

# Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update February 2014

## WHAT'S NEW

**The Forest Health Monitoring Program and Forest Health Protection of the U.S. Forest Service** announce the release of the 2012 National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM). The NIDRM is a nationwide strategic assessment and database of the potential hazard for tree mortality due to major forest insects and diseases. The goal of the NIDRM is to summarize landscape-level patterns of potential insect and disease activity. This was a national effort that included scientists from the U.S. Forest Service, States, and universities. Complete information about the NIDRM is available at the [National Insect & Disease Risk Maps homepage](#). The online mapping tool is available at the [2012 National Insect and Disease Risk Map Viewer](#).

**Additional information is now available about the Forest Health Monitoring Program Biennial Workgroup Meeting**, to be held March 25-27, 2014 near Jacksonville, FL. Please see the announcement about the meeting in the *Upcoming Events* section below.

## NEWS ABOUT

### FHM PARTNERS

**Project update: Diseases of Trees in the Great Plains, GTR-RM-129.** The Great Plains Tree Pest Council is currently leading a cooperative project to update the *Diseases of Trees in the Great Plains* disease guide, *General Technical Report RM-129*, with strong support and contribution from the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station and the USDA National Agroforestry Center. Contributions from state forestry agencies, federal agencies and university research and extension have concentrated efforts to provide up-to-date identification and management information on tree diseases of significance in plains-type environments. The publication is currently in the independent editing phase and is on schedule to be completed and released in fall 2014. The update of this information transfer document has come at a crucial time, as a significant proportion of institutional knowledge about tree diseases on the Plains leaves the Great Plains Tree Pest Council due to retirement. Key clients for this science delivery tool include State Forestry agencies, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, Extension agents and diagnostic laboratories, university researchers and teachers, commercial tree nurseries and tree health consultants, and ngo's involved in tree management in the Great Plains encompassing parts or all of USFS Regions 1, 2, 8, 9 and 4. Primary contacts for this project are: Aaron Bergdahl, North Dakota Forest Service; Alison Hill, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station; Michele Schoeneberger, USDA National Agroforestry Center.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**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: [Delta Hotel link for room reservations in English](#)

French: [Delta Hotel link for room reservations in French](#)

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

[U.S. government link to passport information](#)

More information about the NEFPC can be found at: [Link to more information about the Northeastern Forest Pest Council](#)

\***March 25-27, 2014.** The Forest Health Monitoring Program Biennial Workgroup Meeting will be held March 25-27, 2014 near Jacksonville, FL. The meeting will be held at the Ft. George Island Cultural Park/Ribault facility. Lodging will be approximately a 30-minute drive at the Aloft Jacksonville Airport Hotel, (904-714-3800). A block of rooms has been arranged under the name "Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup – US Forest Service." The government rate of \$83 will be honored. Reservations need to be made by **March 17, 2014** to ensure receiving this rate. Additional information about the meeting including the draft agenda, poster registration, and the meeting registration form are available on the [FHM homepage](#). The deadline for meeting registration is **March 14, 2014**. Please read the information completely because the arrangements are different from past workgroup meetings.

\***July 6-10, 2014.** St. Thomas, the U.S. Virgin Islands. 50<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Food Crop Society (CFCS) Annual Meeting and American Phytopathological Society – Caribbean Division (APS-CD) Annual Meeting. These two scientific regional meetings will be held together in St. Thomas. More information about each of these meetings will be available soon on their respective websites: [50th Caribbean Food Crop Society \(FCS\) Annual Meeting](#) and [American Phytopathological Society - Caribbean Division \(APS-CD\) Annual Meeting](#).

\***June 15-20, 2014.** Ft. Collins, CO. IUFRO Joint Conference of 2.02.15 Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines, 7.02.05 Rusts of Forest Trees, and Strobosphere. The joint meeting will bring together scientists working with genetics and conservation of white pine species (five-needle pines), and those working with rusts of forest trees. Great changes/advances have happened since each of these groups

last met (e.g., genome sequencing, gene conservation efforts, rust resistance advances), so it is extremely timely to bring these groups together. In addition, the conference includes two field trips to see some unique forest ecosystems in the Rocky Mountains and an additional optional 1-day field trip immediately following the conference. Abstracts for oral presentations and posters are being accepted until **March 5, 2014**. Early registration is open until **April 7, 2014**. For complete conference information please visit the [IUFRO Pine-Rust-Genomics conference website](#). If you have questions you may also contact Anna Schoettle (USDA Forest Service) at [aschoettle@fs.fed.us](mailto:aschoettle@fs.fed.us) or Richard Sniezko (USDA Forest Service) at [rsniezko@fs.fed.us](mailto:rsniezko@fs.fed.us).

