

# Forest Health Monitoring Program

## Monthly Update

### November 2013

#### WHAT'S NEW

**The USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry** has announced that Frank Sapiro, current Director of the Forest Health Technical Enterprise Team in Fort Collins, CO, will be the Acting Director of Forest Health Protection, effective October 29. Frank will be located in Washington, D.C. from October 29 through December, 2013. Frank's energy, technical strengths, and leadership will be an asset to the FHP program. He can be reached at 703-605-5340.

**The USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry, Northern /Intermountain Regions** has announced that Joel McMillin, Ph.D. will be leading State & Private's Forest Health Protection Field Office at Boise effective January 12, 2014. He succeeds Dale Bennett. Joel brings to this position his experience as a FS entomologist for more than ten years and service as an adjunct professor at Northern Arizona University.

**Kurt Riitters (U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center)** attended the International Symposium on Forest Health which was held in Seoul, Korea, on September 25-27. The symposium was organized by the Korean Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and featured presentations by KFRI scientists along with three European presentations related to ICP-Forests monitoring. Riitters' presentation, co-authored by Kevin Potter (North Carolina State University) and Borys Tkacz (U.S. Forest Service, Forest Health Protection), was titled "Forest Health Monitoring in the United States: Focus on National Reports." It provided an overview of the US FHM and FIA programs, a summary of the 2013 national report (draft), and an example from Riitters' research which integrated in situ FIA data with remotely sensed forest fragmentation data. As a result of previous US-Korea exchanges, the Korean national forest inventory system uses almost exactly the same plot design as the US FIA program, and has 4000 permanent plots on a five-year measurement cycle. The Korean forest health monitoring program, which involves a subset of 1000 plots, includes additional measurements of crown condition, soil characterization, and understory vegetation on one of the four subplots. While the Korean forest inventory system has been in place for several years, the FHM aspects were implemented 2 years ago, and one of the purposes of the symposium was to generate discussion and critique of its implementation during a demonstration of FHM plot procedures.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**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>.

**\*March 18-20, 2014.** Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. The 2014 Northeastern Forest Pest Council (NEFPC) Meeting. The meeting will be held in Quebec City - Tuesday March 18 A.M. to Thursday March 20 noon (2.5 days) and include a student forum, state and province forest health updates, and presentations on current research of forest health issues in the U.S. and Canada. Topics planned include emerald ash borer, spruce budworm and white pine blister rust. If you have a topic you would like to see covered or would like to present your research please contact Julie Coop. ph: 617-797-3392 Email: [julie.coop@state.ma.us](mailto:julie.coop@state.ma.us). If you are a student and would like to be a part of the student forum please see the website and contact Dr. William H. Livingston by January 17, 2014. ph: 207-581-2990 Email: [WilliamL@maine.edu](mailto:WilliamL@maine.edu). The Delta hotel has set up links for room reservations (Deadline is February 18):

English: <https://www.deltahotels.com/Groups/Delta-Quebec-Groups/Northeastern-Forest-Pest-Council-2013-Meeting>

French: <https://www.deltahotels.com/fr/Groups/Delta-Quebec-Groups/Rencontre-2013-du-Northeastern-Forest-Pest-Council>

If you are traveling from the US don't forget to make sure your passport is in order:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

More information about the NEFPC can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/northeasternforestpestcouncil/meetings>.

**\*July 7-11, 2014.** Manoa, HI. Island Biology 2014. This international conference will be held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The conference will consist of plenary lectures, symposia, contributed talks, and posters. Content will cover a broad range of taxa, regions, and biological disciplines. The deadline for abstract submissions is January 31, 2014. The deadline for notification of acceptance is February 28, 2014. Final acceptance requires that the author register for the conference by April 15, 2014. For more information including instructions for submitting an abstract, visit the conference website: <https://sites.google.com/a/hawaii.edu/islandbiology2014/home>.

