

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update August 2013

WHAT'S NEW

Evaluation Monitoring (EM) Request for Proposals – The Forest Health Monitoring Program is requesting proposals for FY 2014 EM projects 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, 2013** to the FHM Regional Managers: Jim Steinman for Northeast FHM Region (jsteinman@fs.fed.us), Manfred Mielke for North Central FHM Region (mmielke@fs.fed.us), Dale Starkey for Southern FHM Region (dstarkey@fs.fed.us), Jeri Lyn Harris for Interior West FHM Region (jharris@fs.fed.us), or Alison Nelson for West Coast FHM Region (asnelson@fs.fed.us). The FHM Regional Managers will, in turn, forward their top selected proposals to the Washington Office by November 4, 2013. Detailed instructions and a template for project proposals are available on the FHM website at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/em/instructions/em_instructions14.pdf .

Borys Tkacz, the National Program Manager for Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) is back from his detail to the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station in Portland, OR. While at PNW since February, Borys worked with the Station Executive Team on the development of a Strategic Framework for the station and a Rapid Research Response initiative to assist Region 6 with accelerated restoration of forested ecosystems in the Blue Mountains of Oregon.

Robert Mangold has been appointed the new PNW Director. Prior to his appointment at the station, Rob served as acting Associate Deputy Chief for Research and Development in Washington, D.C. Before that, he was Director of the agency's Forest Health Protection program and National Program Manager for FHM. As Station Director, Rob will lead the station's nearly 400 employees—including 80 scientists—in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. The station is one of five research stations in the Forest Service and conducts research across 11 laboratories and research centers, 12 experimental areas, and more than 20 research natural areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

August 27-29, 2013. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Resources for the Future Conference. The IUFRO Resources for the Future task force is holding a conference at the Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Forest Sciences Centre. This conference will feature world leaders in the forest resources field and provide them with a venue to collaborate and share ideas with academia, government, industry, and NGOs -- all stakeholders in the future of the world's forests. The goal is to provide a platform where speakers can share their expertise in various areas and identify potential solutions. Four topic areas will be covered: globalization and its implications for forests; plantations; bio-products and advanced building systems; forest ecosystem services. For complete information about the conference, please visit the conference website: <http://iufro2013.forestry.ubc.ca/>.

September 1-6, 2013. Ilheus, Brazil. IUFRO RG 7.01.00 conference titled Vegetation Response to Climate Change and Air Pollution – Unifying Evidence and Research across Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The deadline for submitting abstracts has been postponed to May 20, 2013. Please visit the conference website for more information: <http://www.iufro2013.ufop.br>.

September 23-26, 2013. Frontenac, MN. The 62nd Annual North Central Forest Pest Workshop (NCFPW). The workshop will be held at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Frontenac, MN. The workshop website is <http://www.forestpathology.org/hosted/ncfpw/>. Information about registration, lodging, and a preliminary agenda are available on the website. Although a detailed agenda is not yet available, plans for the workshop include several meeting sessions, a poster session, a field tour, and the annual fungal foray. Student presentations are encouraged! Early registration at a reduced rate is due by **August 5**. Questions about the workshop should be directed to Valerie Cervenka (Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources) at val.cervenka@state.mn.us OR to Linda Haugen (USDA Forest Service) at lhaugen@fs.fed.us.

***October 7-11, 2013.** Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada. The 2013 Western International Forest Disease Work Conference. The agenda is a reflection of the unique area with panels on whitebark and limber pine health, air pollution, aspen, and genomics. The agenda also includes a full day field trip on Wednesday to explore the beautiful area and will complement the panel on whitebark pine and limber pine as well as the aspen panel. A pre-meeting hike is being planned on October 7. The meeting will take place at the Bayshore Inn where rooms are reserved until August 20 at the conference rate. Please visit the conference website for more information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/wif/index.htm> or you can contact Kristen Chadwick (USDA Forest Service) at klchadwick@fs.fed.us.

October 16-17, 2013. Logan, UT. Restoring the West Conference 2013. This year's theme is *Change Agents and Managing for Forest Resilience*. The Western Aspen Alliance is one of the current co-sponsors of the conference and will host a welcoming reception October 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Caine House adjacent to Utah State University. For more details about the conference including all current co-sponsors, registration and the call for posters, visit the conference website: <http://conference.usu.edu/restoring/>.

October 23-27, 2013. Charleston, SC. Society of American Foresters 2013 National Convention. Information about the Society of American Foresters (SAF) 2013 National Convention is now available on the SAF website www.safnet.org. Click on the 2013 National Convention link. Details about the call for presentations and posters, the program, travel, and other topics are available.

