

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update November 2010

WHAT'S NEW

The National Insect & Disease Risk Map (2012) revision effort is highlighted in an article in the October online newsletter of the Southern Group of State Foresters. You may access the newsletter at:
<http://www.southernforests.org/publications/the-southern-perspective>.

2011 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting Cancelled. We will plan to hold the meeting on a biennial basis. Even though the 2011 meeting has been cancelled, we still expect recipients of Evaluation Monitoring funding to submit posters presenting their results and progress to their respective Regional Program Managers by the end of January. These will be posted on the FHM website.

NEWS ABOUT FHM PARTNERS

Region 3 of the U.S. Forest Service is pleased to announce that the new forest entomologist, Andrew (Andy) D. Graves, is now onboard in Albuquerque, NM. Andy has previous Forest Service experience as a seasonal employee in R10 and R5 and most recently worked at the University of California, Davis on the influence of thinning and drought on the Jeffrey pine beetle. In addition to his entomological duties, Andy will also handle the Hazard Tree program for the NM Zone. Please extend a warm welcome to Andy and feel free to contact him at (email) adgraves@fs.fed.us or (phone) 505-842-3287.

Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service sadly has shared that Michael Golden, Region 6 Remote Sensing Specialist, Data Resource Management organization in Portland, recently passed away in a kayaking accident while on vacation in Mexico. Michael was a long-term, talented Forest Service employee, who was well-respected and known for his kindness and generosity. Michael provided stellar support to Forest Health Protection in Oregon and Washington, specifically technical expertise for Aerial Detection Survey data analysis. This past year he also provided validation of vegetation data layers for the 2012 National Insect and Disease Risk Map models. Condolences are offered to his family, friends, and colleagues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

November 16-17, 2010. McClelland, CA. The 59th Annual Meeting of the California Forest Pest Council. The 59th Annual Meeting of the California Forest Pest Council will take place on November 16 and 17, 2010, at the US Forest Service Wildland Fire Training and Conference Center in McClelland, CA (Sacramento area). For more information please visit the California Forest Pest Council website at: <http://caforestpestcouncil.org/2010/08/2010-california-forest-pest-council-59th-annual-meeting/> or contact Tom Smith, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at 916-599-6882.

December 2, 2010. Webinar: Predicting Behavior of Forest Diseases as Climate Changes. Please join a free hour-long webinar to address the potential synergistic effects of climate change and forest diseases on tree and forest health. Speakers will present case studies of sudden aspen decline, Swiss needle cast, Alaska yellow cedar decline and other diseases to illustrate drivers of tree declines, and management options to minimize the undesirable effects of forest diseases as climate changes. The hour concludes with questions and answer among speakers and participants. This webinar will be offered on Thursday, December 2, 2010 from 9:30-10:30 A.M. PST. The number of participants is limited so please register soon. We will reply with a toll-free call in number and a link to the online webinar. Visit http://ucanr.org/wwetac_registration to register for the session. Please contact Janice Alexander (jalexander@ucdavis.edu, 415-499-3041) for more information. Sponsored by USDA Forest Service, Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center & Pacific Southwest Research Station; University of California Cooperative Extension, Marin County; and University of California, Santa Barbara.

***May 3-5, 2011.** Lexington, KY. Joint Meeting of the 2nd Kentucky Invasive Species Conference and the 13th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference. This meeting will encompass topics related to the research, management, outreach, education, and policy of invasive species in the eastern and central regions of the United States. Contributions in the following major areas are welcomed: (1) Ecology of invasive species and their impact on ecosystem functions and processes, (2) Invasive species management, and (3) Invasive species education and policy. Deadline for oral and poster presentation abstracts is **February 7, 2011**. Please submit your abstract electronically via <http://invasives2011.org>, including the following information (1) type of submission – Oral Presentation or Poster, (2) title of the submission, (3) the author(s) and their affiliations, (4) corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email address, and (5) abstract (250 words or less). The conference will publish electronic proceedings. All presenters are encouraged to submit a full-length paper. All presentations will be published online unless a waiver form is signed. Questions may be directed to Songlin Fei