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

**The U.S. Forest Service** is currently advertising for the position of Director, Forest Health Protection (ES-0401-00) to be located in Washington, D.C. This position is full-time, permanent, and is a Senior Executive Service (SES), Career Reserve position. Duties of the position include: provide technical direction to the Forest Service, all other Federal land-managing agencies, and cooperating States in monitoring and evaluating pest impacts and developing measures to forestall or reduce them, consistent with management objectives; provide comprehensive leadership and staff direction in planning, organizing, developing, and administering the detection, evaluation, prevention, and suppression of destructive forest pests on all forested lands of the United States; formulate national policies and programs, and cooperates with the States in formulating State and local policies and programs which address forest pest management, forest health, and the use and fate of pesticides in the environment; serve as consultant and advisor to the Chief, Forest Service, and his/her immediate staff on all matters pertaining to prevention, detection, evaluation, and suppression of forest diseases, insects, and associated environmental agents; consult with other agencies and organizations, nationally and internationally, in similar and related fields; coordinate and maintain liaison in forest health matters with other Forest Service programs, with other Federal land management agencies, and with State and private interests and integrates them with national plans and programs; represent the Forest Service in furnishing technological information and interpreting policy and program objectives; when conditions warrant, formulate and carry out joint eradication, containment, and suppression programs of pest occurrences on Federal, State, and private lands; cooperate with other Federal agencies in the development and execution of sound pesticide use, management, and coordination programs; promote international forest environmental protection through transfer of technology developed and employed in the United States; advocates integrated pest management as the environmentally sensible option for forest health protection; provide technical assistance requested by other countries or international organizations to establish pest management programs or to address technical concerns. For a full listing of the duties and additional information about the position including how to apply, view the full vacancy announcement at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/354245800>. The job announcement number is AG-11-2013-0025. See the announcement for details about the position including how to apply and information about SES positions. The open period is **Tuesday, October 29, 2013 to Monday, November 18, 2013**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**The U.S. Forest Service's National Forest System** is currently conducting outreach for the position of Assistant Director, National Vegetation Ecology (GS-0401-14/15) to be located in Washington, D.C. The Assistant Director (AD) for National Vegetation Ecology will play a key role in the Forest Service's management of complex and challenging natural resource issues on a national scale. The AD provides national 'all lands' leadership on Forest Service issues related to ecology, restoration, climate change, and the specific national programmatic areas that report to this position: Vegetation Ecology, Invasive Species, Botany, and the National Riparian Service Team. The AD also plays a pivotal role in the Forest Service's efforts to provide

leadership on the human dimensions of the ecological sciences, and develop collaborations with partners that will foster the Forest Service's well established role in serving the public. The AD position provides tremendous opportunities to continue the growth of key partnerships with external stakeholders and with other land management agencies, such as the BLM and NRCS. Non-governmental organizations and State and Tribal governments will continue to be important partners that interface with this position, as key players to address numerous ecological aspects of the Forest Service's Mission. For these, and other, reasons, this position provides an exceptional opportunity to truly make a difference in the conservation and restoration of our nation's natural resources. If you are interested in this position, please complete the Outreach Response Form (attached to this Update as attachment 1) and send it to Vania Schwab ([vschwab@fs.fed.us](mailto:vschwab@fs.fed.us)) by **November 21, 2013**. For more information about this position, please contact Charlie Richmond, Director of Rangeland Management & Vegetation Ecology ([csrichmond@fs.fed.us](mailto:csrichmond@fs.fed.us)) at 202-205-1185. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**The U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station** is currently conducting outreach a permanent, full-time position based at the Pacific Northwest Research Station's Forestry Sciences Laboratory located in Anchorage, Alaska. The Supervisory Biological Scientist position is a GS-0401-11. This position is with the Data Collection Team of the Research Station's, Resource Monitoring and Assessment (RMA) Program, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) unit. The FIA unit is part of a nationwide program which collects, processes, analyzes, evaluates, and publishes comprehensive information on forest and other related renewable resources. The incumbent will function as an FIA Field Coordinator for inventories in the Coastal regions of Alaska, which is a part of the Anchorage-based Data Collection Team and is a member of the team's management. The Coastal Coordinator reports directly to the team leader, and is responsible for FIA data collection in the Southeast and Southwest Coastal areas of Alaska. The data collection phase includes developing data collection techniques, planning, logistics, and assuring quality of data collected in statewide multi-resource inventories. The inventory data are widely used by forest managers, local and state governments and federal agencies in making policy decisions. The majority of the work will be performed in the Anchorage Lab with about 3 to 4 months performing field work requiring travel to remote areas of Coastal Alaska. Field work involves back packing, working in steep brushy terrain, and often cold, rainy and inclement weather. Part of this work will require working and living in tight quarters on a boat or other remote camps, flying in small aircraft, and carrying a firearm for bear protection. The position supervises up to 18 employees (GS 6 through GS 9) based in Anchorage and is responsible for direct supervision of 8 to 11 GS 5-9 foresters and ecologists as well as 2nd line supervision of 8 to 10 GS 5 and 6 forestry technicians. We are looking for an individual who has: strong management and organizational skills; a positive customer service attitude and strong work ethic; excellent skills to accomplish a common goal as a team player; excellent problem solving and strategic planning skills, is a self-starter and enjoys a challenge; excellent coping skills and can manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced work environment; excellent people skills and works well with diverse groups and cultures. For more information about this position contact: Ray Koleser, Alaska Data Collection Team Leader, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program. Email: [rkoleser@fs.fed.us](mailto:rkoleser@fs.fed.us). Phone: 907-743-

