pleased to announce the addition of Joel Egan to its staff. Joel is an entomologist who has most recently worked for FHP in Sonora, CA. Prior to that appointment he was a student trainee in the PSW Region while attending Colorado State University. He earned a MS degree from CSU in Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management-Entomology in 2008. Joel joined the Missoula FHP staff as a full-time entomologist this summer.

The International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF) sadly notes the passing of Andi Koonce in July after a long illness. The IAWF recognizes her as being instrumental in the early formation of the Association and helping formulate the idea of “a high quality, refereed scientific journal to help establish fire science as an international recognized discipline.” This journal is now known as the *International Journal of Wildland Fire*. Andi Koonce was not only a strong researcher, but was also a strong supporter of efforts to improve and increase the roles of women in fire research. She worked for the Forest Service on the fire staff and later for Forest Health Protection in southern California. Condolences are offered to her family, friends, and colleagues.

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

September 16-17, 2010. Front Royal, VA. Good Green, Bad Green, Invasive Plant Control for Habitat Restoration. This conference is intended to increase awareness among landowners, natural resource professionals, green industry workers and volunteers about the destructive potential of non-native invasive plant species, both from economic and biodiversity standpoints. The conference will include both talks and field tours. Complete information about the conference including registration, lodging and an agenda is available at the conference website: www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/.

October 4-7, 2010. Elkhart Lake, WI. North Central Forest Pest Workshop (NCFPW). The NCFPW is an annual meeting of persons interested in forest health in the North Central portion of North America. It is usually attended by plant pathologists, entomologists, foresters, other scientists, and students. The agenda usually includes a day and a half of indoor presentations and a full day field trip. A block of rooms is reserved at the Osthoff Resort at a conference price until September 3, 2010. Early registration for the meeting is due by

September 20, 2010. Please register for the workshop by completing and mailing the registration form as instructed on the form; do not email the registration form. For complete information about the meeting, including an agenda, housing, and registration forms for the meeting and the poster session, please visit <http://www.forestpathology.org/hosted/ncfpw>.

***October 4-8, 2010.** Valemount, British Columbia, Canada. The 58th annual Western International Forest Disease Work Conference (WIFDWC). The WIFDWC is an annual forest pathologists workshop featuring indoor and outdoor discussions. Valemount is located in the Robson Valley – a pure disease haven! This area has the most northern range of *Armillaria solidipes* distribution in British Columbia and there are several ongoing research projects that will be visited and discussed including aerial overview mapping procedures; population genetics studies; precommercial thinning and stumping operations; and long-term impacts of *Armillaria* in managed plantations. A pre-WIFDWC field trip will be arranged into the alpine to examine the status of whitebark pine threatened by blister rust and mountain pine beetle. For complete information about the workshop agenda, lodging, and registration, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/wif/>.

October 5-6, 2010. The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases. Waltham, MA. The Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases works to bring diverse groups interested in the status of North American forests together to work collaboratively toward reducing the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases. More information about the Dialogue can be found at www.continentalforestdialogue.org. The sixth annual meeting will include a choice of field trips, multiple panel discussions, breakout working sessions, and time to meet and talk informally with other attendees. Complete information about the meeting, including registration (cost and deadlines), lodging, field trips and a draft agenda, is available on the meeting website: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2010-10-05/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. For complete information including registration and lodging, visit the symposium website at 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. 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, which has the theme "Networking the Networks," 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 (<http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/meetings/fall2010/a/default.asp>). NADP subcommittee meetings, open to all, convene October 19. 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. 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. Direct other inquiries to Kathy Douglas at the Program Office, 217-333-7871.

October 26-28, 2010. Fairbanks, AK. The Alaska Invasive Species Conference. This is the combined annual meeting of two groups, the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management and the Alaska Invasive Species Working Group. Speakers will include John Peter Thompson, of the National Agricultural Research Alliance, speaking on "Horticulture Industry Efforts to Address the Invasive Species Issue: A National Perspective;" Dr. F. Stuart Chapin, University of Alaska Fairbanks, speaking on "Ecosystem Services - the Impacts of Invasive Species in Rural Alaskan Communities;" David Roon, University of Alaska Fairbanks, speaking on "Birdcherry Impacts to Salmon on Anchorage Streams;" and Dr. Matt Carlson, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, speaking on "When Are Range Expansions Invasive?" Complete conference information can be found at <http://alaskainvasivespeciesconference.wikispaces.com/>

October 26-27, 2010. Logan, UT. The Restoring the West Conference. The 2010 Restoring the West conference (<http://restoringthewest.org/>) will examine management conflicts between animal populations and the plant communities they inhabit. Talks will focus on wildlife and vegetation issues in forest and sagebrush steppe environments. Featured themes include large herbivore relations to aspen, and sage grouse interactions with sagebrush. Additional topics include interactions between other animals, ecosystems, and humans. We see this as an opportunity to explore, debate, and propose solutions to

contentious issues in the Intermountain West. Discussions will appeal to managers and researchers, including public and private land managers, landowners, and others. This year's conference will include two full days of invited presentations with a poster session. Poster submissions are requested.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Forest Pathology**. 2010. Volume 40, Issue 3. This is a special issue about white pine blister rust. To read the abstract and order a copy of the journal please visit <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/efp.2010.40.issue-3-4/issuetoc> .
2. **Woodall, C.W.; Amacher, M.C.; Bechtold, W.A.; Coulston, J.W.; Jovan, S.; Perry, C.H.; Randolph, K.C.; Schulz, B.K.; Smith, G.C.; Tkacz, B.; Will-Wolf, S.** 2010. Status and future of the forest health indicators program of the USA. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. DOI 10.1007/s10661-010-1644-8.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Department of Environmental Resources is seeking to fill a two-year post-doctoral fellowship with the Family Forest Research Center, which is a partnership between the University of Massachusetts and the U.S. Forest Service dedicated to increasing understanding of family forest owners and their roles in complex human and natural systems. The Fellow will study land use and ownership patterns within exurban areas (i.e., the land between urban and rural areas) and develop quantitative, interdisciplinary models of relevant systems, processes and interactions at multiple sites. She or he should have experience using one or more modeling approaches and working with a variety of data sources. Review of applications will begin on **September 30, 2010** and the selected candidate will begin as soon as possible. See the complete description and application instructions at www.FamilyForestResearchCenter.org. Click on the link under "Employment Opportunities." The University of Massachusetts is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.

FOR MORE FHM INFORMATION

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