at songlin.fei@uky.edu. Complete conference information is available at <http://invasives2011.org>.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Guo, Q.; Ricklefs, R.E.** 2010. Domestic exotics and the perception of invasibility. *Diversity & Distribution*. 16: 1034-1039.
2. **Seybold, S.; Haugen, D.; O'Brien, J; Graves, A.** 2010. Thousand cankers disease. *Pest Alert* (revised August 2010). NA-PR-02-10. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Area.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The USDA Forest Service Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) staff in the Washington Office is currently advertising for a Program Specialist (National Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator) position (GS-0301-13/14). This is a full-time position open to current career or career-conditional federal employees with competitive status (see full announcement for additional information about eligibility). The national Monitoring & Evaluation coordinator has the responsibility to provide focus and guidance to an expanding monitoring commitment by the agency, encompassing difficult and diverse functions or issues that affect critical aspects of the 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 Monitoring & Evaluation. The coordinator will assist resource program staffs in refining business requirements, identifying monitoring information and budgetary needs and developing integrated Monitoring & Evaluation direction. Where appropriate, the incumbent represents the agency on interagency Monitoring & Evaluation issues. The coordinator serves as a technical expert, providing advice and guidance in areas that require extensive interpretation for many different and unrelated program processes and methods; provides national leadership and coordination on Monitoring & Evaluation and assures that there is appropriate consideration of monitoring information in the development of agency policies, programs, and activities; 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; and effectively communicates Monitoring & Evaluation needs, issues, effectiveness and accomplishments to all levels of the agency; provides advice and guidance, including interpretations, opinions, or decisions, regarding programs or policies. Consultations involve assessment of program or policy

conditions, phenomena, or anomalies. The full position announcement including instructions for applying is available at www.usajobs.opm.gov. The job announcement number is 11-5212-0013G CT, and is open to Tuesday, **November 16, 2010**. *USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis is currently advertising a Supervisory Biological Scientist GS-0401-12/13 position (Data Collection Team Leader). This is a full time permanent position located in Portland, OR. The mission of the data collection team is to collect high quality natural resource data on all forested lands and to work with other Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Teams to ensure the quality, completeness and usefulness of inventory data. Duties include responsibility for a large data collection staff (>50 people) divided into duty stations that collect a broad array of natural resource data on all forested lands (all ownerships) in Washington, Oregon, and California. The incumbent plans and prepares for each field season each year, including crew training; logistics for working in remote areas and dangerous terrain; and ensuring that production, quality, and safety goals are met. Incumbent oversees a complex pre-field process that includes updating the field manual, determining what field locations are visited, and working with the Information Management team to update the field data recorder program. As data is collected in the field season, ensures that collected data is complete, error-free, and ready to be compiled using the national FIA compilation system. Works with FIA researchers and analysts at a local and national level to determine best data collection methods for new studies or data variables. Human Resources Administration - Performs the administrative and human resources management functions relative to the staff supervised. Budget development and oversight - Allocates FIA funds for programs to the work units, assigns accomplishment targets, and prepares reports and narratives. Coordinates out-year budget development with strategic planning and current year budgets with appropriate staff members. Develops cost data from accounting data or special studies to evaluate techniques and unit performance. Promotes cost effectiveness of program activities on the basis of data collected. Equal Opportunity - Ensures a continuing affirmative application of United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service policies concerning equal opportunity. Ensures that personnel management within the organizational entity under supervision is accomplished without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. This position is open to the public (vacancy number 10-2669-0643DP-EB) and to status candidates (vacancy number 10-2669-0643G-EB). The position closes **November 8, 2010**. See the full announcement including instructions for applying at www.usajobs.opm.gov. *USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program, Forest Inventory and Analysis, Pacific Northwest Research Station anticipates filling 4 to 10 positions for the Oregon, Washington, and California field data collection crew leaders positions and quality assurance inspectors for