**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 [Island Biology 2014 internal conference website](#).

## Job Opportunities

### **The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection**

**Region 2** anticipates filling the position of the Lakewood, CO Forest Health Protection Service Center Leader for the State and Private Forestry Director area. The position may be advertised in one or more of the following series: GS-0414-12/13 or GS-0434-12/13. The focus of this position is to operate a service center which provides leadership for forest insect and disease technical and financial assistance to federal agencies, tribes and state agencies within the Lakewood, CO zone. This zone includes federal and state land within northern and central CO, southern WY, and Kansas. For basic qualifications, the OPM qualifications handbook will be used. Duties and responsibilities may involve but are not limited to (1) Serves as an expert advisor in forest health protection covering a broad geographical area with responsibility for (a) advising on the adequacy of local plans and recommendations, (b) developing alternative solutions to particularly difficult technical problems regarding the integrated pest management of forest insects and diseases affecting a number of local units, (c) reviewing, evaluating, adapting, and applying new research findings, and (d) evaluating local forest health projects and programs. As an expert in forest health, provides leadership and cooperates with research scientists to conduct significant studies designed to solve important problems in resource management, and works with various groups to explain the rationale for proposals and develop consensus on issues; (2) Examines and evaluates forest health relationships within a broad geographical area, and provides technical assistance and advice to Forest Supervisors, their staff, District Rangers, Tribes, other Federal agencies, and State agencies on forest health matters in connection with the day-to-day forest resource management; (3) Provides the technical expertise on forest health protection matters in meetings on highly sensitive and controversial problems with various Federal and State agencies, Tribes, community-

based natural resource collaboratives, and other interest groups, etc.; (4) Maintains continuing contact with research personnel, university professors, and other experts in forest health protection and related fields, in order to share information regarding developments relating to the most effective forest health management strategies. Reviews scientific literature in forest health and incorporates these findings into policy standards and planning documents. (5) Responsible for developing applications of new forest health information and technology and for training staff at Federal Agencies, Tribes and State agencies in the use of integrated pest management/integrated forest protection principles, theories, and practices in the management of forest resources; (6) Interacts and participates with forest managers and technical specialists in the development and implementation of Forest Service, other Federal agency, Tribal and State agency policies regarding forest health, forest health monitoring, integrated pest management, and pesticide use. Interaction is with various groups and involves complex subject matters including land management planning, air quality management, management of exotic pests, hazardous materials management, and all phases of forest health protection, including pesticide-use management; (7) Works closely with local units in the development and review of land management plans to ensure that forest health strategies are fully considered so that natural resources are protected, maintained, and perpetuated. Assists in the development and review of environmental documents to ensure forest health subject matter is accurate and the documents are prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act. Assists in the development and review of documents prepared in response to appeals of National Forest decisions that specifically relate to forest health protection. Work closely with appropriate resource specialists to ensure forest health monitoring strategies are coordinated; (8) Frequently, there is an integrated approach to address resource management issues, where the incumbent works as a team leader or as a member of a team to collaboratively achieve mutual goals and objectives. Is assigned to teams on the basis of knowledge, skill, and availability to address specific issues; to provide the skills, perspective, and expertise to provide structured input, advice, or perspectives. Teams are integrated and cross-disciplinary and are established to assure inter-agency collaboration and cooperation to meet individual and corporate work objectives. Teams are accountable as a unit for the quality and quantity of work produced, and for integrated and coordinated Agency policy, direction, communications, and customer service; (9) On a continuous basis, the incumbent is responsible for defining the "primary" customers served and negotiating expectations with these customers about the services provided. Incumbent is responsible for contacting customers to solicit feedback on performance and suggestions for how quality and service can be improved. Incumbent must be fully knowledgeable of National and local customer service standards and how these standards support the agency mission, and within the scope and role of this job, strives to live up to them; (10) This position supervises 3 permanent employees (an entomologist, a plant pathologist and a biological science technician) and 2-5 seasonal employees and is responsible for formulating service center program, safety, and budget needs. Provides leadership and implements activities to accomplish Forest Service multicultural organization direction and Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights requirements, goals, policies, and objectives. Supports and participates in the Work Environment Continuous Improvement Process. Ensures all communication - written, oral, visual, signed - is non-discriminatory and sensitive to all employees and publics. Creates a work environment which respects, appreciates, and accepts the contributions and