9416. Please complete the Outreach Response Form (attached to this Update as attachment 2) if you are interested in this position and return it to rkoleser@fs.fed.us by **November 8, 2013** and you will be sent the vacancy announcement for the position. This vacancy announcement will also be posted at USAJobs <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## **PUBLICATIONS** **OF INTEREST**

- 1. Norman, S.P.; Hargrove, W.W.; Spruce, J.P. [and others].** 2013. Highlights of satellite-based forest change recognition and tracking using the *ForWarn* System. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-180. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 30 p. Available online: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/44239>
- 2. Potter, K.M; Hargrove, W.W.** 2013. Quantitative metrics for assessing predicted climate change pressure on North American tree species. *Mathematical and Computational Forestry and Natural Resources Sciences*. 5(2): 151-169.
- 3. Riitters, Kurt; Potter, Kevin; Tkacz, Borys.** 2013. Forest health monitoring in the United States: focus on national reports. *Proceedings of the International Symposium on Forest Health*, Seoul, Korea, September, 2013, pp. 12-27.

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

Visit the FHM homepage: [www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/)  
and the Forest Health Portal: <http://foresthealth.fs.usda.gov/portal>  
or access both via the USDA Forest Service homepage at [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

# OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Assistant Director, National Vegetation Ecology  
GS-0401-14/15  
Rangeland Management  
Washington Office

Please reply by November 21<sup>st</sup> to Vania Schwab at vschwab@fs.fed.us.

**SUBMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH:  USFS  BLM  OTHER (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT *IF* CURRENT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE:

PERMANENT  TEMPORARY  TERM  VRA  PWD  OTHER

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANET (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE, ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AUTHORITIES:**

PERSON WITH DISABILITIES

VETERANS READJUSTMENT

DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998

FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

OTHER (SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMISSION OF THIS FORM IS VOLUNTARY—THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!**



# OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

## Supervisory Biological Scientist GS-0401-11

PNW Research Station, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program

Please submit by 5:00 p.m. AKDT, November 08, 2013

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

GOVERNMENT AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH? OR N/A \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF CURRENT APPOINTMENT: PERMANENT \_\_\_\_\_ TEMPORARY \_\_\_\_\_  
TERM \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT AGENCY/REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT/LAB: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

If **not** a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

- \_\_\_ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
- \_\_\_ VETERANS READJUSTMENT
- \_\_\_ DISABLED VETERAN WITH 30 % COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- \_\_\_ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- \_\_\_ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- \_\_\_ STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
- \_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send a completed form by email to [rkoleser@fs.fed.us](mailto:rkoleser@fs.fed.us), or mail to this address: Ray Koleser, Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab, 161E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Door 8, Anchorage, AK 99501.**

The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish an appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the vacancy announcement (Region-wide, Service-wide, USDA-wide, Government-wide, and/or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make these determinations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).