November 4-5, 2013. Pittsburgh, PA. The Ninth Meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry National Conference. This year's speakers for the Continental Dialogue will be local partners, educators, business professionals and Continental Dialogue members. All are welcome and a diverse range of topics will be covered. There will be updates and expert discussions on current Continental Dialogue activities: Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities efforts; Don't Move Firewood and Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative; solid wood packaging materials, Sentinel Plant network and American Public Gardens; apps, social media, and forest pests; local successes and experiences; implications of expansion of Panama Canal. Attendees are highly encouraged to participate in the planned Arbor Day Foundation field trips on November 6th. At this time, trips to see local examples of emerald ash borer and oak wilt damage are being planned in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation. In the coming months, register for the Continental Dialogue meeting by visiting the Arbor Day Foundation Partner and Community Forestry Conference site (www.arborday.org/pcf) and select the option for the Continental Dialogue Meeting. The agenda is available at www.continentalforestdialogue.org. For more information about the meeting visit the meeting website or contact Leigh Greenwood at The Nature Conservancy (lgreenwood@tnc.org), or the meeting facilitation team at RESOLVE: Debbie Lee (dlee@resolv.org) or Beth Weaver (bweaver@resolv.org).

***January 14-16, 2014.** Conecuh National Forest, southern AL. The Southwide Forest Disease Workshop. The meeting will be held at the Solon Dixon Education Center, a 5000 acre demonstration forest used by a number of universities, and State and federal agencies interested in natural resources. Plans are to have research abstracts for paper presentations, project reviews/station reports, a field trip, a poster session, and graduate student competition. The

deadline for registration is December 1, 2013. For more information including registration, lodging, and all deadlines, visit the meeting website:
<https://fp.auburn.edu/sfws/enebak/swfdw/swfdw.html>.

JOB **OPPORTUNITIES**

The USDA Forest Service is currently advertising for a Plant Pathologist (GS-0434-09/12) position. The position is located in Asheville, NC. The incumbent plans, coordinates and conducts disease resistance screening, pilot and developmental studies or laboratory projects involving complex tasks in a greenhouse, laboratory or field setting; grows host plant material from seeds or clone for the purpose of disease resistance screening; modifies existing techniques to meet the requirements of specific projects; safely operates and maintains a complex greenhouse system to meet the needs of clients and cooperators; analyzes results of tests; prepares and presents findings in written reports or oral presentations; promotes the Forest Service mission through the Resistance Screening Center by participating in local, regional, and national meetings of foresters, plant pathologists, and geneticists; prepares the annual Resistance Screening center report for dissemination to Advisory committee, peers, cooperators and collaborators; develops an annual plan of work based on input from supervisor, clients and cooperators; administers a budget, tracks expenditures and balances, supervises staff and cooperates and coordinates with peers, clients, cooperators, and collaborators; maintains and updates procedure manuals; procures needed supplies and services to promote the safe and efficient operation of the Center; organizes and conducts the annual meeting of the ad hoc Advisory Committee. For additional information about the positions, including how to apply, view the full vacancy announcements on www.usajobs.gov. The job announcement number for any U.S. citizen is 13-08640002-1091DP-PS and for federal career and status eligible applicants (see announcement for a full list) is 13-08640002-1091DP-PS. The open period is **Monday, August 12, 2013 to Friday, September 06, 2013**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC or Center) of the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is recruiting for an Ecologist research and development position located in Asheville, North Carolina. The position is targeted for the GS-12 grade level. This is a term position with an initial appointment of 18 months; extension of appointment up to four years is possible. Application is open to all U.S. citizens. The mission of EFETAC is to generate knowledge and tools needed to anticipate and respond to environmental threats. The most serious threats to forests and the benefits they provide inevitably involve complex factors interacting at multiple scales. The Center's challenge is to maintain a holistic and integrated research program