perspectives of all employees. If you are interested in this position, you are encouraged to complete the attached Outreach Response Form (attached to this Update as attachment 1) and send it to Kelly Burns at [ksburns@fs.fed.us](mailto:ksburns@fs.fed.us) by February 5, 2014. The vacancy announcement will be advertised on the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#). If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact Kelly Burns at 303-236-8006. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection** anticipates filling the position of Entomologist (GS-0414-11/12) located in International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) headquarters in San Juan Puerto Rico. The incumbent serves as an entomology specialist and forest health program manager with responsibility for the Forest Health Protection Programs under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended. This position will implement the programs in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin islands and participate in regional forest health efforts. **Duties:** The position reports to the State and Private Forestry Program Manager. At the full performance level this person will be the in-house technical resource for the Forest Health Protection Program at the International Institute of Tropical Forestry and be responsible for domestic programs within Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The incumbent will work on all aspects of the program including establishing Institute policies, programs, and standards consistent with national guidelines, and ensuring all federal protocols are followed upon identification of new insects, diseases, or detrimental plant and animal species. The incumbent will coordinate Forest Health Protection activities and projects such as insect detection, evaluation, prevention, and suppression. The person will provide technical assistance to land owners and land and nursery managers. This person must be able to organize, plan, and conduct forest insect and forest health related training programs, presentations, and seminars to various Federal, State, and private organizations. Presentations would be tailored to the specific needs and objectives of the client and be based on the best available science. The applicant collects field samples and data, processes samples and analyzes data, consults with other professionals, evaluates survey and monitoring results and makes recommendations. This person prepares administrative reports, technical reports, and manuscripts. The applicant must be able to understand the scientific literature available in Spanish and English and effectively communicate to others in their native language. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen to apply, and meet the Office of Personnel Management qualification standards for the position. This person must have advanced written and conversational skills in English and Spanish. An excellent comprehensive web site on Puerto Rico is: [Caribbean Business-Puerto Rico](#). Note: It is expected that full locality pay will be reached by December 2012. If you are interested in this position and want to receive more information, please call Constance Carpenter, at (787) 764-7711 or E-mail at [conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us](mailto:conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us). Please complete the Outreach Response form attached to this Update as attachment 2 and return to Constance Carpenter by **March 7, 2014**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**Montana State University (MSU) and U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS)** in Bozeman, Montana seek a motivated quantitative ecologist (2-year research position) to join a multi-disciplinary effort examining effects of climate change and mountain pine beetle disturbance on vegetation structure and composition, fire dynamics, and habitat suitability of selected woodpecker species.

Synergistic interactions of climate, mountain pine beetle and wildfire are likely to catalyze landscape-scale changes in vegetation distributions, forest structure, and wildlife habitat suitability. Job description: Primary work will be linking models of an ecosystem process, including a fire model, with a model of mountain pine beetle demography, with a model of wildlife habitat suitability. The linked models will allow for tracking tree and stand-level mortality in response to climate change and mountain pine beetle disturbance, and the associated interactions with fire, land management activities, and wildlife habitat suitability. The job will be located at RMRS on the MSU campus, Bozeman, MT and the successful candidate will be expected to spend work-time among Bozeman, Logan, UT, and Missoula, MT. Duties include acquiring, analyzing, and managing large climate databases; integrating models of mountain pine beetle demographics, fire, and avian demographics; analyzing spatial and tabular modeling results; manuscript preparation and publication; and oral presentations at workshops and scientific meetings. Qualifications: The applicant should have: (1) a Ph.D. focused on applied mathematical modeling or biostatistics in ecology or natural resources, or sufficient research experience to perform required tasks; (2) excellent quantitative skills; (3) a demonstrated ability to publish in peer-reviewed journals; and (4) strong motivation to work independently and as a team member. The successful applicant is preferred to have strong interest and skills in computer modeling. Ideally, the candidate will have experience in use of C and Matlab programming, and extensive database management skills. Experience with spatial data manipulation (e.g., ArcGis and/or ERDAS) and statistical (R) software, and associated programs (e.g., Python) are also strongly desired. Importantly, the candidate will have a background in ecology or natural resources. Send CV, statement of interest, reference list, cover letter, and copies of 3 relevant publications to Dr. Victoria Saab at [vsaab@fs.fed.us](mailto:vsaab@fs.fed.us). For more information contact Dr. Saab, Dr. Barbara Bentz ([bbentz@fs.fed.us](mailto:bbentz@fs.fed.us)) or Dr. Rachel Loehman ([rloehman@fs.fed.us](mailto:rloehman@fs.fed.us)), and see websites [Rocky Mountain Research Station Birds & Burns Network](#); [USDA Forest Service Forest RMRS Forest and Woodlands Ecosystems](#); and [USDA Forest Service RMRS Fire, Fuel, and Smoke Science Program](#).