the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program (GS-401-5/7/9 Biological Scientist). These are permanent seasonal positions consisting of 18 pay periods of full time work and 8 pay periods of non-pay status per year. A permanent Seasonal employee appointed to this position will be guaranteed 18 pay periods (36 weeks) of full-time employment. Appointees may be offered the opportunity to work longer depending on workload and funding. These positions are with the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (part of the Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program), with the main office located in Portland, Oregon. The Pacific Northwest FIA Program conducts forest inventories and forest health monitoring on forestlands of all land ownerships in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii/Pacific Islands. All crew leaders work under the direction of a state coordinator and lead a crew in the collection of forest inventory data. After two to four week training sessions, the two to four person crews use maps, aerial photos, and GPS units to navigate to and find plot locations. Measurements taken by crews include: tree/sapling/seedling data (species, diameter, height, defect, insect & disease, damage, etc.); understory vegetation (shrub, herb, grass species and percent cover, etc.); down woody material (line transects, litter depth, and fuels measurement, etc.); and site index and site attributes (site tree selection, slope, aspect, topographic position, distance to water, etc.). Plot data are edited using various software and uploaded to the Portland office. The field-season typically runs from early April through November. The 2-4 person crews travel frequently and independently. The crew will return home to the duty-station nightly for about one-third of the season, they will return to the duty station on weekends for one-third, and for the final third they will be in extended travel status. During travel periods, crews will change locations about weekly. Lodging is generally in motel/hotels, but in some areas significant amounts of backpacking/camping are required. Quality assurance (QA) inspectors work under the direction of the quality assurance coordinator and may work independently, with an assistant, and with crews. They use a thorough knowledge of inventory protocol and history to train others, inspect crew work and provide feedback, ensure completeness of crew work, assist in developing new protocol, and identify protocol and software issues. The nature of these QA duties dictates extended travel away from the duty station (typically Portland). In all areas, work conditions are often arduous. Work may be performed in inclement weather (cold, heat, rain, snow) and on rugged, steep, slippery, and/or brushy slopes. Significant amounts of on-trail and off-trail hiking are required. Crew members must carry a 45 lb pack daily, with pack weights sometimes exceeding 60 lbs. Exposure to hazards such as poison oak, bears, and insects is common. Additionally, crew members may occasionally travel in small aircraft, helicopters and boats. If you are interested in one of these positions and working with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, please use the response form attached to this Update as attachment 1 to express your interest by November 26, 2010. You can send your response electronically or by regular mail to the following address: Shirley Cromwell (503) 808-2049, scromwell@fs.fed.us PNW Research Station – RMA/FIA, 620 SW Main, Suite 400, Portland, OR 97205. For more information about the

position, contact Dale Weyermann, 503-808-2042, dweyermann@fs.fed.us PNW Research Station – RMA, 620 SW Main St., Suite 400, Portland, OR 97205. This is just a pre-announcement. When the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted on the Office of Personnel Management web site: www.usajobs.opm.gov . The announcement will contain all of the information you need to apply for the position. *USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland

Forestry Sciences Lab anticipates filling 4 to 10 positions for the Oregon, Washington, and California data collection field crews for the Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program (GS-462-4/5/6 Forestry Technician). These are permanent seasonal positions consisting of 18 pay periods of full time work and 8 pay periods of non-pay status per year. A permanent Seasonal employee appointed to this position will be guaranteed 18 pay periods (36 weeks) of full-time employment. Appointees may be offered the opportunity to work longer depending on workload and funding. These positions are with the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (part of the Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program), with the main office located in Portland, Oregon. The Pacific Northwest RMA Program conducts forest inventories and forest health monitoring on forestlands of all land ownerships in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii/Pacific Islands. All crew members work under the direction of a crew leader. After a two to four week training session, the field crews use maps, aerial photos, GPS receivers, and forestry instruments to locate, monument, and measure research plot locations. Measurements taken by crews include tree/sapling/seedling data (species, diameter, height, defect, insect & disease, damage, etc.), understory vegetation (shrub, herb, grass species and percent cover, etc.), down woody material (line transects, litter depth, and fuels measurement, etc.), and site index and site attributes (site tree selection, slope, aspect, topographic position, distance to water, etc.). Plot data are edited using various software and hardware systems and uploaded to the Portland Forestry Sciences Lab. The field season typically runs from early April through November. Field crews travel frequently and independently. The crews return home to their duty station nightly for about one-third of the season, will return to their duty station on weekends for one-third, and for the final third will be in extended travel status. During travel period's crews change locations approximately weekly. Lodging is generally in motels or hotels, but in some areas significant amounts of backpacking and camping are required. In all areas work conditions are often arduous. Work may be performed in inclement weather (cold, heat, rain, snow) and on rugged, steep, slippery, and/or brushy slopes. Significant amounts of on-trail and off-trail hiking are required. Crew members must carry a 45 lb pack daily, with pack weights sometimes exceeding 60 lbs. Exposure to hazards like poison oak, bears, and insects is common. Additionally, crew members may occasionally travel by small aircraft, helicopter, horseback, or boat. If you are interested in one of these positions and working with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, please use the response