to tackle these complex issues. Research conducted by the Center is necessarily multidisciplinary, integrated, and applied. Corporate or team results are more highly valued than individual accomplishments. Thus, the position is expected foremost to contribute to the design and development of integrated Center products, and to ensure successful delivery of scientific information and tools to managers. This assignment is directed at improving the understanding of ecological and socioeconomic aspects of the Appalachian landscape. Assignments includes a comprehensive status assessment conducted of pre-existing or ongoing work that could contribute to better understanding of environmental threats and their relationship to environmental services. This work will be used to help design a landscape-scale assessment of environmental threats and ecosystem services in collaboration with the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative. The assessment will (1) summarize existing threat assessment efforts of major stressors—including measures of ecosystems integrity, function, or sustainability, and identification of endemic species or trust species affected, (2) identify knowledge gaps and/or limitations to existing tools, methodology, and approaches, and (3) identify a framework and propose a process to facilitate a comprehensive assessment. Technology transfer and collaboration with stakeholders are essential components of the position. Candidates interested in the position should submit a completed Outreach Response form (attached to this Update as attachment 1) to Ginny Burgess (see attachment) no later than **September 6, 2013**. It is anticipated that the vacancy announcement will be posted on OPM's USA Jobs website (www.usajobs.gov). For more information about the position contact Danny C Lee, EFETAC Director, at (828) 257-4854 or e-mail dcllee@fs.fed.us. If you would like to learn more about EFETAC, visit our Web site at <http://www.forestthreats.org/>. *USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer.*

The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station intends to advertise a Supervisory Forester position within the next couple of months. The duty location is Pineville, Louisiana. The position is within Data Acquisition in the Southern Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Research Work Unit. The office will be located in Pineville, LA at the Alexandria Forestry Center which is the home of several SRS research work units. Pineville is also the Supervisor's Office of the Kisatchie National Forest. Ad-hoc or situational/unscheduled telework will be authorized from this duty location. The incumbent is responsible for providing a secure and safe workplace within their home when teleworking. Pineville is centrally located within the state. The incumbent will serve as Supervisory Forester in the FIA Work Unit with primary responsibility for the collection of quality information on the extent and condition of forest lands, volume of timber, and rates of forest growth and depletion within the state of Louisiana. This assignment involves supervising, scheduling, coordinating and providing data quality assurance (QA) for six to eight federal field personnel to assure that the continuous forest inventory (CFI) plots are collected expediently and in a manner designed to safeguard the validity of the data. The usefulness and reliability of statewide timber resource reports are

directly influenced by the accuracy maintained by this phase of the inventory as performed by the incumbent, utilizing the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) National Field Guide. To be eligible, at least one year of specialized experience in collecting data utilizing the Forest Inventory and Analysis National Core Field Guide Volume 1: Field Data Collection Procedures for Phase 2 Plots. Federal, State or contracting employment is applicable. Submitted applications should clearly state the duties involved in collecting the national/regional FIA data set. **The incumbent can expect to travel at least 50% during a given year;** however, amount of travel may vary depending on state completion rate and area being worked. Lodging is generally in motel/hotels. **Note:** Upon starting the position, the incumbent should be prepared to incur overnight travel expenses before receiving their first paycheck (usually within 3 weeks of hire date) and before the first travel reimbursement can be processed (up to 3 to 4 weeks from hire date). If this will be a hardship for the incumbent, the hiring official and/or supervisor must be informed so contingencies can be planned to mitigate expenses. Field work conditions in Louisiana are often arduous. Work is performed throughout the year and often in inclement weather (cold, heat, rain, and on occasion snow). Work is often performed on rugged, steep and/or brushy slopes. Vegetation in parts may consist of kudzu, greenbrier as well as other vines and shrubs. Wetland areas are prominent throughout the state. Field work involves the use of boats for transportation to the work area. The ability to swim is a must. In all parts of Louisiana, significant amounts of on-trail and off-trail hiking are required, carrying the required field equipment to complete the work. Excellent physical conditioning is a must. Exposures to hazards such as intense heat, poison oak/ivy, insects and/or reptiles are extremely common. Work takes place both on publicly and privately owned land. For more information about the position: Contact Kathy Tillman, Supervisory Forester, at (936) 569-7981 x 4002 or kmtilman@fs.fed.us. This is just an outreach announcement (see the outreach form attached to this Update as attachment 2.) When the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted on the Office of Personnel Management web site: www.usajobs.gov. The announcement will contain all of the information you need to apply for the position.