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. **Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center.** 2014. Forest ThreatNet, the January/February 2014 edition of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center's newsletter. Available online: [Forest ThreatNet](#).
2. **Mercado-Díaz, Joel A.; Gould, William A.; González, Grizelle; Lücking, Robert.** 2013. Four new species of *Coenogonium* (Ascomycota: Ostropales) from vulnerable forest ecosystems in Puerto Rico. *The Bryologist* 116(4): 373-381.
3. **Miller, J.S.; Krupnick, G.A; Stevens, H.; Porter-Morgan, H.; Boom, B.; Acevedo-Rodríguez, P.; Ackerman, J.; Kolterman, D.; Santiago, E.; Torres, C.; Velez, J.** 2013. Toward target 2 of the global strategy for plant conservation: an expert analysis of the Puerto Rican flora to validate new streamlined methods for assessing conservation status. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*. 99(2): 199-205.

4. **Potter, K.M.; Conkling B.L., eds.** 2013. Forest health monitoring: national status, trends, and analysis 2011. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-GTR-185. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 149 p. Available on the [FHM homepage](#).
5. **Potter, K.M.; Conkling, B.L., eds.** 2014. Draft Forest Health Monitoring: National Status, Trends and Analysis 2013 report, Version 2/14/2014. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Forest Health Monitoring Program. 188 p. Available on the [FHM homepage](#). (14 MB PDF)
6. **Rogers, Paul C.; Mittanck, Cody M.** 2014. Herbivory strains resilience in drought-prone aspen landscapes of the western United States. *Journal of Vegetation Science*. 25:457-469

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

Visit the [FHM homepage](#) and the [Forest Health Portal](#)  
or access both via the [USDA Forest Service homepage](#)

**OUTREACH RESPONSE**

**The position may be advertised in one or more of the following series:**

**GS-0414-12/13 or GS-0434-12/13**

Submit the completed form by 2/5/2014

**Contact Information:** Once you complete the enclosed form, please submit it to Kelly Burns at [ksburns@fs.fed.us](mailto:ksburns@fs.fed.us) or by postal mail at 740 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado 80401. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Kelly Burns at 303.236.8006

Name:	
Current Position/Title:	
Employer / Forest	
Salary / Grade / <i>Series</i>	
Mailing Address:	
Email Address:	
Telephone Number:	

**Brief Description of Experience:**



*USDA Forest Service is an Equal Employment  
Opportunity Employer*

## **Outreach Response Form**

If you are interested in the position please complete this form by March 7, 2014 and send to Constance Carpenter. Email: [conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us](mailto:conniecarpenter@fs.fed.us). FAX: (787) 766-6263. The job announcement will be posted on [www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com) when the application period opens.

Position Title, Series - Grade: Entomologist, GS-0414-11/12  
International Institute of Tropical Forestry

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Federal Employee: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Current title/Series/Grade/Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- \_\_\_\_ Persons with Disabilities
- \_\_\_\_ Veteran Readjustments
- \_\_\_\_ Disabled Veteran w/30% Compensable Disability
- \_\_\_\_ Veteran Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
- \_\_\_\_ Former Peace Corp Volunteer
- \_\_\_\_ Student Career Experience Program
- \_\_\_\_ other explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your interest in employment with the  
International Institute of Tropical Forestry*