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The University of Maryland Department of Plant Sciences and Landscape Architecture is currently advertising a post doctoral fellow (Research Associate) position and a PhD position. The full announcement for the post doctoral fellow is available at <https://jobs.umd.edu> and the position number is 116833. This is a faculty, non-tenure track, 12-month full time position that is available for a project on movement of plant pests on nursery stock in domestic trade. The successful candidate will take a lead on surveying for plant pathogens in Maryland nurseries and examine incoming nursery stock for incidence of plant pathogens. Establish a culture collection of *Phytophthora* and commonly found fungi on woody ornamentals in Maryland, conduct molecular studies to explore their movement within and among nurseries and finally determine if plant pest incidences is correlated to State certification systems and source nursery best management practices. The duties and responsibilities include: being able to work independently and use a number of environmental sampling protocols and isolation techniques; having extensive knowledge on molecular techniques commonly used to identify fungi and oomycetes (these include methods for metagenomic DNA extraction, PCR, microsatellite analysis and genotyping); being able to analyze sequence data, construct phylogenetic trees and genotype populations; basic knowledge of mycology and taxonomy of fungi and fungus-like organisms; understanding the basic principles of microscopy and being able to make morphological and physiological observations of fungal structures used in morphological classification; preparing manuscripts to be submitted for peer-reviewed scientific journals; supervising graduate and hourly employees in the laboratory or field setting; and possessing a valid driver license and being able to operate vehicle to collect sample from field. Qualifications: A PhD. in Plant Pathology, Molecular Biology, Microbiology or related field. For more information, see the full announcement.

A PhD position is available immediately to conduct studies in aquatic environments on the biology and taxonomy of Oomycetes, with particular emphasis given to species of *Phytophthora*. The successful candidate must have

a MS in plant pathology, microbiology or any related area. Candidate must be able to travel to numerous sites in Maryland, US and other countries to conduct field experiments under various site conditions. Be interested in field works as well as microscopy and molecular techniques used in classifying microorganisms. Applicants also must meet the University of Maryland Graduate school requirements (www.gradschool.umd.edu). For more information, contact Dr. Yilmaz Balci (University of Maryland) at ybalci@umd.edu.

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

OUTREACH NOTICE FORM
GS-401-5/7/9 Biological Scientist
Oregon, Washington, or California Field Crew Leaders
Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program
Forest Inventory and Analysis Program
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 scromwell@fs.fed.us. Please respond no later than November 26, 2010. The position will be advertised on the OPM USAJobs website www.usajobs.opm.gov.

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

If you are currently employed by the Federal Government:

WHAT AGENCY ARE YOU EMPLOYED BY:

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:

PERMANENT _____ TEMPORARY _____ TERM _____ OTHER _____

If employed by the Forest Service:

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT/STATION:

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE:

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:

What location would you prefer?

OR: Portland__ La Grande__ Eugene__ Bend__ Grants Pass__ Klamath Falls__

WA: Cle Elum__ Okanogan__ Olympia__ Sedro-Woolley__ Twisp__

CA: Big Bear__ Chico__ Escondido__ Fresno__ Mammoth Lakes__ Mount Shasta__

Nevada City__ Quincy__ Redding__ Santa Clarita__ Weaverville__

Which position(s) are you interested in?

Crew Leader _____ Quality Assurance Inspector _____

OUTREACH NOTICE FORM
GS-462-4/5/6 Forestry Technician
Oregon, Washington, or California Field Crew Members
Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program
Forest Inventory and Analysis
Pacific Northwest Research Station

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