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama is seeking candidates for the position of Post-Doctoral Fellow. This is a one year, limited term non-tenure track position and is funded from external sources. Continued employment is contingent on availability of funding and satisfactory performance for a maximum period of four years. The selected candidate will be interacting and communicating with stakeholders including regional forest seedling growers and seed production representatives. It is expected that research undertaken will be published in peer-reviewed journals, and communicated through scientific presentations, field days and stakeholder interactions. Qualifications: A Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, microbiology, molecular biology or a related field of study that has equipped the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position. Knowledge of standard molecular techniques

(DNA extraction, PCR, etc.) and bioinformatics is desirable. They should also be innovative, self-driven and have good communication skills with an interest in applied research. The candidate selected for the position must be able to meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the proposed term of the appointment; excellent communications skills required, both written and oral. Responsibilities: The position will focus on comparing the rapid screening protocol for *Fusarium circinatum* to the blotter paper method to confirm the presence or absence of the pathogen on/in southern pine seed that can be used for pest risk assessment of an invasive fungal pathogen. Primers for various *Fusarium* species have been identified utilizing the β -tubulin gene and nuclear rDNA ITS region to determine specific conserved regions that can be used for species identification. Primers for these regions will be applied to *Fusarium circinatum* for PCR amplification, sequenced to identify a conserved region and applied in a PCR-based rapid detection system on *Pinus sp* seed and planting material. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. To apply: Interested applicants should provide a formal letter of application, a complete biographical resume including a list of refereed publications, official transcripts, and the names of three references (name, address, phone number, and email addresses) who may be contacted for letters of recommendation. This information should be sent to: Pam Beasley, Executive Coordinator, Auburn University, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 602 Duncan Drive Auburn, AL 36849-5418. For additional inquiries about the position, please contact Dr. Scott Enebak 602 Duncan Drive, Auburn University, AL, 36849. Phone: 334-844-1028. Only complete application materials will be considered. Review of applications will begin on **August 20, 2013**, and will continue until a suitable applicant is identified. *Auburn University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1. Koch, Jonathan; Strane, James; Williams, Paul.** 2012. Bumble bees of the western United States. A product of the U.S. Forest Service and the Pollinator Partnership with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. 143 p. Available online: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/BumbleBeeGuideWestern2012.pdf>
- 2. Potter, K.M.; Conkling, B.L., eds.** 2013. Forest health monitoring: national status, trends and analysis 2010. General Technical Report SRS-176. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 164 p. available online at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/43897>

3. **Potter, K.M.; Hipkins, V.D.; Mahalovich, M.F.; Means, R.E.** 2013. Mitochondrial DNA haplotype distribution patterns in *Pinus ponderosa* (Pinaceae): Range-wide evolutionary history and implications for conservation. *American Journal of Botany*. 100(8): 1018.
4. **Vose, James M.; Peterson, David L.; Patel-Weynand, Toral, eds.** 2012. Effects of climatic variability and change on forest economics: a comprehensive science synthesis for the U.S. forest sector. *Fen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-870*. Portland, OR: W.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 265 p.

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 Response Form

USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station
Term Position

Position Title/Series/Grade: Biological Scientist GS-0408-12 Term

I am interested in the position and will call the contact person, in addition to checking <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> for the position announcement, which will be posted at a later date.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-Mail: _____

Current Federal Employee? Yes _____ No _____

Current title/series/grade/location: _____

Current type of appointment: _____
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted, Excepted VRA, etc)

Submit Outreach Notice to:

Ginny Burgess

E-mail: glburgess@fs.fed.us or

Mail: The Southern Research Station

200 WT Weaver Blvd.

Asheville, NC 28804

Phone: (828) 257-4354

It is anticipated that the vacancy announcement will be posted on OPM's USA Jobs website (www.usajobs.opm.gov).

Please do not send résumés and/or transcripts when responding to this outreach notice.

The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Outreach Response Form

US Forest Service
Southern Research Station

I am interested in the position and will call the contact person, in addition to checking <http://www.usajobs.gov> for the position announcement.

*Position Title/Series/Grade: **Forester (0460) GS-11***

<i>Personal Information</i>	
<i>Date</i>	
<i>Name</i>	
<i>Street Address</i>	
<i>City, State, ZIP</i>	
<i>Telephone</i>	
<i>E-mail</i>	

	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Current Federal Employee</i>	
<i>Prior FIA Experience</i>	

<i>Most Current Federal Experience</i>	
<i>Title</i>	
<i>Series</i>	
<i>Grade</i>	
<i>Location</i>	

Briefly state why you are interested in this position (*block will expand as you type*):

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Interested applicants for all locations should return this form to:

Kathy Tillman, Supervisory Forester

E-mail: kmtillman@fs.fed.us

Phone: (936) 569-7981 x 4002 Fax: (936) 569-9681

If reply is by E-mail, please enter ***FIA 460 Outreach Supervisory Forester*** in the subject line. Resume and transcripts are not required as part of this outreach response. As an outreach respondent, you will be notified when the vacancy announcement is posted to USAJobs. Thank you for your interest in employment with the Southern Research Station.